

Cartoon: Olivia Graham

## Largs skate park no longer big enough

### EDITORIAL

By YEAR 6

LARGS is a small, but growing community. At its centre is a large amount of land containing an oval, tennis courts, cricket nets, children's playground, toilets and a skate park.

This is a great area for the community and is regularly used by the public, local sporting teams and the local school.

Unfortunately, as the number of people using the skate park has increased it is no longer suitable for everyone's needs.

The population of Largs has tripled since the skate park was originally built and now it needs to be updated for safety reasons and to allow more riders to use it at the same time.

Ten years ago the school had only 35 students, today it has 130, many living locally and many using the skate park.

There are many dangers that need to be fixed before somebody hurts themselves badly. It needs to be increased in size to allow a larger number of people to use it safely. It also needs to be updated with new items.

Current dangers include too

many cracks in the concrete, inadequate drainage and younger children not being able to get up the steep ramps.

There is also the problem of too many people trying to use it at once. This includes from small children to adults, from beginning riders to fast and experienced riders, from skateboards to scooters to bikes.

After it is made safe it needs to be made bigger to allow for more people to use it safely. In making it bigger it should have more ramps, including corner ramps, a spine, half pipe, a bowl so we could learn new tricks and another grinding box.

To make the skate park even better and to help with the well-being and safety of the people using it, bubblers and shade would also be great additions.

If the Largs skate park was improved and enlarged more people would be confident of its safety and use it more often. This would mean there would be more people there over a greater amount of time and less chance of it being vandalised or graffiti written over it like there is now.

We think the area of Largs and the wellbeing of people living there would improve if the local skate park was made safer and bigger.

# The little town that is growing bigger

By KATE and VANESSA, YEAR 6

OVER the past 10 years Largs has seen a lot of development and its population increase by three or four times.

Principal of Largs Public School, Sharon Palmer, said, "there were only 35 students and two teachers when I first started at Largs Public School 10 years ago. Since then we have grown to over 130 students and six teachers."

There have been four new development areas starting with Bolwarra Heights 10 years ago.

Since then, there has been development in another two areas, one unnamed and one called Dunmore Park. Currently there are new houses and blocks of land for sale in the newest area, Dunmore Ridge. Most of the blocks in Dunmore Ridge are between 650 and 750 square metres.

Mr Cunningham, a Largs resident, said he bought his block of land two years ago and has been building for the last 11 months. He hopes to move in with his wife early next month. Mr Cunningham said he chose to live there "because Largs is a very nice, safe community and I want my children to go to the local school. It was also a good price with good views."

Disadvantages of the increasing population are the roads are busier and the country outlook is disappearing.

Twelve-year-old Mitch, of Largs,



There are new developments being built around Largs, including Dunmore Ridge.

does not like that the skate park is now busier and he has to wait in line for a turn. "We have to line up and wait for a turn. Years ago there were less kids and no waiting," he said.

On the brighter side he likes that he has more friends his age in the community.

Thankfully the increasing development has also resulted in the improvement of local roads.

Increased numbers at the school has also allowed them to get flashing traffic lights on the main road, a school hall, a new canteen and after school care.

## Performer alive with the sound of music

By AMALINDE, YEAR 5

AFTER moving into the area, the sound of music can be heard from Ms Cobcroft's home in Largs.

Ms Cobcroft has been singing since she was five-years-old. "My friends used to tell me to be quiet because I sang too loudly or wouldn't stop singing," she said.

Ms Cobcroft started singing seriously when she was in high school and was asked to sing solo at the age of 15. During this same year she sang her first

classic solo with a choir and orchestra in the Sydney Town Hall.

Ms Cobcroft sings pop, classic and opera. "I prefer to sing classical music as it suits my voice better," she states. She has performed in lots of concerts mostly singing opera.

Ms Cobcroft has been teaching students singing for many years and is also in charge of musical matinees. She believes it is important to sing and believes everyone should have to opportunity to learn to sing.

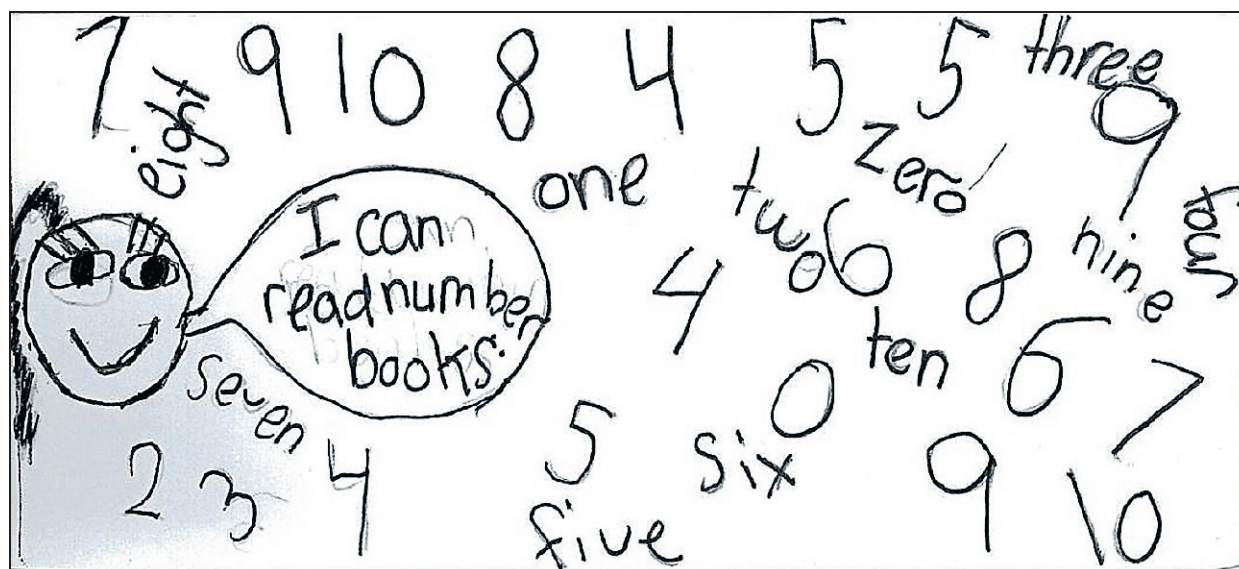


A portrait of singer Samantha Cobcroft. She has been performing since she was a little girl.

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