

Primary entry #29: Eleebana Public School



HELLO: Mackenzie Shortland and Amelia Troyer share a traditional Timorese greeting.

Picture: Lexi Sheldrick

## Reading can revolutionise West Timor

By AMELIA TROYER

RECENTLY, Steve and Liz Troyer visited isolated communities in West Timor through Compassion Australia. They were amazed to see how different the educational system was there and the lack of resources.

Steve thought the greatest challenge to effective education was the lack of reading books in schools due to little access and affordability.

Hesaid that within the three communities he visited – Namosain, Nekmese and Oelkuku – that only one had recently built a library and that was because Australian church groups had helped fund it.

When Steve visited the schools he noticed that students had only one work book. He said, when they were finished writing in it, they have to rub out the lead and start again.

Liz Troyer recalled that Namosain Library only had around 50 books. She said she had not seen any books in the children's homes that she visited. Liz has bought books for her sponsor children because she knows the importance of children learning to read. She mentioned that many adults also don't know how to read.

Significant impact could be made on these remote communities by Australians donating money to purchase education books for these children to fill the homes and schools of the families in West Timor.

# Students set to move on

By MICHAEL LOUGHLIN

STARTING high school is when students go from being the biggest kid in town to the smallest. Along with this come fears, anxiety and excitement about the transition from primary school.

Isaiah Broad, year 6 student at Eleebana Public School, said he was most excited about learning new subjects such as science, history, geography and chemistry.

Isaiah said he was hoping to gain a place at Merewether High School, the Hunter's only academically selective school.

Andie Palmer, also a year 6 student at Eleebana Public School, said she was worried about not knowing anybody and that she would miss her current year 6 teacher. She is hoping to gain a place in the support class at Glendale Technology High School.

Isaiah agreed that he was also worried that not all of his friends will be at his high school. However, he said that he will work hard to make new friends: "It's important to feel confident and be resilient."

The lessons Isaiah thought he had learnt in primary school that would help him cope with the transition to high school were to be friends with anyone and to be strong. Andie said she had learnt some important skills such as her times tables, writing her name and



READY TO GO: Year 6 students Andie Palmer and Isaiah Broad are excited about their high school prospects.

Picture: Sean Hayes

learning her phone number and address.

When the big day comes, Isaiah thought he would feel a little scared at first and Andie thought she would feel nervous and happy.

Dr Sharon Parkers, principal of Warners Bay High School, said that a successful high school student is one who has an enthusiastic atti-

tude towards their learning, regularly completes all tasks in class and for homework, participates in school extra and co-curricular activities, is always prepared for lessons and participates in the learning process.

Dr Parkers went on to say to best prepare for high school, year 6 students need to have a diary so

that they can write down tasks which need to be completed and be confident about learning new things and making new friends.

Parents can help prepare their children for high school by talking to them about any issues or concerns and encouraging them to look at starting high school as a fantastic new opportunity.



ON TRACK: Many people came to the ceremony for the new Eleebana Public DOLA. Picture: Lilliana Bryson

## Ground breaks on outdoor area

By TYLER BOXSELL and LACHLAN WILTON

ELEEBANA Public School has commenced work on a new Designated Outdoor Learning Area (DOLA), at a cost of \$50,000.

The DOLA will provide an undercover eating area and play space for kindergarten to year 2 students.

The school is in a phase of significant growth, with

more than 560 current enrolments and around an additional 100 kindergarten students expected in 2014 that will push numbers towards 600.

This project has been made possible through the fund-raising efforts of the P&C, including raffles, spring fairs, fitness-a-thons, donations and hard work from volunteers, and a matching grant from the

NSW Government Community Building Partnership Program.

The DOLA is expected to be ready for use in early August.

Matt Sommerville, Eleebana P&C president, and Ian Graham, Eleebana Public principal, both said the start of the project was an exciting time for the school as the fruits of much hard labour were now being realised.

## Run for fun!



Get set for the Newcastle Permanent Lake Macquarie Running Festival on Sunday 25 August at Warners Bay Foreshore. It's a great day of fun and fitness for the family and you can help raise money for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at John Hunter Children's Hospital.

Register online at [lakemacrunning.com](http://lakemacrunning.com)



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