

Secondary entry #2: Cooks Hill Campus



# COOKS HILL LEADER



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME ... IN A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS



The Anzac Memorial Walk is now open to visitors.

## Newcastle's brand new attraction

By LARA BEVERLEY

A CENTURY since the first guns were fired from the cliffs of Anzac Cove, this year Novocastrians were able to commemorate this important occasion on the cliff tops above the beaches of Newcastle.

Sixteen years ago local businessman Neil Slater envisioned a cliff-top walkway and in April his dream became a reality.

The city's newest attraction, spanning 450 metres, was officially opened and is expected to become one of Newcastle's iconic attractions for visitors and locals alike.

The walk offers beautiful views of the beach and rocky cliffs on the southern and eastern sides and magnificent views of the city to the west that are normally not seen.

The bridge holds 3859 family names of those Hunter men and women who served our country during World War I.

The bridge section features laser-cut steel silhouettes of ex-servicemen and women and features 525 individual LED lights, meaning the structure can also be used at night.

The walkway cost \$4.5 million to construct with BHP funding \$3 million; the remainder paid for by Newcastle City Council.

Thousands of residents took advantage of the Anzac weekend to honour our fallen and to see the astonishing sights afforded by this incredible landmark.

By MACKENZIE PEARCE

ON Sunday May 17, the annual AHA Variety NSW Bash for 2015 kicked off.

Entrants from all over NSW gathered in Newcastle before setting off for a week-long trek around the state donating money and equipment for isolated schools.

For the past 40 years, Variety has been changing the lives of thousands of children by granting \$8 million across Australia for kids who are disabled, disadvantaged or isolated so they too can learn to play and grow.

Just last year in NSW, Variety gave opportunities to over 27,000 kids by providing five liberty swings in public parks, two assistance dogs, 38 scholarships, 13 Sunshine Coaches, 25 wigs for boys and girls with alopecia and four beach wheelchairs.

The entry fee for the event is \$4000 but every cent of that money is donated back to Variety.

The Variety Bash is not a race: it is a week away to celebrate all the money that has been raised. The entrants pay for their own fuel, accommodation, meals and breakdowns and repairs.

Alison Sellers, of Newcastle, has been participating in Variety's NSW Bash for the past 10 years; this upcoming bash will be her eleventh.

"When I became a Special Ed



Ready to roll: Variety Club Bashers prepare to hit the open road.

Picture: Mackenzie Pearce

teacher, I had to start raising money for items for my kids at school, so I was always asking Variety for money. In 2004 I watched the bashers come into town after the bash, and I thought 'I just have to do this', Mrs Sellers said.

To make the drive more entertaining most bash cars have a theme. Mrs Sellers has participated in the bash with three differ-

ent cars over the 11 years and every year she had changed the theme of her car.

"Between 2006-2007 I had a two-metre fiberglass shark on the roof of my 1966 HR Holden. My team's theme [consisting of two cars] for three years was a medical team. Myself and others dressed up as nurses and doctors and during those years we had Doctor Paul Craven on board, who was a neon-

atologist. We donated medical equipment to hospitals in the Hunter New England area," she said.

Reflecting on her time as a participant in the Variety Club Bash, Mrs Sellers said, "It has truly been a lifechanging experience, being able to work with Variety. Now I am the chairman of Variety in the Hunter Region and I am also on the Appeals Committee."



Safe and sound: Rhiannon Muddle and her horse Handsome.

Picture: Renae Hill

## Teenagers risk all to save horses

By BETHANY GAVIN

DURING the recent April storms that caused so much damage in the Hunter, two brave teenagers risked their lives to rescue horses from the rising flood waters at Millers Forest.

Concerned for the safety of the animals, Rhiannon Muddle, 16, from Medowie and Hannah Baldwin, a riding friend of Rhiannon's, and

several others responded to a call for help from property owner Liz Hall. Mrs Hall needed to rescue the trapped horses at her Millers Forest property on April 22.

Rhiannon arrived to discover the main road was flooded and sought help from a local farmer for a tractor and trailer to reach Mrs Hall's property.

Rhiannon and Hannah had

to negotiate the flood waters that were reaching close to shoulder height in order to swim the horses to safety.

"It took us two trips to get the 12 horses to safety," Rhiannon said. "I was very scared and worried for my horse. I thought he was going to be washed away."

After being rescued, the horses were taken to a property at Branxton, where they are recovering safely.

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