

Important work to fix our problems

EDITORIAL

By AIMEE FISHER

IN the Hunter Region, issues can cause concern that may affect the way we live.

One company is working with industry and the community to assist with projects that will provide solutions to these issues.

RCA Australia and its divisions are part of many projects around the Newcastle and Hunter Region that are working to benefit our daily lives.

There are five sections in the company: geotechnical engineering, environmental engineering, acoustics, RCA Laboratories – construction materials testing (CMT), and RCA Laboratories – environmental.

The geotechnical engineering division designs foundations to make buildings, roads and railways.

The environmental engineering aspect focuses on contaminated sites and assisting in the remediation of land for reuse like changing a service station into housing blocks.

The acoustics division measures noise and vibration during construction, blasting in mines and also during concerts such as Groovin' the Moo in Maitland.

The RCA Laboratories – CMT undertakes testing of materials that are going to be used for construction projects and RCA Laboratories – Environmental carry out air and water sampling and analysis for industry, mines, power stations and construction sites.

The company is currently assisting in the Hunter Expressway Project that will run from Kurri Kurri to Branxton.

RCA Laboratories – CMT is doing the earthworks testing on this project for the Abigroup.

This means that they are testing the soil and ground so that Abigroup can build the road.

Some issues faced during the construction project include high absenteeism due to site locations and long shifts.

It is also an issue that people are doing hard physical work for long periods of time and there are some internet glitches that make it hard to report problems.

When the project is completed there will be a four-lane divided road that will run from the F3 to Branxton.

This will save 20 minutes in travel time to the Upper Hunter, bypassing traffic congestion areas.

This will make travelling safer and will relieve traffic from Maitland.

Ensuring all goes well, the Hunter Expressway will be ready for use in November 2013.



Cartoon: Aimee Fisher



INQUIRING: Alex Travers, Joshua Cox, Yash Upadhyaya, Nathaniel Lynn, Shania Prasad, Alicia Watson, Oscar Varley. Picture: Nabeeha Rana

The doorway to discovery

By SHANIA PRASAD

INQUIRY learning has been introduced to the K-6 students of Hunter Valley Grammar School, enabling them to discover and learn more than ever.

Inquiry learning permits school children to take control of their own learning and allows them to also use different resources such as technology as well as brain power.

Inquiry learning incorporates a learning profile, which encourages students to become a perfect learner. These traits include being "open-minded", which urges the pupils and teachers to be open to new ideas, "principled", which commands sensibility and maturity, and

"reflective", which advises students to look back on their work and see what they have learnt.

Inquiry learning requires students to work together to unravel problems the world may present, and teaches them to decipher things in a logical sequence.

This type of learning makes students feel excited at the prospect of a single lesson and, as a result, they launch themselves into the class, learning more than if they were writing pages of notes.

Everyone is actively involved in the lesson and the classroom, which was once grey with the negativity of young scholars, has now been replaced with colour as children go on a learning journey.

A story of the Somme trenches

By MORGAN CLYNE

EDWARD Lynch was one of the many 18-year-old men who put their lives on the line in the First World War. He relived his memories by writing a book based on his experiences.

The book of his encounters is called *Somme Mud*, with a detailed adult version and also an edited age-appropriate version for high schoolers to read and discover.

The Somme was where Edward Lynch served in the First World War. It was a horrid place. It was wet and muddy and a lot of men died. Many of the soldiers were also injured or got sick.

Edward himself got sick twice and had pieces of shrapnel stuck inside of him.

Between the First and Second World Wars, Edward Lynch trained as a teacher, found love, married and had five children, while teaching in small country schools. This was also when he wrote his book.

Edward tried to have it published during his lifetime but it wasn't until many years after his death that it was printed.

When the Second World War broke out, Edward was too old and had previous injuries so, instead of fighting, he taught new soldiers how to survive in the jungle.

Edward's great granddaughter, Morgan Clyne, carries on his writing legacy.

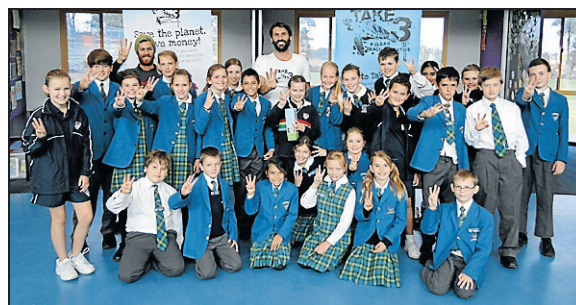
Taking yours and three for the environment

By JAMES GILL and YASH UPADHYAYA

LAST week HVGS got a visit from the Take 3 appeal, thanks to the action taken by a student.

Year 3 pupil, Molly Fisher, was passionate about her studies and investigated how we might help the environment.

She researched and discovered that the Take 3 initiative is a non-profit organisation that attempts to reduce the amount of rubbish pollution throughout the world.



HELPING: The junior school SRC members with Take 3 team members Tim and James.

They visited HVGS and showed a video about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and how it is affecting the wildlife. The Take 3 initiative

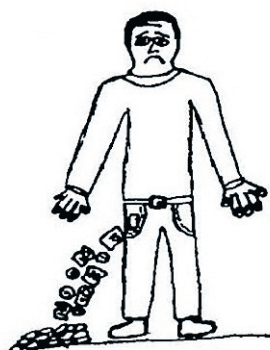
encourages people whenever they leave a beach, waterway or any other area to take their own rubbish and at least three other pieces of rubbish with them.

Tim, founder of Take 3, showed students the damage done by plastic bags, including how many animals think it is food, try to eat it and then choke.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is 700,000 square kilometres in size and contains an estimated 100 million tonnes of garbage.

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