



TOOTHY GRIN: Daniel Virgona, 10, is looking forward to Glen Street Theatre's dinosaur show.

Picture: SARA NIXON -FP248040.

Glen Street to be site for saurus eyes

DINOSAURS will roam again at Belrose's Glen Street Theatre tomorrow during a free family fun day from 10am to 3pm to launch KidsPlay, a program of children's theatre performances and activities from April to October.

The new, annual program for kids aged two to 16 and their families will include puppetry, circus, drama, free festival days, music, singing and acting workshops.

Tomorrow there will be one life-sized and one baby dinosaur from Erth's Petting Zoo roaming the grounds. There will be fairies, pirates, roving musicians, circus performers, magicians, face painting, balloon twisting, storytelling and Matchbox car racing.

The full calendar of events includes Erth's Petting Zoo and the Dinosaur-For-A-Day Festival in April, Circa: 61 Circus Acts in 60 Minutes and a Circus Carnival Weekend in May and another free family weekend in June to celebrate the Guringai Festival.

KidsPlay creative producer Sally Blackwood said she wanted to create a program offering something for everyone.

All the KidsPlay main stage shows are \$18 and family-of-four tickets are \$65. Smaller shows at Sorlies are \$15, families \$45.

For information and bookings see www.glenstreet.com.au or phone 9975 1455.

Bushfire-proof house plan

KATRINA ADAMSKI

CASTLECRAG architect Dugald Mackenzie has seen firsthand the devastation caused by a bushfire.

It was after speaking to the survivors of a major fire in Jannali that razed 10 homes seven years ago that Mr Mackenzie, director of Mackenzie Architects, began designing a bushfire-proof

house. Mr Mackenzie said his design, the Bushfire Basher, would be a real Aussie winner.

"We have fast-tracked the idea because of what happened in Victoria," he said.

"In Ku-ring-gai we are surrounded by trees and it is regarded as a high-level bushfire-prone area - a lot of homes wouldn't survive a

bushfire. I think there are going to be more stringent requirements about how homes are built in the future."

The Bushfire Basher has a one-hour fire rating (meaning it would take one hour for a fire to burn through the special panelling) and a safe room is provided inside the house. Water tanks are alongside.

"This means you can bunker down in the event of a bushfire and go outside after the fire has passed through to douse your home with water," Mr Mackenzie said.

"Our aim is for the internal bunker to be a pressurised room with a 1½-hour fire rating.

"The house has many benefits because I've seen firsthand what

can happen during a fire and how people are left emotionally scarred."

The Bushfire Basher is also cyclone- and termite-proof.

For more information call Mackenzie Architects on 9967 9966.

North Shore digs deep to help bushfire victims: Pages 16, 17

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