

Secondary entry #6: Lisarow High School

LISAROW LEADER

The Voice of Lisarow High School



Gavi Duncan and students with totem poles at Lisarow High.

A gathering under the new gunyah

By ASHLEIGH HOUSE

A NEW outdoor learning space is to be constructed at Lisarow High School to strengthen student understanding of and connection with Aboriginal culture.

The space will consist of a gunyah, modelled on the traditional shade construction by Aboriginal people as meeting places and shelters. Around the gunyah will be a bush tucker and medicinal garden featuring local plants, a mural and carved sandstone.

Aboriginal students will be heavily involved in helping build this place of connection for students and teachers. Gavi Duncan, a member of the local Darkinjung community and an Aboriginal cultural officer with the Bara Barang Aboriginal Corporation, said, "The learning space would be a place for cultural teaching for the whole school community."

Mr Duncan was involved in the creation of totem poles at Lisarow High School in 2014 which "represent ways that Aboriginal students are connecting to their cultural history." The learning space builds on that by, "providing cultural affirmation and helping to strengthen identity and cultural practice."

Mr Duncan has been active in the school's Aboriginal Culture Program that runs weekly and will be a driving force in creating the site. Aboriginal artefacts and art made by students will be placed in the site and it will play host to outdoor classes.

Storm clean-up adds up

By NICOLE LENIHAN

THE Insurance Council of Australia has stated that there have been almost 200,000 insurance claims made after the April storms, totalling \$1.55 billion.

The clean-up continues at Lisarow High School and surrounding areas weeks after the wild storms.

Whilst the school site was made safe for students to return within days of the storm passing, several trees are still awaiting removal, including one that crushed a demountable classroom.

In April, the NSW eastern coastline experienced some of the most intense storm conditions since the 2007 Pasha Bulka Storm. Savage wind and rain were labelled "cyclonic" by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Hunter Region, the Central Coast, Newcastle and the southern coastline of NSW were all heavily affected by the freak storm.

The storms caused huge damage to public infrastructure as power was lost to more than 200,000 homes and businesses, with many in the Ausgrid supply area losing power for several days.

Lisarow High School was one of many local schools that was not operational for several days due to fallen trees and loss of power.

During the storm, emergency services received in excess of 14,000 calls for help, with many of



Lisarow High School had storm damage to some classrooms.

Picture: Taijah Spencer

the calls concentrated in Lisarow High School's drawing areas of Wyong Shire and Gosford City.

With so many people needing assistance, there was a major push to prioritise help to those who needed it most, leaving some without necessities for days.

Across NSW, 80 schools were closed for the safety of all students

and staff. At Lisarow High School, staff volunteered to help clear debris to allow the site to be made safe and re-open more quickly.

With deaths in Dungog and Maitland and many people rescued after driving into floodwaters, the SES has launched a campaign to make sure people are aware of the risks of entering floodwater.

According to the SES website, "98 per cent of flood related deaths in vehicles could have been avoided by turning the car around" and staying out of floodwater.

Meteorologists have suggested that more intense weather can be expected more often due to the long term impacts of global warming.



Sam Newing-Stern earned accolades at the Youth in Performing Arts concert.

Picture: Joshua Hull

Rising star to tread the boards

By KAITLYN BROWN

SAM Newing-Stern has been awarded a prize to the value of \$1000 after his dramatic performance at the annual Youth in Performing Arts (YIPA) concert at Gosford's Laycock Street Theatre.

The prize gives Sam, who is in year 12 at Lisarow High School, the opportunity to attend 12 months of tutoring at the stage2screen acting

school on the Central Coast.

His dramatic monologue titled, *The Audition*, was a standout performance. During the auditions for YIPA, assistant director Chris Cox described Sam's piece as, "Engaging, enthralling and it wowed the audience."

Sam has been invited to perform *The Audition* at the Central Coast Showcase in August. He says he is "interested in a career in theatre."

Now in its 24th year, YIPA provides opportunities for young people to perform in front of a large audience.

This year over 400 acts auditioned for the 100 spots available in the YIPA program. Lisarow High School had four acts, more than any other Central Coast School.

Rock band Enemies With Benefits, vocalist Norma Liga and a 10-member dance troupe also took the stage.



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