

Primary entry #25: Jesmond Public School

THE JESMOND JOURNAL



Lego lover Finn Shiner gets creative for Brickfest.
Picture: Ashleigh Cox

Lovers of lego unite for the big Brickfest

By **ASHLEIGH COX, SOPHIE HENDERSON** and **AQSA AQSA**

CALLING all Lego lovers, Brickfest is back and it's better than ever.

Brickfest is a celebration of Lego that brings together people, young and old, who love creating using the famous little coloured bricks.

The event, to be held at the Newcastle PCYC on July 4 and 5, will showcase the creations of about 26 passionate Lego creators from throughout the Hunter, Sydney and Wollongong. There will also be around 10 schools involved, including Jesmond P&C, who will use the event as a fundraiser by selling tickets.

This is the second year the event has been held in Newcastle and event co-ordinator Angela Evans promised more creations and displays, including a combined school raffle, which means more fun for the young and the old.

Ms Evans said last year's event was only one day but due to its popularity it had grown this year.

Jesmond Public School P&C is running a Lego competition to help promote the day. Co-ordinator Kylie Cox said it was a great opportunity for children to get creative with their Lego and purchasing tickets to the Brickfest would raise money for the school at the same time.

All money from tickets will go directly to participating schools. Each ticket costs \$4.

Aim high and succeed

By **FIAN HANAFI**

THE University of Newcastle has developed a program which aims to inspire local school children to be the best that they can be.

At the primary school level, the Aim High initiative includes the Careers Through Reading program for year 5 students, Careers Through Science for year 4 students and the Discover Uni Day for year 6 students.

A team leader of the Aim High program, Matt Lumb, said the initiative now reached 15 high schools and 65 primary schools.

"All young people have aspirations. Aim High's job is to make sure students from different backgrounds know of the education and career options available to make their future happen," Mr Lumb said.

Jesmond Public School is one local school which is benefiting from the program.

Year 5 students are currently taking part in the Careers Through Reading program, which is operated by current university students. The students visit schools and work in small groups with students on fun and interesting activities focused around reading. Mr Lumb, who has also written a book called *Hope*, is passionate about reading. He has lots of favourite authors from Dr Seuss to Roald Dahl.

Careers Through Reading school



Careers Through Reading School Partner Bethany Ross reads with students Matthew and William.
Picture: Fian Hanafi

partner, Bethany Ross, has just completed a law degree.

She said the program was not all about encouraging students to go to university, in fact it was more about encouraging students to aspire to be the best version of themselves.

"The idea is to encourage kids to realise what opportunities are open for them - not just uni," Ms

Ross said. "It might be TAFE, you might want to be a truck driver, or work in a pie shop. It isn't for everybody, just so long as you know it is there for you if you are interested."

Ms Ross is a passionate reader and loves sharing this with the students she works with.

"I love children's books because

they are more exciting," she said.

"I always thought about being an author because I love reading and writing, but I prefer to use these important skills to help others through this program," she said.

The Aim High program covers schools and communities in Newcastle and the Hunter, the Central Coast and the Mid-North Coast.



Residents Bernice and Peter with Jesmond student Aqsa Aqsa.
Picture: Ashleigh Cox

Clever kids entertain their elders

By **AQSA AQSA** and **ASHLEIGH COX**

A LOCAL retirement village is establishing links with neighbouring schools as part of an initiative to improve the wellbeing of its residents.

The Jenny Macleod Retirement Village at Wallsend has invited local schools to perform and bring in artworks to brighten up the residents' day.

Village manager Stephen Wright said this was an integral part of enhancing a sense of belonging for elderly people.

"It's very important for the residents to have a lot of contact with their family, relatives and friends, but especially the wider community," Mr Wright said.

Mr Wright said that recent overseas studies on Aged Care Communities con-

firmed that there was a preference to build new facilities next to pre-schools and primary schools because the sound of children stimulated the residents and had positive benefits on their wellbeing.

The Jesmond Public School Choir recently performed at the village. Residents enjoyed the songs and are looking forward to having the choir back again.



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