

NEWS

From heartbreak to hope

BY EVA KOLIMAR

THE community will unite for a meaningful cause as Sutherland Shire resident Lisa Curtis announces her sponsorship of the inaugural Sheridan's Big Night Out.

Scheduled for March 21 at the St George Leagues Club, this first-of-its-kind gathering serves as both a heartfelt fundraiser and a celebration of the vibrant life of Sheridan Apter.

The event was born out of a desire to find light following a profound loss. On September 28, 2025, the Apter family tragically lost Sheridan at the age of 35. In the wake of

their grief, her family knew they needed to honour her memory through the sport that defined her life: netball. For 27 years, Sheridan was a fixture on the court, serving as a player, umpire, coach, and mentor to many.

"We had to honour Sheridan in a meaningful way and create a proper legacy," said her father, John Apter. This mission led the family to the Confident Girls Foundation. Established in 2015, the charity focuses on empowering women and girls aged five to 30 who are experiencing disadvantage. By providing opportunities to build resilience and lead-

ership through netball, the foundation perfectly mirrors the inclusion and confidence Sheridan championed throughout her life.

All proceeds support the foundation's work. Ms Curtis, of Highland Property, is proud to help bring this vision to life, sees the sponsorship as a way to ensure Sheridan's influence continues to grow. "Supporting Sheridan's Big Night Out is an opportunity to carry forward a legacy built on inclusion, confidence, and community," she said. "Sheridan's impact on those around her was remarkable, and I'm proud to help cham-



Sheridan Apter's memory has inspired a new fundraiser for girls in sport. Picture supplied

panion a cause that mirrors the values she lived by".

Ms Curtis was introduced to the cause through her sister, who worked with



Sheridan's impact on those around her was remarkable

Lisa Curtis

Sheridan's brother. Moved by the family's story, Lisa felt a natural connection to the mission. Having been part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters' program for over 10 years, she has seen the positive impact organisations like the Confident Girls Foundation can have on young people. "As a mother, I resonate with the family's heartfelt story and the significance of such

a tragic loss," she said.

In a tribute to Sheridan's passion for the St George Illawarra Dragons, Ms Curtis reached out to former Dragons player Jason Nightingale. Knowing that Sheridan kept a photo in her car of Nightingale's 2010 premiership-winning try, the NRL legend has confirmed he will attend the event in support of the family.

COPY Odds and evens was a serious game

ODDS and evens was the not-much-fun game played during regular petrol strikes from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Under government rules, motorists with number plates starting with an odd number were allowed to fill up one day, and even numbers the next.

Queues often extended hundreds of metres and,

sometimes petrol would run out before motorists could get to the pump.

One of many fantastic photos from petrol strike days in the *Leader* archives shows a motorist in 1976 pushing his car to the pump while remaining in the queue.

Another photo, in 1973, shows more than 70 cars in a sweeping line waiting to get

petrol from the XL service station at Earlwood.

The bonnets of two of the cars are lifted they were also the days of radiators overheating.

Queues were also photographed at Brighton-Le-Sands, Caringbah, Rockdale and Arncliffe during various strikes.

A classic shot taken at

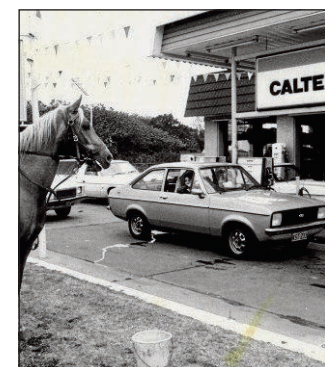
Kurnells only petrol station (since closed), outside the oil refinery where operators were on strike, is of horse rider Maxine Goldthorpe looking as though she hasn't a worry in the world, while motorists wait for their turn at the pump.

One of the longest strikes, lasting 21 days, occurred in 1982 and involved operators

at the Kurnell refinery, with a separate dispute at Shells Clyde refinery.

The strike ended only after the Wran government invoked emergency powers and ordered refinery workers back to work.

See all the photos from petrol strikes in the 1960s-1980s at: theleader.com.au



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