

Primary entry #13: Jewells Public School



JEWELLS JOURNAL



TWO-WHEELED TEACHER: Gina Caban arriving for work at Jewells Public School. — Picture by Liam Robinson

Musician is motoring on

By NICK WEIGNER and LIAM ROBINSON

SAVING petrol is a key issue for Mrs Gina Caban, band teacher, musician and friend of the environment, who rides her 150-cc Vespa scooter to work at Jewells and Belmont public schools.

Mrs Caban is a familiar sight to the children of both schools as she rides around the east Lake Macquarie streets.

"I got the scooter two years ago when my husband Terry gave it to me as a surprise Mother's Day gift," Mrs Caban said.

"At first it was scary but now it is a lot of fun to ride.

"It is a cheap and groovy form of transport. The tank costs about \$7 to fill and that lasts me about two to three weeks.

"I can zip through lots of traffic and find a park easily."

The scooter's name, Vespa, is Latin for wasp, because a view of the bike from above gives it the appearance of a wasp.

Mrs Caban is impressed by the economics of riding the Vespa, which is also cheaper to register than a car.

"There are some expenses. You need to have proper protective gear, a helmet, gloves and thick, water-proof jacket and pants to protect you from the wind and bad weather."

Before she could ride the scooter, Mrs Caban had to do a two-day training course to get a learner's permit then a provisional licence.

Safe in the community

By GRANT HARRIS, NICK SAIN and LUCAS WRIGHTSON

THE police have warned young people on the eastern side of Lake Macquarie to take care after several recent incidents of attempted abductions.

Senior Constable Tony Tamplin of Newcastle Police has advised parents that children have been approached by men they do not know who have attempted to entice the children into their vehicles.

"Various descriptions of alleged vehicles (involved in the attempted abductions) have been supplied to investigating police," Senior Constable Tamplin said.

"These include a white van with white windows, a white van with black windows, a small black 4x4 and a Toyota sedan.

"Descriptions of the alleged offenders are a man aged in his 50s with grey hair in a ponytail and another younger man with a beard."

Similar incidents have been reported in the Jewells and Belmont areas.

Senior Constable Tamplin said the incidents had been occurring before and after school when children are alone.

He recommends that children take the most direct route to school, walk with friends or arrange transport with parents.



WALKING SAFELY: Nanny Tindall with her grandson Travis, Mrs Hayer with daughter Lilly and brother and sister James and Jessica Tyler. — Picture by Lucas Wrightson

"Never take shortcuts across parks or down a laneway," he said. "Try not to walk alone. Walk with friends or others from your street."

The best way to avoid these situations is to always be alert.

"You should always be alert, even when crossing the road.

"Make sure that you and every-

one you know is more aware about what you are doing, where you are going, who you are with and when you will be home.

"Know how to stay safe. The best way to stay safe is to never talk to or, especially, go with anyone you do not know.

"If you are approached, walk

away quickly and go to a safe place to get help. A safe place might be a police station, shop, friend's house or whatever is closest to you.

"When you're out and about, especially when you are alone, always remember your safety. Be alert. You have the right to be safe. Never be scared."



WELL-EARNED SUCCESS: Brett Austin will soon be heading to the Beijing Olympics. — Picture by Teya Duncan

Brett bounces his way to Beijing

By TEYA DUNCAN, SARAH SOLOMON and TAYLAH OEHME

TRAMPOLINING expert Brett Austin has been selected as a judge for the 2008 Beijing Olympics in August.

Originally coached by his father, Mr Austin has developed a great range of expertise in the area of trampolining over many years of training and hard work.

He has been travelling overseas for the past five years with the Australian trampolining team as a manager and judge.

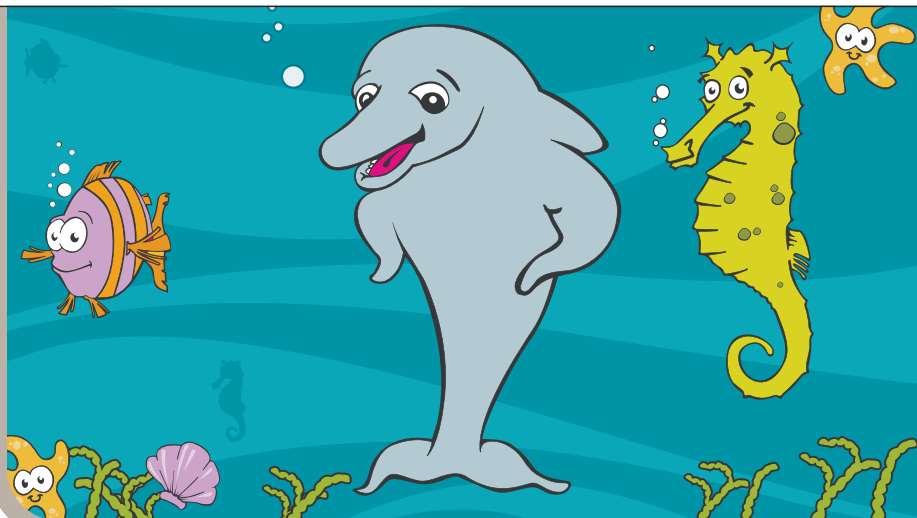
"I nearly cried when I heard the news," said Mr Austin, a teacher at Belmont High School whose children attended Jewells.

