

A school that has stood test of time

EDITORIAL

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

EIGHTY-FIVE years may not seem like a long time in history, but for a small school on the Central Coast, it has meant a lot of changes.

And yet, Holgate Public School has stood the test of time. It has embraced the changes and used them to keep growing. It is a perfect example of quality education and how communities can work together to create the best future for their children.

The thing that has made Holgate Public School great since 1928 is the help from the community working together.

Back in the early days it was done through the initial application for the school, donating of land and clearing of trees. More recently, the community works together on projects to better the school, many of which involve fund-raising for projects such as the building of the school's new hall. The five-year project cost \$500,000 and was only made possible through community support.

But it isn't only the grown-ups who are working together. Holgate Public School students see themselves as one big family. They love

that everyone knows everyone, which is quite unique. Students in larger schools are often lucky to know all the students in their own grade, let alone the whole school.

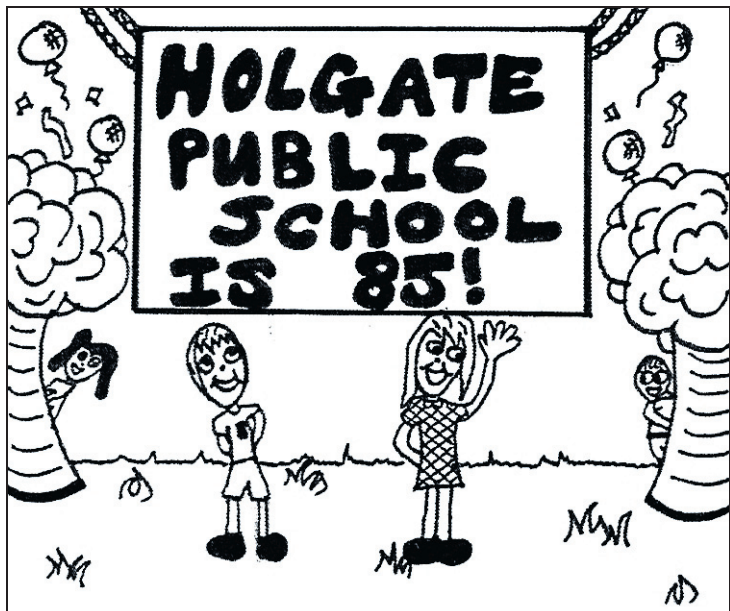
The close friendships the students share means that all the students look out for each other and co-operate. The strong values, ethics and morals the school are so proud of, are embedded within the school and the students alike.

Holgate's strength in education is led by its dedicated staff who share the community's vision and dedication to quality education for the students.

The school believes in finding the strengths in every student and has lots of opportunities for all kids, regardless of what areas they have talent in.

There are learning programs, support groups, enrichment groups, sport teams, creative arts groups, opportunities in public speaking and debating, information technology and environmental education, just to name a few. It seems that every learning style is catered for.

Eighty-five years ago, Holgate started as an amazing school; 85 years later and Holgate is still as strong and amazing as it was back then. The only difference is that Holgate Public School is getting better and better and it appears that it will only improve in the future, according to the visions of the community, staff and students.



Cartoon: Caelan Hill



PROUD COASTIES:
Gosford City Mayor Lawrie McKinna with soccer fans Charlie Buffon and Matthew Buettner.
Picture: Hayden A

Soccer glory unites region

By **MATTHEW BUETTNER**
and **CHARLIE BUFFON**

YEAR 6 students at Holgate Public School recently enjoyed a visit from Gosford City Mayor Lawrie McKinna.

Cr McKinna's visit came shortly after the Central Coast community celebrated the victory of the Mariners against the Western Sydney Wanderers in the Hyundai A-League soccer grand final.

Cr McKinna, former coach of the Mariners, was keen to share his views on the team's success and the positive impact the game has had on the growing Central Coast region.

"The club was built on hard work," said Cr McKinna.

"We only have 320,000 people on

the Coast. We can't compete with the big cities in Australia on other levels, but we can in sport.

"We have proven that with a small budget, hard work and the right attitude, you can achieve many things."

The Mariners club takes an active role in encouraging young people to play soccer. They have a schools' program, run by ex-player Damien Brown, which Holgate Public students were fortunate to participate in recently.

The program is sponsored by the Newcastle Permanent Building Society and involves between 8000 and 10,000 students each year. It aims to get kids running around and enjoying being active in sport.

Composing dream that came true

By **INDIA RONALDS** and
ZARAH DENNIS-McMULLEN

CHOIR students on the Central Coast recently had the opportunity to participate in a workshop run by ex-local student turned composer Hamish Lane.

Almost 1000 students from 36 public schools participated in the workshop, which was a feature event of the biennial Central Coast Choral Festival.

Mr Lane composed two songs especially for the festival, which were premiered at a performance in September.

"It's very exciting to be sharing my music with all the students," Mr Lane said. "It's very inspiring to be working in schools."

"My first choir I was part of was a primary school choir. I was eight or nine and we had to audition. I made it into the choir and it was good fun."

"The opportunity to work with the Choral Festival was interesting compositionally but also as a reflection of place, thinking about the schools I went to and having family still living there. It was really quite relevant," Mr Lane said.

Mr Lane's advice for students wanting a career in music was "commitment".

"It takes a lot of practice to become a musician or a composer. You need to spend a lot of time from an early age to get to a level where you can be successful. Most of all, you need to find a way to enjoy it."

Knitting to wrap needy in warmth and love

By **CHARLOTTE BOYD**
and **MOLLY WIGHTON**

HOLGATE Public School students are putting their knitting needles together for the charity, Knit a Square. The students are a small fraction of around 5000 volunteers from 40 countries around the world who are knitting blankets for children in Africa, most of whom are AIDS orphans.

"There are millions of AIDS orphans in Africa," said Holgate Public School Knit a Square

group teacher Di Yates.

"These blankets we knit help to provide warmth and comfort to the children. I like the fact that the students in the school want to give up their time and effort for someone else."

The students knit every Monday lunchtime, along with volunteer parents, grandparents and other community members.

"The students are learning a skill as well as helping people less fortunate than themselves," Mrs Yates said.



THOUGHTFUL: The Holgate Public School knitting group knit each week to help orphans in Africa.

Picture: Adam Wasserman

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