

Primary entry #3: Nulkaba Public School



# Nulkaba Grapevine



**CUDDLE:** Nulkaba students Emily and Tayla with Norbit the wombat.  
Picture: Emily Woodward-Noble

## Experience a zoo unlike any other

By KYLA BORGHERO, CAITLIN GALBRAITH, ISABELLA LAYBUTT, TAYLA MINCHINTON and EMILY WOODWARD-NOBLE

HUNTER Valley Zoo is one of the only zoos where you can touch, feel, and get up close with the animals.

You can feed an ostrich, watch a Tassie devil eat, give a cuddle to a koala and touch a snake.

Hunter Valley Zoo, located in Nulkaba, has been in business since 2006 and has continued to grow over this time.

The zoo is not just a place for animals, or somewhere to take the family on the weekend. The zoo provides entertainment and educational programs with special packages for school children. They can bring along some furry or scaly friends to a private event and you can have your birthday party there with exclusive activities such as being able to feed the farm animals.

At the moment the staff are breeding Brown Capuchin monkeys, which have proven to be very popular with visitors.

"We started breeding our Brown Capuchins to maintain a stable population of these primates," said Leanne Pearson, owner of Hunter Valley Zoo.

The zoo also provides opportunities for locals to volunteer for those people who just love animals.

By ASPEN BLOMFIELD, ADAM CHESHER, EDISON FOULSTONE, BEN GALVIN, and RYAN STACE

RECENTLY Cessnock's jail was chosen to house some of Australia's roughest criminals.

To accomplish this feat the jail had to have one of the most costly makeovers in the Hunter's history.

It can now house over 750 inmates at its capacity at a cost of about \$100 per inmate each night.

Clayton Barr, State Member for Cessnock, was enthusiastic about what the improvements would provide.

"Cessnock jail is taking the jail system into the 21st century. The needs of workers and inmates has changed over the years, jails need to change too," he said.

Over 250 new bed facilities have been installed in the upgrade.

The facility now has a separate wing, bigger workshops, recreation spaces and new modern classrooms.

The total area of the prison is now 144 hectares.

More than 1500 workers were employed on the site, and 10,000 cubic metres of concrete was used in expanding the building, which is now the third biggest in Australia.

The total cost of the expansion was \$97 million.

The plans were drawn up in 2008



**WANTED:** The new entrance to the recently expanded Cessnock Correctional Centre.

with the tender process starting in 2009.

After the decision was made as to who would build the jail, excavations began in 2010 and the building was mostly completed by early 2012.

Cessnock Correctional Centre has also implemented many new programs to cater for the inmates to help in their rehabilitation.

Literacy, numeracy and communications courses are offered, along with extensive drug and alcohol programs.

Security is also improved, with fingerprint and eye scanning technology used to monitor the movements of everyone who enters the prison.

"This will allow staff to know exactly where every prisoner is,

where they have been and where they are going. The movement of all prisoners will be at staff fingertips," Mr Barr said.

The benefits of the expansion are that more jobs were needed to upgrade the facility and plenty more guards are needed to be on watch so the prisoners don't escape. This will directly put more jobs into the Cessnock community.



**SWEET AIR:** Lesley Burley and Tristan Bradley with some of the talented Nulkaba musicians. Picture: Lily Cooke

## Strumming to the sound of music

By ELOISE BROWN, LILY COOKE, SARAH HURLEY, MACKENZIE SMITH and MOLLY WILLS

THE music vibe in Nulkaba Public School is extremely high.

The music program at Nulkaba started five years ago as the teachers wanted to offer a comprehensive creative and performing arts program to students.

Being involved in music has many benefits, such as students learning concentration skills, applying themselves to tasks and belonging to a group.

The music teachers conducting private lessons are from the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music, with instruments being hired from there as well.

As well as lessons, Lesley Burley, assistant principal, is

currently conducting the school band with a varied repertoire.

"I enjoy helping the band understand the musical pieces and it is very rewarding seeing their confidence grow after each performance," Mrs Burley said.

To celebrate their music achievements, a concert is held at the end of the year with an audience of parents, teachers and students.

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