

Independents vote for new taxation on clean energy

A new tax will be levied on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) thanks to Independent members Tony Windsor, Rob Oakeshott and Bob Katter.

The Nationals Deputy Senator for New England John Williams said the three were the crucial votes in the legislation being passed 72-71.

Senator Williams said it is ironic that Labor, the Greens and Mr. Windsor are such big supporters of clean green energy and continually push for it, and when people start to use it, they immediately lump a tax on it.

"The tax will start at 2.5 cents a litre from December, but will increase to 12.5 cents a litre by 2015. This will affect the 600,000 motorists who have chosen to convert to LPG, and amongst those are 66,000 taxi cabs. This will force an increase in the cost of taxi fares which will particularly affect pensioners and the disadvantaged in the community. It is another burden to add to the increasing cost of living, and people in New England can thank Mr Windsor for it," Senator Williams said.

Supporting mental health in the region

A new mental health and wellbeing resource collection will soon be available to the Gunnedah community thanks to their local library.

The collection means Gunnedah residents will have ready access to information about mental health and mental illness.

HNE mental health worker Helen Carter said information can be critical when someone is facing mental health issues.

"Access to accurate, up-to-date information can be an enormous source of support by helping individuals recognise signs of illness and show where to get help," she said.

"It is also an important strategy in decreasing the stigma associated with mental illness."



Students from Kootingal Public School interact with the Memorial art project and Dr Robyn Glade-Wright.

Image: June Underwood.

Extinct species inspire an artistic crusade

A public talk was held last Wednesday to provide a time for people to meet the artist behind the Memorial art project, Dr Robyn Glade-Wright at Tamworth Regional Gallery. Memorial is a wonderful and rewarding way for people of all ages to express their concerns at the loss of the flora and fauna that make up life on our planet.

visitors to the Gallery.

"As creativity is my main way of working, I looked to art as a means to address my concern and raise awareness of the issue," Dr Glade-Wright said in explanation of what inspired Memorial: the silence of extinction exhibition which is now on display at Tamworth Regional Gallery.

Dr Glade-Wright sent largescale silk banners, each stitched with small pouches, and squares of coloured paper, to schools in South America, South Africa, Canada, the UK and Thailand as well as around Australia.

"It is now Tamworth's turn to contribute to the community-based artwork. The quiet message of the largescale work is:

contribution to Memorial.

"To participate, visitors can think of a plant or animal they wish to commemorate, select a piece of coloured paper to suit and either draw or cut the shape of the plant or animal and slip it into one of the pouches," explained Pam Brown.

There are still opportunities for people to visit the Gallery.

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The Gunnedah collection is one of 10 similar collections held in libraries across the New England and North West.

The latest collection is part of a regional initiative to improve access to mental health information



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Dr Glade-Wright was in Tamworth on Wednesday and Thursday, June 15 and 16, to speak with school children and

visitors to the Gallery.

"As creativity is my main way of working, I looked to art as a means to address my concern and raise awareness of the issue," Dr Glade-Wright said in explanation of what inspired Memorial: the silence of extinction exhibition which is now on display at Tamworth Regional Gallery.

The art project has been several years in the making and has involved children and adults from around the world.

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"It is now Tamworth's turn to contribute to the community-based artwork. The quiet message of the largescale work is: Stop, think and participate."

"We are inviting the people of the Tamworth region to come to the gallery and create their

contribution to Memorial.

"To participate, visitors can think of a plant or animal they wish to commemorate, select a piece of coloured paper to suit and either draw or cut the shape of the plant or animal and slip it into one of the pouches," explained Pam Brown.

There are still opportunities for people to visit the Gallery and participate as Memorial: the silence of extinction will finish at the Gallery on Saturday, June 25, 2011.