



Cartoon: Bella Rose

Are there dangers lurking in the Lake

EDITORIAL

By **SOPHIA CONNELL, BELLA ROSE** and **KYE WATSON**

THE infamous Lake Macquarie shark now seems to have finally admitted defeat, but we still have questions. Was the government doing enough to protect us? Were we being too hard on the shark? Was it here for a reason?

While many of our fellow students agree that the government is not doing enough to protect us, it is not just us who have concerns.

Local fisherman Clayton Rose said, "I think that the government should have looked more into this. People are asking questions and not getting answers. Without adequate information, people will form their own opinions which are not always necessarily correct."

Clayton has also had a recent experience with the shark. One night whilst fishing in the lake with two other men, there was a fierce strike at one of the rods. The men quickly reacted and then a massive shark came to the surface of the water, rolled onto its side and stared at them with its creepy eye.

Clayton said, "It looked like a bull shark at least three-metres long. Too big to hug!"

Clayton believes that the shark could have swum into the lake while following a food source of some kind.

Probably about 2.5- to three-metres long, the shark has enough strength and is big enough to do some damage.

Some people think they have spotted a great white shark with a younger and smaller shark, possibly its baby. Spotted at least twice, the shark is not afraid to show itself. There was a sighting around 100 metres north of the Murrays Beach jetty in about eight metres of water. The shark is not afraid to come close to the shore or close to people.

Relocating the shark is an option. The lake is not big enough for a predator of this size. Great white sharks need a lot of food and a bigger place to live. The ocean is perfect; it is home to many marine animals and food for the shark. Relocating the shark to the ocean will not upset the balance of marine life. Our class agrees it would be kind to relocate the shark to the ocean.

In our opinion the shark needs somewhere else to live. It should be moved to a more suitable habitat than Lake Macquarie.

Moving with grace at a national level

By **GRACE HOLE, TIANNA MURPHY** and **LEAH STEWART**

GYMNAST Grace Hole, a year 5 student at St Patrick's Primary School Swansea, is an elite competitor with Blackert Gymnastics Academy at Bennetts Green.

Modern gymnastics commenced in Germany and the former Czechoslovakia at the beginning of the 19th century. The first open-aided gymnasium was opened in Berlin in 1811.

Karen Blackert, an owner and instructor at Blackert Gymnastics Academy, competed in gymnastics when she was younger and she reached Level 8 in the National Development Program.

Karen said, "Both boys and girls participate in gymnastics, with the boys doing more strength-related apparatus such as the rings, pommel horse, parallel bars, vault, floor and high bar. Girls compete in uneven bars, floor, beam and vault."

Grace Hole participated in many competitions throughout 2014, competing at Level 4 in the National Development Program.

These competitions included Country and State Championships which were held in Sydney, as well as invitational events held in Tamworth and Seven Hills.

The club members also compete



Grace Hole prepares to perform her floor routine.

Some competitors choose to become coaches and judges in gymnastics.

To be a coach or a judge you are required to complete a course through Gymnastics Australia.

Many of the Blackert gymnasts

train up to 20 hours per week to achieve their outstanding results.

Gymnasts can represent their club at Nationals held annually in Geelong, Victoria, and if selected, they can represent NSW at the Border Challenge in Caloundra or at the National Individual Titles held in Victoria.

Perhaps, one day, we may see Grace and Leah compete in gymnastics for Australia.

at club-based events at a regional level.

The highest level that a gymnast can acquire at Blackert Gymnastic Academy is Level 10 of the National Development Program.

Leah Stewart, St Patrick's school captain and year 6 student, also competes in gymnastics at a regional level. Leah attends the PCYC at Windale and is working her way up to competing at a national level.

Blacksmiths breakwall set to rise higher

By **DAISY GRADY, TREVAN KEENAN** and **MATILDA KELMAN**

AN exciting project to restore Blacksmiths Breakwall is almost completed.

Starting in the middle of February 2015, the project involves raising the height of the breakwall by one metre, constructing a concrete path and restoring the Granny Pool.

The \$600,000 project will make it easier to allow big boats into the channel, stop the channel filling up with sand and protect the pool from further damage.

Stewart, a representative from the NSW Department of Community Land and Planning said, "If the sea level keeps rising due to climate change, we will continue to raise the height of the of the break-wall."

The workers are getting their building resources, including armour rock, from a rock quarry at Seaham. The State Government is funding the project.



Blacksmiths breakwall and Granny pool are getting some much-needed repairs.

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