

SNAPSHOT

Model search

THE regional model search for Miss Country Girl Australia was held at Centro Lake Macquarie shopping centre last weekend, with Jade Mason taking out the top prize. Ms Mason won some fantastic prizes for her efforts, including a modeling portfolio shoot worth more than \$2000, gift packs and vouchers from Centro Lake Macquarie. Ms Mason joined second place winner Allira Jaques at the finals on Tuesday night where the winner would gain entry to the final of Miss Universe Australia. As *The Post* went to print, the winner was yet to be announced.

Medication funding

INCREASED government funding for a medication that prevents growth of cells involved in a cancer that attacks bone marrow has been welcomed by a leading medical expert.

Professor Miles Prince, chairman of the Myeloma Foundation's scientific advisory group, said the Government's decision to fund Velcade for more patients with multiple myeloma would "bolster the fight against this deadly cancer". The medication uses a unique mechanism to interfere with the ability of the cancer cells to function and spread.

School goes green

THIS Thursday, Rathmines Public School students will help make practical environment changes within their local communities and do their part in saving the environment by participating in the Green Up Clean Up fund-raiser. Over the past few weeks, students have been seeking sponsorship to establish a school vegetable garden. The Green Up Clean Up program lets students do their bit for the environment while fund-raising.

Flying festival to hit the water



By **MICHAEL BLAXLAND**

ALL things aeronautical will be celebrated at Rathmines this weekend.

The Catalina festival on Saturday (October 24) will celebrate the efforts to restore one of the Catalina flying boats which were once a regular sight over Lake Macquarie. Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd has joined forces with the Lake Macquarie Historical Society and the Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park Trust to have the plane permanently housed at the Rathmines airbase. Philip Dulhunty, of the Catalina Flying Memorial, said Catalina seaplanes played a vital role in protecting Australia during World War II.

"During World War II, Rathmines was the southern hemisphere's largest flying boat base and was home to many of the 168 RAAF Catalinas during and after WWII," he said.

"Few Catalinas exist in the world today, but we were lucky enough to acquire one in Portugal earlier this year. The Memorial is currently restoring her at Bankstown airport in Sydney and hopes to fly the Catalina to Rathmines for ANZAC Day next year. "Our eventual aim is to have the people of Lake Macquarie and tourists alike enjoy flights over the lake in a rare Catalina flying boat, while preserving a vital part of Australian history."

The program for Saturday's festival will include a flypast by an 11 Sqn P3-C Orion, the seaplanes present on the day and DH 82 Tiger Moths and other vintage aircraft, courtesy of the Luskintigers.

There will also be displays, including WWII army vehicles and guns, Irish and tap dancers, choirs, children's amusements, stalls, food vans, camel rides and vintage cars and bikes.

People who would like to learn how they can participate in the restoration effort can talk to members of the restoration team at the festival, call Colin Cool on 0402 060 527 or go to catalinaflying.org.au.



WATERBIRD: PBVH-CAT landing at Rathmines after the ferry flight from Portugal in December, 2008.