

Primary entry #2: Shortland PS



# Shortland Pipeline



WORK UNDER WAY: Kingfisher Grove, adjacent to the Wetlands Centre.

## Development to suit environment

By JOSH HATTON, JACK HOPPE, CHAD O'DONNELL and LUKE TURTON

A NEW housing development nearing completion in Shortland has been designed with the local wetland environment in mind.

Kingfisher Grove is a collection of 42 architect-designed villas situated between the Hunter Wetlands Centre and Tuxford Park.

Christine Prietto, principal of the Wetlands Environmental Education Centre, said the Wetlands Centre was comfortable with the development, because they had been able to work with the developers since the beginning of the project.

"The Wetlands Centre had to sell the land in 2003," Ms Prietto said. "We used an expression of interest process to find the right buyer."

Estate Constructions of Australia were chosen as they were the potential buyer that wanted to build the least number of buildings in the most environmentally friendly way.

Marketing Agent Lynda Fahy of Ray White Newcastle said the designs incorporated energy- and resource-saving technologies.

"This includes the use of appropriate materials and finishes, water harvesting and reuse, solar access principles and the integration of landscaping and stormwater management," Mrs Fahy said.

Ms Prietto said the Wetlands Centre is keen to build good relationships with the new home owners.

## Plan to combat vandalism

By JOSH HATTON, JACK HOPPE, CHAD O'DONNELL and LUKE TURTON

VANDALISM in Shortland has prompted locals to join together in an attempt to combat the problem.

A community meeting was held in February after several incidents of vandalism were reported.

Local business owners, church leaders, school representatives, interested residents and police were among those who attended the meeting.

Shortland Public School principal Narelle Hunt represented the school at the meeting and said it was held after increasing incidences of vandalism in the area over the last few months.

"There have been attempted break-ins, windows being broken, eggs and paint thrown," Mrs Hunt said.

"There have been gangs wandering the streets, intimidating residents and people in cars."

An action plan aimed at getting a stronger police presence in Shortland was developed.

Businesses were encouraged to report every incident of vandalism to allow police to understand the extent of the problem.

Local newsagent Tony Rossi said further meetings had been held to monitor the situation, and

the newly formed Shortland-Birmingham Gardens Forum would hold a review in three months.

"Police are patrolling the area and that is helping, but there are still a lot of young people roaming the streets at night," Mr Rossi said.

"We have upgraded our security camera system both inside and outside the store."

Mr Rossi said most of the vandalism occurred in the early hours of the morning, making the security upgrades particularly important.

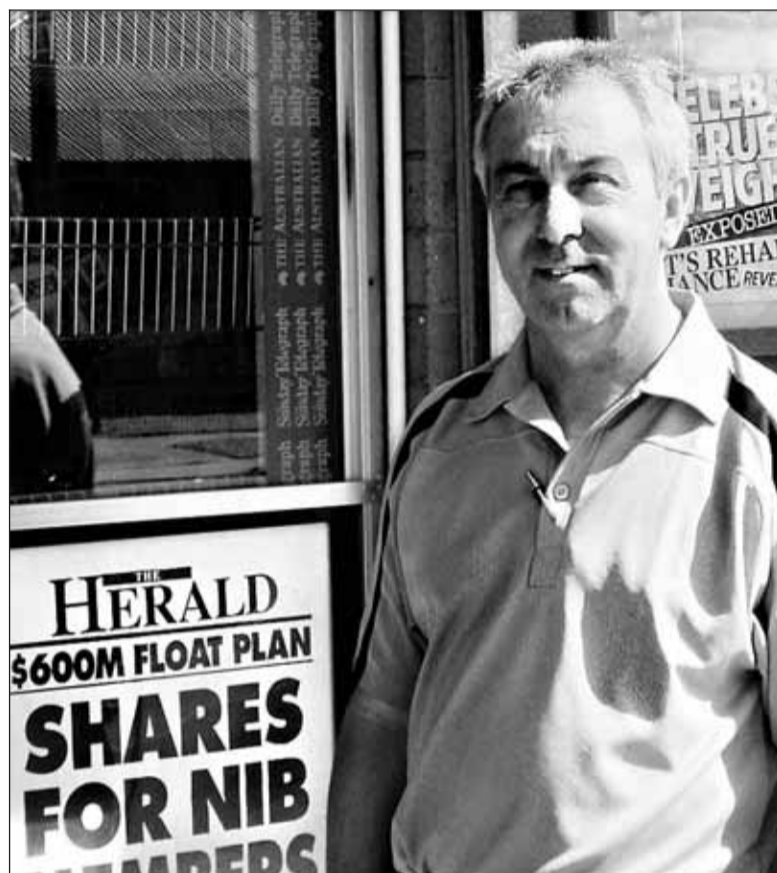
Shortland BP manager Mark Allanson said there had been a lot of damage at his service station.

