



News Articles
-CPA

Choirs showcase talent

By ANTONY FIELD

Students from 21 primary schools will be raising the roof at The Shellharbour Club this week during the Southern Illawarra Music Festival.

The festival is held over four nights from 7.30pm and started on Monday, with the final performance tomorrow night. Now in its 38th year, the event brings together public school choirs from Mount St Thomas to Berry for a celebration of song and music.

Karen Klepczarek is one of three festival musical directors. The Dapto Public School assistant principal is also in charge of Dapto's choir, along with Renae Harman.

Mrs Klepczarek said the choirs would sing nine songs together, including *You Raise Me Up*, *Timewarp* and *I've Got the Music in Me*.

"Each school also does two individual items as well," she said.

The festival is not a competition but a showcase of choirs, giving them a chance to perform together.

"There's lot of teachers that put in many, many hours to get this up and running. We all take it on as an added extra... but when we see the look on the kids' faces and the joy it brings to them you get inspired again."

A CD of the songs is given to the schools, but they all



In tune: Dapto Public School choir members Brenna McCauley, Jordan Hilton, Thomas Nicholls, Georgia Burnett, Conor Rogers, Madison Brown and Katie Barclay. Picture: ROBERT PEET

only practise together twice. A different set of five or six schools rehearse during the day and then perform that night. The festival is usually a sellout – for tickets contact your local school.

■ Schools: Dapto, Farmborough Rd, Albion Park,

Gerringong, Kiama, Mount Saint Thomas, Flinders, Jambaroo, Hayes Park, Figtree Heights, Shell Cove, Oak Flats, Mt Warrigal, Mt Terry, Lakelands, Balarang, Minnamurra, Warilla North, Barrack Heights, Berry and Koonawarra.





Like bees to honey: spelling's hive of activity



Busy bees ... Andrea Farrugia, Chloe Hortan, Hayden Callaway and Kristie Beedie, South Coast public school pupils, sing the praises of spelling at the opening of this year's Premier's Spelling Bee. Photo: Robert Pearce

Harriet Alexander

IT IS not easy to be queen bee when it comes to spelling.

The junior winner of last year's Premier's Spelling Bee was doubtful about what advice she could give to the hopeful masses vying for her mantle at this year's event.

"They could possibly read the dictionary," she offered.

Meredith Cheng, 8, will line up for the challenge again, despite bombing out on the word stratosphere in a mini-replay of last year's grand final to celebrate the official opening of this year's competition yesterday.

She was beaten by last year's runner-up, Mark Bosch, who happily agreed with Meredith's gracious explanation for the upset - that he had the easier words. "I was lucky," he said.

A record 58,000 students from more than 2200 schools are competing to represent their schools

at the regional finals next month, bringing participation to about four times what it was last year.

Meredith and Mark will be among them, but they will not meet each other because Mark has graduated to the senior competition.

The junior division is for years

three and four, and the senior one for years five and six.

Mark's advice to participants was to visualise the word as they spelled it.

But any children who find themselves competing with Meredith need not be intimidated, especially if they have the ability

to receive psychic signals. "I know most of the [words] that the others get wrong, and if I know it, I try to send it to them," she said.

The NSW Minister for Education, John Della Bosca, said the competition was part of the Government's push to improve literacy in schools.



All fired up: Nicola Barbour, 9, and some of the cute pigs she and her fellow Year 4 classmates created in a craft class teaching them the fun and basics of pottery.
Picture: WAYNE VENABLES

Dapto pupils pig out but it's a work of art

By MICHELE TYDD

PIGS are flying at Dapto Public School ... flying straight out of the potter's kiln.

The school is one of the few in the state which has its own potter to go with its new digital kiln.

Terry Wilson is helping all 700 students fashion their own porker from clay.

Mr Wilson is a retired teacher who

never really retired. "I've been working as a casual since I retired in 2000 and I love teaching the kids to pot," he said.

"I started potting in the late '70s as an interest and went on to TAFE to learn more."

Pigs are the staple in the art class because they are a good model on which to practice the basics of figure potting.

"I'm constantly amazed at the different

interpretations - each child comes up with a pig which is a little bit different from the one before it," Mr Wilson said. Eventually all the pigs will go with their maker.

"They are really good, solid pigs, which are well-designed and well-made so I'm sure any parent would be delighted to receive one at Christmas," school principal Ann Henniker said.

20. 12. 07

Emily's card impresses

DEPICTIONS of colourful gifts, reindeers, snowmen, the nativity scene and a partying Santa were among this year's entrants into Member for Shellharbour Lylea McMahon's Christmas Card Design Competition.

The competition involved 180 year three students from six schools across the region and winners' were announced at the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre last week.

Winner of the competition was Dapto Public School student Emily Smith with her drawing of a snowman surrounded by snowflakes. Emily's drawing will now grace the cover of over 500 of Ms McMahon's Christmas Cards.

