

# Making Waves



A free community newsletter  
for Bar Beach, Merewether,  
Dixon Park, and The Junction

**October 2010**

Written contributions to the newsletter and images are welcome and should be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion in the following issue.

Enquiries, contributions, club news, advertising, sponsorship, ECopy  
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## See you Later Gabby!

Recently friends and workmates gathered to say goodbye to Gabby Schuerger as she bid farewell to Newcastle to take up a post in environmental research in Kauai, Hawaii. Gabby, from Nth Carolina USA has spent the past 18 months in Newcastle studying Environmental Science.

Along the way Gabby has left her mark on many people especially those who have come to know her through her study, her work, as she exercises along the beach, as she surfs the waves of Merewether, or simply as she shares her radiant smile and happy disposition.

Gabby may be remembered as our featured profile in the very first edition of this newsletter .

## Sal Stopover

Backpackers  
Tip #3

Backpacking has somehow evolved itself into a universal rite of passage for not just Australian youth, but the youth of the world. Travelling across the vast and diverse continent of Europe has opened my eyes to an entity of young travellers from all corners of the globe. To assist my fellow Australians embarking on this similar adventure, I provide

the following tip:

Be prepared. Unlike the Australian climate, you definitely cannot rely on the time of year or the season to deliver the weather you expect. Summer time in Europe pretty much means that the sun is going to be up for about eighteen of the twenty four hours of the day. That is all. Whether or not it is going to be warm or not in the middle of summer is a completely different story. For myself to be completely and utterly honest and useful in assisting you with packing for your European experience, I would therefore advise you that despite what you may think, you will need the following. A hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, compass, torch, tissues, lonely planet guide to Europe, maps of every large confusing city of the world, pocket knife, bottle opener, corkscrew, European phrasebooks, playing cards, bandaids, sorbelene, dettol, camera, matches, notebook, pen, nailclippers, European power plug adaptor, water bottle, aeroguard, washing powder, portable clothesline, boogie board bag, oh wait, maybe leave that one behind.



## You can take the boy out of Merewether ...

It was great to see internationally renowned chef Brett Graham take time out to relax with family and friends at Merewether Beach recently –even venturing into the surf! Brett “cleaned up” in London in this year’s Michelin guide with two Michelin stars at the Ledbury in Kensington and one star at his first food-led pub venture, the Harwood Arms in

Fulham. Brett was in Australia to participate in the 2010 Electrolux Appetite for Excellence Awards at both Glass Brasserie in Sydney and E’cco in Brisbane then travelled back to Newcastle for a taste of mum Jenny’s lasagne. I hear it is worth travelling half way round the world for!!!

## Around the Surf Clubs

Recently both Dixon Park and Merewether surf clubs held their AGM’s so joining Cooks Hill SLSC who held their AGM in July.

With summer just around the corner, we thought it timely to publish a list of Officebearers for these clubs for your reference.



PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER  
CLUB CAPTAIN

Andrew Howard  
David Knight  
Gary Martine  
Dan Solomon



PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER  
CLUB CAPTAIN

Stuart Barnett  
Lesley Faulkner  
Chris Laffey  
Dennis Shields

***This coming season Dixon Park SLSC has been chosen to host:***

- ***a round of the Peter’s Surf Boat Series - October 31 and***
- ***The last round and the final of the East Coast Surf Series – Dec 4 – 5***



PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER  
CLUB CAPTAIN

Ross Taggart  
Emma Gale  
Todd Cathcart  
Nick Newton

## Caring for the Coast



The Newcastle community voted the coast 'the city's most precious asset'. Trees in Newcastle (TIN) have made a long term commitment to keeping the coast intact for future generations.

Newcastle's narrow coastal strip has copped a pounding in the past. Wind has

blown sand halfway across Merewether, waves have washed Bar Beach back to bedrock, weeds have crawled across the dunes and headlands and wandering walkers have trampled tracks.

