

Primary entry # 68: St Peter's Primary Stockton



ST PETER'S PRESS



The Stockton library.
Picture: Zac Leeson

Library that brings book week to life

By **KINDER, YEAR 1 and YEAR 2 STUDENTS**

THE theme for Book Week this year was 'Books Light Up the World.' The students from kindergarten, year 1 and year 2 were lucky enough to visit Stockton library to watch Karen Eastwood and Julie Swane from the Newcastle Region Library bring to life through drama some of this year's short-listed books.

We really enjoyed watching and participating in the performance. Our favourite was the story *Go To Sleep Jessie* written by Libby Gleeson. Some of the children acted as the mother and the father and one of our teachers was baby Jessie. She made us laugh.

The staff at the library work very hard. Karen Eastwood's job is to bring stories to life through performance, rhymes and song. Julie Swane who is the children's librarian runs story time, plans school holiday activities and buys books. David is a librarian at the Stockton branch and is very busy loaning books and keeping the library tidy.

The Stockton library is an important part of the local community. There is a very large collection of books as well as DVDs, magazines, CDs and computers. It is a great place for people to meet and to find information. The library is a fantastic community resource you should visit soon.

By **ABIGAIL McSHANE, ZOE O'MAY, BREANNA KOITKA, JYE GARTH and LEWIS FERGUSON**

WHY shouldn't dogs be allowed on Stockton Beach? Have you noticed how big Stockton Beach is? There are 22-kilometres of pure, sandy beach and we only use a small amount, plus there are a huge amount of sand dunes.

You would agree that Horseshoe Beach – a dog friendly beach in Newcastle – might be a bit too far away for residents of Stockton; especially when there is already a beach outside their front door.

Dogs presently, are not allowed to be on Stockton beach without a leash. We understand this is because nature is beautiful and if a dog runs off then they can destroy nature. Without a leash dogs can do their business all over the sand.

Our answer is that owners need to be responsible for cleaning up after their dog and bring plastic bags when they come to the beach and be watchful of their animals.

Dogs are required to wear a lead at all times when they are on the beach at Stockton, but if that is the case then how are they meant to chase a ball, swim or dig a hole? The beach is a peaceful place for dogs where they can relax and stay cool, especially through the hot months. But no one should be



Dogs currently aren't allowed on Stockton beach.

allowed to say that they can't do that. Humans relax on the beach all the time – why should the rules be different for dogs. They are a part of our families too.

Sometimes we all think that other people have no respect for animals, because do they think dogs are only allowed at parks and should not get wet or chase a ball. Some animals may get more of a chance to be free

if the beach was open to dogs off leashes. Dogs are excluded from a lot of things. You know how you felt when you were too small to go on a ride at the fair or if you couldn't do something you really wanted to do. Well dogs probably feel like this most of the time.

Dogs can get very hot considering they have a long coat but what happens in the summer if the

owner doesn't cut their coat. That's when they need to go down to the beach and have a swim to cool off.

Dogs should be able to access the beach if they are well behaved and can be trusted off the lead to go have a swim in the water and play with their responsible owner.

Our dogs are our family so they should be treated the same as you or I on the beach.



There are 11 parkruns across the Hunter, including a run at Stockton.

Get your shoes on for a parkrun

By **MAX HARDY, JACK GILBERT and NICHOLAS STACE**

THE Stockton Parkrun is a perfect way for people to get fit and have some fun.

It starts at 8am every Saturday and is free to participate in. People run from the ballast grounds, around to the skate park, on to Westcott, then back to the ballast grounds. The distance from

the start to the finish is five kilometres and it is a timed event.

The parkrun is a good way to test your fitness and abilities, and gives you the opportunity to try to improve your time each week. The run is for all ages. Dogs are allowed on the run but only on a short lead so all participants are safe.

It is a social outing as you spend time with friends and

other people. If you are under 11, the rule is that you have to be with a parent for your own safety.

When people run, they are surrounded by amazing views of Newcastle. Participants can volunteer to help at the parkrun. You can run at any pace you want – you can even walk. After the run you are told what place you came. Each week you try to beat your personal best.



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