



Cartoon: Keeley Smith and Max Bowman

## Are they detention centres or prisons

### EDITORIAL

By **DAISEY FERGUSON, MAGHNUS GRADY, AVA MYERS, EDDIE YOUNG and ANDREW ARKINSTALL**

A NUMBER of refugees that seek asylum in Australia get redirected to Manus Island to a detention centre where people face living conditions where standards are worse than a jail.

These refugees are coming from countries such as East Asia and the Pacific. A refugee is someone that flees their country because of war, poverty or fear of persecution.

Detention centres are exceedingly dirty and no one should be kept under these circumstances. The living conditions include only 500 ml of water each day and little food.

There are regular beatings and some people have even tried to commit suicide. This is dreadful because children are exposed to this, so this has an awful influence on the children.

"I have lived in war zones, with bombs and explosions. I have never experienced what I am experiencing here with the uncertainty we face. If we had died in the ocean that would have been

better," said a 43-year-old refugee from Iraq, according to Amnesty International.

They are denied adequate clothing, privacy, shoes, toilets and soap in bathrooms, washing powder, sugar and shelter from the sun. Serious medical conditions remain untreated such as conditions of epilepsy, diabetes and other disabilities.

Refugees have rights for fair treatment under the law. They are treated like they are illegal, but no human is illegal. Refugees deserve to have rights like we do, such as, enough good food, shelter, technology, clean water, clothes and medical treatment.

They are denied opportunities such as jobs or an education because they are considered illegal. We understand that you can't let everyone into Australia, and the Australian government needs to make sure that they are actually a refugee. Refugees should be treated much more fairly than they are being treated and at least have basic human rights and freedom.

Refugees should not just have the chance to survive, but to have the opportunities and chances that someone would have in a first world country, so that they can have a better future than they would in a terrible unsanitary detention centre.

# Reusable is right to help save the planet

By **SOPHIE TICKLE, DECLAN REES, DECLAN MCLEOD, AIDAN RONNING and BAILEY THOMPSON**

AS part of their Term 2 sustainability unit, students from Lambton Public School researched plastic drink bottles and their effect on the environment. They decided to take action in tackling this threat to environmental sustainability by starting a campaign called BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle).

The first thing the group did was to closely study the issue of environmental sustainability. They found that their school canteen was selling bottled water. The group decided to think of alternative solutions to minimise the sale of them.

Secondly, the students invited Kristie Ferguson, sales marketer and mother to Daisy of 4/5/6KW, into the classroom. She talked to the group about their ideas and helped them start the BYOB campaign. She took the students through the things needed for a great campaign.

Thirdly, the group found out about reusable stainless steel drink bottles that are not as harmful to the environment. The group asked Barb Pearce, the school's canteen manager, if she would sell them.

Next, the students had an in-class competition to design a logo for the drink bottles.

Students, teachers and parents can now purchase the custom-designed, environmentally-friendly



Declan Rees doing his bit for the environment. Picture: Sophie Tickle

bottles for \$8, which can be refilled with chilled water for 20c, or at the bubblers for free. The hope is that everyone at Lambton Public School will buy them and stop buying plastic bottles.

"I think that BYOB is great

because it will keep people away from plastic, and being the canteen manager it would be very nice to see students not buying plastic bottles but filling and drinking from reusable water bottles," Mrs Pearce said.

## To bee or not to bee, that was the lesson

By **ALEXA STUART, ALEXANDER FAUCHON and BRYN MCGOWAN**

ON March 30, David Ratcliffe, beekeeper and grandfather of Lambton student Sophie Fullerton, came to talk to the class 2/3HW as part of their 'Sustainability' science unit.

David admires bees and said, "Bees are fascinating, they're just nice to watch and they have unwritten rules."

Having been a beekeeper for 50 years, David has a very strong passion for bees and he loves sharing his

knowledge with students. He even brought in fresh honey for everyone.

He believes that chemicals are killing bees and that you shouldn't use chemicals unless you absolutely have to.

The students loved the talk. "I really enjoyed the experience because I learnt so many new things. I can't believe David actually brought some honey for us," Owen See said. Sam Turnbull also told us



Beekeeper David Ratcliffe sharing his knowledge with students. Picture: Kate Wattus

"I learnt so many new things, like bees can't close their eyes. It was an amazing experience."

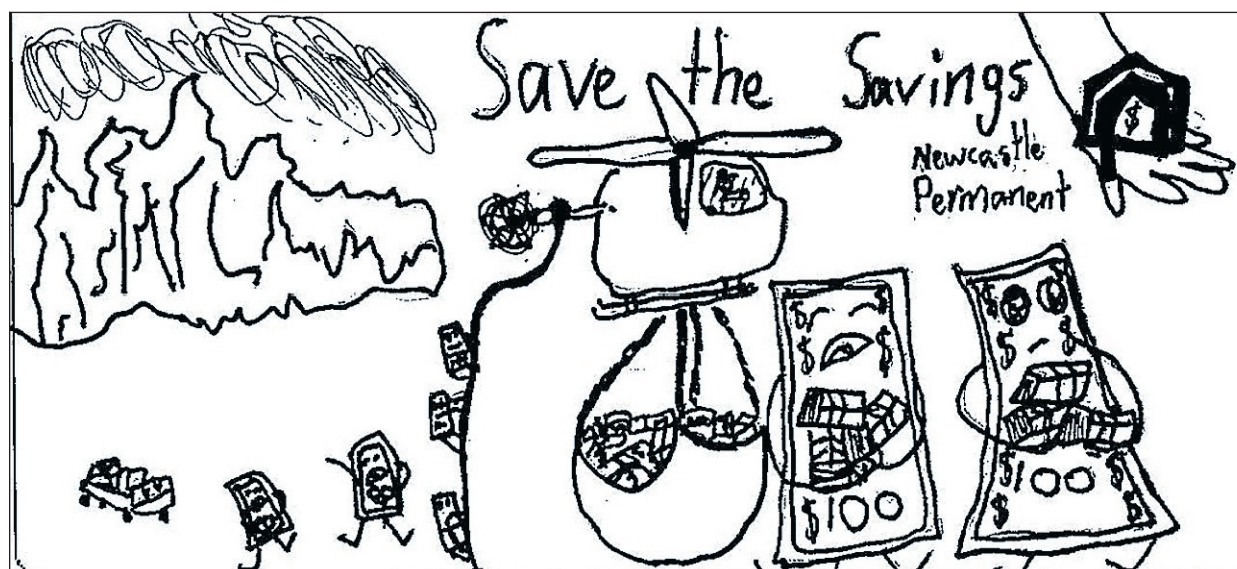
David believes bees are

crucial to a sustainable eco-system. "What happens if we have no bees? Simple. If we don't have bees we don't have food."

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