

Safer walking and cycling pathways

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"To this end, CALSCA is actively consulting the 2000 people in the greater Snug area about their experience moving between neighbourhoods without a car," Mr Mount continued.

"The early results of the consultation are stark. About 90 per cent of respondents feel unsafe or very unsafe walking or cycling on the roads.

"Car drivers indicate the same high levels of concern when passing walkers or cyclists," Mr Mount said.

CALSCA has also completed a geographic analysis into the issues and potential solutions which found that there are no safe ways to walk, run or cycle between Snug and Lower Snug and into Coningham due to narrow roads and verges, high traffic volumes, blind corners and lack of footpaths.

Mr Mount remarked that particularly for children, older and less able residents, the risks are higher but noted the extensive track and trail network through the area which could make the area more accessible and allow for safe travel by closing gaps between tracks.

In a letter of support, Ange Andrews at the Snug Primary School, explained that all the staff are fully supportive of better bicycle and walking tracks to Lower Snug and Coningham after seeing the benefits of the shared pathway running through Electrona to Snug, with greatly increased use of the pathway by the students and their families to get to and from school.

According to CALSCA, local services and businesses including the Snug Tavern and Matt Baxter of Baxter's IGA, are also very supportive of improved non-car

access in and out of Snug.

To discuss the issues and solutions, CALSCA hosted a public meeting on Saturday, February 22, at the Snug Hall. Attended by about 25 people including Mayor of Kingborough, Cr Dean Winter, and Cr Gideon Cordover, the meeting showed that there was interest in improving the connections between the local communities.

Mayor Winter commented that the forum was brilliant and it would be natural to extend the shared path further. "We are so proud of the shared path between Margate and Snug," Mayor Winter commented.

"We are seeing more kids and families walking or riding between the towns and that's a fantastic outcome. It is not surprising that the success of this has led to calls for its expansion.

"We have been working with the State Government around the expansion of the shared path north from Margate to Kingston, but it also makes sense to expand it further south.

"It was great to hear local people talking about transport challenges and opportunities.

"I like the idea of treating Snug, Lower Snug and Coningham as a single catchment and building better links between them.

"Over 2,000 people live there and their case is being well made by the Coningham and Lower Snug Community Association," Mayor Winter concluded.

According to CALSCA, the highest priority work identified at the meeting was an extension of the shared walking and cycling pathway from Snug to Lower Snug, although some at the meeting expressed concerns that future work would need to be sensitively done to minimise environmental or social impacts.



Peter Gregory has very limited vision of approximately 25 per cent and can no longer drive, but that doesn't stop him overcoming his safety concerns and walking into Snug from Lower Snug 3-4 times a week to buy the newspaper and go to the post office, the chemist or the doctor. (PS)

CALSCA believes the next step is to conduct a feasibility study that identifies specific pieces of work and their costs that systematically address the black spots and bridge the gaps in the existing, extensive track and trail network.

More information is available at the Coningham and Lower Snug Community Association website and the CALSCA survey is still open and available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cnocar>



Adventure Patch celebrated their 40th anniversary at the Kingston Primary School oval on Saturday, February 29 with a range of fun activities for children and families including sponge catapults (pictured left), bush and nature craft (pictured right), jumping castles, face painting and a pop up playground. There was also a free sausage sizzle, ice cream and coffee for those who came along to the celebration. (PS)

Skills for parents

On Monday, February 24 and Tuesday, February 25 Margate Primary School's very active Parents and Friends Association hosted Steve Biddulph, who spoke to Kingborough families about raising children.

Mr Biddulph is one of the world's best-known educators and has been an international psychologist for 30 years and gave a talk on raising girls and on raising boys.

A delicious supper was provided by the Margate Primary School's Parents and Friends Association.

Both evenings were a sell out with over six hundred people attending over the two nights.

"Margate Primary School has bought several of his books including 'Raising Girls', 'Raising Boys' and 'Manhood'," said a spokesperson for the school.

"They are available in the library and we encourage families to come in and borrow these at any time.

"We have also gathered a number of other parenting resources and invite families to borrow these as well.

"Special thanks to the Margate Parents and Friends Association for organising such an important and wonderful event for our local community," concluded the statement from Margate Primary.



Margate Primary School's Parents and Friends Association recently hosted international psychologist and author Steve Biddulph (second right). (PS)