Wind and waves continuously shape the coast and in days gone by Merewether Beach looked quite different. A hind dune probably covered by coastal heath plants, extended along the beach and the foredunes were very steep and held together by Spinifex. The shifting sands of the dynamic dunes were endlessly washed away, and built up again, as part of the ebb and flow of coastal processes.

Bitou Bush is an environmental weed that is choking the coast. It was first recorded in Australia near Newcastle in about 1908, probably introduced through the dumping of ships' ballast. Wherever you walk along the coast you can often see bright yellow chrysanthemum - like flowers on sprawling shrubs. Bitou Bush is listed as a Key Threatening Process to native plant communities because it can smother every native plant in its path, even on cliff faces.

Since 2003 Trees in Newcastle's volunteers have been working on the strip between King Edward Park, through Strzelecki, Bar Beach, Dixon Park, Merewether, and Burwood Beaches, removing Bitou Bush and establishing an endangered coastal plant community. They are planting back native vegetation that will thrive and survive in the harsh coastal conditions, stabilise the dunes and provide habitat for native birds and wildlife.

Would you like to do your bit for the beach? You can do something every day by keeping to pathways, lending hand on the sand or planting local natives in your garden.

***If you would like more information about our activities contact Jenny Robinson, Environmental Education Manager. MOB 0410459945 or visit [www.treesinnnewcastle.org.au](http://www.treesinnnewcastle.org.au)***

## Riding the Crystal Highway

From every quarter today, we are encouraged to exercise. And green eco-friendly exercise is particularly encouraged.

To this end Newcastle City Council is working to roll out a cycling network which plans to provide a safe and convenient network of cycleways and improve conditions for cyclists on a regional and local level from Fernleigh Track, to a Harbour ride from Merewether Beach following the Bathers Way Coastal Walk past six enticing sandy beaches to Nobby's Beach.

One of my favourite rides was down to Carrington then along the harbour foreshore round to Nobby's and Newcastle baths.

I even became quite adventurous one day and cycled from Merewether to my gym at Mayfield. It could have been a really enjoyable ride but I soon realised that I was in a fairly precarious situation – not because of the trucks and traffic on the road - as most people would have suspected. No, it was a far more insidious problem for one not used to riding the “crystal highway”. It was the trail of broken glass, both on the road in the marked cycle lane, but also on the footpath twinkling in the sunlight - everywhere you looked there were the insidious glittering crystals. The knowledge that I was not equipped to repair a puncture and the thought of a very long walk home pushing a bike with a very flat tyre was particularly off-putting.

After a 6 months hiatus from riding, I finally “got back on the bike” last week and took a short ride around our local neighbourhood. Maybe my mistake was to ride in the back streets but I doubt it, as once again, my ride was soured by the amount of broken glass that I encountered wherever I rode.

It was certainly no surprise to find the following morning that one of my tyres was completely flat, so I set to renew my acquaintance with my trusty puncture repair kit! Later that day I discussed my experience with a friend who rides regularly and she told me that 3 punctures marred her bicycle ride of the previous weekend –at least as a regular rider - she was prepared!

Broken glass has become an occupational hazard of the bike rider. This is our community – and broken glass seems to be an ever increasing problem in our streets and on our footpaths. No cycling network plan by our council is going to be successful unless this scourge is addressed as part of the planning.

*I am still wondering when Smith Street became a part of the “Crystal Highway.”*



**Not just any dog -  
Rastus - “Da Man”!**



**MONDAYS** Steak Night – \$12.90

**TUESDAYS** Pasta - \$9.90 and Pool Comp

**WEDNESDAYS** Schnitzel Night - \$9.90 and Trivia

**THURSDAYS** Mexican Fiesta Fun - \$9.90 and Original Soloists  
Corona Promotion - \$4.90

**SUNDAYS** 4 – 7PM UDL Promotion - \$5

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### A day in October



Well known Merewether identity Graham **Tamba** Adam has been keeping a daily record of

events for over 30 years. Each month he shares a day from his life.

