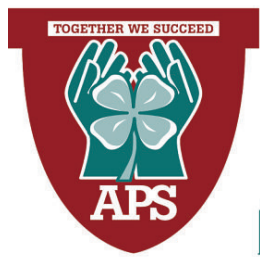


Primary entry #40: Ashtonfield Public School



# ASHTONFIELD ADVERTISER



The students perform dances during NAIDOC Week.

## Taba Naba to connect all our country

By **THOMAS BECKMORE** and **AMELIA LINICH**

ON July 16, the students of Ashtonfield Public School celebrated NAIDOC week. The students had an out of uniform day and were encouraged to wear red, yellow and black clothes as these are the colours of the Aboriginal flag.

If students were out of uniform they donated a gold coin that would go towards benefitting the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Before lunch, where students could order a kangaroo, crocodile or beef sausage, the students from Stanford Merthyr Infants School from kindergarten to year 2 performed.

The dancers were dressed in traditional Aboriginal clothing and held spears and boomerangs that were used in their performance. The students were in the dance as kangaroos, emus, goannas and kookaburras. One of the dances, Taba Naba, told the story of Torres Strait Islander people going to the water and cooling off. They waited by the water on hot days and hunted the juiciest animals which came to cool off.

Mr King asked teachers to select students to come up and have a go at dancing. The school enjoyed celebrating NAIDOC Week and recognising the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

By **LAURA BECKMORE** and **SAMANTHA VIDRAY**

ASHTONFIELD Public School love chickens, so Mr Cliff who teaches 6C, decided to go to his dad's chicken farm and get some.

Once in a while, the school receives a rooster from Mr Cliff's dad's farm to be put in with the hens. After he is put in with them, students collect the eggs and keep them separate from the other eggs.

When students have enough eggs Mr Cliff takes the rooster back and puts the eggs in the incubator. The incubator is a machine that keeps the eggs warm instead of the hen having to hatch the egg herself.

Over the years, the school has hatched many chickens out of the incubator. The school now has 19 chickens altogether – nine hens and 10 babies.

Once the eggs are in the incubator they are given to a lucky class out of kindergarten, year 1 and 2. The class can then learn about life cycles. After 21 days, the incubator successfully hatched six cute, cuddly baby chicks. They were placed in a large box with a food and water container and a light to keep them warm. After five weeks they are placed into a pen with the older chicks.

The school has two chicken pens which have a laying box for the chickens to sleep and lay their eggs,



Ashtonfield Public School students with some of the chickens they keep for breeding and laying.

plus a food and water container in there so they can eat and drink whenever they like.

Mr Cliff chooses two people from 6C to be farm hands – a job involving filling up the water, putting more pellets in the container and collecting the eggs that the chickens lay. After collecting the eggs and a carton is filled, they are sold to the

canteen. The canteen buys them to help them make lunch orders.

All breeds of chickens are kept such as Hamburg, Naked Neck, Modern Game Fowl, the Langshan chickens and Australorp chickens.

As a treat students move the pens every two weeks for the chickens to have a nice supply of fresh green grass to eat. Around the food courts

are silver bins where students can put their bread scraps in. At the end of the day three people from Mr Cliff's class collect the scrap bins and feed it to the chickens.

As you can see Ashtonfield Public School loves chickens – they make great school pets. As well as having them for fun it also teaches students responsibility.



Students help to look after the worm farm, which in turn feeds the vegetable garden.

## Ashtonfield Public gets the wiggles

By **HUNTER YOUNG** and **KANE STRATHDEE**

ASHTONFIELD Public School recycles fruit scraps in a worm farm. The scraps are collected separately from classrooms so that they can be added to the worm farm every day. They are then placed into the worm farm and the worms eat most of the fruit scraps.

The school has more than five worm farms so that all of

the fruit scraps can be used. When the scraps are placed in the top layer of the worm farms they are covered over with a piece of material that keeps the fruit scraps warm. After the worms have eaten their way through the fruit scraps, the worms pass the fruit scraps through their body. The worm castings filter down through the worm

farm to the next layer in the farm. From here the castings are taken to the vegetable garden and used as fertiliser for the growing of vegetables.

The worm tea filters down to the bottom level of the farm. From here a handle can be turned where the tea is then placed into bottles and can then be used on the vegetable gardens in the school. Looking after the worm farms is fun.



## here for our Community

Each year, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation provides more than \$1.5 million in grants to eligible not-for-profit organisations in communities across regional NSW, just like CanTeen – The Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer. The Charitable Foundation offers grants for important community projects which make a difference in the lives of those in need in our community.

To date the Foundation has provided almost \$14 million in grants for more than 300 important community projects and we believe the Foundation is now one of the largest regionally-based charitable foundations in Australia.

To apply for a grant or for more information  
visit [charitablefoundation.com.au](http://charitablefoundation.com.au)  
or call 13 19 87.

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT  
**CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION**