

Busy road poses big risk to children

EDITORIAL

By **TOBIN MOORE, HARRY ANTILL, CONNOR HANSEN and MICHAEL WALLS**

THE School Council at Jewells Primary School has identified a safety issue affecting the community – the absence of a safe crossing on Ntaba Road.

Ntaba Road is a very busy road which many students and members of the community have to cross.

Currently the speed limit is 50 km/h and there are no pedestrian crossings or school zones implemented to assist pedestrians to safely cross.

Why should community members have to navigate this dangerous road to get to school, the medical centre or Jewells Shopping Centre when there are measures that could be put in place to make it safer for everyone?

The curves and crests along Ntaba Road make it difficult to see oncoming traffic, significantly increasing the risk of harm to pedestrians.

In addition, Ntaba Road has a number of bus routes, increasing pedestrian numbers.

A request was made by Les Corrigan, principal of Jewells Primary School, for a 40 km/h speed zone and supervised crossing on

Ntaba Road. But it was declined after assessment by the Roads and Maritime Services.

This request should be reviewed and the community should rally together to support this movement.

Adamstown Public School is not situated on Brunker Road, yet it has a supervised pedestrian crossing and 40 km/h school zone on Brunker Road.

Why is this any different to the request Jewells Primary School is currently making?

More parents would allow their children to walk or catch the bus to school if they knew there were safe measures for them to cross Ntaba Road.

Statistics published by Kidsafe – Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia, stated that pedestrian injury is a leading cause of child death in this country, with school children most at risk.

Research also shows that a 5 km/h decline in vehicle speeds would save one in three pedestrian deaths.

The necessity of having to unsafely cross a very hazardous road on an everyday basis needs to stop.

The Jewells Primary School community strongly requests that there should be a pedestrian crossing, refuge or a 40 km/h school zone on Ntaba Road to reduce the risk of harm.



SWEET SOUNDS: Claudia Cox playing her violin. Picture: Nikki Burgman

Violinist plays heart strings

By **DANIELLE HALLETT, TASHANA HOLMES, NIKKI BURGMAN, LAYLA MAPSTONE and HANNAH O'NEILL**

CLAUDIA Cox, 21, recently completed her bachelor of music degree at the University of Newcastle and is ready to take on the world of music with her violin.

She started playing at the tender age of 2, and studied with Haruo Goto to develop her knowledge and skill. Claudia has performed all over the world, including Japan and Italy.

"When I was little, I would beg to listen to the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. I would sing, dance and pretend I was playing the violin," Claudia recounts.

Claudia won the Lake Macquarie concerto competition in 2012. She

works hard, practising up to eight hours a day on the French violin she is currently using.

Claudia openly shared the ups and downs of her music career.

"Everyone feels like giving up sometimes, but then you find something that inspires you to keep going," she said.

Claudia recently auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, Sweden, and has also received an offer to attend a music college in Bergen, Norway.

In the future, she hopes to perform, compose and help people with music.

Students in court over mock trials

By **PATRICK CARSTENS, TEZA CHRISTY, CHRISTIAN HANSON and ELLA STAR WILKINS**

THE "Clued Up Kids Law Week Challenge" has been offered to Lake Macquarie primary schools since 2009.

The program initially began with five local schools and has expanded nationally with more than 100 students and teachers participating this year.

Organiser Catherine Piper, a deputy registrar at Belmont Courthouse, had heard of mock trial programs for high school students and decided she wanted to give primary school students a similar opportunity. The competition was designed to educate students about law and courts in a fun way.

Students are given a fictitious criminal case based on events happening in the local community and are expected to work out who the culprit is by investigating clues.

On presentation day, school teams present their case and evidence to a panel of judges.

This year's case involves teenage graffiti in the community. Students are investigating a range of evidence including witness statements, images and forensic details.

Catherine said: "I especially enjoy working with primary school students because they want to learn and are enthusiastic about solving a case."



Cartoon: Connor Hansen

School urges council to reduce speed limit

By **ZOE CLARKE, SERENA LE SUEUR, ETHAN MORRIS and D'ARCY REES**

JEWELLS Primary School principal Les Corrigan's recent request to Lake Macquarie City Council for the introduction of a 40 km/h speed zone on the busy Ntaba Road has been turned down.

The school council contacted the local council over concerns for the safety of the students and local community when trying to cross without a

supervised crossing on the curvy and crested road. The speed limit is currently 50 km/h.

It was declined after assessment by Roads and Maritime Services.

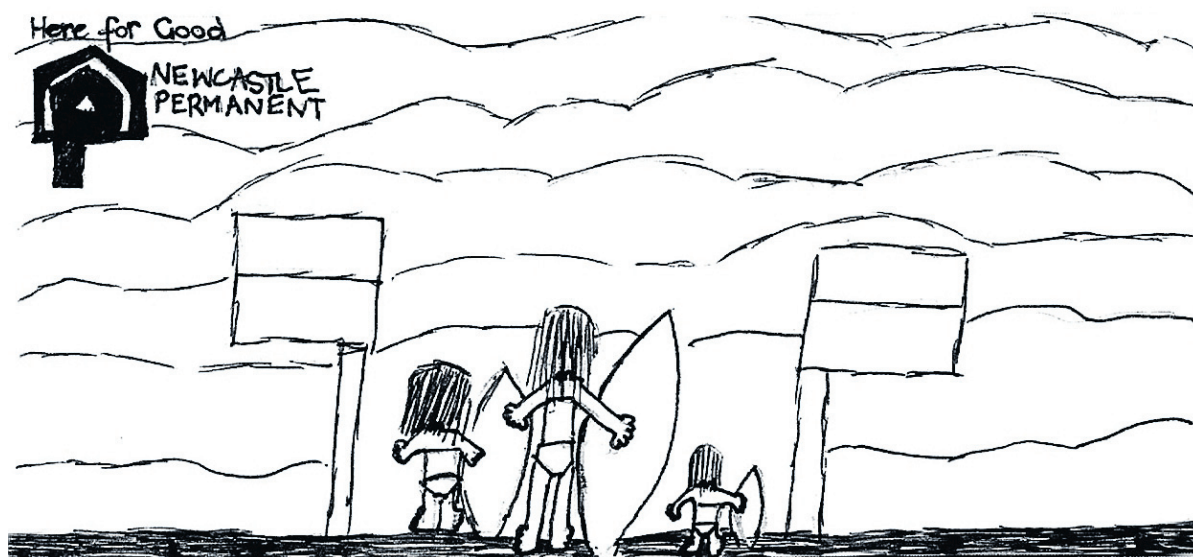
"The reason they refused the request is because we already had two roads with 40 km/h school zones," Mr Corrigan said.

Recently the school council wrote a letter to Mr Garry Edwards, Local Member for Swansea, requesting his assistance on this issue.



BUS STOP: Busy Ntaba Road has no supervised crossings for pedestrians. Picture: Serena Le Sueur

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