**ORAN PARK**

Seat of learning opens its doors

ORAN Park Anglican College opened its doors for the first time yesterday as about 50 students started school.

A campus of Thomas Has-sall Anglican College Mild- leton Grange, the college will initially cater for preparatory to year 5.

Principal Ross Whelan said after five years planning and seven months in construction, it was exciting the school had finally opened.

“It’s fantastic to have it open,” he said.

“We are looking forward to some great days ahead.”

Jonathan Beggs, who has 20 years’ teaching experience, is the college’s campus co-ordinator and will be in charge of campus operations, as well as a team of five staff. Students will abide by the motto, “of greater worth than gold”.

The college is expected to expand in the future to cater to year 12 and for up to 900 students.

Details: opac.new.edu.au or phone 4604 0000.

**MT ANNAN**

The Lil’ Banditz steal the limelight

THREE Mt Annan young-sters hip-hopped their way into the hearts of the nation on Sunday when they performed live on Channel Ten’s Young Talent Time.

Bailey Whiteley, 12, Noah Taiba, 11 and Brenton Rakebrandt, 11, of Commotion School of Performing Arts in Mt Annan, are part of the Lil’ Banditz Krew - an all boys hip-hop group created by not-for-profit organisation Project Dance.

The 15 aspiring dancers demonstrated they had all the right moves to take it to the top. The crew had superstar and show judge Tina Arena hopping away in her seat while audience members jumped to their feet to cheer them on. Bailey, of Camden, said performing live on nationwide TV was a fantastic experience.

“I was a bit nervous but more excited. Chucky Klaw (show judge) was really nice. He came out of his dressing room to shake our hands. He was very friendly,” he said.

Brenton, of Campbelltown, said now he’d made his television debut, he wanted to return to the screen and try other shows like Australia’s Got Talent.

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**NARELLAN**

Medicare claim denied

MORE than 1650 residents signed a petition to have a Medicare centre established in Narellan but that wasn’t enough to get the project across the line.

Macarthur federal Liberal MP Russell Matheson, who started the petition in support of a third centre for the Macarthur area (to join the ones at Campbelltown and Camden), said he was disappointed the federal government had not supported the idea.

He was told the government had no plans to extend the office network but was looking to invest in alternatives, such as a telephone service for people to access Medicare and Centrelink.

“Replacing face-to-face services with phone and internet services just isn’t good enough,” Mr Matheson said. “There are many people in my community who prefer or need face-to-face interaction for important services like Medicare.”

Narellan Town Centre manager Brad Page said it was disappointing the centre wouldn’t receive the service.

“Narellan is a growing area and we need the service of a Medicare office,” Mr Page said.

**FAST LANE**

Talking strategy

Camden Council will tonight discuss the adoption of the Macarthur Regional Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015 draft.

The strategy provides key strategic themes, a vision and target markets for the region encompassing marketing and promotion, industry support, visitor servicing and tourism product development.

Road lowering

Werombi Rd will undergo more work after Camden Council received a further $115,000 under the Nation Building Black Spot Program. A section of Werombi Rd will be lowered in conjunction with other work along the road and Sheathers Lane. The council does not have to match the funding.

Welcome aboard

The Bicentennial Equestrian Park (BEP) community management committee is expected to receive two new board members following an appointment by Camden Council tonight. The council recommended David Johns and Patrick White as members of the committee. Mr White is a member of the Men’s Shed and lives close to the BEP. Mr Johns is a member of Camden Rodeo and Campdrafting Club and operates a building consultancy company.

**PHONE AND INTERNET SERVICES INSTEAD OF NEW OFFICES**

Russell Matheson and Brad Page back a Medicare office in Narellan.