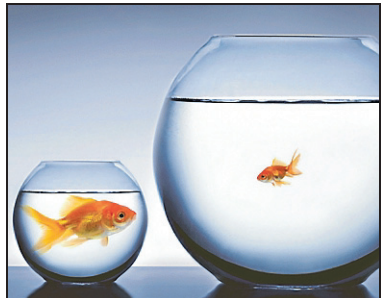


Secondary entry #22: All Saints College – St Joseph's Campus, Lochinvar



Lochinvar Lowdown



UPSIZING: With change comes both support and objections.

Expansion of Greta comes with effects

By JESSICA MOUNSER, TEAH FENN and ELIZABETH ATFIELD

THE small town of Greta has recently taken off with its business endeavours and popularity.

With Eagle Boys pizza and the newly built McDonald's, Greta has turned itself from small and unfamiliar to a place for people to visit.

Through the creation of jobs (130 jobs opened up at McDonald's) or the opportunity for miners and drivers to stop and relax, Greta is continuing forward at a brisk pace.

A Subway outlet has opened, next to a busy hairdresser-beautician. There is also a petrol station, pharmacy, takeaway shop, butcher, bottle shop, bakery, bowling club, as well as a couple of pubs.

This development has created an environment for people to thrive in, whether it is a small business or as a place to live.

Some community members tried to stop some development occurring.

When the McDonald's proposal was put forward, the Greta community pre-school executive objected stating: "We are concerned that the increased traffic will be a concern for the safety and welfare of our children and clients".

But McDonald's employee Vinette DeKlerk said: "[McDonald's] is a good opportunity for more rural areas to be established and start growing as a community."

There is expansion, but with this comes conflict between small and big business.

By OLIVIA SHEATHER and PATRICK KEVIN

FOUR walls, two windows, the red door, and pitched roof – this could be a stereotypical home, which many imagined as a child.

By the year 2031, 670,000 residents will call the Lower Hunter their permanent place of residence, in their now existing homes. But to achieve this, by 2031 the Lower Hunter will need up to 75,000 new homes.

The region's population will grow by 22,500, or 5 per cent, in the next five years.

In the next 10 years, job growth is expected to increase by 3 per cent.

The Lower Hunter is beginning to hit a boom, and within the next 20 years the Hunter will expand vastly.

In March 2013, the NSW Department of Planning released a discussion paper concerning the expansion of the Lower Hunter Valley.

The paper involved people who take residence and work in the Lower Hunter.

They were asked to think about their priorities now and for the future: the kind of houses that are needed, where and how new jobs can be created, how the environment can be improved, better transport links provided and the region's economy strengthened.



DEVELOPMENT: More houses need to be built to cope with the area's population growth.

The development of the Lower Hunter is a large domestic project, affecting past and future tenants.

Gary Oakey, team leader at the NSW Department of Planning Hunter office, who was a driving force in the creation of the paper, offered insights into its findings.

"The response to the release and

exhibition of the discussion paper has been positive ... but too early yet to comment," he said.

But regardless of the findings, the area is still attractive for many families who are moving to the region.

"The Lower Hunter is regarded as having a high quality lifestyle

and is rated as one of the most liveable areas in Australia. It has long been attracted to retirees and young families."

As a result, the Lower Hunter is undergoing a housing boom, which is leading to a growth in population and employment, as well as cultural and social advancements.

AMAZING: Brittany Lucas hopes to have a career as a professional dancer.



Onstage in US only a dream away

By VINETTE DEKLERK

ON November 28, 2012, 15-year-old singer, dancer and actress from Sarah Brown Dance Studios, Brittany Lucas, left for the United States after she was selected for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform with the Glee Club Talent Development Project.

Brittany hopes to follow a career in professional dan-

cing and being selected to perform and travel with the Glee project, including 54 other Australian singers and dancers aged between 15 and 21, was just the beginning.

While on tour, Brittany performed at various venues throughout the US including Universal Studios and Disney World in Florida, LEGOLAND in San Diego, The Queen Mary, and

Disneyland in Los Angeles.

The company performed two shows at each venue, consisting of 10 songs each.

"We were given a character and storyline for each show, and it was really fun and interesting because we would be acting and then break out and start dancing and singing," Brittany said.

"It was an amazing experience, I am so lucky that I was part of it."

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