Finalists for the competition were Taylor Jensen, from Dapto Public School, Chelsea Argument, from Mt Brown Public School, Charlotte Northey, from Lake Illawarra South Public School, and Isabel Corman, from Lakelands Primary School.



• Winner Emily Smith, finalist Chelsea Argument, Member for Shellharbour Lylea McMahon and finalists Taylor Jensen and Isabel Corman.

Eye of the beholder

IQ showcases art from students and teachers



Title: *Picasso Face.*
Medium: Oil pastels.
Artist: Tylah Green.

Tylah Green is in Year 2 at Dapto Public School. "We did these abstract art portraits using shapes and bright colours," she said.

"We used oil pastels to colour them in."

Know any artists? Send your nominations: education@illawarramercury.com.au or phone 4221 2329.



Art skills put kids in control

KATE McILWAIN

READING, writing and mathematics are important at Dapto Public School, but it is creative subjects such as art, music and drama that are really prized.

The school has a host of successful dance, choir and art programs, which visual arts teacher Andrew Hedger said helped students to thrive in more academic areas.

"We have a strong belief that these creative arts programs build children's self-esteem and lead to success in other areas of learning, and our key ethos is that success in those areas leads to success in other areas," he said.

To celebrate this creativity, the school this week turned its library into a gallery of more than 1500 student artworks including photographs, digital art, paintings, drawings and sculptures.

"We have the gallery at the school each year and every student has at least one or two works on show," Mr Hedger said.

"Visual arts is important because it helps children to become visually literate, which means they are able to look at images and talk about what they mean."

He said these skills were vital for today's students, who were faced with a world full of advertising and other visual media.



All eyes on them: Dapto Public School students with lots of the children's artworks inside their temporary art gallery in the school library. Mikayla Gumm (from left), James Healey, Tess Crawley and Aiden McLean.

Picture: ANDY ZAKELI



Picture:
courtesy Dapto
Public School

Dapto Public School Year 6 students (left to right) Ryan Slabb, Hannah Mitchell, Langland Lo, Mel Angeli Stott, Erinn Powell, Nathan Paull, Tiarne Peacock and Brendan Fittler.

Mural for a month

Showcasing the achievements
of students, teachers and parents.

DAPTO Public School's artwork will be on display at the Ribbonwood Centre from next month for the whole community to see.

Year 6 students have designed and painted a mural of the rare greenhood orchid that is indigenous to the area.

The mural is one of many being painted by students and artists in the Dapto area. The murals will be mounted on the



outside wall of the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre for two years.

The Illawarra greenhood orchid, *Pterostylis gibbosa*, is an extremely rare orchid and is only presently found on a few hectares of land south of

Wollongong, including Yallah and Albion Park.

It is found in open woodland areas on flat or gently sloping land. It is a deciduous terrestrial plant characterised by green, hood-shaped flowers that appear from late August to late November. The flowering stem is only 45cm tall with three to seven flowers present.

Pterostylis gibbosa is listed as an endangered species.

Anyone living in the Dapto area who is interested in painting a mural should contact Jan Noble on 4251 7777 at the Ribbonwood Centre.

Kallie paints up a storm

Eye of the beholder



IQ showcases art from students and teachers

Title: Umbrellas in a storm

Medium: oil pastels

Artist: Kallie Janevski

"I am in class 5PB at Dapto Public School. We do visual arts on Fridays. First, we painted the art paper using swirls mixing black and white paint together. Then we designed three umbrellas using cool colours in oil pastels. We outlined them in black oil pastel."

Know any artists?

Send your

nominations:

