

Cartoon: Ashley Lewins

Is modern learning the best approach

EDITORIAL

By ANGELYKA PENERA

DO you see yourself as a traditional learner or perhaps a more creative individual who would prefer to learn with 21st century learning skills?

Traditional learning is where teachers choose what their students are going to learn about for the day in a closed classroom setting.

Modern learning allows students to choose how and what they're going to learn during the course of a day however, the teacher teaches the skills to be able to do that.

Traditional education stresses basic, educational practices and expect mastery of academic learning in the individual core subjects of maths, reading, writing and science.

Woodberry Public School instructional leader Erin Minogue and assistant principal Cheryl Stevenson believe that students need to know how to solve problems, collaborate, communicate and use technology as they will need to use these skills in the future.

Classroom teachers at the

school believe that inquiry-based learning allows students to find out all the facts and information on their own as they are in control of their own learning.

With 21st century learning, children collaborate and co-operate with each other to find answers on their own.

Classrooms in traditional learning styles often tend to be closed systems where information is filtered through many layers to individual students.

An increasing number of teachers believe that 21st century learning is the way of the future because learning and working co-operatively is very important for students.

To cope with the demands of the 21st century, people need to know more than core subjects.

They need to know how to use their knowledge and skills by thinking critically, applying knowledge to new situations, analysing information, comprehending new ideas, communicating, collaborating, solving problems and making decisions.

Modern learning prepares students for the future and the 'real' world. People must decide if they are learners of the future or if they would like things to continue as they are.

Living with mozzies is a real buzzkill

By ASHLIE DUFFIELD and ASHLEY LEWINS

MOSQUITOES are a well-known blood sucking pest however, only relatively few mosquitoes are a risk to humans.

Stephen McLeod, environmental projects co-ordinator from Maitland City Council said: "The mosquito-borne viruses of most concern in the Hunter area are Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus."

During 2014, NSW reported 684 Ross River virus cases and 162 cases of Barmah Forest virus compared to the Hunter New England Health District of 212 Ross River virus and 38 Barmah Forest virus cases.

Notifications of Ross River virus have been highest amongst people between the ages of 35-44 years.

This year, 528 cases of Ross River virus have been reported in NSW with the most increase in February 2015. Only 32 cases of Barmah Forest virus have been reported.

"There haven't been any recent studies into why mosquitoes infest the swamp lands near Woodberry and Hexham because they have always been there. Tests are conducted a few times a year in the Hunter region by the NSW Government to see what sort of viruses the mosquitoes are carrying and how these viruses might affect humans," Mr McLeod said.

"It's true that people living closest to the wetlands and swamps of Woodberry, Hexham, Tenambit,



The mosquito plague is a real problem at Woodberry Public School due to its close proximity to the low lying swamp lands.

Seaham, Tomago, Fullerton Cove, Kooragang and Shortland are most vulnerable to mosquito bites and the diseases they can transmit.

"Although there are expected to be more reports of mosquito virus infection in the years ahead, it's impossible to predict just how big the increase will be."

Mosquitoes don't hatch already infected with viruses – they actually feed on the infected blood of other animals and pass these on to humans.

It seems it's time for humans to live with these rotten pests and think of logical ways to avoid being around them.

Community garden keeps growing strong

By SABRINA WILLCOCKS and PATRICIA BELLCHAMBERS

WOODBERRY Public School have been fortunate enough to have established their own community garden.

The garden has been a working creation by Craig Manhood and Glen Yarnold.

"The project has been underway for the past two and a half years," Mr Manhood said.

"So far we've raised the garden beds, built a pizza oven, placed seats around

the fire place, built a shade house, put tanks and taps around the garden, grown bush foods and have built a pond with stepping stones."

"The garden will help the wider community and our school because it will help people understand nature and will teach people how to grow certain foods. It will also be recyclable while there's plenty of water and harvest cooking where people can



Woodberry Public Schools community garden is bringing residents together. Picture: Ashley Lewins

eat different foods. This also can help people to connect with others."

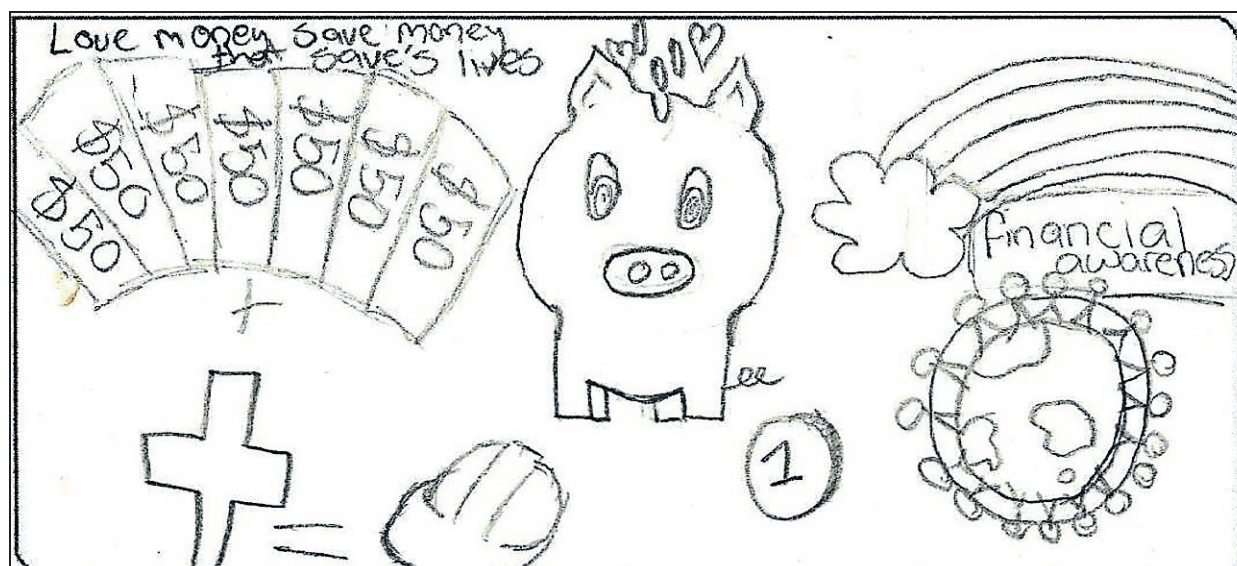
Future plans involve

classes in the garden, inviting parents so they can become involved and giving food to the canteen.

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