

# Train track getaway for hurt rider

A CYCLIST has narrowly escaped being run over by a train after falling from his bicycle onto tracks in Unanderra.

The 20-year-old Unanderra man lost control of his bicycle after the front wheel jammed in the tracks.

He was sent flying from the bicycle and despite wearing a helmet suffered a minor head injury and lost consciousness.

Two men driving past noticed the bicycle and when they went to investigate, discovered the injured cyclist.

After helping the man the pair rang for an ambulance. Moments after being attended to by paramedics a southbound train crossed the tracks where moments before the man lay unconscious.

# Car seized after hit-run

A VEHICLE has been seized for forensic examination after a man was seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident as he left a club near Newcastle, police said.

The driver of the car allegedly failed to stop after hitting the 40-year-old man on Lakeview Dr, Wangi Wangi, at 1am, leaving him with serious abdominal, groin and hand injuries.

Meanwhile, an 80-year-old man was killed in a two-car crash in southern NSW.

Police say the man's Toyota Corolla and a Ford Falcon sedan collided at the intersection of Lloyd and Mangoplah roads in Wagga Wagga on Saturday night, and both cars ended up in a ditch.

The Peakhurst man died at the scene, while his 82-year-old female passenger was taken to hospital with serious injuries.



BEN MIKIC

# Cyclist's passion inspired family



Talented: Ben Mikic's family described the 15-year-old as a gentle boy who was passionate about his cycling. Ben died on Saturday after a collision with a car in Mittagong.

By MARIO CHRISTODOULOU

THE sight of Year 10 students Alex Tomlinson and Ben Mikic cycling through Mittagong of an afternoon was not unusual.

The two best mates, both aged 15, were mad about their cycling and trained almost every day after school.

Last Friday was no different, but as the pair cycled through the intersection of Bowral Rd and Bessemer St just after 5pm they collided with a Honda CRV.

Alex was rushed to Liverpool Hospital suffering non life-threatening injuries and was yesterday talking with family and friends.

Ben, however, died at the scene.

Described as a gentle boy who was passionate about his cycling, he had only four days earlier received the exciting news that he'd been offered a scholarship with the Illawarra Academy of Sport's elite cycling team.

Ben's passion for cycling was infectious and spread to his father Darren, mother Andrea, and two brothers, Daniel and James.

His mother even took up the post of secretary at the Southern Highlands Cycling Club.

Yesterday, she was at her Mittagong home with family where she described her son as a goal-driven and active boy who was never short of a friend and was well on his way to making a career from the sport he loved.

"I was so blessed to be his mother," she said.

"Cycling is what he wanted to do. That was his goal and he was a very determined young man. Whatever he set out to do he did 100 per cent."

His second passion was woodwork, which he hoped would lead to a career as a cabinet-maker.

Last Christmas he made a stool for his mother and was in the process of making a clock for her birthday.

So close were Alex and Ben that Mrs Mikic described Alex as her fourth son.

She said she had no ill-will towards the 52-year-old female driver of the Honda.

"She has our love and our support and our forgiveness," she said.

"It was an accident and I want her to know we are sending her our love."

Alex's father Peter Tomlinson, who is also a member of the cycling club, spent yesterday with his son at Liverpool Hospital.

"They were very close (and) trained together probably three or five times a week," he said.

The academy's head cycling coach Mick Kejda said Ben had made a promising start and was performing at levels expected of riders two years his senior.

"Ben was a very nice young man and very determined. Once he put his mind to going to the next level, he was going to get there."

News of the death sent shockwaves through the tight-knit cycling community. Team manager Joshua Kersten described Ben as displaying "extreme talent".

He said Ben was a late addition to the academy's cycling team and was included because of his standout performance in trials about four weeks ago.

Since the death the academy's executive director, Mark Brogan, has been inundated with messages of support from across the cycling community.

"Our hearts go out to the family," Mr Brogan said.

"We are extremely shocked and saddened."

Police are appealing for crash witnesses to contact Bowral Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

You're invited to attend the next

## ILLAWARRA WOMEN IN BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

Friday May 11 - Lagoon Seafood Restaurant  
12noon - open Networking in the Lounge Bar for 12.30pm start

Cost: \$31.50 for members  
\$38.00 for non members (includes 2 course meal)



Guest Speaker - Elena Reed  
Image & Business Protocol Specialist - Elena works with companies that want to leverage their personal image for professionalism and profit.  
The Etiquette of Good Business - How to position yourself for success in any situation, avoid embarrassing "faux pas" and make a lasting impact.  
You will learn:  
- The essentials of social and business etiquette for leadership excellence.  
- How to build fast rapport and interact effectively with clients and peers  
- How to adjust your verbal and non-verbal messages to get the outcome you want  
- How culture, status and background affect etiquette  
- The different rules for written communication, the Internet, dining, social and business events.

Booking deadline and payment Monday May 7  
Payments to be made to Illawarra Women in Business  
Send cheque to IWIB, PO Box 216, Woonona 2517 or  
Payment via D/D at IMB - account #200 426 916 BSB 641 800

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Further information  
contact Glenda Papac - 4229 9636  
email: events@iwib.com.au

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$MUSIC RESEARCH\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

## WANTED 140 MUSIC LOVERS

Signal Research is a national research company conducting research with Illawarra residents who listen to music on the radio.

The study will involve one night's attendance from 6:00pm to 9:30pm and will be run on the 8th & 9th May in Wollongong.

You will be paid \$80 cash on the night for your attendance, plus there will be prizes to be won.

There is NO SELLING involved!

If you would like to apply to be a participant or for further information, please contact Bonnie at Signal Research between 10:30am and 8pm, Monday to Friday on (07) 5561 2075.