

# Is Medowie really moving forward?

## EDITORIAL

By **ROBERT STANLEY** and **NICHOLAS HOPPER**

THE people of Medowie are wondering if it is necessary to have another 950 residential lots and two leading supermarkets less than 200 metres apart, bombarding their town.

Such expansion could result in an increase in the number of inhabitants by one quarter of the current population.

As well as the two leading supermarkets, there have been plans passed for nine extra shops in Medowie's CBD. This will open up new employment opportunities, but will also fire up much retail rivalry.

All the new development will have an impact on already critical traffic conditions. A single lane roundabout is in the plans for the future supermarket development to reduce traffic congestion. This is thought by many to be an inadequate response.

With a school, sports field and community hall just metres from the new buildings, this may become an urgent issue that will have to be fixed in the future.

There has also been very slow progress on the actual construction of the supermarket, affecting traffic conditions even before the

buildings have taken shape.

However, aside from the traffic, the new supermarket could well be essential to cater for the extra people moving into Medowie and surrounding areas in the future.

There will be around another 150 lots for sale in the Pacific Dunes Estate, along with the potential Grahamstown Estate, as well as a possible 300 lots on the proposed Boundary and Redman estates.

With all these people coming to Medowie, why is there no movement on a Medowie High School? Supposedly, the land has been set aside for years. With a population of around 9000 residents, all those who attend local public schools are dispersed to Raymond Terrace, Tomaree and even Newcastle to attend high school.

Also, the construction of more residential blocks leads to concerns over aircraft traffic and associated noise affecting more local residents. Newcastle airport is preparing for more flights to more destinations all the time.

This, coupled with RAAF flight activity, may result in houses having to be built with sound control measures, therefore increasing construction expenses. Maybe people need to be stopped from building in certain places because of the impact made by noisy aircraft.

All of these issues raise the question: is Medowie really moving forward?



Cartoon: Austin Mackay



**EGGS-ITING:** Kate King from Oakvale Farm shows some emu eggs to Matilda and Sian from Medowie Public School.

# Furry friends found at farm

By **SIAN COWLEY, ANAIS KORN** and **MATILDA LOGYVN**

OAKVALE Farm and Fauna World is a Port Stephens tourist attraction located in Salt Ash, 22 kilometres from Newcastle.

The attraction boasts a huge range of animals beyond those typically found on a farm. In addition to sheep, cattle and pigs, there are peacocks, cockatoos, kangaroos, emus and dingoes. There's also a reptile sanctuary which is home to lizards, snakes and even alligators.

Oakvale Farm and Fauna World had long anticipated the arrival of three, 6-foot long, male American alligators, and now they have arrived. Their enclosure design took

many months to perfect and four weeks to construct. Gus, Rosco and Tyrone (the alligators) are now happily settling into their new home.

They are eight years old and have an average life expectancy of 60-80 years in captivity. The farm also has very successful koala and curlew breeding programs.

Visitors to Oakvale may feed the free-range animals with a bag filled with specially selected food for the less fussy animals.

Visitors can also go on a tractor ride and milk the cows.

Overall, Oakvale Farm and Fauna World provides an interactive animal adventure perfect for kids and their families to visit for a fun-filled day.

# Caring for children with autism

By **CASSIE FARROW, CHLOE GARRET, SUNNY WARD** and **KAITLYN DANIELS**

AUTISM Spectrum Disorder, commonly known as ASD, is a neurological condition that people are born with and which cannot be cured.

Research shows that one in 100 children – almost 23,000 Australians – have ASD. Nearly 1500 children in the Hunter under 16 have been diagnosed with the disorder. Scientists suspect that it is genetically inherited.

Scientists and doctors say that ASD is more common in boys than in girls. The number of people diagnosed with ASD appears to have increased over the last two decades and continues to grow every year.

ASD affects people in many ways: they may lose – or have great difficulty with – social skills, movement skills and behaviour control, and may struggle with other aspects of their lives.

Medowie Public School includes a support class which caters for students with ASD and for those with other learning, physical and intellectual disabilities. The class has its own playground area to keep the children safe, but all students participate in whole-school activities such as Doing Things Together, Book Character Parade, School Musicals and joining their stage groups for PE and sporting sessions.

# University Day offers unique opportunities

By **ERIN MONTGOMERY, MADDY DOLMAN** and **JASMIN WHITE**

ON July 25, year 6 students from Medowie Public School went to the Newcastle University Information Day.

Each year the university has approximately 3000 students enrol. The university's primary campus is located at Callaghan and was established in 1965.

There is a wide range of undergraduate and post-graduate courses on offer including counselling, law,

business, engineering, architecture, environmental studies, nursing, and education.

When Medowie Public School visited, they got to discover just what some of the courses involve.

The Discover University Day was an opportunity for primary school students to get an idea what studying at university would be like and the range of courses available.

All the students had a great day and it certainly gave them plenty to think about for their future.



**LEARNING:** Medowie Public School students participate in an experiment showing the use of wind turbines.

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