

Crash on Woronora track

A 68-year-old man was in hospital with concussion and lacerations after being hit head-on by a cyclist at speed on a popular bush track from Woronora to Sutherland last Tuesday. (15 January 2019)

He was knocked unconscious in isolated bushland and taken by ambulance for treatment at Sutherland Hospital. He was kept overnight after early fears of skull fracture and possible brain damage.

Prices Track is barely a metre wide in some places, and is popular as a local bushwalk or ride.

Thrill-seekers often do not brake on steep sections, risking a high-speed collision on the narrow path with other walkers and cyclists, including children.

"I hate to think if it had happened to a family – there would be bodies everywhere," the man said. He was at a walking pace on a steep uphill section, when knocked from his own mountain bike by another rider at speed going downhill.



SPEED HUMPS URGED

"There was no warning – I was grinding slowly up my favourite track, and then BANG. I was airborne and never saw it coming."

"I was knocked out cold for a while, but I could have been killed. A few centimetres meant the difference between a glancing blow and full impact."

Police were called and ambulance officers had difficulty evacuating the casualty over a rough section of the isolated track.

Tests at hospital found no evidence of brain damage, but he was treated for whiplash trauma, cuts, abrasions and a black eye. The 5cm head wound was closed with surgical glue in place of stitches.

His helmet was a write-off and his new cycle damaged. With ambulance, a CAT-scan and a night in hospital, medical costs soon reached thousands of dollars.

"I am a true believer in helmets now, after seeing huge cracks which could have been in my skull," the man said.

Asked if anything could reduce the risk, he suggested, "Common sense is simplest, but speed humps are more reliable."

Doctors hoped that he would recover from concussion and stroke-like symptoms within a week or so.

Crash injury on Woronora track. A 68-year-old man was in hospital with concussion and lacerations after being hit head-on by a cyclist at speed on a popular bush track from Woronora to Sutherland on Tuesday. He was evacuated by ambulance from the isolated location. 17 Jan 2019

Threats, \$350k offer to stop Liberal brawl. Threats and a \$350,000 job offer were reportedly made to stop a pre-selection brawl between the sitting Federal MP Craig Kelly and Kent Johns, a Sutherland Shire councillor and a party boss. A key Liberal fixer repeatedly called on Cr Johns to drop the challenge for the seat of Hughes, predicting that Mr Kelly would move to the crossbench and "bring down the government" if the duel proceeded, news reports said.

NSW GREENS 'TOXIC, CORRUPT'. The NSW Greens have been labelled as 'toxic, Marxist' by one of its controversial veterans, Jeremy Buckingham, as he quit the "rotten and corrupt" party in sensational fashion last week. It was "dominated by an extreme-Left faction and has lost its focus on the environment," he accused. He plans to recontest his seat in the NSW Legislative Council as a "real green independent", threatening to promote other challengers against Greens for key seats in next year's State elections. 22 December 2018

Federal, NSW Govts clash on climate. A NSW minister has attacked his right-wing colleagues in the Federal Government as "out of touch" on energy and climate policy, predicting that the State would go its own way on the issue.

KELLY SAVED BY T.K.O. – AGAIN. Local MP Craig Kelly has survived another bruising pre-selection fight for next year's Federal election - with a technical knockout in the dressing room. The hard-Right MP for Hughes was facing certain defeat for his own job, after losing control in Liberal Party branches. He was saved by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, as all sitting Liberals were endorsed without local pre-selection. 13 December 2018

WHAT WE DO, AND WHY. Our Woronora website follows in the best traditions of "The Thunderer" -- one of Britain's oldest and most influential newspapers, The Times of London. It became a strongly independent paper, with rigorous standards of reporting and opinion, from 1785. Its editorial views could be fierce, independent and articulate, and its name and style
