

MENTONE

# Council defies fire threats

Nicholas Payne

## HOTEL APPLICATION TO GO AHEAD DESPITE ANGRY PROTEST

KINGSTON Council has voted to kickstart the next stage of the Mentone Hotel application, amid pressure from community groups and threats of arson attacks.

The request will now go to State Planning Minister Richard Wynne's office, where — if it is approved — the planning scheme amendment will be put out for formal public exhibition.

There was a packed public gallery at last week's council

planning meeting, with plenty of "Save the Edgy" supporters in attendance.

Kingston Mayor Tamsin Bearsley said passing the motion "leaves us (council) a seat at the table". She argued rejecting the plans would have allowed the developer, Paul Huggins, to apply directly to Mr Wynne's office anyway, potentially reducing Kingston Council's input.

"This is an opportunity for all of the community to have its say," Cr Bearsley said.

"That's my view of it, because then the council gets to review all the public submissions, and then we get to decide whether or not to further progress the amendment."

The council was working with reduced numbers, with Cr Rosemary West hospitalised and Cr Tamara Barth

absent due to an overseas holiday.

Cr Steve Staikos initially asked for the motion to be deferred to give council more time to go over the amendment.

In the end, he voted against the motion.

"We haven't fully considered the implications of this site-specific rezoning," Cr Staikos said.

"It's putting me in a position where I feel quite uncomfortable."

Cr Ron Brownlee, who voted for the motion, said the Mentone Hotel debate had been marred by "irresponsible and uninformed comments".

"We even had threats, threats to burn this building down, that's how bad it got," Cr Brownlee said.

The council has now requested that the Department



of Planning and Environment authorise the preparation of a planning scheme amendment.

If that request is approved, the formal public exhibition process will begin, followed by a council review of the public submissions.

PATTERSON LAKES

## Grateful mum to support hospital

A PATTERSON Lakes mum is throwing the "Biggest Playdate" this weekend to support the Monash Children's Hospital, whose staff saved her young daughter's life.

Vanessa Miranda is holding the event in Chelsea Heights to raise funds for the new, purpose-built hospital, which will open in 2017.

Ms Miranda's daughter, Taylah, was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2014 at the age of 14.

"Before, we thought childhood cancer happened to other families, not ours," Ms Miranda said. "We entered a new world that day."

Together, the pair spent a year in and out of the Children's Ward of the Monash Medical Centre while Taylah went through treatment. Now 16, Taylah is in remission and doing "fabulously".

"I'm so grateful that they saved her life," her mum said.

Ms Miranda has organised The Biggest Playdate event on International Children's Day, on Saturday.

She and her helpers will

be turning the Silly Seahorse Play Centre in Chelsea Heights into a "wonderland of children's activities" including mini golf, petting zoos, bungee, face painting, dress-ups and much more.

"We've got games, rides, food stalls, and we'll be able to make a difference to the cancer centre," Ms Miranda said. "It's going to be huge."

While the Royal Children's Hospital in Parkville gets a huge annual influx of funding thanks to the Good Friday Appeal, Ms Miranda said it's important to remember that there are plenty of other hospitals working to help kids in need.

"For us, if your child gets sick, you go to Monash — that's our children's hospital," she said.

The building of the new, 230-bed dedicated children's hospital is due to be completed by December 2016.

The Biggest Playdate is on from 10am to 3pm on Saturday with all proceeds going to the new Monash Children's Hospital.

For details, visit bit.ly/1X67ort or phone 0402 407 990.



Vanessa Miranda and daughter Taylah, who survived leukaemia.

Picture: PAUL LOUGHNAN

PARKDALE

## Chiro cops ban after baby video

A CHIROPRACTOR who manipulated the spine of a four-day-old baby in a viral video has been temporarily banned from treating children.

Dr Ian Rossborough may soon face tougher penalties, with the Chiropractic Board of Australia expected to hold a hearing into his conduct on or before June 2.

As a confidential investigation into his treatment of the infant continues, Dr Rossborough has entered into an undertaking with the board not to perform any chiropractic treatments on patients under the age of 18 until June 2.

Dr Rossborough's Parkdale clinic said on May 16 the chiropractor was not expected to be working at the practice in the coming weeks, and he did not return calls.

Chiropractic Board of Australia and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency spokeswoman Anita Rivera said the law prevented the regulators from commenting on individual cases.

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