



WORK BEGINS: Garry Nehl oversees earthworks for a 60-bed aged care facility at Raleigh. PHOTO: TREVOR VEALE

# Aged care now a dream come true at Raleigh

By **MELISSA MARTIN**  
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A DECADES-long dream is being realised at Raleigh.

Earthworks have begun on the site of what will one day soon become Les Christian Lodge – a \$6 million, 60-bed aged care facility.

Former Cowper MP and now board member of the Royal Freemasons Benevolent Institution, Garry Nehl, was there to watch the bulldozers roar into action.

“There has been agitation in the Urunga area for decades for

an aged care facility,” Mr Nehl said. “It’s been a frustrating journey to get to this point.”

Those frustrations include finding the original site purchased for the facility was unsuitable, then a long battle to gain approval for the development on the current site.

It’s that history that has Mr Nehl keen to see the aged care centre up and running as soon as possible.

“I’d like to see it finished before Christmas,” he said.

The earthworks are expected to take three months to complete and Mr Nehl is hoping to have the

tender process done by then so construction can begin straight away.

The completed facility will fill a dire need in the local area for aged care beds and will also include a 20-bed dementia wing.

“We have Bellorana and Oakman Gardens Village in Bellingen, and there have been some new aged care facilities built along the Mid North Coast in recent years, but overall there is still a very big demand for aged care beds,” Mr Nehl said.

Apart from helping the elderly, the facility will provide the equivalent of 12-15 full-time jobs.

## DNA to stop crims

BELLINGEN Golf Club is getting hi-tech in its battle against criminals.

In two break-ins in February, thieves caused \$300,000 in damage as they smashed up 14 poker machines, ransacked offices and tampered with a safe.

To rule out the chance of another repeat, the club has installed a breakthrough security system, developed by DNA Security Solutions.

“Inside this unit is half a litre of hospital grade water, a vegetable-based dye and single strand synthetic DNA,” the company’s Jeffrey Murray said.

“Motion sensors and a trigger mechanism are set off during a break-in or robbery and a fine mist is sprayed throughout the club, which later shows up on the offender under black light.

“The Bellingen Golf Club has its own unique DNA code contained in the mist, which offers conclusive evidence an offender was present during the crime.

“Until now it’s been one thing for police to catch an offender and another to prove their crime, whereas this offers the proof to gain a prosecution.”



DNA DETERRENT: Andrew Taft, developer of DNA Security Solutions, demonstrates the lasting proof of a crime.

### IN BRIEF

#### Portrait pleasure

● THE Bunker Cartoon Gallery is set to again host its popular annual exhibition of the Bald Archy Tour.

Bald Archy Prize is the popular portrait competition in which artists take a comical look at well-known Australians.

The wonderful portraits will be on display from Friday, May 11.

#### Reading and writing

● ENTRIES in the Coffs Harbour Carpet Court Storybook Challenge opened this week, giving local primary school students in Coffs Harbour the chance to win big prizes, including \$1000 in books and colourful reading mats for their classrooms as well as individual prizes.

Store owner Simon McCredie encouraged children to enter before Friday, June 29, by submitting an

illustrated story sharing what they love most about their community.

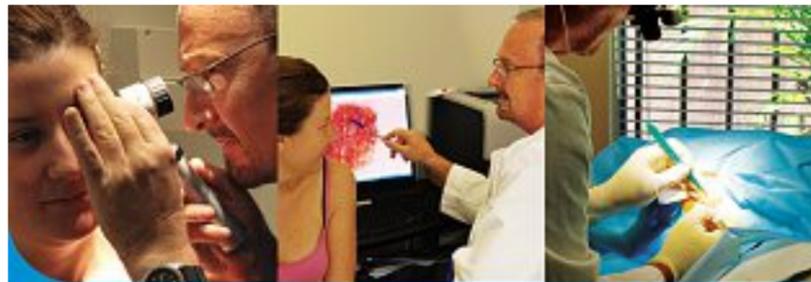
Open to children in grades one to four, students wishing to enter can pick up an entry form for the Storybook Challenge from Coffs Harbour Carpet Court, their local participating primary school, download one from facebook.com/CarpetCourt or email storybook@carpetcourt.com.au.

#### Fire Week

● COFFS Coast seniors are urged to take advantage of Fire & Rescue NSW’s annual Fire Prevention Week today.

FRNSW superintendent Dave Gray said seniors faced a much higher risk from a fire in their home and could get tips on safety at the fire station open day today from 10am-2pm.

“The harder I work, the luckier I get.” – Samuel Goldwyn



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