

Immigration has been great move

EDITORIAL

By CLASS 5/6R

WHEN the First Fleet arrived in Australia, 400,000 Aboriginal people lived here. Now our population is over 23 million and this is mostly because of migration.

Did you know that four in 10 people in this state are migrants or the children of migrants? The way that Australians have felt about migrants has changed over the years, but we feel that immigration has helped make Australia the great country that it is today.

Migrants were a crucial source of labourers when this country desperately needed them. Once the convicts stopped being sent here, there weren't enough workers willing to take on the back-breaking tasks needed to build a new colony. They cleared bushland for farms and buildings, dug wells and worked as shepherds.

Many migrants brought their skills and hard-working approach to our country and started businesses. This has created job opportunities and brought money into our economy.

Australia is a country that loves its sport, but we would not have anywhere near as many sports to choose from if it wasn't for the

influences of migrants bringing their sports here. Many of us enjoy participating in martial arts such as taekwondo, karate and tai chi. Football, boxing and golf are also popular sports in Australia. So many of the sports that we enjoy originated in other countries.

Our everyday lives are also much richer for having all the different cultures here. We have learned about different religions and different traditions, and enjoy new cuisines at our fingertips that we've never had before.

Perhaps most importantly of all, many influential people in Australia's history were immigrants or the children of immigrants.

Victor Chang was born in China but if he didn't come to Australia to study medicine, we might not have had successful lifesaving heart transplants here as soon as we did. Professor Ian Frazer, born overseas, was awarded Australian of the Year in 2006 after developing a vaccine to prevent and treat cervical cancer. Even our own prime minister was born overseas.

Each of these people – and many more like them – have had a major effect on our country.

It has been extremely beneficial to Australia for migrants to come here for many reasons including the extra money they bring in, the new jobs they create, their delicious foods and all the fun sports that we get to enjoy.



ON TASK: Kindergarten students Finlay, Rai and Rory working hard in their new surroundings. Picture: Jack Richards

Setting them up to succeed

By CALLUM COULSON and TOM READING

ABERMAIN Public School has one of the most comprehensive kindergarten orientation programs in the local area. It has been refined over many years to ensure that students and their families are prepared for starting "big school".

The program runs over four weeks in term four for students enrolling for kindergarten the next year. Not only do new students have a chance to meet their teachers and year 5 buddies, they get to look around the school so that it feels more familiar when they come back.

While the students are enjoying fun activities in the classroom, par-

ents attend workshops on school readiness, syllabus expectations and student attendance.

A representative from the Department of Communities comes along to share their expertise and to introduce parents to the Best Start Literacy and Numeracy program.

Kindergarten students are assessed before they start school to give the teachers the information they need to prepare the right lessons for every student.

"This was one of our most successful years yet," said assistant principal Debbie Bower, who is co-ordinator of the orientation program. "Our 2013 students have settled very quickly into the school and classroom routines."

A team of leaders representing students

By CLASS 3/4/5H

THE Student Representative Council, or SRC as it is better known, is a group of students who have been elected by their fellow peers to represent their classes at SRC meetings.

During these meetings the representatives give their opinions and share their concerns, brainstorm fund-raising ideas and discuss about ways to improve the school.

The SRC has held out-of-uniform days, served some delicious ice-creams and

asked students to turn out in their craziest hairstyles all in a bid to raise funds.

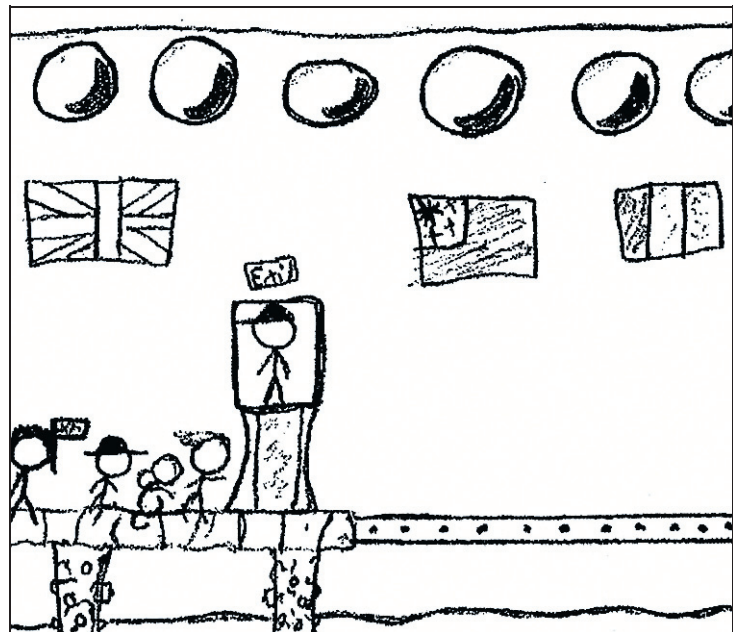
They have purchased buckets, gloves and tongs to ensure that the playground is kept clean and tidy.

The SRC is an essential part of the school as it provides a way for all classes to have their voices heard and allows wonderful ideas to be shared and talked about further.

This term, the SRC members have shown great enthusiasm and are busy thinking about their next project.



TAKING CHARGE: Emma, Sharntel, Zac and Samuel representing Stage 2. Picture: Nicholas Turkington



Cartoon: Riley Layer

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