Went to Shoal Bay for the weekend. I usually stay at a small motel just down from the Country Club.

Went for a paddle on my 12 foot ski from Shoal Bay to Fingal Bay Spit and around the lighthouse Island. Caught some great waves at the Spit.

The Spit, for those who don't know it is like a different world, no people and pure blue water.

### Saturday, October 5, 1996

On the way back to Shoal Bay, between Zenith Beach and Port Stephens Heads I had a feeling that I was not by myself. As I looked to my right I saw a VERY large shark – as big as my ski!

I turned back to the left and beached myself at Zenith and with my ski over my shoulder, I walked back to Shoal Bay.

At the Country Club that night I was talking to some old fishermen and told them of my experience that day. They then told me that there had been numerous recent sightings of a big tiger Shark approx 12-15 feet long in that area!

Footnote: In 2009, in the same area, an experienced Fingal Bay ski paddler, Heath Milne was attacked by what he described as a "bull shark" 2-3 metres in length. The shark rammed his ski, splitting it down 1 side and catapulted Heath into the water. He later said "This has been a bit of a wake-up call for me. I'm just glad I've still got all my limbs".



## The Junction Public School's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Weekend

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October

### Friday 22 October 2010

School Open Day (10.00am - 3.00pm):

- 10.00am – Official Opening Ceremony
- 11.00am – Morning Tea
- 11.45am – Open Classrooms / Hall Displays
- 12.30pm – Luncheon / BBQ
- 1.30pm – Students Afternoon Celebrations
- 6.30pm - Friday Evening – Student and Teacher Reunion
- Venue – Souths Leagues Club

### Saturday 23 October 2010

Community Fun Day (10.00am - 5.00pm):

- 11.00am – Sealing Time-Capsule
- 10.00am - 12.00pm – Live Performance Sites around the school
- 12.00pm – 2.00pm – “The Junction’s Got Talent” Talent Quest
- 2.00pm - 5.00pm – Live Performance Sites around the school
- From 5.00pm - Family Bush Dance Evening – “Celtic Beat”
- BYO Picnic Dinner or food stalls available

### Sunday 24 October 2010

Open Morning (10.00am – 1.00pm)



*Pictured: Leigh Hainsworth (nee Snelson) carrying the time capsule which was buried at the Bicentennial Celebrations in 1988.*

