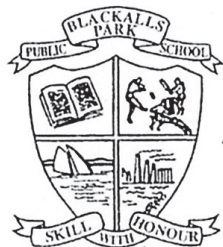


Primary entry #7: Blackalls Park Public



Blackalls Buzz



Students from Blackalls Park Public explore the historic vehicle.
Picture: Benjamin Duncum

History being preserved by vehicle fans

By **BENJAMIN DUNCUM** and **DAYNA HOWARD**

SCOTT Fayth, of Blackalls Park, is a historic war vehicle enthusiast who recently delighted students at Blackalls Park Public when he brought in his 1961 Series 2 Landrover which was used by the Australian armed forces during the Vietnam War.

Students eagerly investigated the vehicle which has been restored to its original condition complete with trailer and supplies.

Mr Fayth told the vehicle's history in the Vietnam War using the refurbished vehicle and a series of photographs.

Student Joshua Finch said, "It was awesome. When I climbed onto the seat I wished I could go for a ride."

Mr Fayth admitted that the vehicle draws a lot of attention from strangers and he is proud to discuss its history. He shares his enthusiasm with other members of the Newcastle Military Vehicle Club.

The club aims to promote and encourage the preservation of history from all Australian military campaigns focusing on Australian military vehicles, equipment, information and documentation.

The club is an annual drawcard in the Wangi Wangi Anzac parade. This year over 60 vehicles attended making it the biggest parade of army vehicles in Australia.

David Edmond, President of Wangi RSL Club said that he was grateful for the support shown by the vehicle enthusiasts.

By **ANIKA WEIMER** and **ELLIE KOKOZAKI**

RACHAEL Leahcar delighted 6000 primary school students from around NSW when she shared her secrets for success at The National Young Leaders Day, an annual event hosted by the Halogen Foundation recently.

She spoke in Sydney alongside NSW Premier, The Honourable Mike Baird, Bindi Irwin and other motivational speakers. They shared their experiences at the event designed to inspire and empower young people to help their own local communities.

Rachael came to national fame in 2012 when she competed in the Australian reality television show *The Voice*.

Apart from having a beautiful voice, Rachael suffers from retinitis pigmentosa which means that she is 90 per cent legally blind.

She depends on her faithful golden retriever guide dog named Ella. Rachael said her dog had boosted her confidence and made her more comfortable around people.

Rachael said that success had not come overnight. She has been developing her singing skills over a number of years. She went on to say that she has also had to deal with judgement and criticism as a contestant on *The Voice*. She said that she had dealt with it by being



Ellie Kokozaki and Kirsty Fenton with Rachael Leahcar at The National Young Leaders Day.
Picture: Anika Weimer

strongwilled and stubborn.

Rachael was inspirational at The National Young Leader's Day. The talented singer encouraged her young audience to turn weaknesses into strengths.

"You learn from every single experience. They are the little steps that create the big picture. I get 10 'nos' to every 'yes'. The 'no' is

just part of the experience."

After *The Voice* she was exhausted but had learnt to be less self-conscious. Since then she has released three albums and is currently working on her fourth.

Rachael continued to impress her audience by talking about her university acceptance into speech pathology and her charity work as

an ambassador for the Royal Society for the Blind.

At the end of her presentation she treated the students to a performance of *La Vie en Rose*, the song that made *The Voice* judge, Delta Goodrem, turn in her chair in the show's Blind Auditions.

It impressed the gathered listeners.



The Blackalls Park canteen has a fresh new look after undergoing an upgrade.
Picture: Nicola Spurling

Canteen upgrade gets approval

By **CLASS 4F**

AFTER four years of applying for state government grants, Blackalls Park Public School received funding for a canteen upgrade.

The funding came from the \$40 million Public School Upgrade Program which allowed schools to apply for funding to renovate and upgrade school facilities as identified by the principal

and school community.

The principal, Miss Jeffrey, collaborated with the P&C Association on the structure and layout of the canteen upgrade.

Miss Jeffrey said, "Most of the good suggestions came from Mrs Fenton and Mrs Davis because they work there every day and knew what they needed."

The canteen volunteer staff are delighted with the

additional facilities such as a stove and oven.

Mrs Fenton said, "I love working in the new canteen and I was very excited when it opened." She said that the new layout felt a lot bigger and was much more practical.

Students like Annaliese Atkins were also excited about the improved facility. "The new canteen is better, brighter and brings more life to the school," she said.



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 the Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation. 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 or call 13 19 87.

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