

# Many advantages due to technology

## EDITORIAL

By **CAMELLIA NGUYEN** and  
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WHEN you talk about computer and internet use, people usually think about all the bad effects, for example, cyberbullying, inappropriate use, eye strain, sleep deprivation and brain damage.

But there is a good side to how electronic creations and the internet have improved our ways of working and made our lives easier.

The internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard internet procedure suite to serve several billion users worldwide. It is a network that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business and government networks.

Technology such as the internet and social media has changed our lives forever.

The internet helps us with everyday life; for example, it's now easier to research information and facts from Wikipedia or Google databases. It's good for kids' education because it helps train our brains with games like Study Ladder and Cool Maths Games.

Work can become more efficient by typing and editing on Word and PowerPoint documents

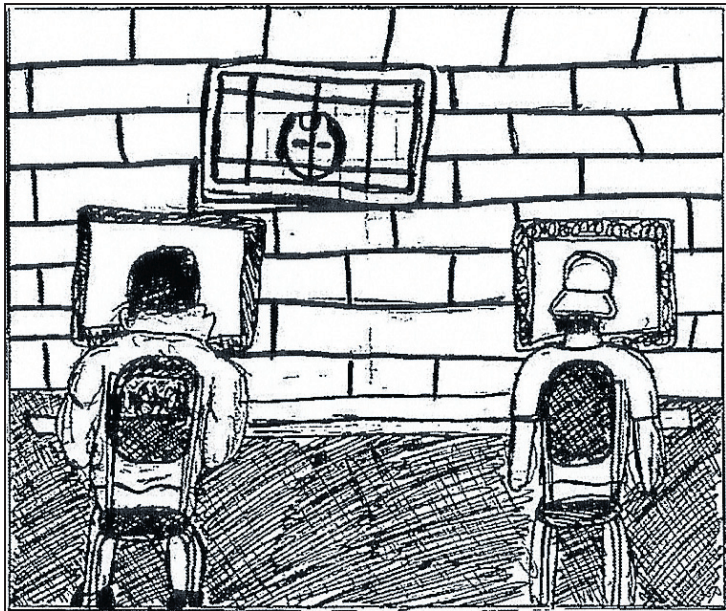
that you can use for school homework, assignments and projects.

Over the past 20 years, the internet has changed the way we live. It also has changed how teachers educate children. They have moved from an analogue world of textbooks and blackboards to a digital world of websites, interactive smart boards, Wikipedia and iPhones.

Technology has also improved our ways of communicating, through programs like Facebook, Skype, email and much more. We can now share our lives with family and friends overseas in a timely manner.

In 2000 the web was hardly used in Australia; 13 years later and most schools and homes have computers, laptops and high-speed internet. Electronic creations and the internet have given us all an easier job via things such as online shopping and internet banking. A busy mother said she hasn't got time to go shopping, so she finds it easier, and more often effective, to shop for groceries, clothes and presents online.

The internet has altered the way we go about everyday tasks like communication, banking and gaining information. Although it is acknowledged that social media has caused some concerns with inappropriate use, the value of the world wide web and its capabilities has, and continues to, change lives forever.



Cartoon: *Blain Archbold and Galamaay Edwards*



**GRATITUDE:** Mikayla Harvey, Margaret Matthews and Maddison Gothard with some care parcels to send to soldiers overseas.

# Care comes in kind package

By **MIKAYLA HARVEY** and  
**MADDISON GOTHARD**

MARGARET Matthews is one of Muswellbrook's gems. She dedicates her time to helping the community and people less fortunate than herself. She is a member of the Lioness Club, co-ordinator of the Black Coal Westpac Helicopter Charity Day, and she also assists outside the community by sending care packages to soldiers who are deployed in other countries.

Margaret started sending the packages because she saw an article in the Aberdeen newspaper about people doing it, she thought it would be nice to send packages away to the soldiers to let them know that she was proud of them.

With Margaret's own money, she provides contents for the packages like: toiletries, wipes, biscuits, Vegemite, cheese sticks, lollies, cappuccino sachets and beanies in winter. These are sent by airmail and arrive within four days.

Margaret has been sending packages over to the soldiers for about two years. When she is shopping for contents she just grabs what is available, as well as things that they will enjoy and home favourites.

This year, Muswellbrook South Public raised \$200 to assist Margaret and created hundreds of artworks for the soldiers to hang in their tents.

