

Primary entry #27: Lambton Public School



# Lambton Landline



Kicking a ball to raise awareness about gender equality.

Picture: Maxx Arnold-Porter, Hugh-Angus Bright and Daniel Lim

## Differences can make us all the same

By DANIEL LIM, HUGH-ANGUS BRIGHT, DANYL MCKINNON and CHLOE WORKMAN

GENDER equality refers to men and women receiving equal treatment, and not being discriminated against based on gender. This is one of the objectives of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At Lambton Primary School, the students not only agree with this statement but are taking practical steps to confront the issue of gender inequality head on.

Class 4/5/6KW organised a gender equality day to educate the students and promote the topic at the school. On the day a number of activities were organised, including a pink and blue out of uniform theme and girls' soccer and boys' netball games.

Declan McLeod, 9, from Lambton said, "I think gender inequality should be illegal because of what it does to someone mentally and physically."

During her UN Speech on the HeForShe Feminist Campaign, actress Emma Watson said "Gender equality is not only a women's issue, it is a human rights issue that requires my participation."

Eve McNeil, 10, from Lambton said that the Gender Equality Day was a success as it made "the whole school think twice about judging other people by their gender. Everyone now knows." The day was a huge success, raising \$306 for UNICEF.

By CHARLOTTE FAUCHON, SOPHIE BERGHOUT, STELLA LEWIS and VICTORIA BEATH

THIS year is a very special year for Lambton Public School as they are celebrating their 150th anniversary.

Passers-by may have noticed the large coal hopper at the front of the school, which signifies the history of the Lambton community.

Kerrie Beaven came to the school herself, as did her grandfather, mother, and as years went by, her children. She feels very privileged to come back as a kindergarten teacher at Lambton Public School and has been planning to have the coal hopper in the school since 2012. She is very excited that it's finally here.

The coal hopper has great historical significance to Lambton Public School, for the area was originally a coal mining site.

In 1864 the owners of the colliery donated one third of the building cost of the school to educate the children of the miners. As it is Lambton's 150th anniversary Ms Beaven decided to have a coal hopper put in the school to link the history of the area with the celebrations for this year.

The 80-year-old, 12-tonne coal hopper was rusting away when it was gifted to the school by the Newcastle Museum, but with help,



Kerrie Beaven standing with the long-awaited coal hopper. Picture: Stella Lewis and Victoria Beath

was fully restored under Ms Beaven's watchful eye. There is only one other school in the Newcastle area that has a coal hopper on its grounds, which makes this one pretty special. The coal hopper arrived in two pieces in a large truck, and a crane had to be used to lift it and put it in place. The cost of

the operation was close to \$8000. A big 'LC' will be painted in the middle of the coal hopper which stands for Lambton Colliery; 1865 will also be printed on it, signifying the year the school opened.

Ms Beaven plans to have more done to the coal hopper, including a roof over the top, signatures

written on, pavers laid around it and a fence encircling it.

The school is very important to Ms Beaven and she hopes that it will be here for many years to come. "History is a big part of who we are at Lambton," she said, "and I believe that the hopper is a strong link to that history."



Class 5A of 1937 in the room 1/2BC and 1/2S occupy today. Picture: Supplied

## Building Lambton Public's society

By OLIVIA LAO, EVE MCNEIL, CHARLOTTE PATERSON and WILL SANSON

LAMBTON Public School is not what it used to be. Opened in 1865, the school was opened in the interest of educating the 38 male and 48 female students of the miners. As of this year, the school has stood for 150 years. To mark the sesquicentennial, students have been investigating the

school's history.

David Ratcliffe, who attended Lambton Public in the 1940s, said that while the school was not as it is today, he believes that his experience at Lambton was highly enjoyable, and fondly recollects memories of his time there.

Mr Ratcliffe recalls the one way to subside the pain

of the cane: "...in anticipation of being caned, the hands were rubbed with the peppercorns from the peppercorn tree." He tells of this leaving a coating of sticky resin, which made the blows of the cane less painful.

Mr Ratcliffe said "Educational resources have blossomed exponentially and we are all better off for the care, dedication and respect found at most schools today."



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