

Primary entry #57: Holgate Public School



Holgate Herald



BIRTHDAY: Principal Michael Murphy with school captains Jack Cooper, Jasmine Beacroft, Matthew Buettner and Leilani Lord. *Picture: Spy Buddanoy*

Small school celebrates a big milestone

By **JACK COOPER** and **LEILANI LORD**

HOLGATE Public School, a small rural school on the Central Coast, is celebrating its 85th birthday.

School principal Mike Murphy said: "The very beginnings of the school were based on a community group who fought to get a school here."

"The school grounds were donated by Mr Hufton, a local community member. The community members came and cleared the trees."

"There is a proud history of the community being involved in the school and that spirit is still strong today."

"The children here accept and help each other. It's a really lovely culture that has been around for a long time and is continually getting stronger."

Mrs Borchard, an ex-teacher, said that technology is the biggest change that has occurred in the school over the years.

"There were no Smartboards when I was teaching. We were lucky to have a radio," Mrs Borchard said.

Even though it is a small school, Mr Murphy believes its strength over 85 years comes from keeping up to date with change.

The school had a country fete on October 19 to celebrate 85 years of education. There were stalls, entertainment, food and rides.

By **JASMINE BEACROFT** and **OLIVER COOPER**

HOLGATE Public School students were blown away by a recent visit from a NSW Police helicopter, the Polair 4, to teach students about the work the police do in helping the greater community.

Students were given a chance to go inside the helicopter and ask questions about the roles and responsibilities of the police.

Sergeant Kepper from the NSW police force said: "We take pride in the fact that we're approachable and you can say g'day to us and that the NSW police look after the community and the community rely on and trust the police."

"We put a lot into what we do, so we can see that the helicopter is clean and everything works and we use that the best way we can to help the people of NSW."

The police helicopters are a major contribution to the NSW police force and help with a wide variety of roles, which include search and rescue situations and defusing armed hold-ups.

"The helicopters are fitted with high-technology thermal imaging, night and day cameras, a spotlight, PA system, and an aerial that sends air pictures back to the station."

"The helicopters are very helpful to find people who are running away from crime scenes or to find



HERE TO HELP: Polair crew member Sergeant Kepper talks with Holgate Public School students Molly Wighton, Greta Stokes and Zarah Dennis-McMullen about the work the police do in helping the community, including supporting events such as Red Nose Day. *Picture: Maximo Varas*

people who have become lost," Sergeant Kepper said.

The NSW police force has five helicopters and one fixed-wing aircraft, the oldest being the Polair 1, which was made in 1946.

"The NSW police force has the oldest airwing in the world," Sergeant Kepper explained.

The helicopter visit coincided with Red Nose Day, a fund-raiser for the charity SIDS and Kids and one of many charities that the NSW police support.

"SIDS and Kids raises money for research into the causes and prevention of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome," said Holgate Public

School teacher Amy Ball.

"The students of Holgate Public School chose to support this organisation because of its dedication to saving the lives of babies and children."

"It was lovely to see the police working together with the students to show support."



WATER WATCH: Co-ordinator Lucy De Jong with Molly Wighton, Bronte Moldre, Zarah Dennis-McMullen and Tara Stylianou.

Picture: Greta Stokes

Good water health is in our hands

By **CHLOE DRAPER** and **HARRISON MOGG**

SCHOOL and community groups are working together to ensure good health in our local waterways, thanks to the Waterwatch program.

"Waterwatch is a volunteer education program," explained Central Coast relieving co-ordinator Lucy De Jong.

"We try to get the com-

munity involved in water testing and through that, we hope that people come to learn a little bit about water quality."

Waterwatch runs throughout the east coast of Australia. The program allows testing of natural water bodies including rivers, creeks, lakes and dams.

"We conduct tests wherever there is a pocket of water we can put our test

tubes in," Ms De Jong said.

Data collected from Waterwatch tests help to identify any problems with waterways, examine water quality over time and influence local authorities in the action that is needed to keep water ways healthy.

"We educate people who might not know about water quality and the impact that it has. It is a rewarding job," Ms De Jong said.



An easy way to fundraise!

Newcastle Permanent is proud to support our local communities. Just get your school, charity, sporting club or similar local organisation to sign up to our Introducer Program, and with us, you can help raise much needed funds for your local community organisation. Mention them when you apply for a new home or business loan (over \$100,000) and for each eligible new loan they will receive \$600!*

To find out more or to arrange an appointment with a Newcastle Permanent home or business loan expert, contact us today.

13 19 87 newcastlepermanent.com.au

Here for good. **NEWCASTLE
PERMANENT**