



News Articles -Environmental



Fowl play: Vanessa John shows a chicken to Dapto Public School students Richelle Fuller, Jack Owens and Emily Thomas. Picture: ROBERT PEET

Students grow greener at workshop

KATE MCILWAIN

WOLLONGONG Botanic Garden was greener than usual yesterday as 1000 Illawarra primary school-children spent the day learning about raising chickens, protecting sea creatures, feeding worms and eating bush tucker.

The activities were part of Enviro 2012 - an annual Wollongong City Council workshop de-

signed to teach children how to look after the environment.

At a "Chickens are Magicians" workshop, two chooks named Chewbacca and Darth Vader showed Dapto Public School year 5 students how household scraps could be turned into fresh eggs.

"We learnt that having chickens means you can get extra food," 11-year-old Richelle Fuller said.

Emily Thomas, 10, also liked the idea.

"Chickens can also use up waste from your house and make good garden mulch for veggie patches," Emily said.

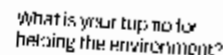
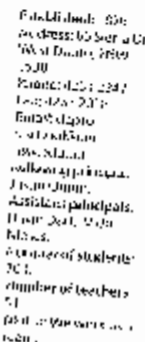
Elsewhere in the garden, children studied marine life, edible fungus and native Australian flora, learning how removing animals or plants from their natural environment could

harm delicate ecosystems.

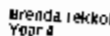
Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery attended the Enviro day to launch the council's yearly Rise and Shine rubbish pick-up program, encouraging school and community groups to get involved in a city-wide clean-up campaign during spring.

"We live in such a beautiful part of the world and it's vital we all work together to protect it."

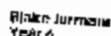
Schools



Scrubbing with plain water is not
as effective as scrubbing with
antibacterial soap.



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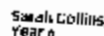


I believe we need to use more solar power energy, instead of burning fossil fuels.

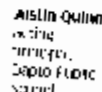
Yung Yashueh Shuan Hui took a full aspect of the Green Team, he helped organise the screenings at the school's

Students also run a paper recycling program, ensuring at the end of each week, classes and recycling bins are emptied for the curbside program.

GULF MARINE SERVICES



Instead of throwing rubbish in the bin put it in the dustbin and when it has died down you can put it on your garden.



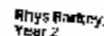
When we related her to the abolitionists of the 1840s, it was not a community fought bravely to keep the school united and preserve tradition by retaining the more established of 1876. But the 1876 school.

Students at Daphne taught by highly qualified and experienced staff supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated community. From tertiary opportunities for students to pursue their interests. These include the Student Representative Council, the University Writing Clinic to keep a brilliant pottery class alive, and a lot, a lot of fun and great participation in the Sports and Dance Events at Rock

A half-dozening *SLC*'s support the school by providing essential educational resources.

Dupré Public School has the strongest positive relations with its Aboriginal parents and students, he said: the Aboriginal group

In keeping with our school motto, "We work as a team," teachers will "work as a team" to ensure that Dakota 24th School, under its principal's guidance, will be the third grade with distinguished "Distinguished" status.



Don't filter because it will destroy
our environment, and if it rains
might eat it and die

The seeds of reconciliation

By AMANDA GARARD



Year 5 student Carla Sargeson in the reconciliation garden at Dapto Public School ... "The garden is important because it teaches Aboriginal students about themselves." Picture: DAVE TEASE

Students at Dapto Public School have created a reconciliation garden.

Year Five student Carla Sargeson said the garden represented the 26 Aboriginal students at the school.

"The garden is important because it teaches Aboriginal students about themselves and about their culture," she said.

Deputy Principal Justin Quinn said the garden was highlighted by a cluster of banksias.

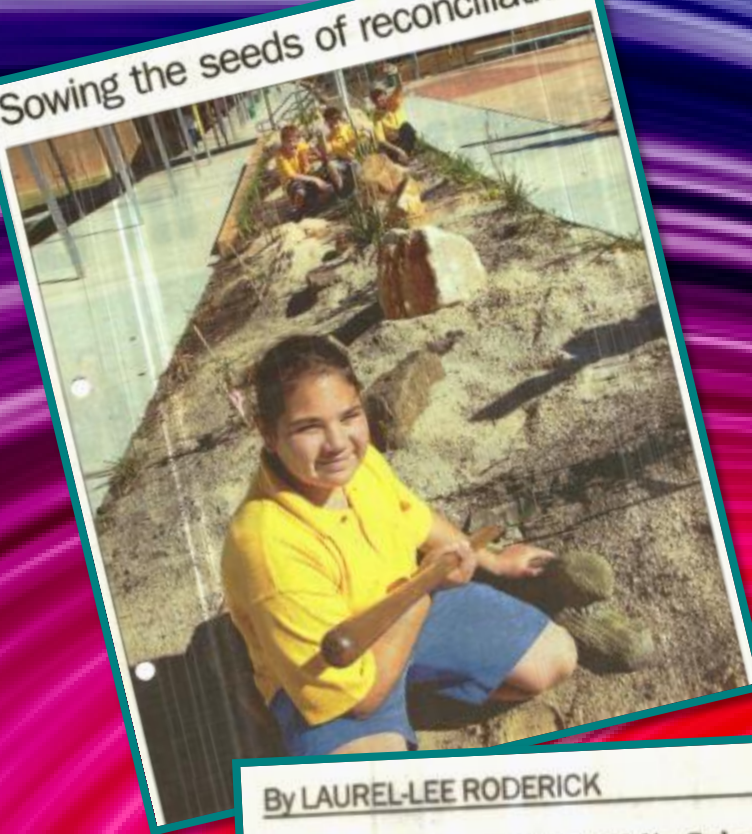
"The banksia is a native of the South Coast area and was chosen by the Aboriginal and non-indigenous communities as a symbol of harmony that exists within our school," he said.