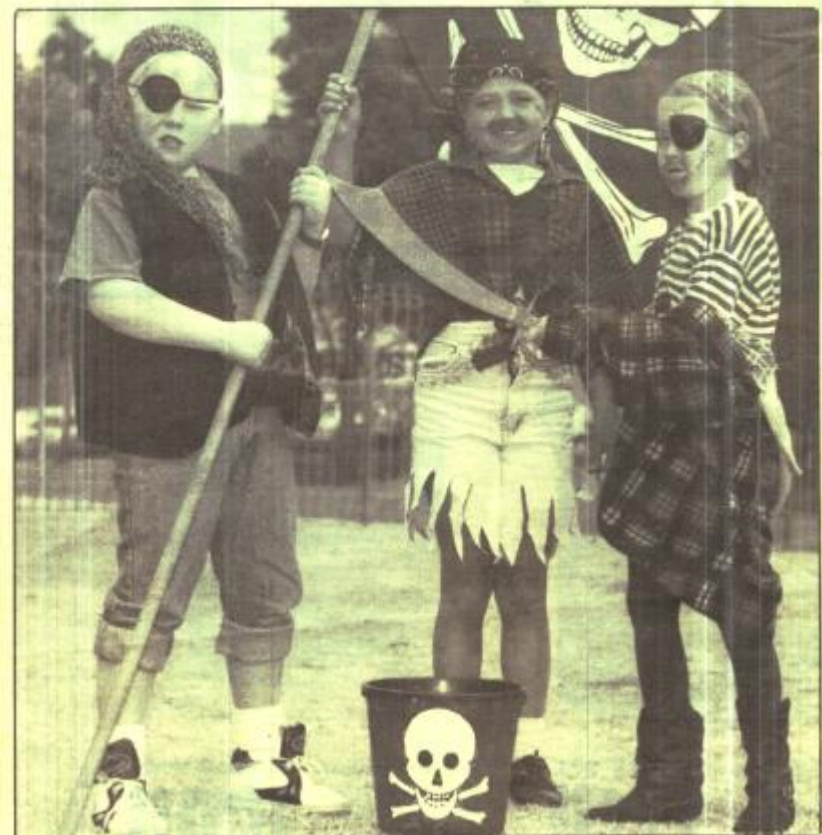
education@

llawarra-

mercury.com.au or

phone 4221 2329.





School play is a blast from past

By KERRY SKINNER

Putting on a school production is a big job but when it involves every student in the school the task becomes monumental.

That's the target Dapto Public School teachers and pupils set themselves and achieved with consummate ease.

The concert titled Remember When was produced to celebrate Education Week and went off without a hitch at its first public showing yesterday. Another performance will take place today.

Dapto principal John Vernon said the school had set out to ensure that all 460 students appeared on stage at least once.

The production included plays, dancing, singing and gymnastics and took a peep into the past as well as comparing the 'old days' with some of today's activities.

A special feature was a performance put together by the school's Japanese teacher Tomoko Suzuki and some of her

DAPTO

students.

Meantime, Mt Brown Primary School is celebrating Education Week today with combined scripture lessons this morning and peer friendship activities titled Doing Things Together from 11.15am to 3pm.

The school band will perform at Shellharbour Square tomorrow.

At Mt St Thomas Public School teachers and pupils are proudly showing off their new all-weather facility which was opened last Friday by schools' South Coast assistant director general Mr Steve Buckley.

The long-awaited facility, affectionately tagged 'The Shed' will provide shelter for students from the sun and rain as well as providing a venue for assemblies, drama and sporting activities.

mercury

Life in all its richness captured through a child's eye



Little snappers: Jack Benn, James Healey, Tara Bonnie, Conor Rogers and Mykenzie Covington with photos from the Dapto Public School photo exhibition. Picture: ADAM McLEAN

HANNAH McMANUS

DAPTO Public School hall was bursting with colour yesterday thanks to an exhibition of hundreds of photographs taken by students.

Almost 500 photos were on display as part of the school's creative arts and technology

program. "All the photos are taken by students from years 3 to 6. Each child has at least one of their photos displayed," creative arts and technology teacher Andrew Hedger said.

The program, taught by Mr Hedger and Suellen Brockwell, showed students how to compose photographs, obtain interesting

subject matter and use editing software.

"We have a very successful creative arts program and this is just one way of helping the kids succeed in creating something themselves," Mr Hedger said.

The program also proved a hit with the students.

"It was fun! When I got home I

was so excited I told my parents everything!" Ben, from year 6, said.

"I liked walking around the school and thinking about what to take a photo of.