"I think they picked me because I have a very in-depth understanding of my role and the knowledge to

perform my duties correctly."

The Federation of International Gymnastics considered Mr Austin's experience when making the selection after he received one of the top marks.

After success at national level, Mr Austin was nominated to sit exams for international judging. At the Olympics he will be one of a team of judges.



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Who can we trust

Editorial

By MATT REEVES, SHANNEN WELSH and ZAC BRYANT

THE Jewells community has been rocked by the recent number of alleged child abduction attempts in the east Lake Macquarie area. Parents and children are realising that their freedom and safety, usually taken for granted, is now at greater risk.

Children are our world's future but how will they ever flourish if they do not experience the simple things in life like the freedom of walking to school, riding a bike around the local streets or playing in the neighbourhood with their friends?

The parents and grandparents of today's generation had so much more freedom. It was common practice for children to leave home for a day filled with fun and adventure and not return until dark. Parents had no worries about their children going missing.

Today's parents, however, are frightened to let their children out of the house without adult supervision. No longer can parents allow children out for a simple stroll or a walk to the local shopping centre, even though it may only be up the street.

Parents and teachers may wonder who our children can put their trust in and how do we teach children to have trust outside the immediate family.

Recently we have seen a highly

respected and supposedly responsible member of our local community exposed as a pedophile and drug trafficker. Similar incidents have happened all over our nation and have made almost no-one trustworthy. Children would never suspect that such high-standing people could be guilty of criminal acts. To think that leaders of our community would give drugs to or mislead and inappropriately treat children is beyond understanding.

Of course, there have always been people like this lurking around but it seems no-one seems to realise until something like this happens.

Sometimes, however, when events like this occur, some people can take things too far. People should always be alert, not scared. As Senior Constable Tony Tamplin advises, if you do not know someone, use your commonsense. Do not get into a vehicle with them! It is really quite simple. Think before you act!

Other solutions could be to always have someone accompany you, stick to main or busy streets, and if someone tries to lure you into a car leave immediately.

Although police are now investigating the recent attempted abductions in the area, crimes similar to these never cease and children and parents are never able to let down their guard.

Parents and teachers do their best to keep children aware of dangers but it is very difficult. It is a sad state of affairs when children are unable to simply walk to school or to a friend's house.



BUSKING BOYS: Oliver Keeble (left) and Lachlan Philpott (right) with their idol Matt Purcell. — Picture by Chris Moss

Matt is our idol

By OLIVER KEEBLE and LACHLAN PHILPOTT

DUDLEY singer-songwriter Matt Purcell is on his way to Sydney after his successful audition for the next round of *Australian Idol* in Newcastle recently.

Matt is already the idol of his guitar students Oliver Keeble and Lachlan Philpott.

Oliver plays bass guitar and Lachlan enjoys playing an acoustic instrument.

"Learning guitar with Matt is fun," Oliver said. "I have been learning guitar for about one year."

Mr Purcell was encouraged to play guitar and learn about music as a young boy and now enjoys sharing his expertise with his students.

"Matt is a good teacher. He is easygoing. He has taught me lots of new songs and techniques," Lachlan said. But when asked about performing at school assembly, Lachlan said it was time "to start backing out!"

Both boys are looking forward to following Mr Purcell's progress on *Australian Idol*.

When he competes in the next round, Mr Purcell will perform a cover song.

"The judges will be looking at my performance in terms of how well I can put myself into the song and make it my own," Mr Purcell said.

He is also keen to display some of his songwriting talents.

"I want to make sure I can find a balance between making room for improvement and (not) selling out."

Hair today but gone tomorrow

By DYLAN McELHONE and REBECCA TYLER

EIGHTEEN students from Jewells Public School participated in the World's Greatest Shave For A Cure on Friday, April 4.

The students were supporting the Leukaemia Foundation and together raised about \$6000.

The initiative was the idea of three students who had also participated in 2007.

This year students from kindergarten to Year 6 volunteered including two girls will-

ing to lose their locks.

Most of the students allowed their hair to grow long before the day.

The "shave" was held in the school hall at recess with a large crowd of onlookers including students, teachers, parents and grandparents, who were invited to attend by giving a gold coin donation.

"I'm glad to be doing the World's Greatest Shave. I'm raising a lot of money for the Leukaemia Foundation because it's great to think I could help save someone's life," Year 6 student Zac Jones said.



FOR A GOOD CAUSE: Some of the Jewells students who went in the World's Greatest Shave. — Picture by Liam Robinson



— Illustration by Tyler Cox

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What is on the fifty cent coin?
See page 62 for answer.



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