

Parents doing the homework is a fail

EDITORIAL

By **BRONTE KIDDLE**

WHEN you walk up to school with that big project in your hand, wondering if you've done enough work, you're thinking "did I do everything that I needed to?"

Then you see one of your friends with this magnificent project and you look back at yours.

"Wow, they did great, now look at mine. I'm going to fail."

But have you thought about who actually did their project? Did they do it themselves or did their parents do the whole thing? This is becoming a big problem.

And what about regular homework? Maths times tables or spelling words. Who is doing that?

From personal experience, it's nerve-racking walking into school and seeing other kids' projects that look wonderful then looking back at mine. There's sometimes a big difference.

To make it worse, coming into class and hearing the teacher say that it's a really good project can be cutting.

This sometimes happens with the kids whose parents even do their times tables for them.

It is my belief that many younger kids' parents do most of their work for their projects, because their parents might think that they can't do it because they might not understand.

When the children grow up, they will just automatically think that their parents will do all the work and not them. This is setting bad habits.

When asked about homework, year 6 student Madeleine Hart said: "it's useful, so that you can practice your work that you might have not understood at school."

And it's not just the students.

Even our teachers have homework to do - they're not trying to be mean.

When you think about it, they have to come up with all of our projects and work to do every single day.

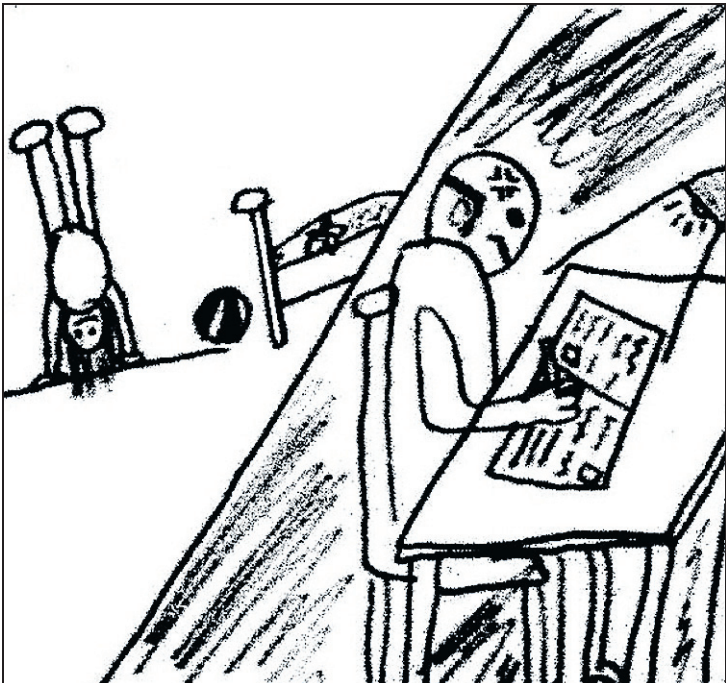
Many teachers even have to stay after the school day finishes to go to staff meetings, marking our work and having parent/teacher interviews.

I know my teacher even comes into school during school holidays.

At the end of the day, homework is meant to help us, the students.

It's not for our parents to get an A+ or pass school.

So, the real question is: who's doing your homework?



Cartoon: James Easton



CAUTION: Speed limits do matter when it comes to preserving life, particularly around schools. Picture: Keelan Mills

Limits to keep a society safe

By **KEELAN MILLS**

INSURANCE companies, police agencies, state transportation and departments would have us believe that speed limits are a critical component of traffic regulation.

Without those numbers on the signs and police patrols with speed cameras, the road system would not work.

If there were no speed limits, it is highly possible that motorists would drive in a manner that ignores the welfare of fellow road users.

The belief is that without speed limits drivers would speed recklessly on our roads with little or no concern for the consequences.

Some road users argue that slower is not necessarily safer.

According to Australian and overseas studies, people are almost as likely to get in an accident driving at speeds significantly below the average speed of traffic.

However, taxpayers argue that speed cameras and speeding fines are purely a revenue raising exercise. Recent news stories have even pointed out that some speed cameras are faulty but are still fining motorists for allegedly breaking the speed limit.

While there is no clear answer, there are rules that society must follow in order to function. Speed limits are just one of them.

Works a necessary evil to make roads better

By **NICHOLAS RANDELL**

ROADWORKS are something that may be annoying and frustrating but has to happen and usually is better in the end.

Many times the road you want to drive down gets blocked or a detour makes drivers go the long way.

Minnesota Road in Warnervale is one of these roads.

It has been closed since February 18, with the council saying the construction would only take five months at a cost of \$5.6 million.

However, this timeframe has now blown out to a September finish due to bad weather.

"It's annoying to have to wait in the traffic to get to work on time," said Paul Randell, resident and father.

However, it's not just commuters who are affected by roadworks.

Another resident, Ester Johnson, who is in a wheelchair, says the extra traffic hassles are "a pest".

"I have a lot of medical appointments to go to. All this traffic is a pest." Now the dozers have moved into Sparks Road.

A history of mystery left in ruins

By **JAKE WYNN**

IN its heyday, Morisset Hospital served the ill of its community with pride. Since its closure however, the building has been left to ruin with rumours and urban myths about its history circulating on the internet which, according to Chris Gavenlock of the Lake Macquarie and District Historical Society Inc, are "unreliable and not factual".

Morisset Hospital was a psychiatric institute situated on Lake Macquarie. The hospital admitted its first patients in 1909.

In 1997, a group of local people interested in preserving the history and heritage of the hospital formed the Morisset Hospital Historical Society, which later merged with Lake Macquarie and District Historical Society Inc (LM&DHS Inc).

The group aims to "collect and preserve the history and heritage" of the hospital. They are particularly interested in obtaining copies of historic photographs, documents and small items to display at the Morisset Multipurpose Centre.

"[We] meet monthly at the Heritage Centre on the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm," says Chris Gavenlock.

New members and guests are always welcome. The Heritage Centre is normally open 1pm to 4pm Sundays, Wednesdays and public holidays. Admission is by gold coin.



BLOCK: Minnesota Road works have been delayed due to bad weather. Picture: Nicholas Randell

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