

Picture: Gabriel Howard

## Imaginations built by reading books

### EDITORIAL

By JESSICA OLSEN

HAVE you ever wondered how some people have big imaginations? Well that is because of books – books help you physically and mentally. Although some people think that devices and televisions are better, here are reasons why I think that books are better. Books help imaginations grow. When you watch too much television or play too many games on devices you get someone else's imagination, but when you read you can build on your own.

One example of this is the *Harry Potter* books and films. When you watch the movie before reading the book you get the director's imagination, but when you read the book first you are able to build on your own thoughts.

It has been scientifically proven that people are watching television or playing on devices too much and this is becoming a problem because people are now addicted to these devices.

Next time you go to a coffee shop look around, everyone is on their phone or iPad.

Recently I was in a play and

backstage people were silent because they were all crowded around devices. Reading books also relieves boredom in a more brain-friendly way.

Physically books help you to get active by re-enacting the things that you read about in a book. For example, you can go for a jog and pretend that you are being chased by a giant or when you go shopping pretend that you're being a spy.

Therefore, books can help you physically because you can get outside and be active.

Books can also help you mentally because they help you to learn what you need to succeed in life.

When you watch TV your eyes don't move like they do when you are reading a book. It is a well-known fact that your eyes need to move and get active to work properly.

Furthermore, books are portable. You might say that iPads are as well but when you go to the pool or the beach you could drop your iPad or android and you could fry it. That is a lot of money right down the drain. If you drop your book in water all you need to do is dry it out or go into the book shop and that's only \$25 spent. Bargain!

And that is why I think that books are great for everyone.

# Town flooded with kindness after storm

By MOLLY GRANT

ON April 21, Dungog was declared a natural disaster zone due to devastating floods that hit the Hunter.

Through the generosity of surrounding Maitland school communities, Dungog Public School has received a truckload of donations including clothing, books, shoes, baby formula, nappies, food and toiletries.

The school principal, Steven Richard said, "I am flabbergasted by the response". He picked up the donations in a truck from the participating Maitland schools and the Dungog Public School staff and students spent a week sorting the donations in the School Hall ready for distribution to the people who need them.

These donations are greatly appreciated and any excess goods will be shared with surrounding flood-affected schools and communities.

Dungog Welfare Disaster Co-ordination Centre said the community still needs help with some household goods. They now have a register set up where anyone interested in donating household goods can phone and be placed on the register to be matched with someone in need of their donation. Pickup or delivery can also be organised at the same time.

The Recovery Centre is open in the Doug Walters Pavilion at the



Students Meg Gilliland, Georgina Rolls and Dominick Schumacher helping to sort donations in the School Hall. Picture: Molly Grant

Dungog Showground. If anyone would like more information they can contact the Recovery Centre on 4992 3752 or the Community Centre on 4992 1133.

Sarah U'Brien, the co-ordinator of the Dungog Shire Community Centre and the Disaster Welfare Centre said that the community is overwhelmed by the amazing support that they have received.

"What we desperately need now in this time of rebuilding are cash donations," she said.

**To donate visit [dins.org.au](http://dins.org.au) or the Commonwealth Bank**

Account name – Dungog Shire Community Centre Inc; BSB 062535; Account number 00800580; Reference: DONATION

## Finding inspiration through science study

By APRIL TALESKI-WILLIAMS

HUNTER-based scientist Chris Herden comes to Dungog Public School every Tuesday to share his knowledge of science as part of the CSIRO Scientist in Schools program.

Mr Herden enjoys working with children and wants to make science fun, interesting and relevant with hands-on experiments, visual animations and the use of technology. "I became a scientist because I enjoy science," Mr

Herden said, "particularly environmental science".

Stage 3 students are learning about different kinds of solids, liquids and gases and their properties, while Stage 2 will learn about agriculture and the environment.

Student Ella Shelton-Jones said, "We get to learn all about the properties of liquids, solids and gases in a fun, exciting way." Jemma Walters said that "It's fun, we get to blow stuff up with bi-carb soda and vinegar". Cheryl Wright, the learn-



Scientist Chris Herden with April Taleski-Williams and Grace Atkins. Picture: Sophie Bray

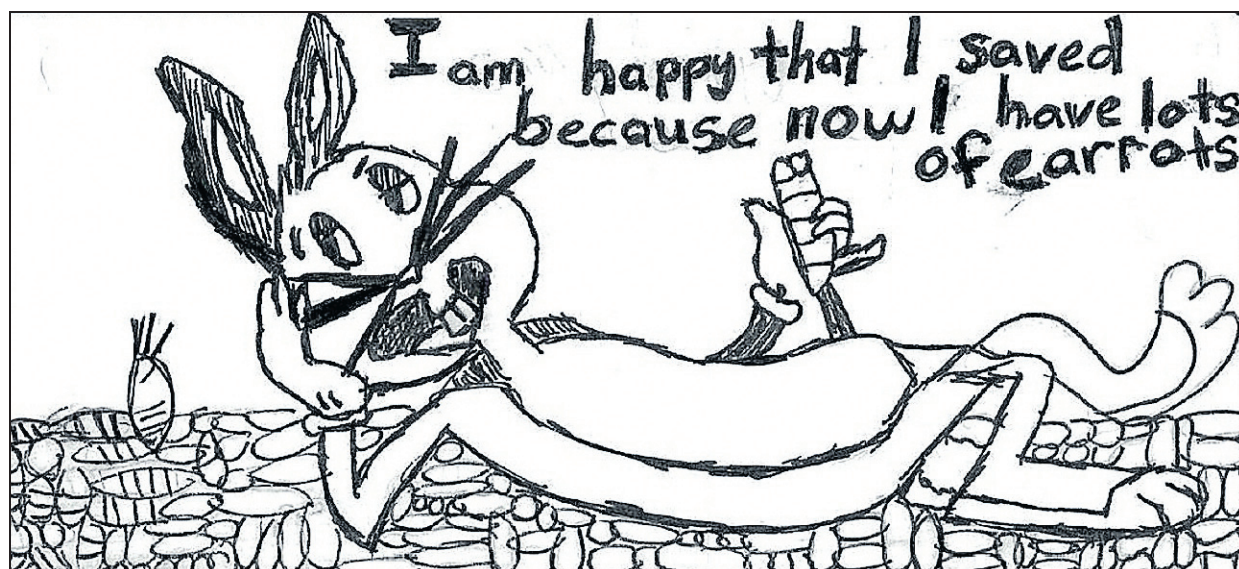
ing and support teacher, contacted the CSIRO after hearing about the program's success in other schools. "It is important that we foster curiosity,

interest and engagement in science and hopefully through this program we can encourage more students towards science-based careers," she said.

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