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weather

	Today	9-25	Cloudy
	Tomorrow	13-27	Cloudy
	Sunday	13-24	Fine
	Monday	10-22	Fine

gold lotto

June 25, 2014 draw 3359
 Winning numbers
11 25 33 34 42 45
 supps
13 23
 Division 1.....\$1,000,000.00.....2
 Division 2.....\$11,354.70.....6
 Division 3.....\$802.85.....132
 Division 4.....\$37.90.....7786
 Division 5.....\$18.50.....22,077
 Division 6.....\$9.20.....69,208

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Public call for changes

SAM BIDEY

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A PUBLIC meeting held on Wednesday to discuss the changes to accommodation charges at Eventide nursing home has resulted in five resolutions that will be presented to the state government.

The resolutions saw the majority disagree with the \$200,000 entry fee, want answers on if there are plans to sell Eventide, question the timing of the information regarding entry fees, and seek the Newman Government to rescind the decision regarding entry fees for state-run aged care facilities.

Member for Dalrymple Shane Knuth called the meeting to seek community opinion and provide answers where possible.

Mr Knuth said the major concerns that were raised from the meeting were the introduction of a \$200,000 refundable accommodation deposit, and the lack of community consultation from

Government in the lead up to these changes which are effective as of Tuesday.

"There was an overwhelmingly majority that called for the state government to rescind this impost that has been imposed upon the people of Charters Towers," Mr Knuth said.

"In the past we have been advised that if anything was going to change in regards to eventide that the community would be appropriately consulted and that hasn't happened.

"Hardly any Member of Parliament, even in the LNP knew what was going on, or if they did they kept it quiet."

Mr Knuth went on to say these charges are the first step towards privatisation.

"We are scared of the fact the Newman Government has closed down the Eventide aged care facilities in Brisbane and forced people into private care," he said.

"We see a \$200,000 fee and the next thing we will see is although the Government will still own the facility, it will lease it out."

Some locals said they were concerned unnecessary worry and concern has been generated in the community because of this issue.

Former LNP candidate for Dalrymple Liz Schmidt, whose mother is a resident of Eventide said she has spoken to the right people in the health sector and has been assured things are not as dire as they are being made out to be.

"People don't have to sell their homes. It is not a requirement and people will not be excluded from Eventide because they don't have the money to go there," Ms Schmidt said.

Ms Schmidt, who stated she was at the meeting to represent her mother and not the LNP, said it was important to remember the changes were the result of federal legislation. She said it was only fair that those who do have the means to pay do so.

"If you have the means to pay your way it would be expected that you would pay your way under any other circumstances, and there are many homes around the state where they do that and have done so for quite some time," she said.

Other locals were angered by

the new fees.

"These are country people they all work and they have all their lives, why should they pay again?" Wayne Anderson said.

"As far as I'm concerned more research and more community consultations should be done."

Trevor Hughes worked at Eventide during the '90s and suggested an alternative method of payment to ensure people can pass on their family homes to their children.

"It's simple, all we have to do is turn over the properties for whatever length of time someone needs to be in a home, let the housing commission run them at a profit and then (the person or family) takes it back at the end. That solves everybody's problem."

Ann Bridgeman noted entry into any aged care facility is based on a needs assessment.

She said all the information anyone would like to know is accessible online.

The Federal website is www.dss.gov.au, people have to search for "Information booklet".

A second option is to ring 1800 200 422 for information.

Sam and Sophie go back to school at Richie Hill

STUDENTS at Richmond Hill State School were excited on Tuesday when journalists from *The Northern Miner* made a guest appearance to talk to Year 6 students about the life of a reporter.

Teacher Tess Marwick called Sam Bidey and Sophie Kesteven to help the students gain a better understanding of writing articles.

Ms Marwick said it was lovely to have the reporters help tie together what the students had learnt over the course of their English unit.

"It was great for the guys to put into perspective the job of a journalist, which finished our unit off nicely," Ms Marwick said.

The journalists wrote an article with the students, discussed the key points and explained the structure of an article.

The presentation was interactive, with the kids participating in a number of activities including interviewing classmates, questioning the journalists and a quiz at the end of the presentation.

"I think when you do a presentation you

need to be interactive especially with young kids," Sam said.

"You can't just talk to Year 6 kids and expect them to listen without interaction," Sam said.

Sam and Sophie explained how journalism affects all careers and no matter what path these kids may take in the future it will be impacted by news.

"No matter if you're a tradesman, a politician or a student, journalism impacts everybody on a day-to-day basis," Sam said. Sophie said it was a great experience.

"I was nervous to begin with but now that I have done it I would love to do it again," she said.

Ms Marwick said overall it was a successful presentation with students enjoying the guest appearance.

"It was a great experience to learn from professional journalists," student Georgia Richards said.

"I learnt a lot from Sam and Sophie, like that even the least important stuff can have an impact on the media."

— JACK DIXON



Northern Miner journalist Sophie Kesteven showing young Emily Pankhurst how to take a professional photo. Picture: JACK DIXON

Council push on for Hendra virus free events

From page 1

THE declaration is part of a biosecurity plan and will cover events involving the Charters Towers showgrounds, saleyards and equestrian centre.

Biosecurity Queensland officer Edwina Sivell said she started to talk to the horse industry three years ago about being proactive with biosecurity.

"Part of this is including a Horse Health Declaration which will get owners to document where they have come from, their movement and say their horse is healthy," she said.

"There is no legal obligation to do this from Queensland legislation but as a biosecurity officer, I have been liaising with the horse industry and said they need to do something.

"So a lot of event organisers are saying now, we are going to take these Horse Health Declarations and basically say, you're not allowed in if you don't complete this.

"From the biosecurity point of view we think it is great, because it puts the onus back on the horse owner."

Council planning and sustainable development officer Ramon Jayo said it doesn't hurt for people to fill out a form.

"We are going to have to do it because it is small steps," he said.

"The big thing is that if a horse is sick, well you want to know where it's been so you can let everyone else know, keep an eye on your horse."

Charters Towers Pony Club president Rob McLachlan said as of August 1 the Charters Towers Pony Club will be a Hendra free area.

Horse owners will have to supply a microchip number, check they are up to date, and there will be random scanning throughout the competition.

Mr McLachlan challenged the relevance of the Horse Health De-

claration form, saying it is not worth the paper it's written on, and adding it should be mandatory for horses to be vaccinated for the Hendra virus.

"I am surprised the Queensland Government hasn't made it mandatory, because with the Pony Club we were trying to find out the rights and wrongs of monitoring horses for competitions," Mr McLachlan said.

He said the state government is yet to make it vaccination compulsory and it is about time the government pushed for Biosecurity Queensland to make the call.

"The fact that we know there is no vaccination for a human against Hendra, the only way we can prevent it is by stopping it at the horse," Mr McLachlan said.

He said the Hendra virus can also be passed onto dogs if they eat infected horse manure.

"If the horse is vaccinated against Hendra, then it can't pass

the virus on through its manure," he said, which would be a concern for horse owners who bring their dogs with them to events.

At the moment he added the Hendra vaccination costs under \$100 a shot and the horse requires a second shot within 42 days.

After that it is every six months, until they can test whether the vaccination lasts 12 months.

"We went to a conference in Townsville and we were told they were under such pressure to get a drug out there to the horses, they didn't get to test the length of the Hendra vaccination," he said.

"I was surprised the government didn't get on board knowing it is a major health problem for the human, that they didn't subsidise some these clubs, saying they have to protect the human society, how about we come and board and help these societies?"

"If we can stop it at the horse we can stop it getting to the human."