

Primary entry #2: Woodberry Public School



WOODBERRY WHISPER



Woodberry students enjoying the new play equipment.

Picture: Ashlie Duffield

Support from business win for students

By SIU TUPOU and MARNIE BELLCHAMBERS

BUILDING a strong relationship with local businesses has certainly paid off for the students at Woodberry Public School.

They have received new playground equipment from Baiada, a poultry product company.

"Baiada has worked in conjunction with Woodberry Public School for the past five years and the relationship continues to grow strong," said Michelle Mitchell, operations co-ordinator.

"Baiada is pleased to have contributed to make more facilities available for the students at the school like the new play equipment area," she said.

"Fresh fruit is also delivered to the school every week to encourage healthy snacking.

"It is exciting for us here at Baiada to treat the students to little gifts like pencil cases and lunch esky bags that adds to their on-going school experience."

The school recognises the amount of support Baiada have given over the years and it does not go unappreciated by the students. Having such generous local businesses offers the support and inclusiveness within the school community.

According to Ms Mitchell, "It gives us great pleasure to help and support the next generation of adults."

By MCKENZY ELLIS

THE Woodberry area has a long stretch of pipeline but it appears now there is something wrong with them.

The Chichester Trunk Gravity Main (CTGM) pipeline was originally constructed with lead collars to secure the joints.

Although almost half have been replaced with welded steel, lead fragments have deposited in soil over time.

A lead jointed section runs along an 18 to 20 metre corridor of land.

Back in 2012 it was reported that an elevated concentration of lead was in the soil after a calf was reported to have died from lead poisoning.

Nick Kaiser, senior media co-ordinator from Hunter Water Corporationsaid, "Since becoming aware of the lead issue Hunter Water informed adjacent property owners and enforced that access to the pipeline corridor should be avoided at all times by people and livestock."

"This includes access for recreational or grazing use, any cattle or livestock movement along the corridor or for any other purpose."

Since these findings, Hunter Water have fenced off the corridor and have restricted livestock access.

This has greatly reduced the risk



The lead contaminated pipeline that runs through Woodberry swamp.

Picture: Emily Holding

of cattle or any other livestock being exposed to soil contaminated by lead, but this is only a short- to medium- term management strategy.

Over the next 20 years, subsequent sections of the pipeline will be upgraded and replaced where all lead joints will be removed and a major clean-up of contaminated soil will be conducted.

Hunter Water have implemented

a communication plan for both property owners and all external service providers using the CTGM corridor.

They also conduct routine inspections of pipe, fence and ground conditions for signs of erosion and unauthorised activity on or near the pipeline.

"There is no risk to drinking water supplies and soil testing

shows that lead levels drop off generally within two metres from the pipelines," Mr Kaiser said.

"Routine testing shows water from the pipeline fully complies with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines."

Hunter Water plans to continue to investigate and address the existence of lead contamination in the Woodberry swamp.



Residents are wondering if anything can be done to revitalise Woodberry shops. Picture: Ashlie Duffield

Residents want their centre saved

By EMILY HOLDING

AS you drive past Woodberry Shopping Centre you would expect to see a vibrant place, but in reality there are many vacant and barricaded shops.

Residents are wondering if this is due to the configuration of the shopping centre and orientation of shop fronts or due to the lack of police

presence deterring continued vandalism.

Some Woodberry shop owners have vacated the local shopping centre because of continued robberies, vandalism, and graffiti attacks, however, others believe it is purely due to the way the centre has been built.

Woodberry residents and surrounding areas continue to try to have Beresfield

police station reinstated 24 hours, seven days a week in an effort to reclaim the area.

Residents have reported youths roaming the streets at night, leaving the community in fear of their own safety.

However, police continue to come up with strategies to help alleviate some of the problems to keep the Woodberry community safe and strong.

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