

PENRITH

Book blows the whistle on a policeman's lot



Retired policeman Paul Horner.

Alexis Carey

FORMER resident Paul Horner has released an explosive new book about his time in the police force and the demise of his career.

The 38-year-old, who has lived in Cranebrook and St Marys, said he wanted to inspire positive change within the force to help officers, their families and the community.

Jack Knife: The Crashing

of a Policeman recounts incidents from Horner's career in some of the toughest stations in NSW.

The ex-senior constable served 11 years as an officer in Mt Druitt, Cabramatta, Bourke and Byron Bay before his medical discharge after a diagnosis of chronic post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

"I don't want to be portrayed as someone who is bashing the police or criti-

cising them, because it is not what I'm about," Mr Horner said.

"I sincerely want to make the police force a better place to work. I want to help them ... to make positive changes. I've got good mates (in the force) and I don't want to see them go through what I have been through."

Mr Horner said police were under constant stress due to the violent nature of their jobs.

"I felt like a boxer, not a police officer, and in Bourke I got a lot of personal threats. I couldn't go to the supermarket without rocks and bottles being thrown at me," he said.

"I want police and families to have some awareness about what to expect (in the job). The general public would never know what goes on unless they have been in the job. The book describes what police put up with."

BOOK SIGNING

WHAT: Paul Horner's *Jack Knife: The Crashing of a Policeman* book signing
WHERE: Dymocks, Westfield Penrith
WHEN: Saturday, March 24 from 11am to noon
DETAILS: Phone 4731 5986

PENRITH LGA

Chapter and verse on what you are missing

RESIDENTS URGED TO REVERSE DECLINE AND VISIT THEIR LIBRARY



New member Sarah Ryan plans to use Penrith libraries to borrow books for her daughter, Ivy.

Picture: MATT SULLIVAN

Alexis Carey

DESPITE it being the National Year of Reading, new figures reveal numbers are down at Penrith City libraries.

The results of the latest quarter were discussed at a recent Penrith Council meeting and revealed the number of loans, new members and visitors were all below target.

Despite the figures, the council's library services manager, Colin Stevenson, said the library was a great place to visit with a range of

OFF TARGET

Figures for patronage over a quarter at Penrith libraries.

LOANS: 387,810 compared with the target of 450,000

NEW MEMBERS: 2426 new members instead of the target of 3200

VISITORS: 275,330, 15 per cent below the target of 325,000

services to help residents.

"To align with modern community needs, council libraries offer much more than the traditional book

“These vibrant community hubs offer on-the-spot and online services, exciting displays and events catering to all ages

- Colin Stevenson, Library services manager

lending and these vibrant community hubs offer on-the-spot and online services, exciting displays and events catering to all ages.

"Our libraries have free services such as justices of

the peace, the toy library, preschooler storytime and a new service, tax assist, which will be available at tax time.

"There's also a large uptake of online services, with eBook and audiobook usage growing exponentially, and the popular YourTutor student service."

Mr Stevenson said there had been incredible growth in children's loans recently.

"Residents, students and people who work in the area are realising the expanding benefits that come with library membership, with al-

most 6000 new members joining Penrith City libraries last year," he said.

Kingswood mother and new library member Sarah Ryan said she planned to borrow books for daughter Ivy, 20 months.

"I've only just joined the library today but I think I will use it fairly regularly ... for kids books for my daughter."

Library services include home visits by staff and in-house borrowing sessions by appointment at Emu Plains library for clients with special needs.

VOX pop

Why do you use Penrith libraries?

APRIL RUDD, 8 Glenmore Park

I like reading books in the library and sometimes I borrow some books to take home. I like reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.



TAYLA RUDD, 9 Glenmore Park

I mainly use the library to read fun books. I'm studying Antarctica at school so I have come to the library to get information for my school project.



JAMES MACKAY, 12 Penrith

I use the library in Penrith to borrow books because I read quite a lot. I also use the library to chat with friends because it is a good place to sit and have some freedom.



WAN WONG Penrith

I come to the library to search for books and to meet friends. I mostly borrow fiction and language books.



POWER

Savings go back to users

NEARLY \$400 million in savings created from the merger of Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy will be passed on to household energy users to contain further price rises, the state government said.

"Considering the immediate costs involved in re-vamping our electricity infrastructure ... and the impending carbon tax we're going to have a number of pressures on household energy bills in the future," Penrith MP Stuart Ayres said.