



Cartoon: Lachlan Short

## Pollution solution for our waterways

### EDITORIAL

By 6M

DURING the NSW storms in April 2015 lakes, creeks, roads and valleys flooded, homes lost power and trees were uprooted – however it was the amount of rubbish that washed up around these areas that was without a doubt, appalling.

In particular, along the Warners Bay Esplanade there was rubbish covering the shoreline including drink containers, soft drink cans and bottles and even aerosol deodorant cans.

Did you know that it can take up to 1,000,000 years for a glass bottle to break down and up to 1000 years for a plastic bag to decompose?

Not only do these littered items make the environment look terrible, they can also have a negative impact on our environment.

A fact that is quite alarming is that microfilament fishing line can take up to 600 years to break down, and as residents of Australia's largest salt water lake this is a great concern.

Cigarette butts tossed from a car window can cause a catastrophic bushfire, a discarded shopping bag that still contains food residue can be mistaken by wildlife as

food and can potentially cause a slow and painful death as the animals cannot digest what they have eaten.

Some people might say that throwing an apple core or orange peel out of the car window is harmless because it will "break down", and yes it will eventually, however it will more than likely find its way to a nearby waterway and as it decomposes, the bacteria can contaminate the water and soil around it.

Littering can also create a bad reputation for fast-food businesses as the containers displaying their logos are being tossed onto footpaths and streets.

A lot of these businesses spend huge amounts of money in trying to decrease the impact that their businesses have on our environment and some even take responsibility for the streets surrounding their businesses in an effort to keep them tidy and litter free.

As a community we are becoming better as we continue to use green bags for shopping and schools are also making a positive impact on littering behaviour amongst students through effective educational programs.

So come on Lake Macquarie, we live in a beautiful part of the world so let's keep it clean.

If you see a piece of litter, if it is safe to pick it up, put it in the bin.

# A quiet community is against car hoons

By ZANA JONES and ANGELINA JOYCE

FOR a long time in Edgeworth, there have been a number of young people, mainly under the age of 30, causing trouble on our roads, known commonly to locals as car hoons.

The types of trouble they may cause include performing burnouts, street racing or drag racing.

Burnouts involve people driving their cars at speeds of around 80 km/h, usually in built-up residential areas where a 50 km/h speed limit is in force and applying their brakes with force, which results in skids on roads and terrible screeching sounds.

A NSW Police Force representative said, "Some drivers may perform illegal street racing or burnouts to impress their friends however, do not take in to considerations the risk they pose to other motorists, pedestrians and the general public."

The officer said, "There have been a number of motor vehicle accidents directly associated with drag racing and burnouts, where inexperienced drivers have collided with other vehicles, pedestrians or objects while committing these offences".

These drivers are putting the safety of the community in jeopardy and it is not only the residents of Edgeworth who are at risk.

The consequences of burnouts, performing an aggravated burnout or participating in street racing



A burn-out mark left on a local Edgeworth residential street.

Picture: Angelina Joyce

could result in the driver having their car confiscated, receiving a fine for negligent driving of up to \$415 and \$623 for burnouts, and depending on the type of offence drivers could even face imprisonment.

Police encourage the community to reporting any form of 'hooning' via the assistance line on 131 444, or for ongoing problems with a particular vehicle, reports can be made anonymously through Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

## Young writer is off to war and winning

By RHYER HENSHAW and ALEX MULHOLLAND

DURING Term 1, Sienna Isaac, a year 4 student from St Benedict's Primary School in Edgeworth, made an encouraging decision to compete in Catholic Schools Diocesan Writing Competition.

The theme for this year's competition was 'Off to War' and the young writers entering the competition were asked to write a story from the perspective of either a soldier leaving his home to go to war or from the loved ones who were

left behind.

Sienna was inspired to enter the competition as 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the Anzac campaign.

Over a six-week period Sienna spent time researching her topic and developing her writing skills and acknowledges the support and encouragement given by her mother.

Sienna's inspiring entry gained her first place in the Stage 2 category (for



Sienna Isaac pictured with the Stage 2 Winner's trophy.

Picture: Alex Mulholland

the Catholic Schools Office in May.

Sienna was also awarded a \$250 voucher on behalf of the school that will be used to purchase books for the library for everyone to enjoy.

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