

Primary entry #2: Our Lady of Lourdes Tarro



THE LOURDES' VOICE



DANGER: Anderson Drive.
Picture: Bryana Marshall

An accident just waiting to happen

By **LUCY LARNEY**

DRIVING down Anderson Drive, Tarro, it is easy to forget there are three primary schools within one kilometre because there are no flashing school zone lights to warn motorists.

Nearby schools on Norfolk Avenue have two sets of flashing signs within 900 metres.

A spokesperson from the Roads and Maritime Services Safety Around Schools initiative, said: "the needs of schools on Norfolk Avenue exceeded those on Anderson Drive".

The majority of road users on Norfolk Drive are parents and residents which is in direct contrast to Anderson Drive – it has trucks and traffic using it to avoid congestion on the New England Highway.

Some other schools have pedestrian crossings, but Ryan Tranter, traffic engineer from Newcastle City Council, said the number of people crossing Anderson Drive from Our Lady of Lourdes did not meet the minimum standards set by Roads and Maritime Services for a crossing supervisor or a marked pedestrian crossing.

Mr Tranter said that a crossing used infrequently was more dangerous than not having one as drivers would not expect anyone to be on it.

Parent Luisa Walch said the only advice schools had been given was to "exercise common sense when crossing".

By **MIKAELA RODWELL,**
GRACE MACMILLAN
and **CAITLIN MAHER**

WHEN Newcastle lord mayor Jeff McCloy said "cuts are needed as no one wants a rate rise", it seems the proposed cuts could hit Beresfield, Tarro and Woodberry services the hardest, including the local pool and golf course.

Newcastle City Council has five pools, two ocean baths and six patrolled beaches in its local government area. Some pools are only six kilometres from each other. Beresfield pool, on the other hand, is nearly 22 kilometres from the council building – a factor that many consider to be contributing to the cuts.

They certainly don't feel it is for lack of use. Beresfield Swim Centre instructor Kaye Leyland runs nine group swim lessons a week.

"There are over 129 members in the swim club who compete weekly," she said.

"About seven schools, ranging from Francis Greenway High School to Ashtonfield Public School, use the pool for sport and many of these schools use it for swimming carnivals as well," she said.

Should Beresfield pool close, local residents would no longer have a conveniently located pool which residents feel is an un-



UNCERTAIN FUTURE: Beresfield pool could become a victim of funding cuts. Picture: Mikaela Rodwell

balanced spending of rates by the council.

Some local parents have said that their children would no longer have swimming lessons if the pool was not available as they don't have access to second cars and public transport to another pool is too time-consuming.

To add insult to injury, instead of celebrating its 30th birthday, Beres-

field Golf Course is contemplating an uncertain future.

Newcastle City Council has suggested selling off the only council-owned golf course in the area in a bid to cut costs.

Considering the golf course was initially designed to collect stormwater to save nearby homes from flooding, it is unlikely it will be a highly sought-after piece of land.

The green fees are nearly half the price of other golf courses in Newcastle and the higher fees would make golf beyond the means of some of the residents in the lower socio-economic bands.

While the plans may help save the council \$18.7 million over two years, Counsellor Michael Osborne predicts the cuts will leave a "community up in arms".



OZHARVEST: Spreading the food and the love.
Picture: Caitlin Maher

Food rescue just got bigger serve

By **ABBY MORRIS**
and **CAITLIN MAHER**

OZHARVEST Newcastle received a grant from the NIB Foundation in March this year to expand their services in the Maitland and Cessnock areas.

The expansion will now allow OzHarvest to grow in the Tarro-Beresfield area, into Thornton and beyond.

Co-ordinator Monique

Maguire said the non-profit organisation collects "unwanted food from supermarkets, caterers, companies and restaurants that is still good to eat," and passes it on to organisations that provide food for those in need of nutrition.

While OzHarvest delivers to 64 agencies, two local recipients of food are the Maitland Neighbourhood Centre in Woodberry and

Food for Life in Beresfield. Wendy Harrison from Food for Life said OzHarvest has been fantastic as "they often give us chicken, vegetables or milk which we then pass on to our clients so they can prepare healthy meals at home."

Since 2010, OzHarvest Newcastle has saved about 380 tonnes of food from the tip, and turned it into roughly 1.2 million meals for Novocastrians in need.

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