

Primary entry #53: Bonnells Bay Public



Bonnells Bay Bulletin



Being out on the water has many health benefits, plus it's fun.

Paradise is found at Lake Macquarie

By TYSON and JADA

LAKE Macquarie is a special place to live and we can have fun by using the area to keep us happy and healthy.

Lake Macquarie has several very talented sailors, some who are Olympic champions. Two talented Olympians who live there are Laura Baldwin-Caldecoat and Lanee Beashel. Ms Baldwin-Caldecoat is a British Olympian and former number two world ranking sailor and now the managing director of the H2O Sports Academy Australia. Mrs Beashel is a four-time USA Olympic windsurfing representative.

The Academy is at the Point Wolstoncroft Sport and Recreation Centre at Gwandalan and is a water sports centre catering for fun seeking school groups and offers coaching for aspiring champions. It not only has a great camp experience but in school holidays it offers fun sport and activities. Some of the activities are sailing, windsurfing and swimming.

The Academy is a great way to get fit and healthy and stay trim and work all those body muscles. Sailing and water sports also develop muscle strength, agility, endurance as well as mental wellness and peace from being outdoors. Ms Beashel said, "Lake Macquarie is the local area's hidden paradise. I love getting kids into sports, out on the lake and showing them how to appreciate nature through teaching them to experience a range of water sports."

By BAYLEY, TORI-ELLEN, EMALEE, LILI and CARLI

IN 2011 the Lake Macquarie City Council started a petition to help increase the amount of local bike paths. This petition was finalised in 2012 and if it goes ahead, will be completed by 2022. The council thinks this is a great way to increase the number of cyclists, reduce traffic and make the area safer for both current and future cyclists.

Each year an average of 35 bike riders are killed and 2500 are seriously injured on Australian public roads, and one third of those injured stop cycling altogether. Twenty-three per cent of bike riders on local roads have been involved in an accident, with 15 per cent of them reporting being injured. These are alarming statistics which the Council hopes to reduce through the implementation of the cycleways.

The creation of a cycleway will also have a positive impact on the amount of pollution being produced. Cars are big contributors to pollution, and by giving cyclists a safer option the amount of bike riders should increase, resulting in decreased pollution levels. It will also help decrease traffic on roads by cyclists moving onto paths.

New cycleways in Lake Macquarie will help make a safer environment for children and families.



Lake Macquarie City Council is eager to develop more cycleways for bike riders.

A petition has shown that most local people want cycleways to schools, playgrounds, shops and sporting fields. The community wants cycleways that they can use daily, rather than a prestige network around the lake. The existing network means that you have to load the bikes up and drive to the start of the closest bike pathway.

The current proposal includes pathways that would link up and provide this for the community, and deliver a safer route for children.

In Lake Macquarie, 70 per cent of community members surveyed said there wasn't enough separated paths. Developing bicycle paths now will mean the cost will be much lower than if done in the

future when there will be more development. Fire trails that are already in place could also be used to extend the off-road network and help reduce the cost.

To make the bike paths in Lake Macquarie happen you can support Lake Macquarie City Council in this by signing a petition and help the community.



One of the great billy carts entered in the Bonnells Bay Billy Cart Derby.

The Grand Prix of Bonnells Bay

By CASEY, ANGUS, CONNOR and BEN

AS the flag dropped and the first race of the Bonnells Bay Billy Cart Derby was under way, the crowd screamed and cheered. On November 8, 2014, Bonnells Bay Public School held its inaugural Billy Cart Derby Day, which quickly became known as the biggest event of the year.

The whole community was

involved in making billy carts, with 24 carts entered in the race. During the race there were a few crashes and bashes when the carts flew around the corners at top speed. One of the most spectacular crashes of the race was a group of over-enthusiastic dads who took a corner a little too fast.

When asked why he decided to hold a Derby Day, Mr Stiller, principal of the

school and event founder, said "The bottom line was have fun and for parents to get involved and help children create a winning cart."

Due to the success of the day the derby is now an annual event, with this year's race to be held on Friday, September 11. Mr Stiller is hoping for even more carts and greater community involvement in an event that rivals the Grand Prix.



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