



Cartoon: India Pryer

## Gender bias still oppresses many

### EDITORIAL

By **JASMINE SULLIVAN**

A MAN and his son are involved in a car accident. The man dies and the young boy suffers serious wounds. He is taken to hospital in critical condition. His surgeon takes one look at him and says 'I'm sorry. I can't operate'. When asked why, the surgeon replies: 'He's my son.'

Confused? If so, you too are guilty of the unconscious gender bias plaguing society. The surgeon is female. Is that not a reasonable explanation? Your confusion deems otherwise and is proof of the inequality rupturing society.

In our developed world, gender inequality is viewed as a thing of the past, only to be read about in history texts.

However, this is far from the truth. Inequality is still prevalent through gender biases that are heavily ingrained within society.

Preference of masculine qualities over feminine qualities, ridiculing gender insults, unconscious bias and our male-dominated film industry are all examples of the many ways gender inequality is stifling society.

Tender and emotional. These typical feminine qualities are regarded as 'weak', whereas masculine qualities of bravery and strength are prized. Yet, who

decides that strength is more important than compassion?

These biases impact all areas of life. Career opportunities are limited, men and women alike face discrimination and children grow up restrained by stereotypes. For every girl who is tired of acting weak when she is strong, there is a boy who is tired of acting strong when he feels vulnerable.

Gender bias doesn't stop with stereotypical qualities. Insults such as "you're such a girl" are hurled everywhere, from school to home. Why is being a girl worthy of insult? But boys suffer from gender biased insults too. They learn that acting 'girl-like' is unacceptable and they must 'man-up' and refrain from expressing emotion.

The most prevalent place where gender bias exists is in the film industry: 7 per cent of directors are female, 26.2 per cent of female actors get partially naked compared to 9.4 per cent of men and less than a quarter of films surveyed have a female lead.

Films are a source of guidance for children but sadly this guidance comprises of stereotypes, over-sexualisation and lacks in positive female roles.

The battle for gender equality in the developed world is far from solved. Together we must stand up in pride of who we are, break free from restrictions and close the divide between men and women.

# Budding artists set to showcase talent

By **EMMA CONSTABLE, GENEVIEVE MALONE** and **AIMEE MURPHY**

NEWCASTLE Community Arts Centre is dedicated to displaying the work of budding artists around the local area. From May 7 to 24 it will host *Veritas III*, a free art exhibition featuring the work of San Clemente students, staff, their families, friends and other people in the schools community.

Emma South, art teacher and CAPA co-ordinator at San Clemente said, "One exciting part of this year's *Veritas* exhibition is our Letter Project where we explore the truth of San Clemente through individual students, staff members and parts of our community exploring a letter from *Veritas* and what it means. So we may have 'V' for vivacity or vibrance, or 'I' for intelligence, 'A' for academic, anything that they can explore through *Veritas*."

Laura Kuras, a year 9 San Clemente student also said, "It is a great opportunity to show your passion, I've never thought of doing it before. There are no boundaries. You can show your own creativity. You are able to put your own work in which helps develop artistic skills."

The *Veritas* exhibitions began when Rose McAllister, religion co-ordinator at San Clemente, held an exhibition to display her own work which had much attention from community interested in having a part in the exhibition. From this she



Dylan Patamisi is displaying his artwork in the upcoming *Veritas* exhibition.

Picture: Genevieve Malone

devised the idea of holding an exhibition featuring the San Clemente community and their art called *Veritas*, the Latin word for truth; a key concept in the community and the school motto.

The exhibition's official opening will be on May 8 at 6pm with nibbles

and drinks on the night. All artwork is for sale and the proceeds of the Letters Project will go to supporting Caritas.

For details email [rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.edu.au)

## Council plans to develop Boomerang Park

By **SARAH TUCK** and **LILIAN TU**

PORT Stephens Council are planning to develop Boomerang Park at Raymond Terrace.

An estimated \$4 million plan has been put forward to develop the area, including a skate park, boardwalk, croquet courts, a useful event space, picnic shelters and barbecues.

Almost 17 hectares of Boomerang Park could be sold to help fund a community playground. But where the council will get

the money from hasn't been yet decided.

The idea originated from Port Stephens Mayor Bruce Mackenzie who said he wanted to see the Raymond Terrace Men's Shed, a new croquet court and the park all built at Boomerang Park before the end of the council term.

The exhibition for the changes runs until July 16. Mrs Michie, a resident who has lived near the park said, "I have heard about the park changes. I was shocked and terrified."



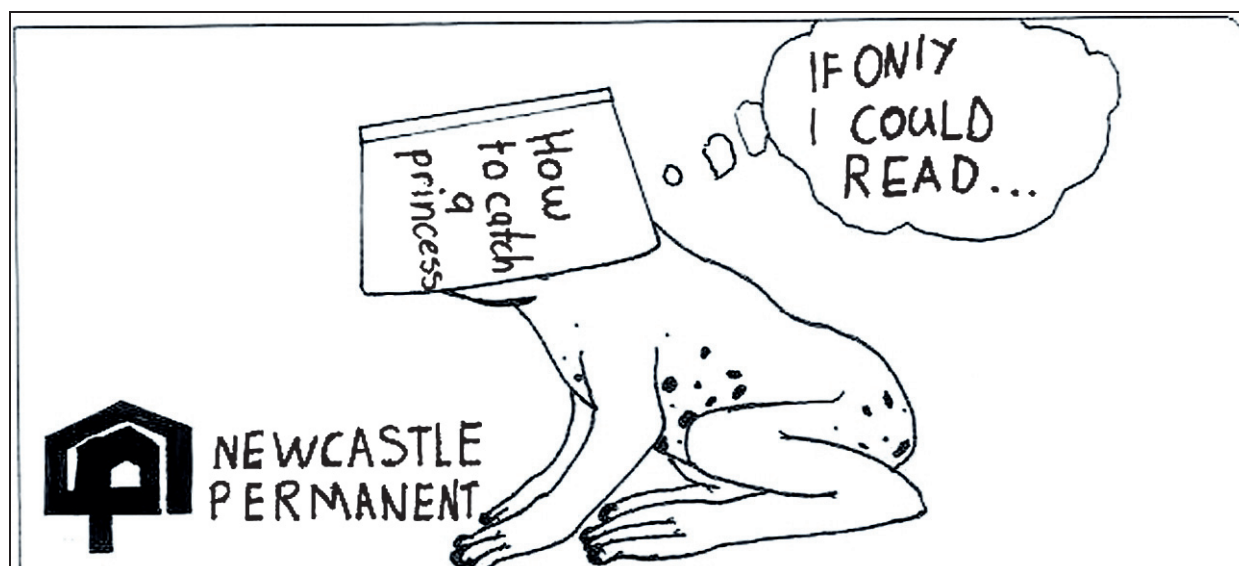
Genevieve Malone in front of Boomerang Park, the site of the proposed developments.

Picture: Jordyn Baker

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS SCHOOL NEWSPAPER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE COMPETITION SPONSORS



SEE THE ENTRIES ONLINE AT [theherald.com.au/community/newspapers-in-education/](http://theherald.com.au/community/newspapers-in-education/)



Advertisement created by India Pryer, of San Clemente.

Here for a good education, here for the community

13 19 87 [newcastlepermanent.com.au](http://newcastlepermanent.com.au)

Here for good. **NEWCASTLE PERMANENT**