

Primary entry #19: The Junction Public School



The Junction Journal



Monique Maguire and Lea from Ozharvest with the van used for food rescue missions.

Picture: Ruby Zacharia

Driving for a sustainable future for all

By RUBY ZACHARIA

OZHARVEST is a well-known food rescue organisation that takes waste food from places like fruit and vegie markets, supermarkets, restaurants and even film shoots and donates it to those in need. The organisation has a branch here in Newcastle.

"We have been here in Newcastle for five years and in that time we have collected well over nine million kilograms of food. This is the same as 2.9 million meals," manager Monique Maguire said.

"We deliver to 74 charities and organisations ... approximately a couple thousand people each week. "We travel everywhere from Cessnock, Maitland, Raymond Terrace all the way down to Morisset."

The organisation has 80 volunteers. Some assist with driving the van, cleaning up the tubs and some go to Charlestown for the rescue initiative.

Ms Maguire said they weren't government funded but they were lucky to be supported by the NIB foundation, Port Waratah Coal Company and Wests League Club. They also host fundraising events, and receive donations.

"We need a kitchen for our Nest program. This program is where we teach people how to cook cheap and nutritious meals. It is awesome seeing people eating foods that they thought they hated," Ms Maguire said.

By NATHAN FLECK

THE Junction Public School was built in 1875. It was built in a Spanish style of mainly brick and wood. It was quite grand with big archways, tall windows, big fancy doors and it was an impressive two storeys.

The Junction Public School was originally called Newcastle South Public School. By 1909 it had three sections – the infant school, the girl's school and the boy's school.

This old school doesn't exist anymore. However you can still see what it did look like if you look at the hall. It has many rooms, one of which was the school library. The bigger room has a stage and was the assembly hall. It is of a traditional style with exposed beams and some circular windows.

These buildings dominated The Junction area until 1989 when the Newcastle earthquake hit. Most of the school was destroyed. The old hall is the only part still standing. The school had to be completely rebuilt in the early 1990s.

Since then it has been a collection of modern buildings and demountables. Like the old school, the buildings are mostly brick. However, now girls and boys are all together in classes and the old school hall isn't used for assemblies anymore. It is now a music and technology room. Assemblies



School captain, Nathan Fleck, and Mrs Cooper reviewing plans for new school buildings.

Picture: Charlotte McKie

are held in the new school hall which was built in 2011.

This year a new chapter will begin at The Junction Public School. Thanks to public lobbying, the NSW state government has committed to building a new school that will fit all the students. It will

also mean that the old demountables will finally be a thing of the past.

The buildings will be of a 21st century standard. They will be similar in shape but more modern than the ones that already exist.

The classrooms will also be more open and three will be able to open

into one. Rooms will be accessible through the back and front. They will have more colour and there will be an open area with seats around the edge forming an amphitheatre. It will make The Junction Public School a truly up-to-the-minute learning environment.



Alyssa Wharton and Charlotte McKie go for a stroll along the new Anzac Walk.

Picture: Lucy Ulph

Coastal Anzac walkway a success

By ALYSSA WHARTON

THE new Anzac Memorial Walk officially opened on April 24. Neil Slater, a local businessman had often wondered what it would be like to have a 360-degree view of Newcastle. Mr Slater worked with political and community groups to develop the idea.

The walk is a great tribute to Hunter workmanship

because local suppliers and companies were used. Waeger Constructions was contracted to build the walkway and the 64 tonnes of steel used was fabricated by SGM Fabrications at Tomago.

Funding for the project was also Hunter based – BHP donated \$3 million and the City of Newcastle contributed \$1.5 million.

The centrepiece of the 450-metre walk is a

150-metre bridge. It is supported by seven Y-shaped posts that are founded on piles drilled nine metres into the cliff and 525 individual LED lights have been used to light the path.

A silhouette of steel soldiers decorates the bridge and covering them are 3859 family names of all the soldiers that enlisted from Newcastle and the Hunter during World War I.

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