

21st Birthday



Birthday greetings to Min Herring who celebrated her 21st birthday on Saturday with a large gathering of relatives and friends. Min (centre) is pictured above with parents Lyn and John. Pictured at back are Naomi Herring, Steve Walsh and Emily Herring.

Orana Safe Houses Project launched on Stop DV Day



Tanya Plibersek, Shadow Minister for Work and Family, Childcare and Youth, and Women, addresses the conference at the Bowling Club on Friday.

The Women's Refuge Movement ended their Conference in Bourke last week by launching the Orana Safe Houses Project in conjunction with Stop Domestic Violence Day on Friday.

Shadow Minister for Work and Family, Childcare and Youth, and Women, Tanya Plibersek, flew to Bourke on her birthday to be the guest speaker at the project launch.

"I hope that the safe houses project will provide a safe place for women to go when escaping violence," Mrs Plibersek said. "This project is designed to help out the safe house and support the staff and make sure the safe houses are run as well as they can be."

The Orana Safe Houses Project is intended to attract attention to the problems facing safe houses in the region and to lobby for more funding. Currently safe houses receive around a third of the funding of a women's refuge.

"These safe houses have been around for a while and this project will hopefully support them staying open and staying strong," Mrs Plibersek said.

Mrs Plibersek said that stopping violence against women should be important for the whole community as it is the single biggest health risk for Australian women. She said there needs to be a national strategy and a more consistent approach to police and court handling of domestic violence matters across the states.

"A national strategy has to be properly

researched and talked through with the States but there are some obvious gaps already," she said. "We know that we need to do better when it comes to emergency accommodation, we know we need to do better when it comes to teaching kids and young people that violence is never acceptable. We can't legislate peoples attitudes, but government can have a big effect on how people think of violence."

Mrs. Plibersek praised the individuals and groups who work to prevent domestic violence in the region.

"It is great to come out here to Bourke and see the great job that people in the far west are doing to tackle the problem of Domestic Violence in their community," she said.

Craig Grimes, Acting Chairperson of the Goolbri men's group based at Dunbi Place, and White Ribbon Ambassador and former St George Dragons winger, Ricky Walford spoke on the role that men must play in stopping violence against women.

Mr Walford said that violence against women was never tolerated in his family and he was proud to be a white ribbon ambassador.

"I'm happy to play my part in stamping out violence against women: here, or anywhere else," he said.

Stop DV Day is part of the international 16 days of activism that began on 25 November to put an end to violence against women.



FURNITUREONE

Outdoor Christmas Display Competition

BEST OVERALL DISPLAY - \$500 GIFT VOUCHER

at **BOURKE FURNITURE ONE**

JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 19th & 23rd DECEMBER.
WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON 24th DECEMBER

ENTRY FORM
CUT OUT THIS ENTRY FORM AND DEPOSIT IN THE BOX AT
BOURKE FURNITURE ONE
ENTRIES CLOSE MID-DAY ON 17th DECEMBER

NAME
(Block Letters Please)

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

ENTRANTS CAN ONLY BE IN THE TOWN AND NORTH BOURKE

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED OVER 2WEB

Combined Christian Churches of Bourke

Present

Carols by "The Wharf"

Sunday 11th December - 7.30pm

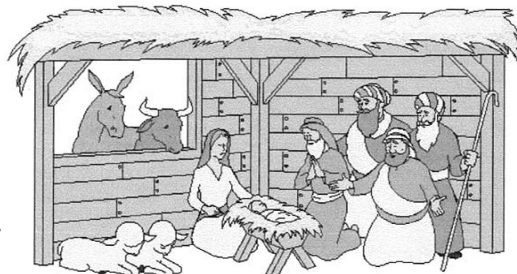
The Bourke Wharf, Sturt Street

A time by the river for the whole family. Bring your chairs or a blanket. Come and enjoy being part of the Bourke community as we celebrate the time of Jesus birth.

★ **SAUSAGE SIZZLE FROM 6.30PM**

★ **GLOW STICKS AVAILABLE**

★ **COMMUNITY SINGING**



Generously sponsored by Bourke Shire Council, Bourke Lions Club, Bourke SES, NSW Police

A combined Churches of Bourke event
Enquiries contact Brian Ford on 0427 687 205