*This time capsule was buried near the front gate.*

**For more information, or to send your memories of  
TJPS, contact:**

<http://www.tjps150.com/>



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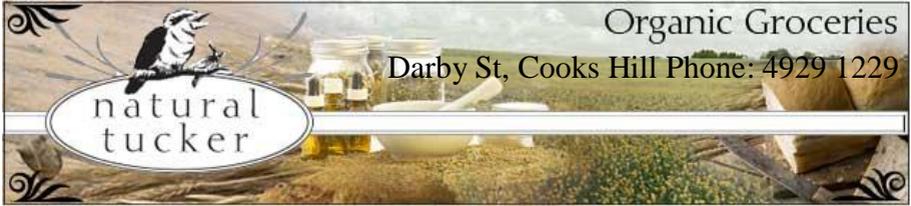
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NEWCASTLE - OCTOBER 2010						
LAT 32° 56'		LONG 151° 47'		TIME ZONE UTC +10HRS		
TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS						
<span style="font-size: small;">■ Denotes Public Holidays</span>						
SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
TIME M	TIME M	TIME M	TIME M	TIME M	TIME M	TIME M
<b>31</b> 0236 1.26 0806 0.67 1431 1.59 2119 0.39					<b>1</b> ● 0131 1.13 0702 0.67 1345 1.54 2046 0.52	<b>2</b> 0252 1.15 0819 0.67 1459 1.57 2155 0.44
<b>3</b> 0405 1.23 0936 0.61 1608 1.64 2252 0.35	<b>4</b> 0504 1.36 1045 0.51 1708 1.72 2342 0.25	<b>5</b> 0556 1.50 1145 0.40 1802 1.77	<b>6</b> 0027 0.18 0644 1.64 1242 0.30 1854 1.78	<b>7</b> 0110 0.15 0730 1.76 1336 0.22 1945 1.74	<b>8</b> ● 0152 0.16 0815 1.85 1430 0.19 2036 1.66	<b>9</b> 0234 0.22 0902 1.89 1524 0.19 2128 1.55
<b>10</b> 0317 0.30 0948 1.89 1618 0.24 2219 1.43	<b>11</b> 0400 0.41 1035 1.84 1714 0.31 2313 1.31	<b>12</b> 0445 0.52 1122 1.75 1810 0.40	<b>13</b> 0008 1.22 0534 0.62 1212 1.65 1911 0.48	<b>14</b> 0108 1.15 0629 0.71 1307 1.54 2013 0.54	<b>15</b> ○ 0216 1.14 0733 0.76 1409 1.46 2114 0.56	<b>16</b> 0326 1.16 0845 0.77 1515 1.42 2208 0.55
<b>17</b> 0424 1.23 0955 0.74 1616 1.42 2254 0.51	<b>18</b> 0511 1.32 1056 0.68 1708 1.44 2333 0.47	<b>19</b> 0551 1.40 1147 0.61 1752 1.46	<b>20</b> 0008 0.43 0628 1.49 1231 0.54 1832 1.47	<b>21</b> 0040 0.41 0701 1.57 1311 0.48 1910 1.46	<b>22</b> 0111 0.40 0734 1.64 1349 0.42 1947 1.45	<b>23</b> ○ 0141 0.40 0807 1.70 1427 0.39 2026 1.42
<b>24</b> 0213 0.42 0841 1.74 1506 0.37 2105 1.39	<b>25</b> 0246 0.45 0917 1.76 1546 0.36 2147 1.34	<b>26</b> 0323 0.49 0956 1.76 1630 0.38 2232 1.30	<b>27</b> 0403 0.54 1038 1.73 1719 0.41 2322 1.25	<b>28</b> 0450 0.60 1125 1.69 1814 0.43	<b>29</b> 0019 1.22 0546 0.64 1219 1.64 1915 0.44	<b>30</b> ● 0126 1.21 0652 0.67 1321 1.61 2018 0.43



Image by Samantha

## Merewether SLSC – the feminine touch.

This year Merewether SLSC's womens veterans 120 team of Toni Lee, Emma Gale, Amy Walker and Rebecca Wolf assisted by Mick Rees (sweep) won the first gold medal in surfboats in the history of the club at the Australian Surf Lifesaving Masters Championships.

That win prompted me to look back on the role of women in the development of the club.

The original ladies swimming club – Merewether Ladies ASC sprang from the same public meeting that founded MSLSLSC in 1908. It had 90 members and was presided over by Mrs McDougall. It seems that this club did not survive but another more successful move was made in the 1920's.

The ladies met in a small shelter shed on the side of the hill open to the 4 winds recalls Eva Holebrook (Mrs Winter). Their early races were held in still water and included races for girls. In the 1920's when surf carnivals commenced there was even the occasional women's surf race.

With much fanfare, 14 March, 1931 saw the

opening of a clubhouse (cost £202) by the Mayor of Merewether (Ald. Rowlands). This clubhouse was purpose built by Mr Sowerby of Merewether for the Merewether Ladies ASC. The large crowd present testified to the popularity of the club.

Around 1930, Mrs Winter also recalls a visit to the beach by Eva Novak (a



film star of the silent era) probably to promote the film “For the Term of his Natural Life” which was partly filmed in the area.

The advent of Ladies March Past teams in the 1950’s represented the first widespread movement which acted as a portent for the future when membership of the surf club would be open to all.

It culminated this year with the 1<sup>st</sup> surfboat Australian title to be won by Merewether SLSC by the 4 courageous women who battled horrendous surf conditions to win Gold at the Australian Titles and add their names to the proud history of Merewether SLSC.



