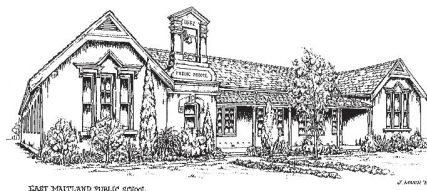


Primary entry #55: East Maitland Public School



The Message Stick



East Maitland Public rugby team in action. *Picture: Sam Taylor*

Rugby union success for junior team

By **COBY WETINI** and
JARED ANDERSON

THE East Maitland Rugby Union team coached by Sam Taylor have achieved unprecedented success this year.

The boys started with a 7-a-side tournament at Marcelin Park where the team was undefeated on the day and won the Maitland Zone. In the following regional 7s competition the boys won two out of three games but unfortunately didn't progress any further in this competition.

They then moved into the PSSA Rugby Union competition where they played a gala day against schools from across the Hunter Region at Waratah Oval. They again went through undefeated and were one of two schools to progress through the competition. In round four the boys travelled to Forster to play where they had a comprehensive 63-nil victory over Tacking Point Public School. This put the team through to the quarter finals against Alstonville Public School. They won the quarter final game 21-12 which put the team through to the state finals in Sydney at the end of August where they played James Erskine Public School but lost in a tight clash 21-12. The boys then played Orange Public for fourth place after another 21-12 loss. It was a wonderful achievement for Mr Taylor and his team of year 5 and 6 boys, many of whom had never played rugby union before this year.

Benefits of technology

By **MEG PEARSON** and
JESSICA CURTIS

THE development of the new curriculum is aiming to improve students' learning and prepare them for the future but there is considerable cost to ensure every student has access to this technology.

Many students are purchasing digital editions of textbooks instead of printed copies for a variety of reasons including cost efficiency, accessibility and environmental friendliness. This is because it will benefit technology and help kids stay engaged.

Buying iPads, laptops or another type of technology can be cheaper than buying books, pencils and pens each year. Access to the internet provides instant answers to any question and a faster, more reliable way to find information. Technology provides numerous opportunities to gather information and evidence to help educate students.

More than half of students in grades 6 to 8 in NSW now have access to tablets, computers or iPads. This percentage has doubled in the past year and many students are known as "digital natives" meaning they use technology with ease. They have grown up with it and incorporate it in to almost every aspect of their lives.

Ninety-one per cent of teachers say using technology in schools is



Computers and technology are an everyday part of the modern classroom.

critical to their mission of high student achievement.

Amity Peterson thinks technology "should not be in classes as kids will start to rely on their technology." Vicki Pearce, area manager of Juvenile Justice, said "I think technology in the classroom is a great idea as it assists young people to get in the habit of questioning what they are told.

Once you start to question information you learn to have opinions and make informed decisions."

Denise Buckley believes technology "is vitally important to students as it allows them to be both imaginative and creative in a unique way."

Technology is the way of the future and almost everyone has access to it in many different ways.

Students need this learning tool and depend on it for homework, social networking and communication. Although Amity believes technology is not the best way in the classroom, Vicki Pearce can see it helps students think and reason. Technology is more visual and interactive so it helps students stay engaged as it's a fun way to learn, therefore it's money well spent.

A Buddy Bench is to be installed at East Maitland Public to provide students with a place to find support from bullying.



It's time we all said no to bullying

By **EMELIA MANN** and
SAMANTHA TAYLOR

BULLYING is a problem all around the world. There are many different types of bullying including: cyberbullying, verbal bullying, physical bullying and hidden or covert bullying. Seventy-seven per cent of students have admitted that they have been bullied throughout their school life.

Some bullies are afraid to say mean comments or threats to the victim's face so they use social media as another way to put people down. Popular social networking sites such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram have a minimum age of 13 to use them. Many people are using them underage and this is contributing to instances of bullying.

Concerning effects that

bullying is having on people of all ages are self-harm, suicidal thoughts, depression and social isolation.

Bunnings and radio station KOFM have created a program called Buddy Bench where seats are being installed at schools, including East Maitland Public, for kids who are being bullied or are just feeling lonely and someone can come along and help them out.



Supporting the

Good Stuff

in our community

Because we are owned by our customers, we think it is important to support the communities that support us. That's why we invest over \$1.5 million each year in community programs to help families lead healthy, active and happy lives.

newcastlepermanent.com.au/goodstuff

Here for good.  NEWCASTLE
PERMANENT