

Cartoon: Tiffany Dewar

Youth should be judged over time

EDITORIAL

By EMMA SMITH

ON April 25, 1915, thousands of young Australian men desperately ran up the beach at Anzac Cove in the breaking dawn. Young, courageous and not battle hardened, yet willing to do what they had to for their country.

Innocent young men, characterised by their endurance, courage, ingenuity, humour, larrikinism and mateship, in a commitment and contribution that subsequently defined modern Australia, and is now set in the foundations of our history.

Having the privilege to attend the Anzac centenary in Gallipoli and commemorate the memory of that generation of young Australians, caused me to think about how my generation is seen by others.

It seems that society's perception of today's youth is a manifestation of our older generations' darkest fears.

Newspapers report rising panic over whether the national growth Australia needs in the future can be achieved by today's youth, whilst youths are slammed for their perceived negative behaviours and attitudes.

We are labelled as narcissistic, stupid, lazy individuals who party

too much. However, according to Dr Michael Livingstone of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, the number of young people abstaining completely from alcohol has increased dramatically, with no consequent increase in illicit drug use. The youth of Australia are considering our health and are taking the necessary action to improve it. Aren't these qualities that show we are more than capable of growth and development?

Young people have launched protests over government plans for education, marriage equality and other political issues that are affecting our nation. However, to many older Australians, we seem to be the gum on their boot. Yet it is our productive lives that will be providing their pensions.

Today's youth cries for change are ignored due to our perceived lack of knowledge and understanding of important issues.

Is it not proof enough that we speak out against the decisions being made in our government, highlighting that we do care enough to fight for change and in time we will grow into the leaders of our nation? We are working hard to make sure that we can take over where you left off, and lead Australia into a bright and prosperous future. Have some faith in us and let history be our judge.

School under attack from mutant bugs

By COURTNEY LENIHAN

THE Art Block at Lisarow High School has been overrun by mutant insects after a serious chemical spill.

During the recent wild storms a tree that stood near the science labs was struck by lightning and fell on the supply room with dangerous chemicals seeping from the building and running into the local wetland.

Crickets, mosquitoes and other insects that inhabited this ecosystem have since reproduced at an alarming rate and the rogue insects have been detected in their new habitat atop the art classrooms.

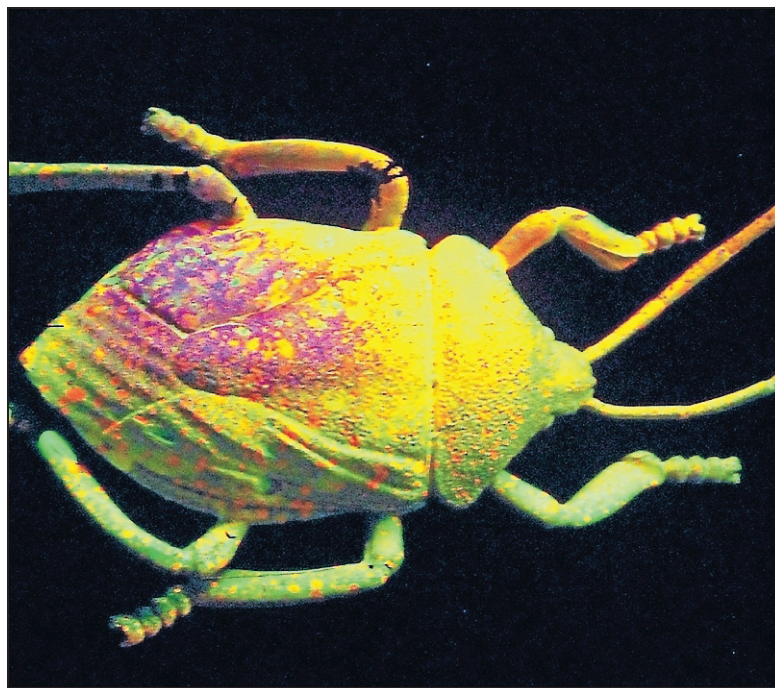
At least that is the scenario imagined by Lisarow High Art teacher, Frances Henderson, in an innovative art installation created by year 8 students.

Ms Henderson set her year 8 class the task of showing year 6 students what imagination in the creative arts can inspire.

"The Creative and Performing Arts Faculty provides opportunities in a broad range of areas and this installation highlights ways that art, music and drama can work together," she said.

Illuminated by a black light, the insects are hand painted with fluorescent paint, causing them to glow in the dark and give off an eerie, supernatural aura.

The bug room is entered through a small passage which opens into a room containing hundreds of



One of the many mutant bugs that has infiltrated the Art block at Lisarow High School.

Picture: Ellie Richardson

glowing insects. The installation also features a soundtrack of recorded insect sounds and drama students in animal costumes, creating a fully immersive experience.

This creative project came about when the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty decided they needed a new way to help year 6 students

make the transition from local primary schools into Lisarow High School for year 7.

Over 120 students from nearby primary schools have experienced the installation, providing an unusual and exciting glimpse into some of the opportunities that Lisarow High School offers for them.

Facility upgrades on the menu at Lisarow

By JESSICA FIELD

LISAROW High School has been undergoing some major facility upgrades in 2015.

April saw the opening of the redesigned Lisarow High School sports field, which has been incorporated into the new Lisarow Sports precinct. Local politicians came to the opening, including NSW Member for The Entrance, David Mehan, Gosford mayor Lawrie McKinna and Federal Member for Dobell, Karen McNamara.

The new precinct cost over \$5 million and saw Lisarow High's sports field increased in size, completely resurfaced, raised in height, and also included the construction of lighting towers and a drainage system.

In another major project the school is also having a new commercial kitchen constructed to bring facilities up to industry standard.

Technology and Applied Science head teacher, Katrina Walsh, said, "The new kitchen



The improved sports field.

Picture: Josh Hull

will provide improved hospitality programs." The new kitchen is due for our highly successful to open later in 2015.

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