## Cricket – at the Rugby!



Well known local identity James “Cricket” Johnson was given his nickname many years ago when as a youngster at The Junction Primary School, he was chosen as a representative in the Australian schoolboys

cricket team....and he has carried the nickname ever since. When questioned, “Cricket” wasn’t prepared to divulge what year that was!

At the last home game of the Greens at Townson Oval “Cricket” shirts were “de rigueur”...Sponsored by Jack Arkless of Natural Tucker in Darby Street - noticeably in “Carlton Green” .

The story goes that “Cricket” seems to miss out every time Jack distributes shirts with his business logo on them so Jack commissioned a special set of “Cricket” emblazoned shirts – The look on “Cricket’s face says it all!

# Madam Susie Sparkles

## October

### Astrology Guide



	<b>Virgo</b> August 24 – September 23 The moon is casting a shade across your sign this month and this is foreseeing trouble in your life from an older female. Be wary of a hormonal mother-in-law, work colleague or acquaintance with a fiery temper.
	<b>Libra</b> September 24 – October 23 Change is as good as a holiday, so they say. This may be true for some but for Librans a sudden change turns everything upside down and you find yourself at the pub not just Friday night, but Thursday, Wednesday, Tuesday and Monday nights as well.
	<b>Scorpio</b> October 24 – November 22 You find yourself feeling considerably reckless, impatient and toey around the middle of this month. They say love comes to those who wait. So keep waiting.
	<b>Sagittarius</b> November 23 – December 22 There's nothing like a hung parliament to make you feel safe and secure in your own country. Maybe you should consider not donkey voting for once and take an election seriously.
	<b>Capricorn</b> December 23 – January 20 Expect a considerable financial gain somewhere between the 2nd and 4th of this month. Spend it quickly as the 25th finds you lose a considerable amount when some unforeseen expenses pop up.
	<b>Aquarius</b> January 21 – February 19 You generally are the creative type with a flair for being witty and imaginative. Unfortunately, this month your quick wit finds you in some hot water with a parking inspector who doesn't share your sense of humour.
	<b>Pisces</b> February 20 <sup>th</sup> – March 20 <sup>th</sup> Unfortunately for both your neck and the front of your car, you find out this month just why exactly you shouldn't drive your car whilst you're on your mobile phone.
	<b>Aries</b> March 21 to April 19 Be wary of one legged pigeons around the coast. Amputee birds tend to have an increased knack at swooping unsuspecting passersby and leaving considerable damage to the cranium and nose. Maybe wear a hat until November.
	<b>Taurus</b> April 21 – May 20 Your lack of natural ability means you're all too often trying to rely on luck. If you want things to start working out right you need to concentrate harder to make up for your complete lack of co-ordination.
	<b>Gemini</b> May 21 – June 21 Behind those large eyes of yours hides a secret deep within. Something in your past is going to come out around the 13th this month and reveal that you're not as innocent as you make out.
	<b>Cancer</b> June 22 – July 23 A lucky punt on the horses on the 19th finds you a couple of hundred dollars richer. You decide to shout all your mates' dinner and for a short while they all love you. For a short while that is.
	<b>Leo</b> July 24 – August 23 Many hands make light work. Too many hands spoil the broth. Ever noticed how many proverbs contradict one another. Instead of trying to use proverbs to make yourself sound intelligent this month, try and come up with some of your own.

## Merewether Baths Cleaning Schedule

### October 2010

01.10.10	Friday	3.00pm	0.4
04.10.10	Monday	8.00am	0.4
08.10.10	Friday	11.00am	0.1
11.10.10	Monday	1.30pm	0.2
15.10.10	Friday	4.30am	0.7
18.10.10	Monday	8.00am	0.6
22.10.10	Friday	10.30am	0.3
25.10.10	Monday	12.30pm	0.3
29.10.10	Friday	2.30pm	0.4

**Note:** Cleaning may be altered if the weather conditions are unsuitable

Image by Jenny R



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