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EXCLUSIVE

Lights shine across Forbes for Molly Ticehurst two years on

Hundreds of homes, businesses and public buildings across Forbes were illuminated last night as the community marked two years since the tragic murder of young mum and former childcare worker Molly Ticehurst.



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FOR MOLLY: NSW Independent MP for Orange, Phil Donato, left his Forbes office light on last night for Molly Ticehurst.

Advertisement

Hundreds of homes, businesses and public buildings across Forbes were illuminated last night as the community marked two years since the tragic murder of young mum and former childcare worker Molly Ticehurst.

Residents have once again taken part in the annual “Leave Your Light On” tribute, turning on their porch lights to honour Molly’s memory and stand in solidarity against domestic and family violence.

The simple yet powerful gesture has become a moving symbol of remembrance in the Central West town, with glowing front lights stretching down residential streets and across the business district on the evening of April 22 — the anniversary of Molly’s death.

Molly, aged 28, was killed in her home in 2024 by her former partner, Daniel Billings, in a crime that shocked the tight-knit community and sparked widespread calls for greater awareness and action on domestic violence. Billings has since pled guilty and will be sentenced in June.

The annual tribute not only honours Molly’s life but also seeks to keep the conversation about domestic and family violence firmly in the public eye.



REMEMBERED: Molly Ticehurst, whose body was found in Forbes, NSW in April 2024.

Independent Member for Orange, Phil Donato, encouraged residents to take part in the tribute and reflect on the significance of the anniversary.

“It has been two years since the tragic loss of Molly Ticehurst,” Mr Donato said.

“To honour Molly’s memory and stand together as a community against domestic and family violence, I ask everyone to please leave your front light on tonight, Wednesday 22 April, and for the week.”

He said the collective action of residents lighting their homes sends a strong message of unity and remembrance.

“A simple light can send a powerful message — that we remember, that we care, and that violence has no place in our homes or our communities,” he said.

For many residents, the glowing lights are both a tribute and a reminder of the importance of community support for those affected by domestic violence.

Local landmarks, shopfronts and family homes alike joined the initiative, creating a striking visual display visible across much of the town after sunset.



LEAVING THE LIGHT ON: Lights across Forbes were left on for Molly Ticehurst last night including businesses, council and political offices as well as community members like Sharnah Donnelly.

Community members have described the tribute as a way to ensure Molly’s memory continues to inspire awareness and change, while also offering comfort to those affected by domestic and family violence.

In the years since her death, Molly’s story has resonated well beyond Forbes, helping to highlight the devastating impact of domestic violence on families and communities.

Advocates say initiatives such as the Leave Your Light On campaign play a crucial role in keeping the issue visible and encouraging conversations that can lead to prevention and support.

Annabelle Daniel, who is the CEO of top domestic violence organisation, Women’s Community Shelters and the Chair of Domestic Violence NSW and the Independent Member for the NSW Coercive Control Implementation Taskforce believes there are still great strides to be made two years after Molly’s death.

“There is a broad trend of DV rates increasing, but certain offences are showing up in record numbers. In 2025, offences such as intimidation, stalking and harassment and breaches of Apprehended Domestic Violence orders hit record highs according to BOCSAR,” Ms Daniel said.



ADVOCACY FOR DV VICTIMS: Annabelle Daniel, who is the CEO of top domestic violence organisation, Women’s Community Shelters and the Chair of Domestic Violence NSW and the Independent Member for the NSW Coercive Control Implementation Taskforce believes there are still great strides to be made two years after Molly Ticehurst’s death.

“Since Molly Ticehurst’s death, the new Coercive Control offence has come into effect in NSW, with over four hundred reports and several dozen cases on foot. These reports are highlighting a number of the non-physical forms of domestic abuse, including technological surveillance, financial abuse, spiritual and cultural abuse, threats and intimidation.

“We also know that many women who seek access to domestic violence crisis services may never report to police and may never become part of official statistics. 94% of NSW DFV services reported increased demand in 2024/5 according to Domestic Violence NSW, the peak body.

“What we do know is that any death due to domestic and family violence is one too many, and that investment of resources into prevention, early intervention, crisis response and recovery from domestic abuse is homicide prevention.”

As the lights glow across Forbes once more, they stand not only as a tribute to Molly’s life but also as a symbol of the town’s commitment to standing together against violence — and ensuring that her memory continues to inspire awareness, compassion and action.

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