

Primary entry #53: Muswellbrook South Public School



Muswellbrook South Scoop



COMMUNITY: All hands made light work when making the garden.

Garden to be a place for all to appreciate

By **AIDEN CHARTERS**

THE front entrance to Muswellbrook South is getting a makeover, and in conjunction with Coal and Allied, they are creating an outdoor learning and meeting garden.

The "Song Room" garden is going to have benches, mosaic designs and sculptures of Australian animals made out of recycled cutlery and metal.

Amy O'Sullivan, the Song Room regional program co-ordinator, and local artist Lisa Hyde-Mills, with help from people in the community, began work on the garden in February and are almost finished.

"I've been working with art for 10 years with local community groups and schools," Lisa said.

When they are done, they will launch with a concert themed around Australian animals and the deputy mayor will cut the red ribbon.

"This year, Song Room is running a creative communities project," Amy said.

"The garden will be a visual identity for the school, a place where parents can wait while they are picking up their children and a place for an outdoor classroom."

Parents and carers of the students are invited to come along to a concert for the garden launch today.

Other special guests invited include former MP Joel Fitzgibbon, the director of NSW education and principals from other schools.

The concert will have students from all year groups performing and doing their own items.

In a state of emergency

By **ZAKARIAS TURNBULL**

THERE has been much debate about the state of Muswellbrook's old hospital, so a little while ago many nurses, doctors and aged care residents planned a meeting to tell the Muswellbrook community about the problems.

Muswellbrook hospital was built in the early 1970s; the people who constructed it did not understand how harmful asbestos was, so when they made it they sprayed everything with the dangerous material.

As a result, renovating the hospital would be very dangerous as it can affect the lungs and if inhaled, the results could be fatal.

The people at the meeting agreed on a name for their group - MACHINE (Muswellbrook, aged, care and hospital in a new environment). MACHINE has asked the state government if they could have \$80 million to improve or build a new hospital but they also need the community's help to do this.

MACHINE has been working towards getting 10,000 signatures so the government pays more attention to the condition of the hospital.

The group has only been at it for two weeks and they already have about 2000 signatures. They only have three more weeks and they still need a lot more signatures.

If community members want to be a part of the petition they can go



OPERATION: The current hospital building has asbestos in its structure.

to a local chemist or market to sign, or download and print the sheet from Facebook. Interested people can also sign at local schools. MACHINE hopes to have a new hospital within five years. If there is a delay in this, the old hospital will be likely to have more incid-

ents, longer waiting hours and poor healthcare.

Mrs Hinschen, secretary of MACHINE, had reports from nurses and doctors saying that staff feel as if the equipment they use is old and poorly designed.

They also need a lot of support.

Until the improvements have been made to the emergency department area, the older patients have to be relocated to the upper floor. They will be taking up the beds and that will affect the people who truly need emergency attention.



BIRD IN THE HAND: Back row, Sally McGahen and Patrick Wild. Front row, Tyson Matthews, Ty Rowland, Marley Butler, Jacob Matthews and Hunter Orth.

Muswellbrook South grows wings

By **KAYLUB HOWE**

AT Muswellbrook South Public School, Patrick Wild and Class SJ have been busy hatching chickens. The chickens were incubated for 21 days, there were 17 chickens altogether; four Isa browns, two Sussex bantams and 11 Astra Lorps.

Mr Wild got the chickens so his students had the experience of watching

them grow, hatch and then being able to care for them.

The chickens don't need any special attention; they do not have any special food or need to be hand fed.

The chickens' cage is moved every day and during the weekend the chickens are transported to Mr Wild's backyard and are let out to graze the grass.

Class SJ feed with an automatic feeder that tops

up when the bottom food is all gone; the water has the same set-up.

This learning experience has been fantastic for the class and now the rest of the school is benefiting from the chickens, too.

The animals will now continue to teach the children about the cycles of farming, where food comes from, composting and collecting eggs for the school canteen.

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