

Primary entry #20: St Patrick's Primary Swansea



Swansea Scoop



HISTORY: The old milestone at Swansea is fading.

Symbol of our past must be protected

By **ZAC PONT, TOBY RACE**
and **LARSEN ST AUBYN**

ON the Pacific Highway at Swansea, outside the Commonwealth Bank, is a stone pillar that has an interesting history.

It's called a milestone. The milestone was one of a series of numbered markers placed along a road or boundary at intervals of one mile.

They are typically located at the side of the road or on a median strip.

Milestones were originally stone obelisks, made from granite, marble, or whatever local stone was available, and later replaced by concrete posts.

In the past, milestones were used as guides to show travellers they were on the right path.

They were also used to indicate how long someone had travelled and how much distance remained until their destination.

They are an important part of Australian history, so their protection must be an important issue to the community.

However, the milestone in Swansea is slowly being destroyed by car fumes that are causing the letters and numbers to fade.

Vandals, car accidents and demolition to allow for road widening are other factors leading to their demise. It is vital that we don't let our history fade away.

The East Lake Macquarie Historical Society is requesting that the Swansea milestone be preserved.

By **ALYSSA AYLING,**
MAKAELA HARRISON and
BIANCA ROSSITER-SAVY

THE principal of St Patrick's Primary School Swansea, Peter Green, was recently approached by a staff member from the office of Garry Edwards, state member for Swansea.

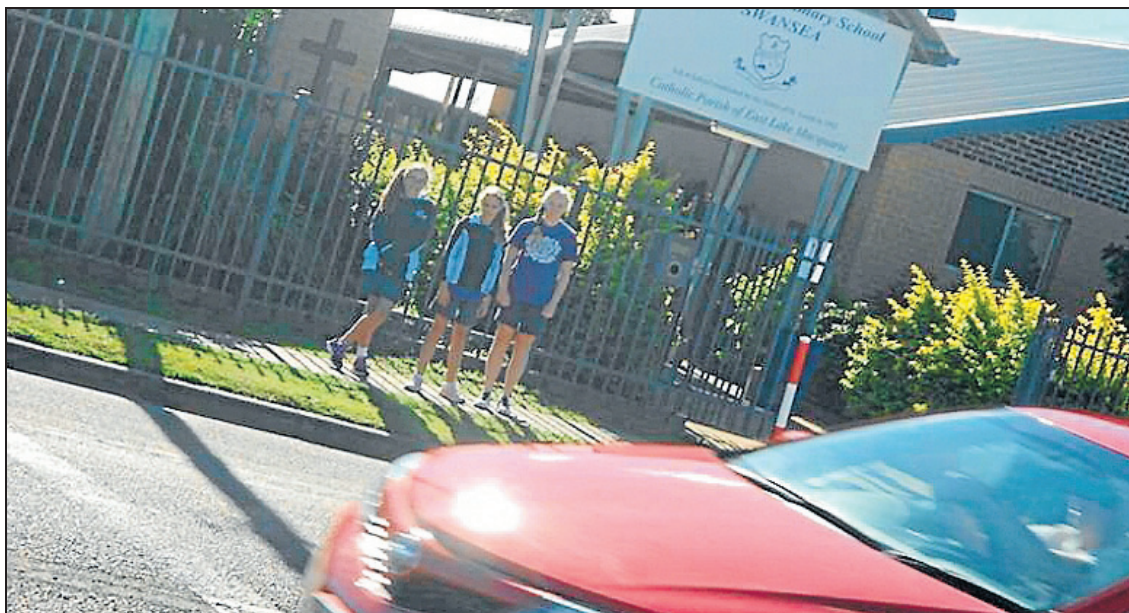
They asked if the school would be interested in petitioning the Roads and Maritime Services for flashing crossing lights outside the school to keep the students, staff and parents safe when crossing Northcote Avenue.

For the Roads and Maritime Services to consider the flashing lights, the school requires 300 signatures on their petition.

A year 5 student from St Patrick's said: "I waited for at least five minutes for a car to stop so I could cross the road over to the school. Having flashing crossing lights would signal for people to go 40 km/h when in the school zone."

Mrs Allen, a grandparent at St Patrick's, said: "People are interested in our children's safety. Children and staff will be able to cross the road safely, but still making sure they check that cars are stopping."

Mr Green said: "I am very satisfied because the school, parish and local communities realise that the safety of our children is paramount.



NEED FOR SIGNS: St Patrick's students attempt to cross the busy road safely outside of the school.

Picture: Carmen Jameson

"Parents agree that flashing lights will make the school zone safer. In fact, it was a parent who approached our local member of parliament to have the lights installed."

Flashing school crossing lights are usually installed within 200 metres of a school.

They operate from 8am to 9.30am

and 2.30pm to 4pm. They consist of twin lights alternating flashing yellow mounted on red and white posts.

Whenever the students cross the road, even if the lights are flashing, they should still use the Stop, Look, Listen, Think procedure to check that drivers have stopped.

Flashing crossing lights would

help drivers to see that it is a school crossing zone and that they have to drive at 40 km/h.

School zone flashing lights have proven to be effective in slowing drivers down and saving lives.

Studies have found flashing lights slow vehicle speed by about 7 km/h when they enter a school zone.



BOOK CHALLENGE: A teacher and students enjoy reading, hugs and rugs in the school playground.

Reading with rugs and many hugs

By **INDIANNA AUDDINO**
and **AMIE KEYWOOD**

ON May 10, students of St Patrick's Primary School, Swansea, took part in a special celebration for Mother's Day, combining it with the National Reading Month.

Now in its 17th year, National Reading Month is designed to get more children reading with their families.

Children were invited to

enter online and pledge to Read More in May.

The students were challenged to read for 15 minutes every day in the company of a family member.

To celebrate Mother's Day, the school librarian organised for the students and their mothers to come together for a liturgy and then mums were invited to stay and read with their children sitting on rugs in the beautiful play-

ground of St Patrick's School.

Mrs Devlin, the school librarian, said, "It was fantastic to see reading promoted and it gave people a chance for a read and a hug."

Eliza, a year 6 student, said, "It was a great way to have bonding time with my mum, grandma, my brother and some of his friends."

"Grandma read to us sitting on a rug over near the water. It was really relaxing."



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