

Primary entry #13: Hunter Valley Grammar School



END OF LINE: The Newcastle train station. Picture: Edward Marion

The line that doesn't need to be crossed

By EDWARD MARION

AS the Hunter railway line is heading towards being cut, there are still those who feel it should be spared.

Historically, the Newcastle-Maitland railway line was the second opened in NSW and destroying it could be seen as lack of respect for a heritage landmark that was integral to the development of Newcastle.

It is arguably one of the most well-known express services – in the form of the Newcastle Flyer – linking Sydney and Newcastle on a route that is famous among train enthusiasts.

It has been reported that the state government is going to axe Newcastle and Civic stations and knock down Wickham station to build a new end-of-line terminal.

Though Newcastle needs space for redevelopment, the railway shouldn't be the source.

It was there first, so perhaps the road should be removed as it isn't a heritage landmark.

The community feels it needs this rail link because people would not be able to travel to work or into the city if it is cut.

There is the view that people would not have the freedom they once had.

This line has so much historical significance that it would be wasteful to end this heritage information flowing into people's minds that has stood in Newcastle for a long time.

Building better buddies

By OSCAR VARLEY

HUNTER Valley Grammar School has implemented a program called Better Buddies.

This program takes a year 5 or 6 pupil and pairs them with a kindergarten pupil.

The aim of the program is to make sure that the new kindergarten pupils feel safe and comfortable during their first days of "big school".

When buddies Oscar Varley and Nate Grady met for the first time, Oscar felt Nate "was shy and not confident".

"Now I have noticed a great change. He is louder and enjoying school much more than when he started," Oscar said.

Mrs Fisher, Head of Stage 1, is the leader of this project and believes this is a great idea for kindergarten students.

Now every fortnight on Monday all the year 6 and year 5 buddies go down to the K-2 area to see their kindergarten buddies and do activities with them.

Many of these activities revolve around what each pair enjoys doing outside of school.

Oscar and Nate enjoy mostly the same things, including motorbike riding, video games and swimming.

Many buddies stay friends right through until the year 6 pupil is in year 12 and the kindergarten pupil



GREAT FRIENDS: Oscar Varley with his kindergarten buddy, Nate Grady.

Picture: Matthew Hill

is in year 6 and has their own kindergarten buddy.

In one case, a year 6 buddy was invited to his kindergarten buddy's birthday party.

This shows how strong the bond can be.

The year 6 buddy can go down to their kindergarten buddy at recess

and lunch to eat and play with each other.

Through Better Buddies, both students learn the value of caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility.

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation are behind the found-

ing of this program. This foundation is a national charity protecting children from violence and its devastating effects.

The Better Buddies Program also has a mascot called Buddy, a giant, purple bear.

To read more about the program, visit betterbuddies.org.au.



FUTURE: Some of the team of HVGS students who attended the workshop on leadership.

Leaders learn about greatness

By ALICIA WATSON

ON February 26, a group of pupils from schools around the area came together at Newcastle Grammar School to learn more about being leaders and people who had done many things as leaders.

After the workshop, many were inspired to lead their schools and do things to try to change the world.

According to pupils Oscar

Varley and Alyssa Mitchell, it worked.

A year 6 HVGS class and their SRC representatives went to the conference and had some things to share about their experience.

"My favourite part of the day was meeting lots of other kids from other schools. It was very enjoyable. I wish I could go again," Oscar said.

During the day, pupils were told to pair up with someone

from another school, introduce themselves, and do activities together.

Alyssa hopes to lead new fund-raising after the day.

"I do support Jeans for Genes Day because I read an article on a girl who has a disease and still manages to cope with everyday life," Alyssa said.

She is keen to make Jeans for Genes a cause her school supports annually.



“his Vision is no real impairment”

In 10 years we've given over \$10million to fund more than 250 important community programs, like the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's video conferencing service that ensures hearing and vision impaired children like Cruz get the support they need in their own homes.

For more information on the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and to see more of Cruz's story, visit newcastlepermanent.com.au/foundation

Join us at [facebook.com/charitablefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/charitablefoundation)

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION