



Cartoon: Lucas Price

## The art of writing: does anyone care

### EDITORIAL

By YEAR 5/6 SAMAURI WRITING GROUP

WRITING is slowly disappearing and technology will soon rule the world. Handwriting is no longer in the curriculum and students have decreasing spelling ability due to the use of spell check and technology's shorthand.

Past generations had to put a pen to paper and post the letter, often waiting weeks for the communication to reach the other party. Today we can simply log on and send an email or pull out our phone and send a text message.

During this phase of instant message humanity is losing the art of spelling with the implementation of autocorrect.

With our ever-increasing appetite for bigger, better and quicker we are losing the love and the art of writing. The passion, the suspense of waiting for the letter to arrive, checking the mail box, the formality and structure of formal writing: gone.

It is true that the NSW Department of Education has wiped handwriting lessons from the curriculum, replacing it with such things as computer technology. That's something our

youth already has ample time for.

What about the people in our community employed by the postal service, the writers and scholars who worship the tradition of formal writing as opposed to acronyms and text messages? What does the future hold for these industries? Surely students need to know how to spell the words, we can't always live in a world of shorthand.

We hear the argument about moving with the times and saving paper and using a laptop, but surely a little bit of ink and recycled paper is better for the environment than a computer soaking up all that electricity.

Shakespeare did it, Captain Cook did it and even the first man on the moon did it, so it won't hurt the youth of today to learn the formality of handwriting, correct grammar and the art of writing many different types of text types such as a fairytales or a letter to the editor.

With the increasing use of social media using acronyms like BRB, LOL and TOTES, people don't care about the origins of our language let alone stringing together grammatically correct sentences or even stories.

Fight against the tyranny of technology and show respect for the tradition that has come before us.

# Dancers twirl their way to the flipside

By HAYLEE MCALPINE and ISABELLA MCQUALTER

FLIPSIDE is a collaborative contemporary dance and arts project for young people and emerging artists living in Newcastle, the Central Coast and Greater Hunter endorsed by the NSW Department of Education & Communities, artsNSW and Ausdance NSW.

Working in collaboration with professional choreographers, emerging composers and visual designers from the University of Newcastle, over a six-month period three dance ensembles – junior (aged 10-13), senior (aged 14-18) and emerging artists (aged 18-26) – develop a full-length contemporary dance work for public presentation at the University of Newcastle's, Griffith Duncan Theatre in November this year.

Cadi McCarthy has been actively engaged in dance as a professional dancer, choreographer, educator and director. With the company she created nine full-length works for a variety of age groups.

This project is unique for the region, providing dance and arts experiences that are inclusive, non-competitive, creative, and collaborative and reflect the working processes of the professional arts industry.

The young people engaged have the opportunity to have a voice, presenting their thoughts and ideas



Hunter dancers Isabella McQualter, Heidi Farley, Haylee McAlpine.

in a live theatre setting.

Junior, senior and emerging artist ensembles work collaboratively with professional choreographers and emerging composers and visual designers.

Intensive workshops simulate the working processes of a professional contemporary dance company, through daily morning contemporary technique class, creative task development, choreography and rehearsals.

Haylee McAlpine, 11, and Isabella McQualter, 11, participated and performed in Flipside last year.

"Flipside is a great opportunity for young dancers wishing to increase flexibility and strength in their dancing," said Haylee.

Isabella added, "Flipside dance ensemble is a fantastic program for talented students aged 10-26. The program increases flexibility and helps the brain by memorising a dance."

## Small town hoping it's the year of the Roo

By TAYLARNIE SAUNDERS

THE Karuah Roo's plan is to go one better in the 2015 season of rugby league than they did the year before.

The 2014 season saw the Karuah Roos go down in the grand final to Williamtown Jets 25-18. Last year was their first grand final since 1975.

The home ground of the Roos may not have the finest facilities but the Karuah Roos are the pride of the tiny riverside town

that was bypassed by upgrades to the Pacific Highway a decade ago.

This bunch of blokes who pull on a red and white jersey of a weekend are more than just a rugby league team, they are part of the glue that holds their town together.

"They give Karuah an identity. They give people with differences some common ground. Give a town something to cheer about, and give the youth from the town something to aspire to," said Mrs Saffioti, a local teacher.



Keen supporters Taylarnie Saunders, ball boy Shaqueil Saunders and Bonnie Jarman.

Picture: Connor Walker

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