

A green global message



Dario, Sabine and daughter Salina prepared themselves to cycle to Hazelbrook in the Blue Mountains last Monday. The Swiss family are travelling around the globe to spread their climate change awareness campaign.

by Amanda Perry

A Swiss couple who are taking their climate change awareness campaign global, stopped in at Hawkesbury High School on Monday.

Sabine and Dario Schworer, along with their two-year-old daughter Salina and one-year-old son Andri, are on a mission to travel the world only by the use of human power, wind power and solar power; and motivate thousands of school students to get involved with nature and sport along the way.

Their global expedition started in Geneva on December 3, 2002 with Swiss TOP to TOP.

Sabine and Dario climbed to the highest top of each Canton in Switzerland in 160 days non-stop, covering in total 2953km and 96609 altimetres.

The Swiss expedition was a major success, so the couple decided to take it global and "sail the seven seas to the seven summits by nature's power". Ever since then they have been sailing, cycling and climbing, and have already visited over 30 nations.

On December 28 last year they were on top of Mount Kosciuszko, their third summit so far.

Mrs Schworer said they expect to spend almost a year in Australia, and after visiting schools in the Sydney and Blue Mountains

areas they will head up north and then eventually back down to visit Hobart. From Tasmania they will then move on to New Zealand. Their next summit climb will be Mount Everest, a challenge she said they are really looking forward to.

Mrs Schworer said they thought the expedition might take them around four years to complete, but four years have come and gone and they now think the journey might take around seven years. But speed is not what they are concerned about, they want to leave a green path and minimise their ecological footprint, making sure their message is heard.

A qualified ski and mountaineering guide, a hang gliding pilot, river rafting guide, canyoning guide, skipper and diver, Mr Schworer is passionate about harnessing natural energy sources and preventing global warming. On Monday he encouraged Hawkesbury High School science students to come up with some of their own ideas and solutions to tackle climate change.

"You have so much potential in this country... so much sun," Mr Schworer said.

He believes Australia could do much more to harness its incredible natural energy resources, and it needs to do so before it lags too far behind the rest of the world.

Mrs Schworer, who is a qualified nurse, said having her children whilst travelling across the globe had been a good experience. Both were born in Chile, South America.

Before Salina was born she had already sailed 5000 nautical miles, cycled 2500km and climbed 4000m.

As well as showing children that great things can be achieved in harmony with nature, the TOP to TOP team also organise aid such as school materials, medicine and food for people affected by climate change, as well as perform weekly clean ups, removing waste from coastal and protected nature parks.

TOP to TOP is a non-profit organisation of volunteers from 28 nations, and is based in Switzerland. Its patron is the United Nations Environment Program, and while the organisation does have some Swiss sponsors for its equipment, the crew rely mainly on the support and generosity of people across the globe donating to the expedition.

Visit the TOP to TOP website at www.toptotop.org to learn more about this amazing expedition. Volunteers are also welcome to join the team on certain legs of the expedition, cycling, sailing and climbing. If you are interested head to the website or email Dario at: dario@toptotop.org



News from GAZETTE

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After travelling more than 700,000km, Wisemans Ferry's longest-serving car ferry (above) made its final journey across the Hawkesbury River on Tuesday morning with ferry staff John Clifford and Russell Walsh.

The woman at the centre of an inquiry into bribery allegations surrounding Wollongong City Council, former town planner Beth Morgan, began her career at Hawkesbury City Council in 1998. Read all about it in this week's Gazette.

Angry Kurmond residents who have been without a phone line for more than two weeks received another blow this week, after Telstra contractors working to repair the line hit a water pipe and flooded several properties.

Residents can feel safer in their community after the latest crime trends show a decrease in a number of key crime areas during the past five years.

An employee from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) had what she believes was a panther sighting with her son late last year. The sighting is the fourth to come to light in recent weeks, and is the fourth by a DPI employee that The Gazette has been told about.

Hawkesbury residents can have their say on an upcoming law change that will affect around 50 of our district's students. Find out what it is in The Gazette.

Pub, club and restaurant diners who enjoy an alcoholic drink will be the target of a campaign in the Hawkesbury.

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<p>Cinema 1 Downstairs Thurs Feb 28th to Wed Mar 5th Daily at 12noon, 4.00pm & 7.40pm</p>	<p>Cinema 2 Upstairs Thurs Feb 28th to Wed Mar 5th Thurs 11.40am, 3.20pm & 8.40pm Fri, Sat, Sun 11.40am Mon to Wed 11.40am, 3.20pm & 8.40pm</p>
<p>Cinema 1 Downstairs Thurs Feb 28th to Wed Mar 5th Daily at 10.15am, 5.55pm & 9.30pm (No 9.30pm session Sunday)</p>	<p>Cinema 1 Downstairs Thurs Feb 28th to Wed Mar 5th Daily at 1.55pm</p>

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