



**WHERE ARE YOUR TOGS?:** Newcastle East PS principal John Beach, dressed formally.

## Beach for beach

By GED COOPER-JOHNSON and ROWAN HOPKINS

DEDICATED or crazy? That's the question for this man in his fifties.

In winter, most people rug up and turn on a heater. Not this gentleman.

John Beach, the principal of Newcastle East PS, is one of the few dedicated citizens who gets up every morning, winter or summer, to take a swim at Newcastle baths.

Mr Beach considers himself neither completely dedicated nor crazy, but a little bit of both. He enjoys his swims on most days, although on very cold days his motivation to keep going is inspired by the few who continue to brave the waters.

This gruelling routine has been part of Mr Beach's daily schedule for around five years, although it has only been in the past three years that he's gone through winter. He enjoys his swims but also realises how they help him keep fit.

Mr Beach said he intended to keep swimming until he was physically unable to finish a lap.

Mr Beach swims at Newcastle baths, which is one of two saltwater pools in the Newcastle region.

Mr Beach has occasionally ventured to Merewether when his favourite pool has been unavailable.

He prefers Newcastle baths because of the atmosphere and sandy floor. Merewether baths have a concrete floor.

# Spring-time swooping

By BRYNNER FELL

EVER been swooped by a magpie in spring? It's only defending its family during the nesting season.

In this article, *The NEPS Newz* offers information about why magpies swoop, and how readers can protect themselves.

Most of the year magpies are completely harmless, but in spring, when they have babies, they will swoop and try to attack the creatures they think are predators, trying to invade their nests.

If they do swoop you, it will usually just be a warning and they won't really attack you, but if you remain where you are or come toward the nest, they may attack you.

An attack on the head by a magpie can be violent and may draw blood.

If you are on a bicycle when a magpie swoops you, then get off the bike and move quickly away (rolling your bike along with you). You could just keep riding away, but the only problem with that is that another magpie or the same magpie could attack again and possibly hit.

If you're wearing a bike helmet then you don't have to worry about your head, but the sudden hit could surprise you and knock you off your bike.

If you're not on a bike, one solution could be to wear an ice-cream container on your head. Yes,



**UNDER COVER:** Newcastle East PS students Rowan Hopkins and Brynner and Tasman Fell don protective headgear in preparation for swooping magpies.

it does sound stupid, and it will probably look stupid, too. But you'll look very stupid if you're staggering around the park with a big, bleeding bruise on your head. So it's probably worth it.

If you don't like the idea of

wearing an ice-cream container, you can also carry an umbrella above your head. Don't try to attack the magpie with it as the magpie will only become more provoked.

Nesting season is mainly from August to October, so they are the

times you should watch out.

If you have trees in your backyard and are worried that a magpie could be nesting there, then maybe it would be handy to have a cat or two around the house.

This will ward them off.



**EPIDEMIC:** Resident nurse Maisie Denzin monitors the ailing Handsome Horse at Newcastle East PS.

## Helping hoarse horses

By MAISIE DENZIN and EMILY CHEN

IMAGINE paying thousands of dollars to go to the Melbourne Cup and, all of a sudden, it is called off.

This might become a reality as many of our equine friends, who give man so many happy things in life, are caught in the grips of Equine Influenza (EI).

The outbreak appears to have started with an horse from Eastern Creek showing signs of EI.

Many races throughout NSW have been cancelled as a result of the flu outbreak.

EI has the same effect on horses as human influenza has on humans and can be fatal to young, old or unwell animals.

Many horses are locked

down in quarantine and moves are currently under way to immunise horses against EI.

Australia intends to import 50,000 EI vaccine shots for use in NSW and possibly Queensland.

This will be enough to protect up to 25,000 horses in nominated buffer zones.

Strict controls on horse movements will still apply.



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# The Pasha Bulker: nuisance or saviour

## Editorial

By **ANTONY KUSZNIER**

ANDY Warhol said everyone gets 15 minutes of fame. The Pasha Bulker was at Nobbys for three whole weeks, and that's quite a lot of people's fame.

Since the Pasha Bulker ran aground, Newcastle has received a lot of media attention. But was it a horrible mistake, or a chance for Newcastle to get into the history books again?

Since the Novocastrian band Silverchair hit big time, there has been nothing media-wise to put Newcastle on the map but, thanks to the Pasha Bulker, things happened. Newcastle was mentioned in media reports around the world and tourists flocked to see the stranded vessel.

Newcastle might have taken a punch on stormy Black Friday but the Pasha Bulker is something that will be talked about for generations to come.

Black Friday was a horrific day but it showed the true spirit of Novocastrians. We helped each other, cared for each other and prayed for each other. A helicopter team risked their lives to save the sailors on the Pasha Bulker. People devoted themselves to prying the ship from the hungry sand.

The event has become a part of Newcastle's history. It was a vital blessing for Newcastle. Our town faced huge adversity and our courageous people showed the world that we are a spirited lot and we will rebuild our town stronger than ever before.

Some people might think that the Pasha Bulker was a nuisance and be grateful the ship has left Newcastle. But, at the very least, the world will respect Newcastle because of the event, and that's fame in itself.

