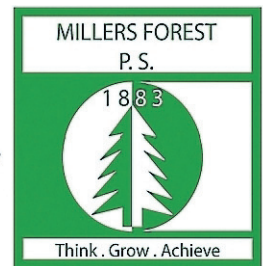
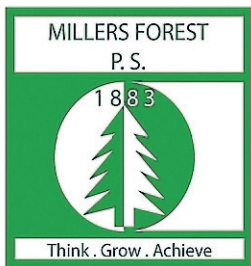


Primary entry #67: Millers Forest Public School



FOCUS ON THE FOREST



Children enjoying the Country Fair.

A fun fair for the entire community

By NAOMI KRAKE

MILLERS Forest Public School held a successful Country Fair on September 5. At the fair there were many market stalls, face painting, pony rides, a jumping castle and so much more. The Millers Forest Public School Rock Band entertained the crowd with their fantastic music.

The Millers Forest Public School P&C Secretary Hilary Burgess said: "We like to do something with all the children and all the parents, so we can make our school community really strong. Another reason is to raise money for school resources, such as iPads or fun things like the sensory garden, things that the school wouldn't normally get."

Tracee Lee, the P&C treasurer said that the Country Fair developed a strong community presence. "Millers Forest Rural Watch came to help at the fair and there were people coming to the fair from all over, even from the Central Coast."

"The Country Fair brings the wider community together and at the same time raises funds for the school," P&C President Julie Stephenson said. "It is a fun activity for the students to come and enjoy as well."

Millers Forest Public School principal Christyne Phelps said the fair was a magnificent day. "The fair raised funds that normally our small P&C could not have achieved in just one day and most of the community pitched in and helped," she said.

By NICHOLAS BOURKE

THE Millers Forest Public School Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) have created a beautiful sensory garden to help students who need time out from the playground.

A sensory garden is an environment designed to stimulate the senses. The colours, sounds, textures and scents in the garden help to create a wonderful sensory atmosphere.

The sensory garden was formed around existing trees in the playground. The P&C set up picnic tables, planted flowers and shrubs, and incorporated various other sensory elements into the garden, such as wind chimes and kites in the trees. Students paired up to craft mosaic stepping stones to border the garden.

Principal of Millers Forest Public School, Christyne Phelps, said "The sensory garden was set up for all students, but mainly students with disabilities, students that need to touch and feel things and students that need to be surrounded by an environment which is quiet and where they can go and have time out."

P&C president, Julie Stephenson, agrees that the sensory garden is an area where children can feel, smell, relax and be comfortable. She says "It's a place for students to enjoy all the different sensory



Students are enjoying their new outdoor space designed to stimulate learning and the senses.

Picture: Nicholas Bourke

experiences that are in the garden. I would hope the garden benefits everybody, but especially children with sensory issues."

Tracee Lee, P&C treasurer, said although the sensory garden was designed for students with special needs; the garden benefits all the students at the school because they

can use their imagination and all their senses. "Students can relax; have a quiet chat to friends or read a book in the garden," she said.

"We wanted to have a nice, safe environment for children to go to when they wanted time out from the busy playground. We also hoped to provide a beautiful area

for students to have lunch. So we came up with a lunch area within a sensory garden. Teachers can also use the area as an outdoor learning space," the secretary of the P&C, Hilary Burgess said.

The students love the new sensory garden and often have lunch there together on Fridays.



Nic and Diamond Prince warming up for a big finish.

Nic harnesses his talent at trots

By JAMES GREEN

NICHOLAS Bourke, a year 5 student from Millers Forest Public School, has been involved in Mini Trots since he was eight years old and is achieving great things.

Mini Trots are a smaller version of harness racing. Children between 5-16 years drive ponies in races at local shows. The annual NSW Mini Trots Championships

foster friendly competition and good sportsmanship.

Daryll Jackson is the secretary for the NSW Mini Trotting Association. He said "Competitors don't have to have the fastest horse or be the best at racing. Horses are handicapped according to their ability and the ability of the driver, so everybody gets equal opportunity. Drivers are there to enjoy themselves."

Daryll regards Nicholas as an up-and-coming star. "Nic's doing really well. He qualified for the NSW Championship Finals on a number of occasions and has been to the Inter Dominion races."

Nicholas thinks that Mini Trots are fun because everyone gets a go. He believes his greatest achievement so far is having a horse at the Inter Dominion races.

Switch to a low packaged home loan rate!

Premium Plus Package Home Loan

3.99% p.a. **4.35%** p.a.

Variable package rate*

Comparison rate#

Owner occupied home loans only.

Minimum loan \$250,000 or loan to value ratio under 90%.

Our packaged home loan rate is one of the lowest in Australia. See how much you could save by making the switch to Australia's 2015 Home Lender of the Year, today.

13 19 87

newcastlepermanent.com.au/save



Here's some more information for you: This offer is for a limited time only. *Rate current at 28/9/15 for loans refinanced from another financial institution, subject to change without notice. Applications for finance are subject to Newcastle Permanent's normal credit approval process. Terms and conditions, fees and charges apply. #Comparison rate calculated on a loan amount of \$150,000 for a term of 25 years based on monthly repayments. WARNING: This comparison rate applies only to the example or examples given. Different amounts and terms will result in different comparison rates. Costs such as redraw fees or early repayment fees, and cost savings such as fee waivers, are not included in the comparison rate but may influence the cost of the loan. Newcastle Permanent Building Society Limited ACN 087 651 992. Australian Financial Services Licence/Australian Credit Licence 238273. NPB3151 T24