



Cartoon: Tiarn and Carolee

It is time to leave leave Skippy alone

EDITORIAL

By **SCARLETT, HAYLEY, LAYLA and SOPHIE**

EVER since Morisset Hospital was built over 120 years ago, the kangaroo population has increased and now Morisset Hospital is so popular it is in danger of being loved to death. With hundreds of kangaroos, come hundreds of tourists.

The *Newcastle Herald* reported last month that 150 Morisset kangaroos had died after being infected with a blood-borne parasite called babesia.

This could be from tourists over feeding the kangaroos or feeding them the wrong type of food.

Maree Bacigalupo, the general manager at Hunter New England Health, said "We do not encourage people to visit Morisset Hospital to see the kangaroos or feed them, because they could be harmful".

The tourists should no longer be able to visit the kangaroos at Morisset Hospital, or better security is needed to ensure the Kangaroos safety.

Tourists need to understand that by tormenting the kangaroos

their reaction may be really harmful.

Not long ago a young visitor was pretending to box one of the smaller kangaroos but quickly retreated when it reared up onto its tail and took him on.

This would have been purely an act of self-defence, however would have had almost certainly ended in persecution for the kangaroo.

It is blatantly unsafe to visit the kangaroos at Morisset Hospital due to the fact that they can harm tourists or be harmed.

Because of tourists, the population is decreasing and kangaroos that are left should be protected.

Lake Macquarie deputy mayor Daniel Wallace said he had taken his own children to feed the kangaroos, but was wary of the dangers after being left scarred by a large kangaroo, which dug a claw into his arm while trying to grab the food he was carrying.

Tourists and locals need to stop ignoring the 'no feeding' signs and start listening.

It has become blatantly obvious to everyone that the kangaroos can be a big threat to the tourists and locals, but the tourists and locals are a bigger threat to the kangaroos.

New beat at Morisset after years of delay



The old Morisset police station before it was demolished.
Picture: David Stewart

By **CHLOE, INDIA and MINKIE**

IN 2012, the State Government promised to build a new police station at Morisset but reneged in 2013 after a cost blowout with the new Belmont Police headquarters.

Morisset and the surrounding areas are in need of additional police officers and the issue was raised as far back as 1994 according to State Government records. The then State Member of Parliament is recorded as noting, "I can't believe any Government would force our police to work out of such inadequate premises."

However, the plan to build a new station had been revived. Lake Macquarie Member of Parliament,

Greg Piper said in his newsletter, "Plans to boost police presence at Morisset have progressed substantially. I am pleased to see the Police Property Group have reverted to plans to build a much-needed contemporary new station at Morisset."

The proposed \$2 million station is back on the drawing board. It is anticipated to include officers from Lake Macquarie Local Area command, police transport command, the state protection group and the dog unit.

Local police officers, Senior Constable David Bartlett and Constable Emily Riley have confirmed that the new building is eagerly anticipated by the Local Area Command. It is expected to

have a K-9 Unit attached and dogs will be transported within the local area from Toronto Police Station.

The new building will not have lock up cells and all offenders will be transported to Toronto for processing. It is believed that the new station may open as early as the end of October, however with no building yet started, this may not be possible. It is not yet known how many or what hours police will be on duty.

Residents and shop keepers have expressed confidence in the new station, hoping that it will keep the streets and shops safer and provide a good role model for teenagers as well as support for the elderly. The community is also hopeful it will make response times faster during an emergency.

Students get the clubs out for a swing

By **GRIFFIN**

DURING Term 2, Stage 3 students at Bonnells Bay Public School were lucky enough to be offered the opportunity to learn the skills of golf as an option for sport.

Professional golfers from the Jack Nicholson Junior Golf program visited the school every Friday to teach students. They learnt things like how to stand correctly when hitting the ball long distances, how to putt the ball short distances and how to

hold the golf club correctly. This program also donated a golf set to the school which has been used to practise skills.

Overall students have enjoyed the experience with one student saying that "it is great to do a sport that we wouldn't normally get to do". Another student said learning to play golf has been "great fun".

Students ended the term with a visit to the local golf course to practise the skills they had learnt over the term.



Bonnells Bay Public Stage 3 students have been learning to play golf this year.

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