

Secondary entry #9: Maitland Grossmann High School



The Cumberland Chronicles



One student in every four in Australian schools is affected by bullying. Picture: Elizabeth Loduku

It's now time to bulldoze over bullying

By **ELIZABETH LODUKU** and **ISSAC TIMONIN**

BULLYING is distressing for many adolescents around Australia, with approximately one in every four people stating that they have been bullied at least once. There are many varieties of bullying with some forms more prevalent than others.

Cyberbullying is the act of harassing someone online, using mainly social media. Physical bullying is when someone physically harms the victim, including punching, kicking and biting. Verbal and covert bullying is when someone insults another using words to hurt them. Covert bullying includes rumour spreading.

A victim of bullying, who wishes to stay anonymous, spoke out about the side effects of bullying. She said that "bullying turns you into an emotional wreck, forcing you to ponder the reasons for their actions."

There is always a reason behind why bullies start to bully others.

When feeling jealous, threatened or insecure, bullies harm others and pull regretful stunts to stand up against those who try to put them out. Victims can be all ages, sizes, and backgrounds, but some children are more likely to be victimised than others because they are small, sensitive, or "different" from their peers.

Standing up to a bully "takes guts" says students, and support is often required to effectively overcome the situation.

Pupils cross in danger



Caleb Goddard, Andrew Robertson, Issac Timonin and Will Lewis wish Maitland Grossmann High School had another crossing like this one on Morpeth Road. Picture: Katie Gordon

By **LUCY DU RIETZ** and **KATIE GORTON**

CURRENTLY, all across Australia, a large amount of schools face the problem of not having effective crossings. The crossings are either in an awkward and impractical location, or aren't clearly marked.

This leads to confusion, accidents and congestion for drivers and pedestrians. During school hours, many students find it hard to cross the road safely due to the crossings not being there or leading them to where they don't need to go. This is dangerous as many

students are forced to cross in another part of the road where there is a crossing needed.

Many schools have more than one road bordering the school grounds and only one crossing is situated on one of the roads.

Maitland Grossmann has two main roads bordering the school and only one has a crossing. The other road is dangerously busy, being one of the busiest roads in the area. Some students find it so difficult to cross the Morpeth Road in East Maitland that they use the storm water pipe to cross under the road in a way they find safer.

This is a risky way of getting to the other side of the road due to the low visibility and excessive amounts of debris, which could include harmful items such as syringes. Also the amount of water can sweep you off your feet as its depth and force is underestimated by students.

Many schools fear that it will take a fatal accident to bring the spotlight to the problem. At Grossmann, the P & C have applied for a crossing on Morpeth Road as it is extremely busy, but they were told they cannot have a crossing in that location because it breaches council's rules.

The school believes the crossing would make the road a lot safer, not only for students, but the community of East Maitland as a whole, due to the fact that the Hunter is the fastest growing area in NSW and the school is starting to find it difficult to accommodate the many students of the community.

Many schools hope that with more funding aimed at road safety, these problems will be solved, as they are becoming more of a prominent issue due to the increase in traffic. This issue has been left for too long and needs the attention of the council to be resolved.

Abby Thomson proudly represented Maitland Grossmann High School at Gallipoli in April. Picture: Maddison Battese



Grossmann remembers Anzacs

By **MADDISON BATTESE** and **CALEB GODDARD**

YEAR 11 Maitland Grossmann High School student, Abby Thomson, recently visited Gallipoli for the 100th Anzac Day anniversary and represented the school with great pride.

She left for Gallipoli on April 13, 2015 and had incredible experiences including visiting Shrapnel Valley and presenting a speech on Nor-

man Mervyn Rushforth, a brave soldier who died on the peninsula.

Abby said of the things she had learnt during her trip: "I finally saw mateship. Our group came together and supported one another through the emotional times. Even complete strangers supported us and formed a relationship with us."

Abby returned with further

knowledge of the war and the sacrifices these people made for their country. "I would like to inform the student body about both sides of the war and hopefully incorporate aspects of it into our learning," Abby said.

"The thing I found most remarkable was the Turkish people's ability to forgive Australia; we had invaded their lands and yet today they welcome us with open arms."



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