

Blood donor urges others to give as donations drop 13%

By DON MAHONEY

Regular Mudgee blood donor John Howe is appealing to locals to consider donating blood to help the Australian Red Cross Blood Service meet demand after a 13 per cent drop in donations in New South Wales in May.

Daily blood collections for the month of May were 169 below the daily collections needed and that 1267 collections a day were needed.

Blood donations are needed for people with cancer, stomach and bowel disease and nursing mothers, just to name a few.

"We have no idea why our collections are down, but we are very worried," Blood Services NSW Manager Garry Wolfe said.

"We are currently meeting the needs of patients, but we are concerned about the future if we can't turn this around."

"In winter, colds and flus stop people donating, but this drop has occurred before the winter cold and flu season starts."

"We especially need donors with blood type O and A."

Mr Howe said that generally the people of Mudgee support the blood bank strongly.

"The blood bank 'Donormobile' was here last month and will be back again in August and comes to Mudgee four times a year," Mr Howe said.

"Donors can give up to four times a year."

"Given the current drop in blood donations across the state and the fact that the Blood Service is calling for more people to come forward, I appeal to people in this area who may be thinking of becoming donors to book for the next visit of the 'Donormobile'."

"It only takes about an hour and it doesn't hurt."

Mr Howe has been a blood donor for more than 30 years and has given 116 donations over that period of time.

First time donors can book by phoning 131495 while regular donors generally book ahead when giving blood.

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MAXIMISING: Tom Bambrick prepares for his Japanese culture day.

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MAX POTENTIAL

Tom shares love of Japan with fellow students

By SAM PAINE

Tom Bambrick is going to take the students of Mudgee High School to Japan for lunch.

As the culmination of his participation in Club Mudgee's Max Potential program, Tom is going to hold a Japanese culture showcase during lunchtime at Mudgee High. With the help of his fellow

Japanese students, Tom will share his enthusiasm for Japan with his fellow students by presenting Japanese food, fun and facts.

Tom's interest in Japan has been spurred by his Japanese studies at Mudgee High, and he will travel to Japan next year as one of 32 students spending two weeks in the land of the rising sun. He wants to encourage his

fellow students to learn about other cultures and extend themselves beyond their comfort zones.

"There's a gap of knowledge of other cultures," Tom said.

Max Potential has helped Tom to move outside of his own comfort zone, giving him the confidence to speak to groups of people and driving him to expand his involvement in extracurricular activities.

He has been paired with mentor Andrew Drummond to remedy areas of his life in need of improvement, working on his ability to put his ideas into action and push through when he reached obstacles.

Tom joined the program after hearing of its benefits from his careers teacher and other students who had participated in previous years.

Roos to stay unbounded

Mid-Western Regional Council has rejected a proposal to erect an eight-kilometre kangaroo proof fence from Spring Flat Road to Common Road to reduce the number of kangaroos in Mudgee's residential areas.

Cr Russell Holden put forward the motion at Wednesday's council meeting.

In his motion, Cr Holden said kangaroos were increasing in number in the Mudgee residential area and with the recent rains it was likely there would be a strong population growth in spring.

"Recently kangaroos sent people scattering at the West End netball courts, bounding through the courts whilst

games were in progress," he said.

"Luckily no one was injured, however we have had incidents of injuries from kangaroo attacks in the past."

Cr Holden said kangaroos had been reported in the CBD area and although this was rare, there was no doubt that early morning walkers in South Mudgee and Bellevue Estate dodged hundreds of kangaroos every day.

In 2008, a Mudgee woman was injured when she was attacked by a two-metre kangaroo on her Common Road property.

"At the end of the day, this council needs to address the issue of kangaroos

and putting our heads in the sand like a pack of ostriches does not resolve that matter," Cr Holden said.

Councillors were told the a kangaroo-proof fence would cost \$42,000 a kilometre - or \$336,000 - plus GST, based on the cost of the fence around the Mudgee Airport.

Council supported a motion from Mayor Percy Thompson that no fence be erected.

"We live in the country - there are kangaroos," Cr Peter Shelley said.

"If you want to do live in a prison, commit a crime: There'll be a big fence around you. Fantastic."

Green welcomes focus on energy

Greens Candidate for the Federal seat of Parkes Matt Parmeter said he was pleased to see politicians from the major parties following the lead of the Greens and talking about renewable energy.

"As electricity prices rise Dawn Fardell MP has suggested households look at installing solar hot water heaters and Kevin Humpries has talked about rooftop PV systems," Mr Parmeter said.

"I hope and expect other candidates in the upcoming Federal election to be promoting renewable energy as well."

"I'm putting our renewable energy plan for the Parkes electorate at the centre of my campaign."

"In the coming weeks I'll be announcing my renewable energy plan for the electorate, which will highlight benefits in employment opportunities and investment that will be possible in this electorate."

Mr Parmeter said that the towns of Mudgee, Coolah and Gulgong could all expect to benefit from the policy.

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