

Primary entry #4: Blacksmiths Public School



Blacksmiths Billboard



The blue ribbon pumpkin on display at the show.

Giant growth coming from Blacksmiths

By JENNA HARVEY and
KAITLYN ELWELL

THE Sydney Royal Easter Show has taken on a big meaning for the students of Blacksmiths Public School.

This year their first ever entry in the primary schools category in The Great Backyard Pumpkin Challenge took out first place.

The pumpkin was planted in November 2014 so it would be ready in time for the show in April 2015, having had four months to grow.

Each week the Environment Group would go out and weed and water. But when it came to the holidays the job got passed on to Colin Taylor, a parent from the school.

"We fertilised the pumpkin with special homemade alpaca fertiliser, worm wee and Seasol," explained Mrs Clark, senior administration manager.

The school entered the pumpkin in the under 50 kilograms category. "Our pumpkin weighed 37 kilograms," said Mrs Clark.

The biggest pumpkin that was at the Sydney Royal Easter Show was grown by Dale Oliver in the over 100 kilogram category.

"We will enter annually. Next year our goal is to enter in the over 50 kilograms and under 100 kilograms category," said Mrs Clark.

By TALON HICKS and
JORJA CONNELL

AFTER many different names, the old Aeropelican Airport finally has a new beginning.

The newly-named Lake Macquarie Airport will benefit the city of Lake Macquarie by being a recognisable asset to the city.

Part owner of Lake Macquarie Airport and current international Red Bull racer Matt Hall has other plans for Lake Macquarie.

The Red Bull air race consists of 14 teams from all around the world including Matt, where planes race at over 400 km/h, at only 20 metres off the ground.

While speaking to Matt at Lake Macquarie Airport he spoke about his plans to bring the race to Lake Macquarie.

"Each race gets over one billion views, so you can bet all those international spectators would be thinking 'Wow, what a nice place, we should go there'. Bringing the race to Lake Macquarie Airport, could provide a massive boost to our economy".

All those people coming to the local shops, supermarkets, and hotels will spend money, improving sales and maybe opening up jobs for the population.

Matt's career was inspired by his father, who was a pilot and took Matt flying every weekend. He said,



Matt Hall has had much success as a pilot and has grand plans for Lake Macquarie airport.

"Flying was like a weekend drive". Some of Matt's major career highlights are becoming a professional pilot, flying in the Royal Australian Air Force, representing Australia in the Red Bull race and representing Australia in sport. Recently over one billion people watched Matt Hall finish second in Abu Dhabi.

At present, half of the annual Red Bull Air races are over water.

"Lake Macquarie would provide an ideal location," said Matt.

"Tickets would be available for purchase for spectators to sit in allocated seating at both the airport and Warners Bay Esplanade. Grandstands would be erected in both areas".

Such an internationally recognisable event would possibly bring the airport back to, and perhaps sur-

pass, its heydays of Aeropelican.

For a place as large and with as many reasons to visit as Lake Macquarie, we should be vying for a world class events like this.

An airport named after the city and hosting an international event such as the Red Bull Air Race would certainly go a long way to putting the Lake on the international map.



The recognisable yellow van has saved a lot of food from being dumped.
Picture: Kaitlyn Elwell

Harvesting food for others to enjoy

By JENNA HARVEY and
KAITLYN ELWELL

OZHARVEST is an organisation which collects surplus food from shops, supermarkets, restaurants and bakeries. Instead of leftover food going into the bin it goes to charities that help the homeless or the less fortunate get a quality meal for free.

The organisation delivers to about 75 charities.

OzHarvest provides food to well known charities such as the Salvation Army, Wesley Mission and Soul Café, as well as neighbourhood centres, women and children's refuges, schools and church groups. The charities they give their food to have to give the food away for free. Currently over 1000 people benefit from this organisation.

Monique Maguire has

been working with OzHarvest for five years. She is currently co-ordinating the Newcastle operation.

OzHarvest doesn't receive any government funding, relying solely on grants and support from industry heavy weights like nib, Port Waratoh, West Leagues and Cardiff Toyota. They currently have two refrigerated vans used for delivery that were provided by RESCO.



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