

High school entry #14: Lakes Grammar Anglican School



The Lakes Insider



UNCERTAINTY: The Long Jetty site of a proposed multi-story residential development.

— Picture by Sarah Constable

Plans made to reinvent Long Jetty

By SARAH CONSTABLE and CASEY CHAPPELL

WYONG Shire Council has proposed to rezone the Long Jetty area, leaving many local small business owners unsure about their future.

The council plans to rezone the area from business to residential to allow for multi-storey residential buildings.

"If this goes ahead, we will have to close," one business owner said.

"It's too expensive to move and the council is making it hard for anyone to stay where they are now."

A further complication for local businesses is that if they expand on their original floor space by more than 10 per cent they will be forced to move to a central shopping district further north.

Another business owner said "it is going to be problematic for business owners because location is the key to business".

The business owner also said that although they were not going to be directly affected, they were still going to be affected by the construction.

A protest by the business owners is being overseen by McLachlan Partners Real Estate.

Lakes Grammar unsuccessfully tried to obtain comment from the council.

A new council will be elected soon to vote on the issue later this year.

Picking on the little guy

By BENJAMIN SWEENEY

CENTRAL Coast small business may be under threat of extinction, with large shopping centres and commercial districts forcing out smaller, more ill-equipped venues.

The introduction of large-scale businesses, such as Coles supermarkets, and the expansion of shopping centres, has resulted in a loss of sales for small businesses such as the Charmhaven shops, which consist of a number of small businesses including fruit markets, specialty shops and fresh food stores.

A trend towards building large shopping centres has increased in recent years, with expansions of Westfield Tuggerah, Lake Haven Shopping Centre and Erina Fair having been completed to meet the needs of the Central Coast's growing population and to capture a greater share of the consumer market.

The change from small village shops to large centres may signify a shift in the change of the Central Coast's culture, with the region becoming more metropolitan as local shops are discarded for large shopping centres, as seen in Sydney or Newcastle.

The planned construction of another large shopping venue, the Warnervale Town centre, is



SMALL IS SWEET: Shops that may be under threat at Charmhaven.

— Picture by Benjamin Sweeney

expected to further increase the growing competition in the region but may force some small competing businesses to close.

Some businesses in the area have already been affected, such as Mitre 10 Hardware, which closed shortly after the introduction of the large chain Bunning's Warehouse due to "declining

sales and lack of customers", according to one employee.

In a local survey of customers and business owners at the Charmhaven shopping centre, many said they would continue to use the shops due to convenience.

But with the opening of a Coles supermarket in the near future,

many stated "they would rather shop there because it offered everything in one place".

Business owners said they were confident locals would continue to support them but the owner of one business was "anxious about the effect that large shopping chains would have" on them.



CHILLING OUT: Lakes Grammar Anglican School's 2008 snow sports team.

An extravaganza of snow sports

By KEVIN MCNAMARA

LAKES Grammar sent 14 of its finest snowboarders and skiers to the northern region interschools championships at Thredbo during the last school holidays.

They competed against 1700 students from more than 100 schools.

The competition is one of the largest individual sporting competitions of any type

for students in the state.

Each division and discipline of snowboarding or skiing had competitors from a large range of private and public schools.

"It was extremely successful, it is the most successful sporting team at the school so far, with up to 50 per cent of the team qualifying to compete at state level next month," one of the school's snow sports co-ordinators

Mrs Jenny Turner said.

The team competed in disciplines such as snowboard, bordercross, moguls and skiercross.

Mrs Turner believes the children gained great benefit from their involvement.

"We can take away real pride in our students, their commitment, dedication and camaraderie towards working as a team to achieve the best possible results."



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Migrant facilities the key to success

Editorial

By SALINA SAFAR

DOES your neighbourhood sufficiently meet the requirements of your religious beliefs, family needs and personal wants? In most cases, when you're a person of Australian descent, the answer would be yes. But recent research for a senior geography project found there is an immense shortage of facilities to support people of Arab descent on the Central Coast.

As a first-generation Australian, one often wonders whether one's parents were helped financially or socially when they first arrived in Australia. Curiosity arises when one is constantly confronted by stories of family members telling how they came to Australia with nothing to their names. It is astonishing to hear about the discrimination and hardships they faced, especially when trying to gain employment, housing and suitable schools and even to communicate, because they were not fluent in English.

First-generation Australians are often not faced with any of these hardships, evidence of the success parents have ensured is achieved by their children. But in order for Arab immigrants to continue to be successful, for there to be more success stories and for them to choose to live on the Central Coast, local government must provide them with

facilities that meet their needs. This is the key for success among young Arabs in our society, and if the government doesn't provide these facilities then how are they to grow?

A survey showed that 20 per cent of Arabs on the Central Coast found that the greatest hardship they faced when trying to integrate into Australian society was the lack of cultural facilities available to them. The survey demonstrated that the Central Coast has only one mosque, in Wyong, the only one between Sydney and the North Coast of NSW. Apart from this mosque, there are very few cultural facilities that cater for their needs on the Central Coast.

