

# The Courier WEEKEND EST 1867

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**UP AND UP FOR HEALTH**



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DOMAIN  
**DELIGHT IN THE LIGHT**



INSIDE



## Gallery resets for King

Award-winning artist Louiseann King has boldly reinterpreted two of the major collections of the Art Gallery of Ballarat in her new exhibition, *solis*. Taking the fleeting nature of life as inspiration, King has cast bronze works and installed timber plinths and glass cloches and mirrors to alter the narrative of the AGB spaces, redirecting our gaze.

Full story p. 19

# CAVE HERO

BY MICHELLE SMITH

A PHILOSOPHY of letting children enjoy adventures and manage their own risks has drawn Thai cave rescue doctor Richard Harris to the Ballarat-based KIDS Foundation.

The Adelaide-based anaesthetist has agreed to become an ambassador for the foundation as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Dr Harris, who masterminded the successful cave dive rescue of 12 young Thai soccer players and their coach from the cave system in July, was inundated with requests to support causes and organisations after the high-profile rescue but a letter from KIDS Foundation founder Susie O'Neill caught his attention.

"I must say of all the requests after the rescue, the

KIDS Foundation has piqued my interest more than any other. I work regularly with kids in my fields of anaesthesia and prehospital and retrieval medicine, and I am acutely aware of the impact of traumatic injuries in children," Dr Harris wrote to Ms O'Neill.

"The important work you are doing in injury prevention, treatment and rehab impresses me. As an adven-

turer, I don't like to see today's kids wrapped in cotton wool and I believe that kids must be allowed to safely explore the natural world. But the results can be dreadful and I applaud what you are doing to help when things go wrong."

"I'm proud to be an ambassador for the KIDS Foundation and look forward to working with the team ... to promote your work."

KIDS Foundation teaches safety awareness and supports children and adults living with serious injuries and burns.

"When I saw the rescue I thought this is what KIDS is. We look at kids who have been in traumatic situations and try to bring them back to a life where they have hope and belief that they are valued," Ms O'Neill said.

Continued page 16



Richard Harris

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NEWS

# Mt Cole logging worry

BY BEN HOPKINS

GREATER care is being called for surrounding logging in the Mt Cole area.

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) has highlighted the need for greater protection of the region, after witnessing the extent of the logging.

VNPA Executive Director Matt Ruchel spoke in a statement about his concerns about the area.

"Mt Cole has long been a popular bushwalking, camping and picnic spot for generations of people from Ballarat and Melbourne, and its amenity, ambiance and ecology is being wrecked by an industrial logging trial," said Mr Ruchel.

"The scale and intensity of logging highlights the importance of fully assessing the need for better protection and management.

"Over 130 different native birds can be found at Mt Cole. And its forest harbours nine threatened fauna species, thirteen threatened flora species, three endangered vegetation types and two vulnerable vegetation types



**CLEAR-FELL:** A barren sight as logging around Mt Cole endangers bushwalking, camping and picnic spots for future generations of residents and travellers. PICTURES SUPPLIED.

under-represented elsewhere in Victoria's formal reserve system."

A spokesperson for VicForests confirmed areas around Mount Cole were identified under VicForests' Community Forestry Timber Utilisation Plan.

"VicForests carefully plans and assesses all its timber harvest operations and

ensures it meets industry best-practice backed up by scientific and expert advice and in accordance to strict environmental and conservation protections," said VicForests in a statement.

This is a statewide issue, with Wilderness Society Victorian Campaigns Manager, Amelia Young, calling for both the Minister for Energy,

Environment and Climate Change, Lily Ambrosio, and VicForests to "do its job".

"The responsible Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio, must overhaul the logging compliance unit and the Forest, Fire and Regions Group in her department, which today's court outcome shows is failing to do its job," said Ms Young.

These comments came

after charges against VicForests for unlawful rainforest logging were thrown out of the Magistrate's Court due to the environment department incompletely filling in the charge sheet.

"Properly filling in court documents would have been a very basic start, so today was a missed opportunity for the industry."

## Cave doctor signs up for KIDS

From page 1

"And the other part of our work is educating children that in any situation everyone has different capabilities and just because someone else can do something it doesn't mean you can't. What have you got to help you contribute in that situation?"

The KIDS Foundation celebrates its 25th anniversary on September 1, the day after the end of a 550km fundraising ride.

Dr Harris joins former Carlton footballer Anthony Koutoufides, singer Sally Skelton, Olympians Steve Moneghetti and Susie O'Neill, Geelong AFL coach Chis Scott, former AFL player and burns survivor Jason McCartney, former world champion triathlete Craig Alexander and entertainer Denise Drysdale as ambassadors for the organisation.

Read more about KIDS Foundation's 25 years of changing lives in Weekender on P30, 31.

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