

Primary entry #50: Stroud Public School

the Stroud Scribbler



VULNERABLE: Margaret and Andy Lang with students Shaun Scholberg, Claire Harvey, Lily Raine and Angelique Scholberg.
Picture: Amity Carter

No crossing but safety is still an issue

By **AMITY CARTER**

CONCERNED Stroud resident Margaret Lang strongly believes something needs to be done to improve road safety for young and old people in her village.

Mrs Lang is worried that it is only a matter of time before someone is hurt or killed trying to cross Stroud's busy main street which is part of the Bucketts Way.

"There are quite a few elderly folk who find it difficult to cross the road which can be very busy at times," Mrs Lang said.

"Some ride scooters because of walking difficulties and vehicles passing through will not stop to let them cross. The children are at risk as well and although the speed limit is 50 km/h a collision could cause serious injury or death."

Mrs Lang has formed a group called Safety in Stroud and they have organised a petition signed by nearly 300 people asking Great Lakes Council to put a pedestrian crossing in Stroud.

"Great Lakes Council have written back to me and said that we don't have enough pedestrians or vehicles for a crossing," Mrs Lang said.

Mrs Lang is hoping the Stroud community can get together and come up with ways to make it safer.

"Maybe we could have better signage to warn of children and elderly crossing, or flashing lights."

By **ALYSSA MUDRYK, AMITY CARTER, THOMAS DEW, EMMA FIELD, AMY KLEIN, SARA MUDRYK and PETER RAINE**

KEVIN Hutchins has spoken for the first time about the plane crash that took the life of his father and four other men in the Barrington Tops more than three decades ago.

Pilot Michael Hutchins was 52 when the single-engine Cessna he was flying disappeared on August 9, 1981.

It remains Australia's only unsolved civil aviation mystery.

Kevin has never spoken publicly about the crash despite many attempts by various media outlets to get his story.

Just 18 when he lost his father, Kevin said the plane crash changed his life.

"It was terrible. I was very sad and upset. It was very hard to hear the voice of your father and know it's the last few minutes of his life," Kevin said.

"I still miss him and always will. When he was around we were always doing things - swimming, surfing, walking and going on adventures. He was pretty smart and funny, but there was a serious side to him too."

Kevin said his father was a very experienced aviator who had served in both Australian and



MYSTERY: Kevin Hutchins with his children Olivia and Ruben, left, and a photo of his father, pilot Michael Hutchins, above.
Picture: Peter Raine

Canadian air forces.

"He loved to fly. He'd fly for nothing. I think he loved the fact that there are no stop signs up there."

One of the hardest things Kevin has had to deal with is that some people assume the crash was his father's fault.

"That's not fair. No one knows what really happened on that plane

that night. I know it wasn't his fault because after the accident there was a coroner's inquest and a court case to decide what caused their deaths, and it was decided that it was not pilot error."

Kevin and his family moved to Stroud from Sydney eight years ago after visiting the village many times on their way up to Barrington Tops.

"We love living here. It's good to

be able to go up to the mountains and be close to where the plane went missing. I still do that sometimes."

Kevin said that he would like the plane to be found one day.

"It would be nice to know what happened, but if it's never found so be it. Some would like to know where it is, and others not. It's a hard one."

FEATURE: Anne Frost wants to tell the world about Stroud.

Picture: Emma Field



Stroud will have its time to shine

By **EMMA FIELD**

STROUD is special and everyone will soon know it if Anne Frost has her way.

The theatre director plans to make a short video on the wonders of her home town.

"This will be such an exciting community project and will hopefully involve everyone in Stroud," Ms Frost said.

She will be the artistic

director with Great Lakes councillor Leigh Vaughan as musical director.

"It will be a bit like a music video, hopefully featuring an original song."

Ms Frost shared the idea with Greg Smith from the Forster Film Festival after she saw the short film *Inspired by Iceland*.

"We had coffee and both agreed 'we can do this'."

A petition for support for

the video attracted more than 150 local signatures in just five days.

Ms Frost is looking for ways to pay for the film and is busy applying for grants.

"I'm thinking big and hoping the universe will provide. I don't want to ask for the community to fund it."

"I'm proud of Stroud and I want other people to see what it's like, to know the character of Stroud."

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