

Cartoon: Emily Enright

Petrol station at Kooragang Island

EDITORIAL

By **LOGAN CROZIER, BLAIR McMAHON and LACHLAN JAMES**

A PETROL station on Kooragang has many positives and negatives, but once Stockton residents would not have needed this facility. In fact, there were six petrol stations spread across Stockton but over time only one has been left.

Three years ago a new owner sought to occupy the petrol station, promising to open it back up, new and improved; but even now, three years on, it has not reopened and most likely won't be opening any time soon. One reason for this would be the damage from the April storm which greatly damaged half of the building, delaying it even longer.

A negative to this newly-placed petrol station include some residents of Stockton wanting a new petrol station, though they're getting it in a different location. It is on Kooragang Island and the reason for the placement is not because of its scenery as it is right next to a scrapyard, up the road

from coal terminals and down the road from many industries. Yes, the service station will make money from the workers in the area and passers-by, but this raises questions about environmental damage to the area. This petrol station seems to be a gigantic project, as it was originally a \$4 million project and now the estimate is a \$15 million.

Kooragang is an appropriate place for it to be opened because it is half way between Stockton and Newcastle. Secondly, lots of cars pass through this area allowing there to be many job opportunities. Many people would be coming to Stockton to enjoy the beaches and after a long drive in the car, a pit stop would be quite enjoyable. From the centre of Stockton the station is approximately eight kilometres, which can be make or break if your car is empty.

Although a petrol station on Kooragang has many positives there may be some faults, including that it could make Kooragang a more populated island and it may lead to increased traffic. Another point is that although people in Stockton may be satisfied with the distance it may still be too far away to be practical.

Newcastle and Civic train station closure

By **EMILY ENRIGHT, JED SPRUCE and MAXIMUS MCCRAE**

SINCE the closure of Civic and Newcastle train stations, there has been lots of protests and disappointed residents of Newcastle.

On December 26, 2014, Newcastle and Civic train station cut the cord and called it a day. As a result there has been lots of clogged up traffic because of people needing to drive longer distances to other train stations, and the people from off the coast wanting to have a surf have to walk much longer distances because they are not allowed on buses with their surfboards. Loads of people protested against the closure of Civic and Newcastle train stations, but lost their protest late last year. The thought of closing the stations was buzzing around for a long time but never was really definite until then.

A group called Save Our Rail were involved in a campaign to build support for the Newcastle Rail Service that the Government closed.

For people wanting to catch a train to Central or further stations it means they can't just catch the train from Newcastle – they have to get a lift or drive all the way to Broadmeadow or to Hamilton station.

Personally, we think that they should have held the closure of the stations back at least another year.



Newcastle and Civic stations are closed and the train tracks are to be ripped up.

The train station was actually used by lots of people who were saddened by the thought of the station closing and students needing to get to school can no longer just catch the train.

There used to be many trains coming in daily and now there can

be none. This has even affected residence of Stockton, who now do not have direct access to public rail transport. We do not agree with the closure of the station and think it was a weak decision made by leadership.

Books light up our world and imagination

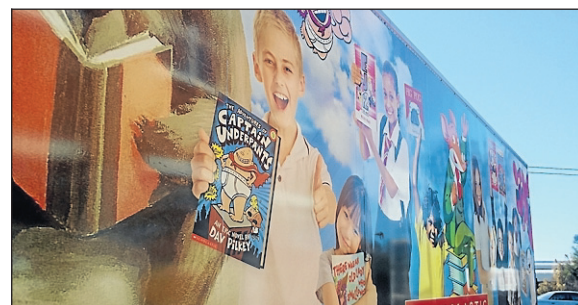
By **BELLA NYSTEN, MIEKA REBESCO, EVIE SHARP, SAM CAPONECCHIA and TATE SMILEY**

'BOOKS light up our world' was the theme for Book Week 2015. Students at schools around the country had book parades – which included dressing up as their favourite character.

Book Week has been going on for 70 years in Australia; it started back in 1945. Over the years there have been many fun themes such as Reading Rocks, Oceans of Stories, Doorways, Book Safari

and many, many more. The first Book Week theme, in 1945, was "United Through Books".

During the week we all celebrate books and famous Australian authors and illustrators. Children and teachers dress up as their favourite book characters, and school teachers and librarians pick lots of fun activities to do throughout the day. Every year most schools usually



Book Week is loved by many schools.

have a book stall where you can buy some of the latest books. encourage young people to start reading and to get them to encourage others to read as well.

Book Week is held to

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