

Cartoon: Racquelle Peters

Libraries are still important for us

EDITORIAL

By **LIAM** and **ELLA MADDEN**

THE Scone Library is located at 130 Liverpool Street and has a variety of sources to help the community in studying for work or school.

With over 1700 books in the collection, the library helps students to study for assignments, projects or just to browse around at their great range of books for reading enjoyment. There is also a variety of DVDs, magazines and Xbox games to play.

The Scone Community Library holds great activities in the school holidays and family weekends to raise money for the community. The Upper Hunter Shire Library has great internet facilities and computers. Unfortunately though not enough for the entire Scone district which includes four schools, three preschools and several day care facilities who all use their resources.

However, times are changing and more children have access to research at home via their internet. They also download books or purchase them from stores. So, do we really need community libraries anymore?

Are they as important as they used to be? On a recent visit to Scone Library we interviewed the library co-ordinator Elizabeth Walter. During our visit we talked to her about the library and its facilities. We were happy when she told us that the library was considering changes to its structure and resources.

On return from our visit, we surveyed children in years 3 to 6 to discover who uses the library and what facilities they would like to see included in a refurbishment of the library. We found that only 45 children in our school were actually members. If the library was to be refurbished they would like to see features such as a cafe, swimming pool, day care facilities, eating tables, a playground and a reading spot in the sun. They also suggested that the inside could contain some more newspapers, stationery, comic books, magazines, faster internet for the computers, e-books and a large screen to watch movies on.

Scone Library is currently considering changes and is asking the public for their ideas. Let's hope the people of Scone fill in the survey and submit their ideas for the upgraded library. We see a need for a community library and are looking forward to a refurbishment in the future.

St Mary's students are eSmart and ready

By **PRIYA GILL, DANIKA PETERS, TORI HARDES** and **HOLLY HAYES**

WHAT is cyberbullying and how do you stop it? Bullying is using influence to force someone to do something against their will. The most common form of bullying is name calling, physical contact and cyberbullying. Cyberbullying can take place over the phone, computer and any other mobile device. One in every 10 young Australians has been found to be a victim of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a crime; it causes many young people to become sad and upset. A very common form of cyberbullying is insulting, or sending mean or threatening text messages.

St Mary's Scone recently had a cyber safety week to educate students. Senior Sergeant Gray of the Local Area Command came to speak to the children about keeping safe online. She said "It's more common to be cyberbullied than any other form of bullying." She also said, "The internet is 24/7, if you are being cyberbullied they can get to you anytime, anywhere."

Throughout the week students completed various activities that gave them a deeper understanding of what to do if you are in a situation and you don't feel safe or happy. Part of the week was to watch a video about a children who faced problems online. The students learnt that if something is bothering



Students of St Mary's with Senior Sergeant Gray. Picture: Priya Gill

you and you don't think it is very nice, you should tell an adult, because they will know what to do and can help you to sort it out.

A survey of students within St Mary's showed that 46 students between years 3 and 6 use social media to communicate regularly. Out of these, 11 students have been cyberbullied and 17 of them have witnessed cyberbullying and haven't reported this to anyone. The school

decided to make a difference for all students by being involved in the eSmart program.

Students must remember to never meet with someone they do not know in real life and never give out personal information.

Cyberbullying can have a huge effect on people, sometimes even causing depression. It is important to think before you click, and be responsible for your actions.

Youth have a voice with help from their feet

By **CHARLOTTE HEATON** and **HARRISON CLYDSDALE**

THE youth of Scone and the Upper Hunter are very lucky to have a Youth Council. The Youth Council is a group made up of students from years 5 to 12 that come from nine different schools in the Upper Hunter. These students are in charge of organising events for school-aged children all over the Upper Hunter.

The Youth Council started up in 2011 because the council felt that the

young people of our area needed events and activities to participate in. Youth Council meetings are held twice a term in either the Council Chambers or at a school in the area.

Six members of the Youth Council are excited to be attending a conference in Eurobodalla next term. At the conference the students will swap ideas with others from all around NSW. To help with the cost of attending the



Students of St Mary's wearing their crazy socks.

Picture: Charlotte Heaton

allowed to wear crazy socks and brought in a gold coin donation. The fundraiser was a great success.

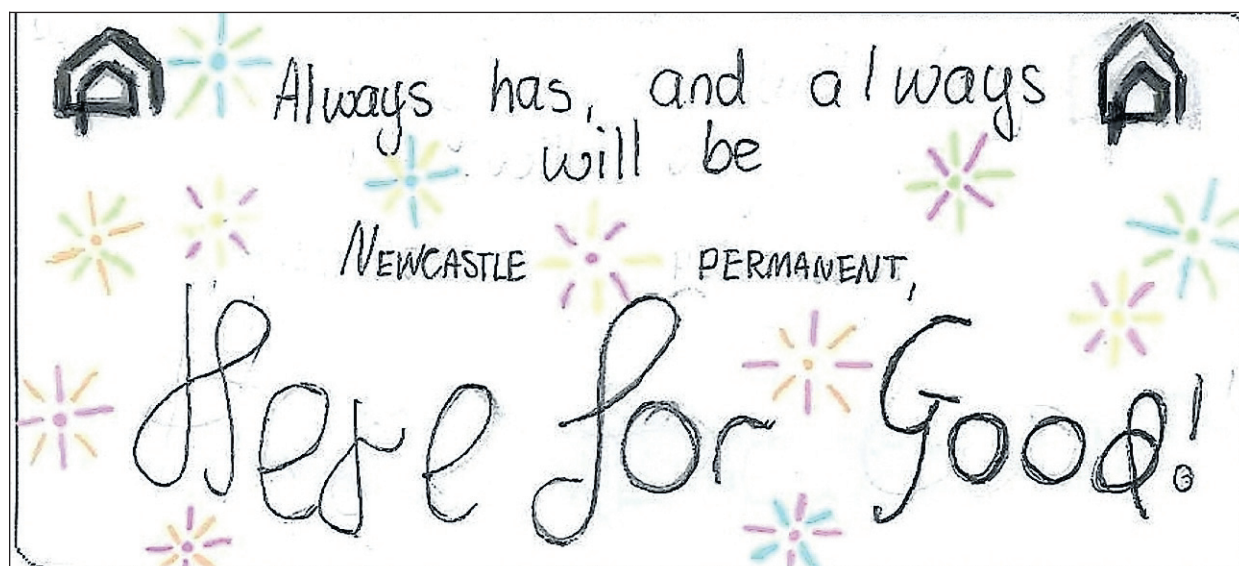
conference, the school held a fundraising day. On August 27 children were

brought in a gold coin donation. The fundraiser was a great success.

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