

Primary entry #35: Belair Public School



The Belairian



Michelle Ovenstone and Lynda Dolbel with Lynda's Kombi for Hope. Picture: Lily Kennedy-Myers

Women are not surviving, but thriving

By **KATERINA ROACH**
HARRIET DAVIES and
EMMA HOPKINS

STRONG, brave and determined. This is how Belair Public School describes cancer survivors Lynda Dolbel, who defeated ovarian cancer, and Michelle Ovenstone, who conquered breast cancer.

Both ladies were diagnosed in 2014 and went through chemotherapy and surgery, Michelle also had radiation therapy, and both teachers remain on medication today.

They were determined to survive. The ladies say that they took each day as it came and saw cancer as another challenge in life that they would succeed at. They are now healthy and back at school teaching.

An estimated 128,000 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in Australia this year, with that number set to rise to 150,000 by 2020. However, cancer is no longer a death sentence. Lynda and Michelle are proof of this and the difference that can be made with early detection and treatment.

In November, Belair Public School will be participating in Relay for Life – a team experience that raises funds for the Cancer Council's prevention and support services.

Lynda was involved with Relay for Life during her treatment and believes this helped her throughout.

The event also provides an opportunity to celebrate the memory of loved ones lost to cancer and to raise money to help save more lives. In 2014, the Relay For Life foundation raised \$23,297,098.

By **ELLA ANGELI, SOPHIE ARTHUR, ELEANOR MOORE** and **OLIVIA MAUME**

"BUSH is now a suburb: 600 homes in seven years" reads an article from the *Newcastle Herald* in 1965. The story speaks of a Newcastle suburb in the making – Belair.

Fifty years later the suburb no longer exists and the community has little knowledge of the history behind the area.

The word Belair means 'fresh' or 'clean' air. Estate developer Bill Hudson, is said to have chosen this name for the area "destined to become one of Newcastle's exhibition garden areas".

The area was speckled with underground mines and train tracks – entrances to mines and old rail lines can still be found in Adamstown Heights at the end of Dalvern Close. Newcastle Historical Society president, Kel Graham said that the name Belair was chosen to distance the new area from its "dirty, coal history" and make it more appealing to prospective residents.

In 1965, the *Newcastle Herald* wrote that the suburb wanted its own identity. To distinguish their suburb from Adamstown Heights and Kotara they wanted it to have a name associated with affluence and a comfortable, desirable lifestyle.

Newcastle historian, Dr Ann



Ella and Eleanor looking out over Hudson Park, Adamstown Heights, towards what was once Belair. Picture: Sophie Arthur

Hardy, believes the suburb name actually came from an infatuation Bill Hudson had with America. This explains street names in the area that reference famous America places such as: Park Avenue, Lexington Parade, Princeton Avenue and

Madison Drive.

The homes in the area strongly reflect Mr Hudson's passion for American architecture and landscaping. In 1954 Mr Hudson went on a world tour sponsored by the Australian government. On this

tour Mr Hudson investigated modern building methods, landscaping and the development of new suburbs. The results can be found in houses that still stand in Adamstown Heights, even if the suburb of Belair itself has disappeared.

Sharp Disposal Bin at Islington Park, Islington is one of many that can be found in parks throughout Newcastle.

Picture: Lauren Tearle



A persistent problem in our parks

By **HALLE DEARING, LAUREN TEARLE** and **EMMA BUCKINGHAM**

PARKS should be places that families can safely enjoy. However, dangerous waste such as used needles can be found in places like Hudson Park at Adamstown Heights. Students walking through the park have reported seeing used needles, smashed glass and other litter.

Over the past five years Newcastle City Council has spent a great deal of time and money to ensure parks are safe for the community. Secure sharp bins have been installed for needle disposal and Parks and Recreation Officers monitor parks known to have "dangerous litter".

According to council, Islington Park has been a danger with lots of glass and syringes found underneath trees and

on walkways. But, with maintenance there has been an improvement and the sharp disposal bins are now being used more often.

Council also identified Dangar Park, Mayfield, and Henderson Park, Merewether as parks to be monitored regularly.

Council has made it a priority and is working hard to ensure all parks are safe for families to use.



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