

# Liverpool Leader

news local

Joshua Din, Tayla Mascord, Antoinette Habbouché, Rose Galea, Rebekah Ayala, Sophia Lobasso, Tiara De Silvia, Marcus Runko and Anthony Sultan. Picture: Craig Wilson



## Leap towards success

Thomas Hassall Anglican College students are jumping for joy after placing second in a national literacy competition.

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**Questions:** Cause of 16th-floor blaze needs to be determined

# HIGHRISE FIRE RISK

**Cindy Ngo**

THE cause of a blaze at the \$600 million Paper Mill apartment development in Liverpool on Thursday night is still under investigation.

More than 70 firefighters worked at the Shepherd St location to get the fire, which broke out on the 16th floor just before 8.30pm, under control.

Developer Coronation Property confirmed the building, being redeveloped on the former Collingwood Paper Mill site, complied with Australian building standards.

"We are very relieved no one was hurt," the company stated. Damage to the building was minimal.

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Students celebrate the feat.

## Word on the street is college prevails

**Cindy Ngo**

STUDENTS from Thomas Hassall Anglican College knocked out fierce rivals to place second in the biggest literacy contest for schools in Australia and New Zealand.

Word Mania is an annual competition run by LiteracyPlanet and is based on a digital word building exercise.

Students are challenged to create as many words as possible from a board of 15 randomly generated letter tiles in three minutes.

More than 400,000 students from 3000 schools took part in the competition, playing 5.8 million Word Mania games and building more than 126 million words.

Students' literacy skills were put to the test, including their knowledge of phonics, word families, spelling, vocabulary, prefixes, rhyming and root words.

With their average game score increasing by 91 per cent over the course of the competition, Year 9 students from the college reached the top of the leaderboard, ranking in the top three schools.

For their efforts, they received trophies and vouchers for school resources.

LiteracyPlanet chief executive Adam McArthur praised the students.

"Word building is a complex literacy skill, and with thousands of schools vying for the top spot in each year level, the college's Year 9 students deserve to be proud of their efforts," he said.

LIVERPOOL

# Town centre fate on table

Councillors discuss future of region including sports facilities and livability prospects

**Cindy Ngo**

THE revitalisation of Casula Town Centre, new sporting facilities for Middleton Grange and the Miller Master Plan were discussed at a workshop attended by Liverpool councillors.

The workshop, at the Casula Powerhouse, focused on the major projects set to elevate the city's livability for future generations.

Councillors discussed a range of medium- to long-term projects and looked further to forecast the needs of the region beyond 2050.

Liverpool Mayor Wendy Waller said it was important for the council to consider the future to achieve best outcomes for the community.

"Liverpool is undergoing rapid change and growth and we – as its elected representatives – need to make

sure we channel that energy into building a harmonious and connected community,"

... channel energy into building a harmonious and connected community

© Wendy Waller

Cr Waller said. "We took a good, hard look at a range of

projects aimed at meeting the community's priorities for Liverpool and spoke about the things we need to do to bring them to fruition."

Among them were the extension of Berners Rd, the Stante and Cirillo sporting facility at Middleton Grange, the renewal of Casula Town Centre and the Miller Master Plan which builds on the work of the 2188 management commit-

tee and public consultation conducted last year.

"We want to revitalise Miller so the people who live there have better access to jobs, training, affordable houses and a more attractive town centre," Cr Waller said.

Other topics discussed included commercial property and traffic in the Liverpool CBD, the revitalisation of Woodward Park and Lurnea Community Hub.



Luke Nguyen with his father, Hui Phuoc Nguyen, and mother Cat Thi Le and (inset) his sculpture One Thousand Crane Wishes set up in bookshop cemetery. Main picture: Melissa Russell

## RIDE FROM LIVERPOOL LEADS TO SCULPTURE HONOUR

**Cindy Ngo**

FOR the three years Luke Nguyen rode his bike from Liverpool to Leichhardt for work, there was one place that stood out on his journey.

The Newtown-based artist and former Busby resident said he was captivated by the tranquil surroundings of Rookwood Cemetery in the early hours of the morning.

So when he heard about the

cemetery's annual sculpture exhibition, Mr Nguyen, 36, set to work on a proposal.

The multidisciplinary artist was recently announced the winner of HIDDEN – A Rookwood Sculpture Walk with his extraordinary artwork *One Thousand Crane Wishes*, the first sculpture he has ever exhibited.

Measuring 6m in diameter, it comprises 37 individual structures,

ranging from 30cm to 2.5m, painstakingly put together.

It was inspired by the Japanese legend of Zenbuzuru, where a person who makes 1000 origami paper cranes will be granted a wish by the gods.

"I went to Japan around two and half years ago and when I came back I was very interested in Japanese culture and wanted to learn," Mr Nguyen said.

"It's all about hope and being happy and content with what you have," the artist said of his work.

He enlisted the help of his family, who still live in Busby, with his girlfriend helping to collect the sticks, which were then cut to size by his father and bound together with red thread by his mother.

Mr Nguyen said he chose red because it symbolised a connection with family.

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