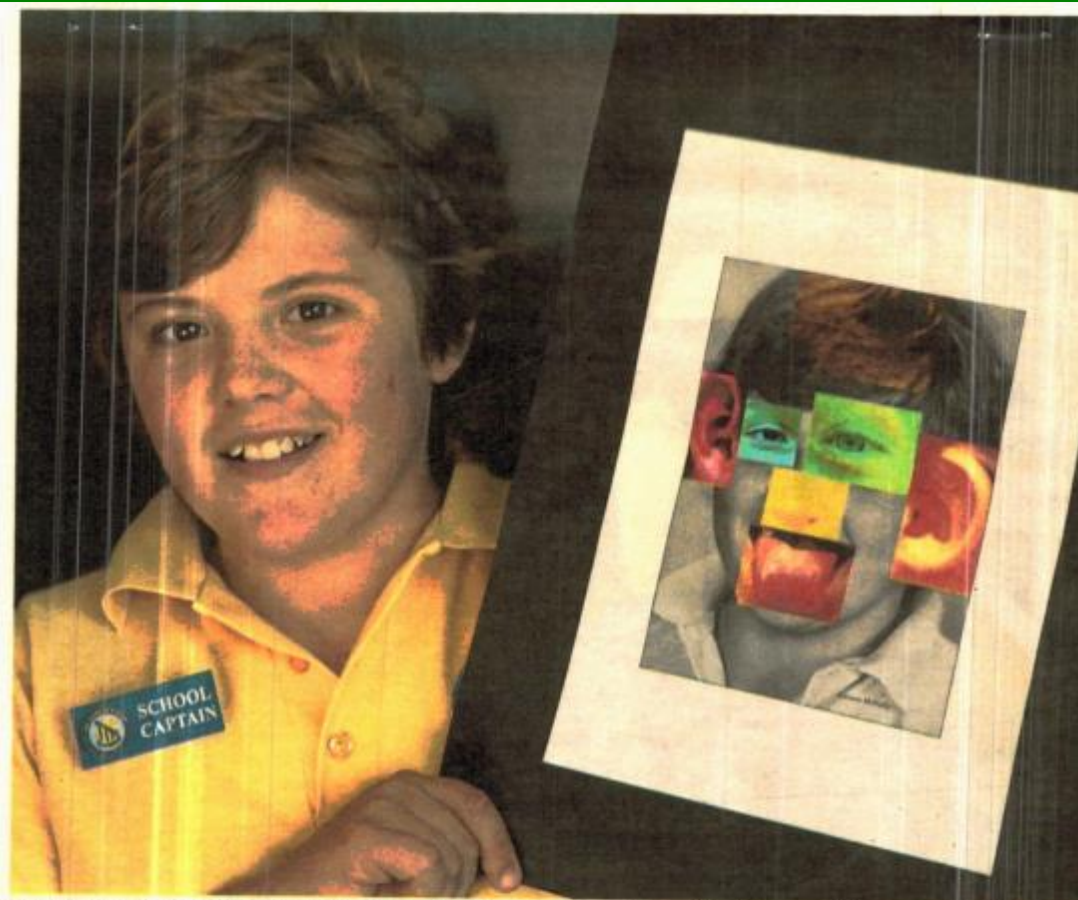
"I also liked editing the photos to make them cool instead of boring."

A special guest at the exhibi-

tion was former Dapto Public School student and Vietnam War photographer John Fairley.

Photographs could be purchased for a gold coin donation.

"We're proud of what the kids have achieved. We couldn't have done it without the enormous help from other teachers and staff," Mr Hedger said.



Computer cubism: Connor McNally with the work that has earned him statewide recognition. Picture: GREG TOTMAN

Young Picasso inspired by master

KATE MCILWAIN

A DIGITAL take on Pablo Picasso's striking cubist paintings has earned Dapto Public School captain Connor McNally a statewide accolade.

To create his masterpiece, the 11-year-old artist took close-up photos of his classmates' faces and superimposed them over his own school photo using computer software.

"I changed the different

faces into different colours and sizes and then I just used my imagination, I guess," he said.

The vibrant result was selected as one of two state finalists in a Department of Education art challenge for primary school children across NSW.

Part of the department's annual "WeCreate" digital awards, the challenge asked students to put their digital art skills to the test in a homage to the prolific Spanish master.

Connor's final piece was inspired by the combination of 2D and 3D art forms seen in Picasso's cubist period and echoes the sentiments of the painter's famous anti-war masterpiece *Guernica*.

"I think my artwork probably stood out because of the weirdness of it and I guess it also represents how we feel as a country when we're all combined together," he said.

Although he has

demonstrated some of Picasso's prodigious artistic talent, Connor likes to concentrate on maths and sport.

"They're my favourite subjects, but sometimes at home I draw or colour in and I really like to build Lego using computer software," he said.

"But as soon as I heard from Mum that I was a finalist in this competition I couldn't stop smiling and I couldn't even eat my food properly."





Eye of the beholder

IQ showcases art from students and teachers



Title: Untitled.
Medium: Photography
Artist:
Public School.

What was the inspiration for your work?

Macro photography.

What do you like about it?

I like taking photos because of how amazing they turn out.

What do you like most about making art?

I like how great it turns out.

Know any artists? Send your nominations to: education@illawarramercury.com.au or phone 4221 2618.

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Artist: Bridget Hennah

This photograph (below) by Dapto Public School student Bridget Hennah was taken during a photography class at school. The year 6 student enjoys photography and art because they let her be creative. She chose trees as her subject because she thought they were beautiful to look at, and she was pleased with the vibrant results of her photo.

Class Action showcases art from students and teachers. Know any artists? Send your nominations to education@illawarramercury.com.au.



Eye of the beholder

IQ showcases art from students and teachers.



Title: Sunflowers.
Medium: Acrylic artist paint
and oil pastel.
Artist:
Dapto Public School.

*What was the inspiration for
your artwork?*

We looked at *Sunflowers* by
Vincent Van Gogh. I like the
beautiful colours in it and that
it was made by Vincent.

What do you like about it?
How it looks like it shines.

*What do you like most about
making art?*

That it's fun and that I learn
how to draw and paint all
different types of pictures.

