



Federal member for Parkes Mark Coulton congratulates co-founder of Hear our Heart Rowena Galway for her efforts to get a purpose built ear bus as Sue Went and Meryn Whalan watch on. Photo: AMY MCINTYRE

Nation hears call for help

By ABANO SAAD

HEAR our Heart is proudly holding its head high as it recently won the prestigious National Volunteer Award.

Co-founder Rowena Galway told the *Daily Liberal* the Dubbo organisation was thrilled to receive the award.

Ms Galway said her daughter had nominated her and she was completely surprised.

"The award means what we're doing is right and we will keep doing it until we reach the end result," she said.

The Hear Our Heart Ear Bus Project was set up to combat otitis media, a common but serious problem that reduces hearing and also causes disadvantages to communication, learning and social capacity.

The committee's mission was to



Quiet Achievers

raise \$360,000 to purchase a purpose-built ear bus.

"The bus itself costs \$60,000 and the rest is for equipment costs. Ideally we would be able to perform surgery in the ear bus," she said.

There would be three stages. Firstly, an audiologist would check ear health of children at schools, then those who need help would see the doctor and the next day an ear and nose specialist would per-

form the appropriate surgery."

Ms Galway said there were three challenges she faced to get the bus - the federal government, state education and health departments.

"It is frustrating they won't come to the table," she said.

"I don't know what the problem is. It's not for me, it's for all the children of NSW who need hearing help."

Federal member for Parkes, Mark Coulton praised Ms Galway for her efforts in the community.

"Volunteers are the backbone of every community and I am always overwhelmed by the number of people who are selflessly devoting themselves to making their communities a better place to live," Mr Coulton said.

"These awards are a wonderful way of officially recognising the work of people whose dedication to helping people and their commu-

nity unfortunately all too often goes unrecognised."

Ms Galway said the motivation of acquiring an ear bus to service western NSW came about because of long waiting lists for the specialist service.

Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and New Zealand all have Mobile Ear Health Clinics, while NSW has none.

"We have high numbers of ear disease here in NSW and it's like we are living in a third-world country, we are not doing enough for our kids," she said.

Thanks to the Dubbo community, the committee has raised \$43,000 towards the ear bus.

"Get behind what we do so we can create awareness," she said.

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.hearourheart.org.

- Rotary Club of Dubbo Macquarie** - Meets from 12.30pm to 2pm at the Western Star Hotel, Erskine Street. Contact the secretary, Lorraine, 0427 707 722.
- Depression Recovery Group** - Meet 10.30am at the Department of Mental Health, 41 Bultje Street, Dubbo. For all enquiries contact Norm 6882 6081, Brian 6885 6547 or Bill 6882 9826.
- Wellness Group** - From 2pm at Lourdes Hospital's David Palmer Centre. May 6882 4371.
- Tai Chi** - Join Dick from 10am to 11am at Wheelers Gardens. Gold coin donation. Contact Dick on 6888 5656 or 0424 226 246.
- Rotary Club of Dubbo South** - Meets at 6pm for 6.30pm start. Meeting and dinner at the South Dubbo Tavern on the corner of Boundary Road and Fitzroy Street, Dubbo.
- Collectors Club Orana** - From 7.30pm at the Castlereagh Hotel on the corner of Brisbane and Talbragar streets. Contact Nancy 6882 6952 or Kerrie 6884 2329.
- Rotaract** - Meet 6pm for 6.30pm start at Dubbo Dubbo RSL Memorial Club's 178 Restaurant. Contact Sally 6881 6789.
- The Embroiderers Guild** - Meet every second and fourth Tuesday at the Bridge Club, Elston Park from 10am to 3pm. For further information please contact Isobel on 6882 3889.
- Country Muster** - From 2pm to 6pm at the Dubbo RSL Memorial Club. Contact Tricia 6884 6279 (ah).
- Dubbo Aero Club** - At the Dubbo Airport clubhouse. Flying from 3pm, barbecue from 5pm. Visitors welcome. Contact the president Will Cody for more information 0419 296 356.

NOTICES

Donations appeal

As everyone would be aware by now the community of Coonabarabran has been under extreme fire conditions, with many people losing their homes and possessions.

If anyone would like to donate toiletries, school supplies, or Woolworths gift cards to help people out with basic food needs contact Beth at the Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre on 6882 2100 for further information.

Emungerie Markets

The first market for 2013 will be held on February 3, in Railway Street from 9am to 1pm. New and loved goods, collectables, woodcraft, leather goods, plants, crafts, soaps, toys and fresh produce. Stall holders welcome at a cost of \$5 per table. Bookings and enquires ring Bill 6888 1213 or Marion 6888 1021.

University of the Third Age

Will be holding their annual open days at the Western Plains Cultural Centre, Wingewarra Street on Friday February 1 and Monday February 4 between 10am and 12pm daily. A large range of courses are again on offer this year, so if you are a senior living in Dubbo or the surrounding areas why not head along and join in.

For further information contact Col Jones on 6887 8245.

Crime

Teen set alight

A TEENAGE boy is recovering in hospital after being set alight by two youths in northern Adelaide, police say.

The 17-year-old had liquid thrown on him by one youth, before another set him alight at Munno Para West at around 11.30pm (ACDT) on Sunday.

The boy suffered burns to his arms, hands, neck and face and was taken to Royal Adelaide Hospital in a serious, but non-life threatening condition.

Police believe the suspects are known to the victim.

Fire

Hundreds killed

A FAST-MOVING fire roared through a crowded nightclub in southern Brazil, filling the space with flames and a thick, toxic smoke that killed more than 230 panicked partygoers.

It appears to be the world's deadliest nightclub fire in more than a decade. Firefighters responding to the blaze had trouble getting inside the Kiss nightclub because bodies partially blocked the club's entry.

Witnesses say a flare or firework lit by band members started the blaze in Santa Maria.

Bushfires

Town under threat

A LARGE, out-of-control bushfire continues to threaten homes on the outskirts of the central Victorian community of Violet Town.

The 2000-hectare blaze was burning within 10 kilometres of the town yesterday, threatening homes at Boho, on the town's southern outskirts.

A State Emergency Centre spokeswoman says the blaze is moving in a north easterly direction, causing spotfires around a kilometre ahead of the fire front.

More than 30 fire trucks are at the scene.

Politics

Clinton may run

WITH only days left until she steps down as America's top diplomat, Hillary Clinton has left the door open for a possible run for president.

In a rare joint interview with CBS, she appeared to win the endorsement of none other than President Barack Obama.

For months, 65-year-old Clinton has insisted that after more than two decades in the political spotlight she intends to step back, but with her popularity riding high many believe she will take another shot at being the presidency.