"We have had windows and signage smashed, and damage to petrol pumps," he said.

Developing a police presence in the local primary schools was an aim of the action plan.

Constable Ula Dalton from the Waratah Local Area Command addressed year 5 and 6 students at Shortland Public School to inform them of the correct way to deal with acts of vandalism.

She stressed the importance of avoiding involvement with vandals and reporting all incidents to the Police Assistance Line.



SAYING NO: Shortland newsagent Tony Rossi in front of his newsagency, which is often a target for vandals.



ISLAND HOME: Miss Borsato presenting information to her class about Lord Howe Island.

## Lord Howe Island a no-shoe zone

By TANIQUE MUNRO, JORJA RODWAY and RYAN STEPHENSON

IMAGINE a school where students don't have to wear shoes and the swimming carnival is held in a coastal lagoon.

That's exactly what life is like at Lord Howe Island Central School, which is where Shortland Public

School's new teacher Melissa Borsato spent the past two years.

"I loved the beaches. I lived very close to the lagoon," she said.

"On Lord Howe Island all of the children and teachers ride their bikes to school."

Lord Howe Island is a much smaller school than Shortland, with only two teachers and a principal.

Miss Borsato said that there were many other differences between Lord Howe Island and Shortland.

"Our cross-country carnival was held on the lagoon foreshore and the students were able to participate in excursions on a glass-bottom boat," she said.

"But the curriculum is the same and the girls' uniform is exactly the same."



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# Say NO and GO

## Editorial

By KEELAN HARDY-ROBERTS, TANIQUE MUNRO, COURTNEY SIGGINS and LUKE TURTON

SHORTLAND will need every bit of its community spirit to stop a growing problem with vandalism in the local area.

Gangs have been wandering the streets at night, intimidating residents and people in cars.

Windows of local businesses have been broken, eggs and paint have been thrown and graffiti written on the walls of many buildings.

Signs and petrol pumps have been damaged at the BP service station, and newspapers are frequently stolen from the newsagency in the early hours of the morning.

It's a serious problem that is hurting the local community and it has to stop now.

Plans to build a skate park in Shortland have been put on hold until the vandalism stops. The people behind the skate park don't want to spend time, effort and money on something that will only give the vandals a place to do more damage.

A skate park would be a real benefit to young people in Shortland, but instead the community suffers because of the actions of a few.

According to Shortland newsagent Tony Rossi, most of the vandalism occurs in the early hours of the morning and many of the vandals aren't locals.

They come to cause trouble and leave the people of Shortland to

clean up their mess in the morning.

It is time for the community to stand up and take action.

Some locals have suggested becoming vigilantes, but people who take the law into their own hands are no better than those who commit the acts of violence in the first place.

The only way to send the proper message is to support the police, who have increased patrols in the area, by letting them know just how bad the problem is.

The more reports given to the police, the more they are able to help out.

If people simply shrug their shoulders and take vandalism for granted, then nothing will ever change.

Shortland has suffered some hard times in the past few years.

Shops are closing and local sporting teams are being forced to fold because of low numbers.