Before the 40,000-tonne mighty ship landed in our harbour, Novocastrians were walking the plank. No one talked about "Newcastle for Novocastrians".

The evening news was desolate. To be truthful the whole "biggest coal export harbour in the southern hemisphere" tag isn't exactly amazing nowadays.

The Pasha Bulker is our light in the cave; our way out of media misery.

News of the ship spread internationally. People in the US were sympathising with Novocastrians, on the basis of their experience with Hurricane Katrina.

That is what people call fame, and that's what the Pasha Bulker has produced for the town of Newcastle. Nothing but raw fame.

The Pasha Bulker was a saviour for Novocastrians and we gave her a royal departure which she deserved.



LAST STAND: Few fig trees remain on Tyrrell Street.

# Troubles on Tyrrell Street

By **EMILY CHEN**

DURING the past few years, Tyrrell Street has been a nightmare for residents and members of the Newcastle East PS community.

Trees have fallen and roads have been dug up. The street was closed for a long period of time, during which Newcastle City Council ordered some of the old fig trees to be severed from their roots and made into mulch.

These trees were very tall and had provided almost total shade for most of the street.

A little while after this, the street was closed yet again, due to leaking underground pipes.

These had to be replaced and,

once again, work created a nuisance for residents and visitors to the area.

The road was scraped away, leaving a long trench right in the middle. Even the footpath was dug up.

After all this havoc subsided, new parking meters were placed around the neighbourhood.

These new additions are not very helpful to many parents of students at Newcastle East PS, who do not want to spend their time or money feeding meters.

However, *The NEPS Newz* understands that many people working in the city think the meters are a helpful remedy to fix the parking problems that have spread across the city.

# A world of our own

By **ROWAN HOPKINS, BRYNNER FELL, JASMINE DUFF and BRIDGET THURN**

CHILDREN from all over the world come to Newcastle East PS.

Around 40 of the school's 180 students are from multinational backgrounds and 25 of these students are bilingual.

The school's students originate from countries such as Spain, France, The Philippines, Uganda, the USA, Great Britain, India, Norway, Bangladesh, Ireland, New Zealand, Germany, China, Portugal, Argentina, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

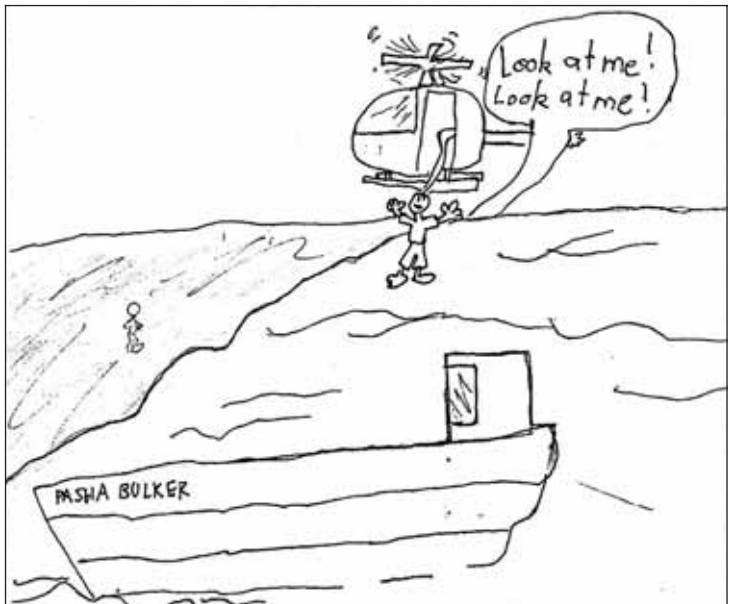
Languages spoken include Mandarin, Norwegian, Spanish, Bengali, Cantonese, German, Thai, French and Greek.

One Newcastle East PS who comes from a particularly interesting background is Sophia Jang.

Sophia's great-great-grandfather came to Australia from a place in China called Xiamen (a city on the south east coast) nearly 160 years ago.

His son, Sophia's great-great-grandfather, was a trick shooter in a circus. He would hold a mirror in front of him and in the mirror he would see a target. He would then shoot the gun over his shoulder and hit the target.

Newcastle East PS has an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher and has a proud and proven record as one of the most multicultural schools in the region.



— Illustration by Tasman Fell

# Stepping back in time

By **MEREKI FENWICK, D'LANEY JORDAN and MICHAEL CAVANAGH**

ON October 27, Newcastle East PS will be having a colonial fair.

This event happens every two years and is a special time because of the school's long history.

Newcastle East PS is Australia's oldest school. It was constructed in 1816.

During its time, it has been a boys' high school.

During the fair, many people will dress up in colonial gear. Stalls and

entertainers will have an historical flavour and include early colonial music, a town crier instead of a loudspeaker system, bush poets and displays of the school's historical artefacts.

During the fair, there will be drinks, food, cakes, trash and treasure stalls and more.

The school is hoping to raise money for improvements such as playground equipment, landscaping and the new covered outdoor learning area.

All are welcome.



COLONIAL TIMES: Newcastle East PS students Jack Downes and Jacob McFarlane endure a strict school routine and feel the wrath of principal Rusta King and vice principal Cosmo Gelzinnis.

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