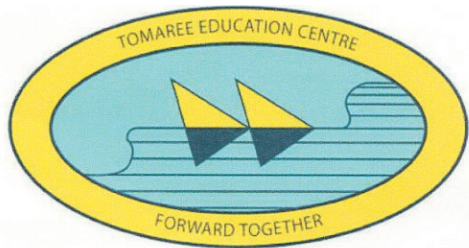
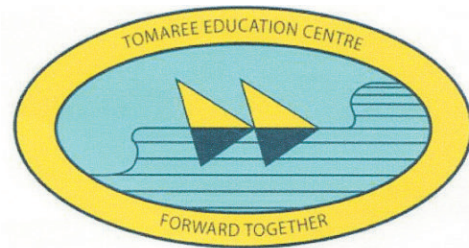


Primary entry #45: Tomaree Public School



TOMAREE TIMES



KOALA LAND: Tomaree students consider the furry residents.

Take care of coast area's native bears

By DANIELLE EVELEIGH
and MOLLY DAY

PORT Stephens has a reputation as a water wonderland with spectacular views, especially up in the trees.

The cuddly koala, a national icon, is a local at One Mile Beach in Port Stephens. Recently, Port Stephens Council erected koala signs in the area informing locals and tourists about the tree dwellers.

Port Stephens' koalas are fussy and prefer to eat a particular species of eucalypt. Unfortunately, the local koala habitat has been reduced and residents are working to establish new trees in the area and conserve established ones.

The Hunter Koala Preservation Society works around the clock to rescue koalas and to raise awareness of their plight by talking to community and school groups, plus caring for sick and injured animals.

According to Sue Swain, president of the Hunter Koala Preservation Society, koalas are under threat by dog attacks. Dog owners should keep their dogs on leads near koala habitats and properly secured in their backyards if they live nearby.

Koalas are also victims of motor vehicles and a sign on Gan Gan Road indicates how many have been lost this year.

It is important to take care of native animals as they are part of the attraction of the area.

By DANIELLE EVELEIGH
and MOLLY DAY

BIRUBI Beach residents will soon enjoy a new surf club as building gets under way at the site.

Sometimes referred to as Morna Point, most people know the area at the northern end of Stockton Beach as Birubi Beach.

Morna Point is the rocky point that Stockton Beach hits on its 40-kilometre stretch from Newcastle, and the new surf club will patrol the waters there that can produce powerful waves from strong ocean currents. The area is also known for shark attacks and is a white pointer breeding area.

A surf club comprising two separate buildings is being constructed with a caretaker's residence, public facilities and a large viewing area with direct access from the car park. A cafe, with indoor and outdoor seating, and a kiosk will be in one building and the other will have a club room, training facilities and storage space for surf rescue craft.

This will be a great facility that recognises the dedication and hard work of the members of one of the youngest surf clubs in the Hunter region.

Graeme Chamberlain, club captain of Birubi Point Surf Life Saving Club, said: "It has been a long time coming, but finally we have reached agreement with all



SURF AND TURF: Work is progressing on the new surf club and cafe at Morna Point.

the involved stakeholders and would like to thank the Worrimi people, Port Stephens council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service for their continued support.

"We would also like to mention the great and unfailing work that Trevor Peake from Peake Project

Services along with the team from EJE Architects who have come up with the fantastic proposal that over the next few months will become the basis for one of Port Stephens' greatest tourist attractions."

Mr Chamberlain said the club should be finished by November,

dependent on the weather. An expected increase in membership would alleviate the workload on existing club members, he said.

Let's hope the weather stays clear and sunny so that the project remains on schedule and everyone can begin enjoying the facilities and the wonderful location.



HISTORY THROUGH NEW EYES: Tomaree students learn about a local knapping site at Birubi.

Aboriginal artefacts uncovered

By DANIELLE EVELEIGH
and MOLLY DAY

WHEN the old Birubi clubhouse was being knocked down, Tomaree Public students went to check it out.

Surprisingly, they found a man digging in the dirt. When asked what he was doing, he said he was collecting Aboriginal artefacts that had been left lying around. Brett Chambers, the man in

question, is an Aboriginal sites officer whose role is to identify, record and protect Aboriginal sites.

These sites reveal information about Aboriginal people and their relationship with the environment. Birubi Beach, and its surroundings, has a number of sites of interest including shell middens and old burial grounds.

The artefacts found looked like regular rocks, but they

were used as knives for cutting and scaling fish. These tools were made with a hard hammer-stone used to abrade and flake the other stones, creating pointed edges.

The old surf club was built on this knapping site where stone tools and weapons were once fashioned.

There will be a cabinet in the new surf club to display any artefacts found on the building site.

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