

# FORBES ADVOCATE

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## NATIONAL HONOUR FOR OUR FLYING PHARMACIST

FORBES Pharmacist Jack Buckley has been named the Pharmacist of the Year at the Independent Pharmacies of Australia annual Pharmacy Excellence Awards. A trained pilot, Jack has combined his professional expertise as a pharmacist with his passion for flying to serve out communities: his approach to healthcare delivery first recognised during the flood crisis in November 2022. "I think the key message is, don't underestimate what community pharmacy can offer patients, particularly in regional centres," Jack said. Full story page 3

# Housing offers now open

Two long years on from floods, those affected can apply for buybacks, resilience works

NEARLY two years on from the 2022 flood disasters, residents can start applying for buybacks, raising, relocation or flood resilience improvements.

The Central West Resilient Homes package opened for applications online Monday, October 28, with Reconstruction Authority NSW staff to be on the ground in Forbes and Eugowra to help residents with the process.

Maps of the areas prioritised for different types of support are now available online, with some properties in Cabonne among those to be eligible for property buybacks.

Much larger areas of both Forbes and Eugowra are flagged for resilience measures, which include raising

or relocating a home, rebuilding a more resilient home or retrofitting homes with more resilient materials.

All levels of government gathered in Eugowra on Saturday to announce the opening of applications, with Federal Minister for Emergency Management Senator Jenny McAllister, and State Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib standing with our State and Federal MPs and the region's mayors.

Senator McAllister said the program was designed to ensure central west communities would be more resilient against future disaster.

"I encourage eligible homeowners to apply for this funding so we can minimise the impacts on homes and families going forward," she said.

There is \$40 million in

the housing package to be shared across Forbes, Cabonne, Parkes and Lachlan shires, and that is part of \$100 million for the region, funded by State and Federal governments.

All the details and applications are online via [nsw.gov.au/resilienthomesprogram](http://nsw.gov.au/resilienthomesprogram)

The prioritisation maps are based on flood risk information, but the website states other information will also be used to understand risks and inform eligibility.

The program will take individual circumstances into account.

But for some of the locals gathered at the park, the package has been too long coming.

They've already made their repairs, at their own expense.

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# Logan wins WorldSkills gold

Local apprentice fitter machinest qualifies for national competition

LOGAN Montgomery has won gold in the regional World Skills competition.

The third-year apprentice fitter machinest topped the turning competition in Orange with an impressive 81 points, and will represent our region at nationals in Brisbane.

Logan had to machine a mandrel, a sleeve and a nut - to all specified tolerances - in six hours.

He finished with 45 minutes to spare.

At Forbes business Ace Machining, Logan spends most of his time working on the lathe and honing his skills under the watchful eye of Greg Drabsch.

Most of their work is on agricultural machinery and particularly at this time of year as the region has been gearing up toward harvest.

The skills he's developed in repairing, replacing parts and machining parts for chaser bins, augers and more stood Logan in good stead in the competition.

"It's definitely helped with how much machining I do here - it's a good 70 to 80 per cent of what I do," Logan said.

"It's helped me a lot." Accuracy, precision and patience are all critical attributes for the trade, Logan's ability to focus and his attention to detail essential.

Greg said Logan's success was a credit to him, and he's pleased for the opportunities it will open up.

There's a training camp to help candidates prepare for the nationals competition that Logan will be able to attend.

"That will give him tips and pointers on how to get better, to produce better finishes, to produce a better job in a quicker time," Greg said.

"It'll only benefit him."

Not only that, but Logan's found a trade he loves.

After being uncertain about his career path, he decided to take up the trade and enter the industry.

"I love it now," he said.

WorldSkills Australia has been providing young people with the opportunity to showcase their trade and skills since 1981, and it is part of the international WorldSkills movement.

Nationals will take place in mid-2025.



Logan Montgomery, with his regional World Skills gold medal, at Ace Machining with Greg Drabsch.

# Jack Buckley named IPA Pharmacist of the Year



Jack Buckley is the IPA Pharmacist of the Year.

PHOTO: Supplied

FORBES Pharmacist Jack Buckley has been named the Pharmacist of the Year at the Independent Pharmacies of Australia (IPA) annual Pharmacy Excellence Awards.

The part owner of Flannery's Pharmacy and Life Pharmacy in Forbes received the accolade for his dedication to rural healthcare.

A trained pilot, Jack's innovative approach to healthcare delivery was first recognised during the November 2022 flood crisis, when he utilised his flying skills to transport medical supplies and pharmacy staff to towns along the Lachlan River.

Jack and his Life Pharmacy Group (LPG) colleagues have since been working alongside the Western New South Wales Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) to coordinate and deliver the Australian Government's COVID-19 Vulnerable Vaccination Program to aged care residents across rural and remote locations such as Bourke and Cobar.

By combining his professional

expertise as a pharmacist, with his passion for flying, Jack has revolutionised the delivery of essential medical services to remote communities.

"This award was certainly a nice, albeit unexpected, surprise," Mr-Buckley said.

"We know the greatest challenge facing patients in rural and regional Australia is access - they simply don't have the same access to health expertise, resources, and treatments that their city counterparts do.

"If we can do our bit to help bridge that gap, then we're doing our job well.

"I think the key message is, don't underestimate what community pharmacy can offer patients, particularly in regional centres.

"We are very service based and place a huge emphasis on patient management and, the great thing is, we're making a difference to the community."

The award is one of Australia's

most prestigious and highlight regarded pharmacy accolades, with LPG CEO, Michael Flannery, congratulated Jack on his achievement.

"This award is a credit to Jack and all the work he puts into the Forbes stores and his local community," Mr Flannery said.

"He has been a wonderful addition to LPG since joining us over 12 years ago.

"Jack has embraced the Forbes community, is popular with his patients, and is an excellent Pharmacist.

"The impact he has made in recent years, particularly utilising his love of flying, highlights his dedication and commitment to community health."

The IPA Summit provided an opportunity for those within the network to connect and discuss key priorities, such as delivering the right mix of services to achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

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Together with our MBC Wealth arm we provide holistic financial services across the Central West, including our new office in Parkes.

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