But it is not just religious facilities that help people integrate into a new society, with cultural facilities also playing an enormous role. The suburb of Lakemba in Sydney has several mosques and a diverse range of facilities such as shopping centres, restaurants, language and cultural centres that cater for people of Arab descent.

All people need resources to satisfy their desires and needs. Whether it is a park or a church, people tend to inhabit areas that supply them with these resources. The Central Coast must build infrastructure that caters for all races, otherwise we might never become a multicultural society. Otherwise people who migrate to Australia will continue to choose not to live on the Central Coast, and if they do they will find it very hard to be successful.



WORTH SAVING: The lake entrance to Tumbi Umbi Creek.
— Picture by Caitlin Jones

Dredging starts to save creek

By CAITLIN JONES

WYONG Shire Council has begun a dredging program to remove sediment in Tumbi Umbi Creek on the Central Coast.

The council decided early this year to dredge the creek after years of sediment build-up at the mouth of the creek.

The build-up has been caused by sand, silt and other pollutants like rubbish that have been dumped in or near the creek. Sedimentation has caused the creek to become blocked and damaged.

Residents once used the creek for leisure activities such as swimming, fishing, canoeing and boating.

But as a result of the build-up, it has

been closed to all leisure activities because pollution has made it unusable.

"I am pleased to report that the rehabilitation of Tumbi Creek is under way," Mayor of Wyong Council Cr Bob Graham said.

The creek is home to many different species including fish, birds and eels, but pollutants are forcing much of the wildlife to find a new place to live.

Council is proposing to remove 8000 cubic metres of sediment from the creek by the end of the project.

The project is expected to cost \$1.8 million dollars, with funding provided by the federal government's regional partnership program and the council at a ratio of two to one.

Blowing the whistle on age barrier

By JUSTIN GOODWORTH

SIXTEEN-year-old Lakes Grammar student Kevin McNamara may be the youngest referee to officiate in first-grade rugby union matches on the Central Coast.

Kevin refereed first grade between Warnervale Wildcats and Ourimbah Razorbacks at Ourimbah Park on August 12.

"One of my old coaches thinks the youngest first-grade referee he knows of was 19," Kevin said.

"It is an honour to be the youngest around. I'm already feeling the heat when I step out there and they say, 'Oi, how old are you?'"

Warnervale Rugby Club president John McNamara said Kevin was an inspiration for the club's youngest players.

"He is encouraging them to understand the rules and become referees and he is a role-model for the younger children," Mr McNamara said.

A younger player at the club said he also wanted to be a referee.

"Kevin becoming a referee from our club just shows all of us that it's possible, it's a bit of an inspiration," the player said.

Earlier this year Kevin completed his level-one refereeing course at school, allowing him to referee higher-grade games and join the Central Coast referees' association.

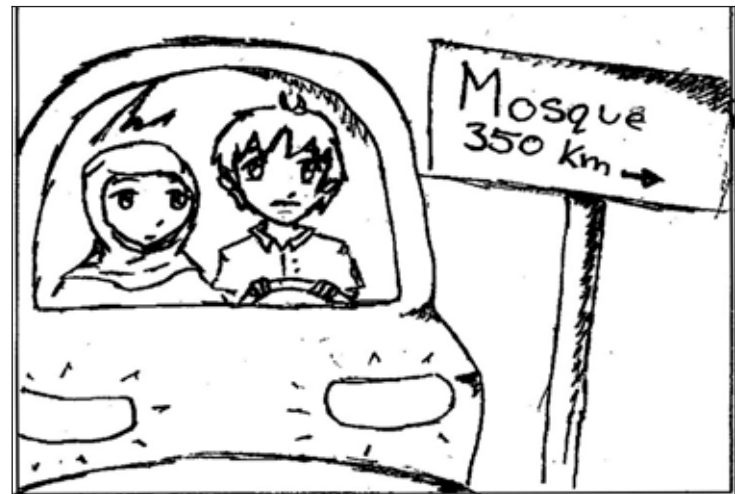


Illustration by Jamieson Sale

Paralympian legend's visit benefits children

By CHRISTOPHER AITKEN

LAKES Grammar Anglican School students have received an inspirational visit from Newcastle Paralympian Christie Dawes, ranked sixth in the world for wheelchair racing and an Australian record-holder.

Ms Dawes talked about many things including the importance of wearing a seatbelt, after she lost the use of her legs in a car accident at the age of 10.

She also spoke to the

children about how much time and effort needs to be given if you want to achieve on the world stage.

The head of the junior school David Sarich said the students gained a "tremendous amount of appreciation for her efforts and determination and how people with disabilities can do great things".

Junior school students plan to follow Ms Dawes' progress as she prepares for and competes at the Paralympics in Beijing this month.



INSPIRATION: Christie Dawes with Lakes Grammar School students.

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Answer:

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