Margaret won the Woman of the Year Award at Parliament House in March – she was the local hero for this electorate.

# Discus thrower to take flight to state comp

By **BIANCA DAVIES**

ELLY-MAY Taylor-Iri is a sporty 10-year-old who has made it into a state competition due to her great discus skills.

Elly says she is trying to do her best but also wants to get the benefit of the experience. However, there is certainly a level of talent involved, too.

She does not know very much about the sport. She thinks her training is helpful and has been working at school with Muswellbrook local Jim Higgins.

She has improved since she started and has confidence in herself as she sees her results grow.

Although Elly is 10, she is competing in the 11-years age group.

She gets her talent from her mother who is very good at sports as well.

Elly has recently been fund-raising to cover the cost of going to the state competition.

Muswellbrook South is very excited to have Elly represent the school and she has the full support of her family and friends.



**IN A SPIN:** Athlete Elly-May Taylor-Iri and trainer Jim Higgins practise her technique.

# Catering for the youth of the Hunter

By **ANNAN SNEWIN** and  
**CALLAN HARVEY**

UPPER Hunter Youth Services, or "Youthies", is a community service where teens can hang out with their friends after school hours and participate in activities that may be inaccessible from their own homes.

Youthies encourages educational and active games that are fun, easy to follow and that anyone can join in.

There is an area of grass to hang out and play football and soccer. Inside there is ping pong, two PS3s, air hockey, a Nintendo Wii, darts, pool tables, foosball and six computers, which can be used for school assignments and research. Food and drink is also available.

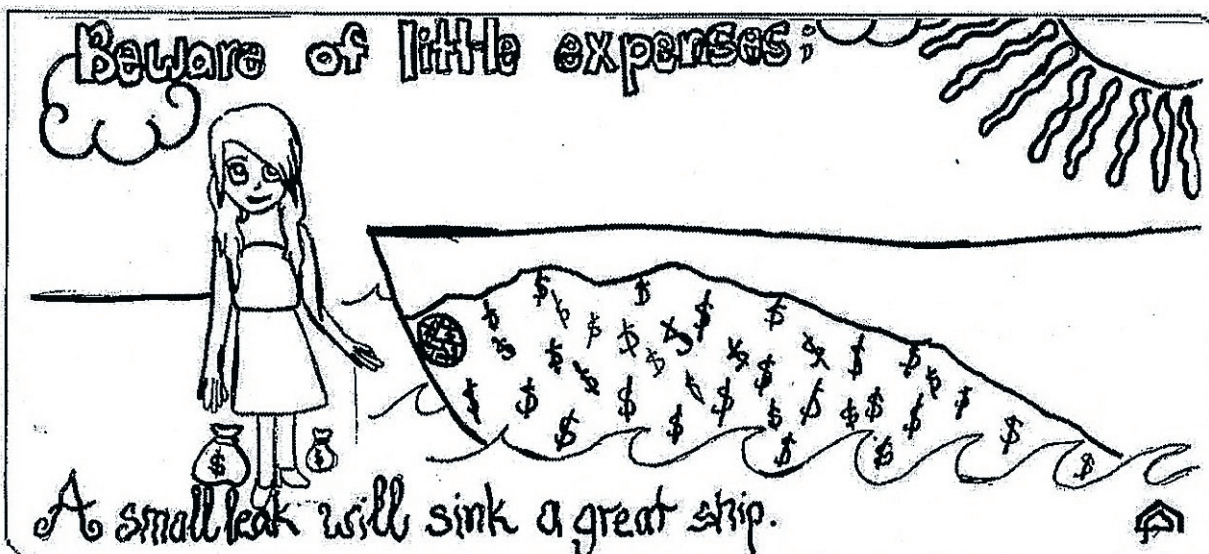
The centre is located in the showgrounds. There is a free bus service to drop off and pick up those who want to visit.

Youthies is open from 3-6pm Wednesday – Friday. They are also open in the holidays from 11am-3pm. Kids aged 11-18 can come and hang out.

They also offer excursions in the holidays at a minimal price. Some past excursions included a dolphin cruise, a trip to Luna Park, a 3-day adventure park trip and ice skating.

Kaylene Holman, senior youth worker, says Youthies is "a safe place for teens to get away from their troubles and is fun and a place to meet new people".

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