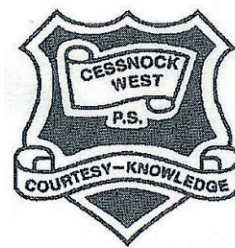


Primary entry #10: Cessnock West Public School



Cessnock West Chronicle



BOOKWORM: Jae Rolt celebrates with one of her favourite books.
Picture: Cody Krafczyk

Nation's top librarian is ready to help

By **BROCK BEVERIDGE**
and **CODY KRAFCZYK**

JAE Rolt, from Cessnock West Public School, has been announced Australia's Favourite Librarian for 2013.

A qualified librarian for more than 10 years, Ms Rolt has been acknowledged for her dedication and commitment to educating others in technology and library work.

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) received more than 200 nominations and 14,000 votes to find Australia's favourite librarian. Ms Rolt was awarded a lifetime membership to ALIA valued at more than \$3500.

Ms Rolt has built positive relationships with all her students, especially her devoted student library monitors. Monitor Zanthia Crump said: "Mrs Rolt is kind, always helpful and has taught me many new skills, including how to borrow and loan out books to others and how to fix problems on a computer."

Teacher Michael Mandas congratulated Ms Rolt. "She assists me when I need resources for units of work and is always willing to assist with school events and organisation.

"Being a teacher-librarian I get the best of both worlds," said Ms Rolt.

"I am able to share my love of great literature, and teach every child some of the technology skills they will need in the future."

By **LUCY DONN, GEORGIA STACEY** and **HANNAH DAY**

MORE than 70 students from local public schools Abermain, Kearsley, Cessnock, Cessnock East, Cessnock West, Paxton, Millfield, Wollombi and Nulkaba attended the first Thirsty Thinkers Day held at Cessnock West Public School on March 21, 2013.

The day targeted gifted students from years 4 and 6 and the students participated in four engaging workshops. This included the tricks of persuasive writing from Andrew Wells, Maryland Public School's Opportunity Class teacher, and science experiments from Anne McDonald, Cessnock West Public School's Opportunity Class teacher.

Renato Carini from the Mount View High School mathematics department taught students about challenging numbers, while Annie Devine from Cessnock East Public School and local choir teacher taught the students how to sing and play instruments.

Thirsty Thinkers Day "was very important as it allowed like-minded students to get together and share their interests. It also brought to my attention that there are many talented writers in the Cessnock area and I believe that such days allow strengths to be developed. It's an opportunity for students to grow and receive recog-



LEARNING MORE: Students engaged in Mrs McDonald's science workshop.
Picture: Ainslie Daniel

nition. It is also a chance to have some serious fun," said Mr Wells.

"The day was an excellent opportunity for gifted and talented students from many local schools to come together and share ideas as they learnt about new things and explored a variety of learning areas," said Ms McDonald.

"It is important to encourage and develop kids from an earlier age, the sooner the better. For this

reason the Thirsty Thinkers Day was of huge importance. Who knows what mathematical and other talent is out there in our area and what contribution these students will make to our society in years to come," said Mr Carini.

Chelsea Gunther, a year 4 student from Cessnock Public school enjoyed the day, saying "My favourite workshop was music because we got to play instruments and

learn a good song and it was fun. If it [Thirsty Thinkers Day] came up again I would do it."

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that "gifted and talented students are found in all communities regardless of their ethnic, cultural or socio-economic characteristics. The gifted population includes students who are underachieving and who have disabilities."



DANGEROUS: A busy Broke Road is in need of urgent repair, due to start this year. Picture: Bohdan Thorley

It is broke, time to fix busy road

By **BOHDAN THORLEY, NATALIE ROLLS** and **SOFIA KURKI**

LOCAL citizens and business owners in Pokolbin are looking forward to the completion of the Broke Road upgrade, part of the NSW government's \$20 million investment to improve roads in the Hunter wine region.

Work is set to begin later this year.

Surveyed in 2012 by NSW drivers, Broke Road is one of the 10 worst roads in NSW.

Trevor Khan, the Nationals' Duty MLC for Cessnock, earlier this year announced there would be a "rebuilding and widening [of] a 3.5-kilometre section of Broke Road".

Resident Elizabeth Helean said: "As a regular visitor to the Hunter Valley with business interests in

Pokolbin, we have been avoiding the Broke Road whenever possible. Right now, the Broke Road is just a joke and an insult to the visitors that we are trying to attract to our area."

In recent years, Broke Road has deteriorated for locals and tourists and has been notorious for many serious car accidents, many of these accidents resulting in fatalities.

Rachel - Newcastle Permanent



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