

Primary entry #41: St James' Primary School, Kotara South



# St James Chronicle



AT HOME: Louis Stibbard and his father, Craig Goodsir.  
Picture: Chloe Anson-Smith

## A city with a past, future to be proud of

By LOUIS STIBBARD

THESE are the things that great communities are made of – sporting teams with die-hard fans and a proud, rich history. Newcastle, it seems, has it all.

When the Goodsir family first moved to Newcastle, they headed for the Newcastle Museum on a friend's recommendation.

"The experience was so inspiring. I think we've mentioned it to almost everyone we've met," Craig Goodsir said. "We knew about the 1989 earthquake and the proposed CBD changes, but we were surprised by the story of how the community was built."

By the turn of the 20th century, Newcastle had grown in blue-collar numbers but lacked a stable, secure community of homeowners, which seemed a distant goal for the large number of low-wage workers.

The creation of a mutual co-operative provided wider opportunity for home ownership and the community prospered, socially and financially.

The Goodsirs have been guided to many landmarks and places of interest by locals keen to show their community spirit.

"The sense of Novocastrian pride is very obvious to us as newcomers, particularly when we see and hear the legions of footy and soccer fans," Mr Goodsir said. "It creates a real sense of belonging and has helped us feel like this is our town, too."

## Plastic not so fantastic

By GRACE MURRAY

ALL around the world our rubbish, especially plastic products, is entering the oceans and waterways.

Eighty per cent of the rubbish comes from the land.

Once it is in the ocean it gets swept up by currents and ends up in one of five major ocean piles of rubbish called the Great Pacific garbage patches.

Plastic gets broken down into little pieces but it is not biodegradable. The little pieces of plastic outnumber plankton six to one and mostly end up in animals' stomachs. It is estimated that about 1 million sea birds die every year from rubbish.

Plastic is the most popular material in our society, often disposed of after only being used once. It can enter the ocean from the wind, being washed down rivers and drains, or from careless people not using rubbish bins.

There are many people in the world who care about this so they have gone ahead and done something about it.

Some people have set up organisations, like Tim Silverwood, who is the founder of Take 3, and Heidi Taylor, who is the founder of Tangaroa Blue. These organisations help to make the world a better place for us to live in.



CAUSING HARM: Rubbish left by bathers at Newcastle Ocean Baths.

Picture: Andrew Warren

Like these great environmental advocates, St James Primary School students have been caring for the environment with their "Litter Less Lunch Day" and have recently improved their waste collection system, which involves students avoiding food in wrappers.

There is now a general bin, a recycling bin, a bread scrap bin (to

feed the scraps to chickens) and a fruit bin which is fed to worms. These measures have reduced the amount of general waste at the school.

When you see trash on the ground you can make a decision. You can leave it there and pay no attention to the harm it may cause, or you can pick it up and put it in

the bin. It is as simple as that.

Picking up rubbish is not a hard thing to do.

So, imagine if the whole world could pick up rubbish every day? The world would be so much cleaner.

As the Take 3 team like to say, "You might not have put it there but you have the ability to take it away."



STAY ALERT: Teacher Mr Cootes guides students across the road.  
Picture: Chloe Anson-Smith

## Road awareness vital at St James

By EVELYN ROBERTS-THOMSON

CHILD safety is an important issue for everyone. At St James Primary School, students stay safe by learning how to cross roads, walk home safely and move through car parks safely.

St James's curriculum includes lessons on being safe around roads and how to cross them correctly.

Students from St James are cautious and safe when crossing roads, especially when arriving and leaving school.

Many of them walk home and teachers

make sure that they are cautious of strangers and aware of other safety issues. They walk home with a buddy, follow the rules for crossing a road safely and know how to get assistance if needed.

Children need to be safe in and around car parks. St James parents are careful when dropping off and picking up children.

Children also need to be careful when walking through car parks and not be alone when crossing one. Staff at St James accompany students to all car parks and wear orange vests to make themselves visible and easily recognisable.

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