The hub of the community, the Shortland RSL Club, was forced to close its doors three years ago because of financial troubles.

But the community has rallied. The \$10,000 raised by residents was not enough to save the RSL club, but the Shortland Devils junior rugby league club is up and running again, and people still take great pride in their neighbourhood.

If there is one thing that sets Shortland apart, it's the determination of local people to overcome the negative issues and make their community a better place to live.

It's time for locals to stand up for their suburb once again.

If you see an act of vandalism, report it to the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.



KEEN CRICKETER: Tim Forsyth relaxing after a recent game.

# Young cricketer bowls them over

By JOSH FORSYTH and KEELAN HARDY-ROBERTS

STANDING in the hot sun every Saturday may not be everybody's idea of having fun, but former Shortland school captain Tim Forsyth can think of no better way to spend his time.

Tim, 14, is making a name for himself in the cricket world.

He plays in the local junior competition for City Easts and has represented Newcastle for the past four seasons.

This year Tim began playing for Merewether District Cricket Club in the NDCA competition.

"At first I started playing cricket for fun but now I would like a career from it," Tim said.

Tim has achieved a high level of individual and team success.

"Apart from playing in the Newcastle representative side, for the last two years I have played for Newcastle in the country carnival," Tim said. "This year I scored 51 playing for Newcastle, even though my highest score is 53 in a school game for Callaghan College (Waratah Campus)."

Tim has achieved success with the bat, but is also a promising leg spin bowler.

"I prefer bowling because if you make a mistake, like bowling a bad ball, you get another go. If you make a mistake batting, you're out. You don't get another chance."

Tim's best bowling figures are five wickets for six runs in a club cricket match last year.

Tim's senior side capped off the year as joint major premiers in the fourth grade competition.

# League back in business in Shortland

By LARISSA CLUFF, TIFFANY FAULKNER, KELLIE HOGAN, COURTNEY SIGGINS and GEORGINA WYE

NEWCASTLE'S future rugby league stars could well be produced in Shortland after junior rugby league returned to the suburb this year.

The Shortland Devils Rugby League Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2008, and club secretary Bob Palmer saw this as an opportunity to provide a club for Shortland juniors.

"We decided to try to get the junior club up and running again as there were some local kids looking to play league," Mr Palmer said.

Two years ago the junior club folded due to a fall in numbers, which led to a lack of teams.

Since then, players have had to travel to other suburbs to join a rugby league team.

Ten-year-old Todd Ferris from Shortland is playing rugby league for the first time this year and says the local team has given him an opportunity to play the sport he loves.

"I've always wanted to play rugby league, but I am only playing this year because there is a team in Shortland," he said.

Ryan Stephenson, 10, from Shortland, said he was keen to change codes after playing soccer for five years.

"My dad played for the Shortland Devils and I wanted to play for the same club as he did."



— Illustration by Kaitlin Roberts and Jack Hoppe

# Ozzie the Mozzie buzzes back in to town

By LARISSA CLUFF, TIFFANY FAULKNER, KELLIE HOGAN, COURTNEY SIGGINS and GEORGINA WYE

A WOLLEMI pine tree presented by Hexham Bowling Club CEO John Chin to the students of Shortland Public School has marked the beginning of a relationship between the two organisations.

Hexham Bowling Club hopes to help fund a new netball court at the school, which now holds several functions at the club, including the year 6 farewell.

Mr Chin attended the school's annual presentation day in

December last year and presented the tree to the school's student leaders.

Assistant principal Roz Shee-trum took a group of year 2 students to Hexham Bowling Club in 2005 to attend the unveiling of the club's new Ozzie the Mozzie statue.

"The students were very interested in Ozzie," Mrs Shee-trum said.

Those students attending the unveiling were treated to lunch at the club and Mr Chin decided to extend the relationship between his club and the school.




"We are delighted to be partners," Mr Chin said.



FACELIFT: Ozzie the Mozzie is looking good.

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