



Cartoon: Nav Pannu

Gillieston Road is a fairly bumpy ride

EDITORIAL

By **BELLA DAVIES**

GILLIESTON Public School is located on the corner of Ryans and Gillieston roads.

Recently the roads around Gillieston Heights have seen an increased volume of traffic since the communities of Darcy's Peak, Saddlers Ridge and Alexander Point have expanded.

New families, as well as retirees, are choosing to settle in these areas which are close to Maitland and not far from the Hunter Expressway.

The condition of the road has become a concern to the students and parents of Gillieston Public School as new potholes are opening up and existing ones are increasing in size.

Although Maitland City Council has patched and repaired the roads, Gillieston Road, with its increased traffic flow, continues to deteriorate.

Whenever there is heavy or prolonged rainfall the repairs are weakened and cracks in patches start to reappear.

As well as the poor physical state of the road, its narrowness when two vehicles pass each other means that one vehicle must stop

and pull over to let another pass. The edge of the road is rough and uneven with no gutter. The only place to pull off the road is often an existing driveway.

Buses carry many of the 170 Gillieston Public students to and from school along this road. Buses are high and wide, but cars are much smaller with less vision.

Although there is now a flashing school zone installed on both Gillieston and Ryans roads, vehicles still ignore speed limits at times.

Cars that regularly use the roads are aware of the conditions. For those vehicles that aren't, they drive the narrow potholed road much too quickly, too often in the centre of the road because the edges are rough on tyres.

As students that travel these roads each day, we are concerned that the narrow and rough Gillieston Road will continue to become more and more dangerous.

As the number of houses being built in the street right behind our school increases, and more cars, vans and trucks use the road, we need to improve the state of the surrounding roads so that we can keep everyone driving in our local neighbourhood safe.

We also need to make road users aware of the speed zones around the school.

Naidoc Week is a celebration for all

By **ETHAN PARKINSON**

NAIDOC Week turned Gillieston Public School into a colourful scene on June 26 as Gillieston Public School students, teachers and families gathered to embrace the spirit of the occasion by wearing the colours of the Aboriginal flag.

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia within schools and local communities each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their local communities.

The theme of this year's NAIDOC Week celebrations was 'We all stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate'.

The day consisted of a special assembly in the morning, rotational learning activities and a special lunch. Activities included taste testing traditional foods such as damper, crocodile and kangaroo meat, learning traditional dance and creating Indigenous art using lots of tradition techniques.

Each and every student from Gillieston Public School contributed to a whole school art display of an Aboriginal flag using their own hand prints. The result of the flag was a success. Chelle Heath, a teacher at Gillieston Public School, said: "It is very significant for the school as it will be displayed in the school hall and will last for years and years to come."

Teachers and families described



The Aboriginal flag created with Gillieston Public School students' hand prints.

Picture: Ethan Parkinson

the day as a great success. Everybody that came along got a lot out of the day and learnt many new things about Aboriginal culture.

Kaleb Baley from the Silvertails (year 5/6) class was recognised at the Rutherford Learning Community Award night for his highly valued contribution to sharing his

knowledge and experiences of the Aboriginal Culture during NAIDOC Week.

Kaleb said that he "enjoyed teaching others about his own culture" and that "it was great to see everyone celebrating and having fun learning about the Aboriginal culture".

Gillieston kicks off in rugby skills program

By **NAV PANNU**

ON June 18, primary schools from the Rutherford Learning Community travelled to the sporting fields at McEachies Run, Aberglasslyn where they participated in a social football skills day.

Stage 3 students from Greta, Gillieston, Lochinvar, Rutherford and Telarah Public Schools took part in skills clinics which focused on passing, tackling and defensive play.

Afterwards, each school played four games of rugby

league to practise the skills learnt. Each match was 50 minutes long, in comparison to a regular eighty minute match.

Class teachers presented awards for two players from their school at the end of the day for Most Improved Player and Good Sportsmanship. The students from Gillieston who received these awards were Riley Hawkins and Hollie Winter.

"I just wanted to keep playing more, it was a great day," student Zaine Gleeson said.



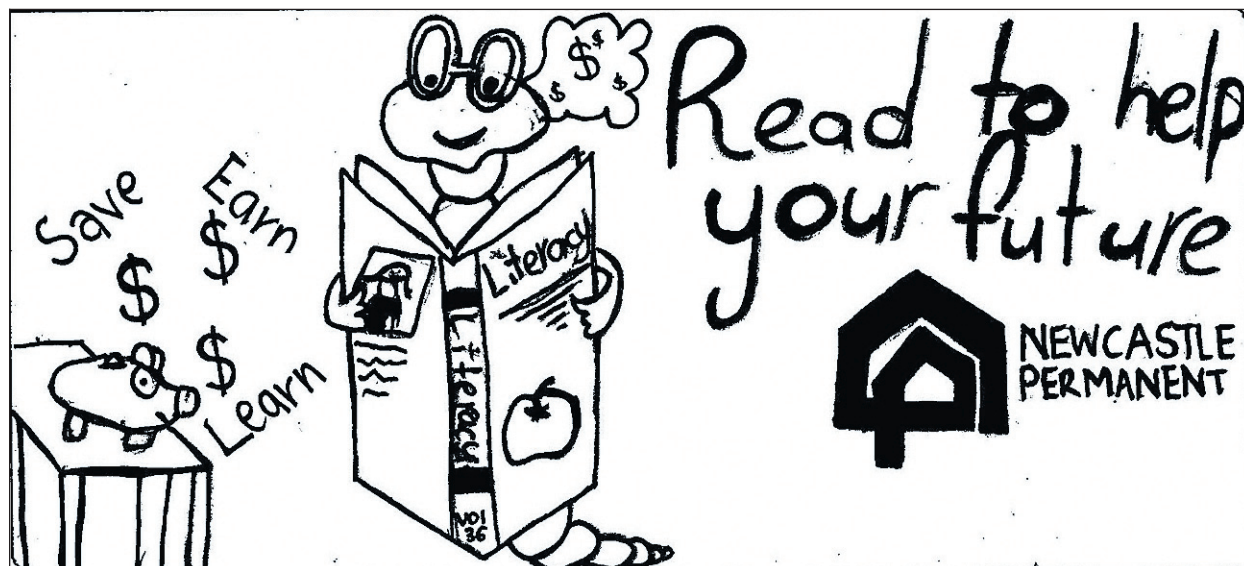
Students celebrate after a fun-filled day on the footy field.

Picture: Donna Madden

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