"It means that we maintain a positive relationship with the Aboriginal community. We recognise their heritage... and we work as a team.

"We have gone to great lengths to keep them informed of their culture and heritage and the fact that reconciliation is important."

Mr Quinn said there had been a garden at the old school site and the school community wanted to do the same at the new one.

Sowing the seeds of reconciliation



By LAUREL-LEE RODERICK

STUDENTS at Dapto Public School have sowed the seeds for a lasting tribute to Australia's traditional landowners.

A reconciliation garden at the school's new site at Horsley was officially opened yesterday. The event coincided with the start of Education Week.

Principal Ann Henniker said the garden helped reflect on the past. "We must remember that under this concrete this land is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land."

Ms Henniker said the initiative was

continuing a relationship with the Aboriginal community that was forged at the school's previous site.

"We relocated at the beginning of the year, and at the old school the Aboriginal community gave us a garden about six years ago. They wanted a garden here, and one that everyone could share, and so when we opened the school each Aboriginal child gave us a banksia."

Those seedlings were planted by 25 indigenous students at the school.

Year 5 student Carla Sargeson said she was proud to plant a tree and to be involved in the project.

"The garden is about Aboriginal

people in the school. It is important there is something for the Aboriginal people," Carla said.

Corey Blackmore, also in Year 5, said Aboriginals were a special part of the community.

"It's nice the garden will still be here after we leave school," he said.

Illawarra MP Marianne Saliba helped plant a seedling as part of yesterday's dedication ceremony.

Ms Henniker said Wollongong City Council donated plants for the garden and parents had provided the sandstone. School assistant Kim Wall completed groundwork for the garden during the school holidays.

NEW GROWTH

The first banksia flowers have appeared on seedlings planted two years ago by Aboriginal students, symbolising the nurturing spirit of a school community.

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Carissa Vaartjes
among the banksias at
Dapto Public School.
Photo by David Lefcovitch.



Growing together

The banksia blooming in a school garden represents a new start for an Aboriginal community, writes **KIM COTTON**

When Dapto Public School moved to its new site in 2004, the school's Aboriginal parents decided it was no longer necessary for their children to be photographed as a separate group, as had been customary at the old school. The class and football photos were enough.

The principal, Ann Henniker, said the parents' decision showed how far the 130-year-old school had come in its relationship with its indigenous community. "I took that as a sign that [they believed] their kids got recognition, anyway. It's an indication that they were very proud of themselves as a group and their representation at the school."

Dapto Public School has shared positive relations with its Aboriginal parents and students for many years. The fact that at any one time all Aboriginal student performance levels are at or above state averages proves the strength of the school's programs and the high expectations it has on its Aboriginal students.

However, the move to the new site gave the school an opportunity to develop a more meaningful understanding of the history of its Aboriginal community and how best to approach the future.

The turning point began at the 125th anniversary (several years before the move) when Aboriginal parents declined an invitation by the school to join in the celebrations.

"That surprised me at the time because we had a really supportive community," Mrs Henniker said.

It became clear that Aboriginal people were not part of the school community in 1875 when the school was originally built.



Homegrown ... Dapto Public students, from left, Carissa Vaartjes, Courtney Wallace and Kyle Thomas with the general assistant, Kim Wall.

"They were happy for their kids to participate in the ceremony but they didn't want to be singled out to say that, '125 years ago it was great'," Mrs Henniker said. "When we moved to the new site, we took a lot of time to consult and to make certain that this beginning was more meaningful and inclusive."

The school's general assistant, Kim Wall, an Aboriginal man and a horticulturalist, undertook research and suggested the banksia, which was native to the area, could represent for Aboriginal people a new beginning.

"It's a symbol of growing together and change. It's not the school's symbol but it represents a new start," Mrs Henniker said.

A beautiful tiled collage of the banksia was created and incorporated into the school's new footpath. At the school's launch, each Aboriginal student presented a banksia seedling to the school to plant in the indigenous garden. Last term, the first

flowers appeared on the plants.

"Some families who had in the past never said there was Aboriginality in the family came out and said, 'By the way we're Aboriginal'," Mrs Henniker said.

"It's now seen perhaps as a high profile group of kids and there are a lot of positives around that -- I don't mean unique to them but activities that view the Aboriginal culture in a positive way."

One such activity takes place during NATSI (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Week when the school holds its annual Aboriginal art competition.

Each of the 700 students will produce a piece of art that is inspired by Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal parents will judge the art and a child from each class will receive a book on Aboriginal culture.

"The Aboriginal parents wanted it to be an inclusive activity so that everyone values the culture," Mrs Henniker said.