

# Change of issues for pupils of today

## EDITORIAL

By **AMY SZLICHT** and  
**MITCH ROBINSON**

SMARTBOARDS, airconditioning, computers and iPads. Life today is quite different to the days of blackboards and working outside on hot days. So is this a good or a bad thing?

Thinking back to the 1980s when our school celebrated its 125th anniversary, school was a simpler place, free from cyberbullying and stranger danger.

Back then, students walked to school and didn't have worries like, "Did I charge my phone?" or "Maybe I should have posted another photo on Facebook". Their worries were more like, "Did I let the chooks out?" or "Did I collect the mail today?"

These days children lead very different lives. Children experience more stress with technology distracting them at school and at home. Facebook, Twitter and social media sites are a modern playground for bullies.

In the '80s, students lived more carefree lives. At school, children learnt English, maths and social studies (HSIE). They didn't go home with a truckload of homework – they went out to play with friends or train for sport.

They would go outside in the shade to learn before they had airconditioners.

No one wanted to get in trouble back then because they knew that the punishment was the cane.

They were well-mannered because they had a stricter approach to education. Children were taught how to present themselves better and have manners at the dinner table.

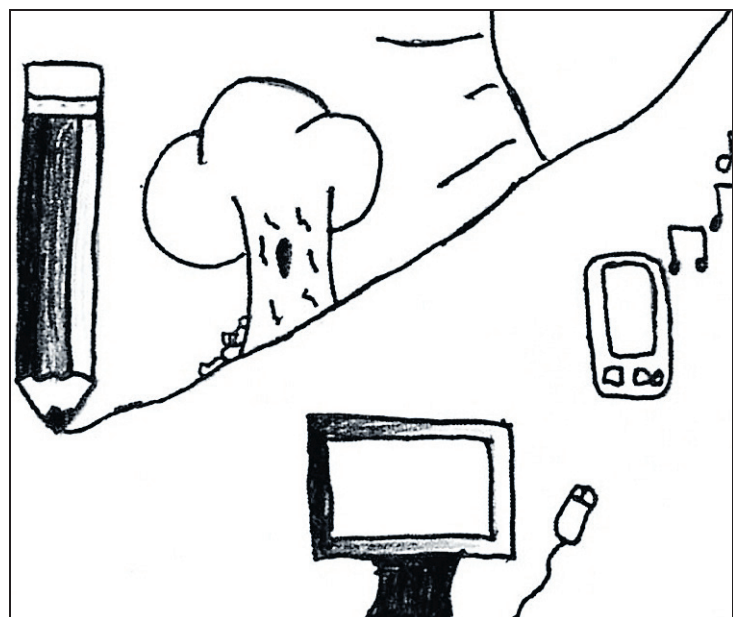
They were taught how to use cutlery properly while eating at the table with their family. In those days, most families sat at the table and ate dinner, not in front of the television like many kids do now.

The Braxton Public School's 125th anniversary commemorative booklet encouraged children to "actively solve problems and investigate the world in which they live". Now with the changes in technology the way that we solve problems and investigate has changed, too. The workload has greatly increased both at school and after school. These days education has expanded outside the classroom with websites like Literacy Planet and Mathletics.

This year we celebrate our 150th anniversary, and maybe school life hasn't changed for the better.

Life was simpler and easier for children 25 years ago.

Children these days seem to lead busier lives, but busier doesn't mean better.



Cartoon: Sam Owen



**TALENTED:** State sport representatives Mitch Robinson and Corey Lamb.

Picture: Ian Johnson

# Training hard gets results

By **NOAH LEONARD** and  
**JOSIE WITHERDIN**

AT Braxton Public School students have the opportunity to participate in many sports. Two students have combined these opportunities with natural talent and have represented the school at state level.

Mitch Robinson, in year 6, has notched up many sporting achievements in his primary school life.

Mitch's major achievements have come in the water. He is very dedicated and trains five times a week, but his hard work has paid off.

He has competed at state level for the past three years in all swimming strokes. His favourites are backstroke and butterfly.

Mitch has also competed at state level in water polo. He plays water polo out of school and has represented Sydney North water polo team at this year's state carnival.

Corey Lamb has represented the school in golf. He has reached state level twice, firstly at Forster (2012) and also at Port Macquarie (2013).

His uncle and father used to play golf and take him down to the golf course with them.

He first started playing at Braxton Golf Club at the age of 10. Ever since he has been fascinated with the sport. He plays golf out of school as well and has been playing for four years.

Throughout that time, he has improved immensely and proudly represents Braxton Public School.

# Great place for teachers to educate

By **KATRINA MOY**

BRAXTON Public School must be a wonderful school to work at as there are many teachers who have been there for a long time. Two of the longest-serving teachers are Anne Went and Murray Johanson.

Mrs Went is the librarian and has been teaching at Braxton Public for 25 years. She says education has changed a lot since she began her career 35 years ago. The biggest changes are the use of technology, the size of classes and the programming.

Mrs Went thinks the best changes are the improving technologies and a greater selection of children's books. She believes students have become much better at reading and the facilities at Braxton Public have improved greatly since she attended the school as a child. She has loved seeing the children grow and change as they move through the school.

Mr Johanson has been at the school since 1997. He recalls how his year 3 teacher, Mr Richards, always made learning fun for his students and he wanted to be just like him.

Mr Johanson described how classrooms have changed from desks with lids to computers in every room. He is sometimes disappointed with the lack of respect that some parents have for teachers but said the Braxton community was very supportive of the school.

# Billy cart fun to be had with school dads

By **ALIZA CULLEN** and  
**PHOEBE QUILTY**

YEAR 4 teacher Thomas Foster recently had an idea to get students' dads more involved in the school – the answer was billy carts.

Mr Foster said that he thought billy carts were a fantastic thing to get dads into the school to work with their kids.

Earlier this year he organised a meeting, inviting parents to get involved in billy cart making. Three families were keen to par-

ticipate and three great billy carts were constructed to compete in the Gresford Billy Cart Derby on the Easter long weekend.

The families had a great day racing and enjoying the atmosphere, with classmates and Mr Foster there to cheer them on.

Currently they are building more billy carts using the facilities at the Greta-Braxton Men's Shed. Dads, mums and kids are all busy building.

The next challenge is the Kurri Kurri Billy Cart Derby in October.



**CART CLUB:** Mr Foster with representatives of the Holz, Bentley and Tudor families.

Picture: Morgan Hawkins

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