

# Closing the doors on entertainment

## EDITORIAL

By KYLA BORGHIERO, JED CRAIG and LACHLAN O'BRIEN

EARLIER this year, Cessnock Cinema closed its doors due to a lack of patronage and rising costs allied with the desperate need to upgrade the facilities.

This has affected the entire community.

The big question we are left to ponder is: where do we go now? Residents of Cessnock can either drive to Maitland, Singleton or Newcastle to watch a film.

This isn't really an option for the youth of the town.

The sad demise of the cinema has taken away one of the main forms of entertainment for families and young adults.

While Cessnock is the gateway to the vineyards and a booming tourism destination, the majority of entertainment options are aimed at older generations.

The youth of Cessnock don't really have anything else to do in the town. The cinema was a great avenue to be utilised during school holidays and wet weekends to mix with friends and escape the boredom, if only for a short time.

Home movies just don't cut it, especially when they have been

watched weekend after weekend in the living room.

Nothing can beat watching a new movie on the big cinema screen, with the smell of freshly popped popcorn and hanging out with your friends.

Now we look around our town and wonder what to do. A place like Cessnock pool is only open for half the year and is not an option for rainy days. A skate park provides some interest, though it is desperately out-dated and, again, is not an option for wet weather.

Meanwhile, the youth of Kurri Kurri, 20 kilometres away, enjoy the delights of an indoor heated pool and a large, modern skate park on their doorstep, along with a short drive to the cinemas at Maitland.

Yes, sporting clubs are available, with many people participating in regular competitive teams, but these can not be played all of the time and not everyone can participate.

The youth of Cessnock need improved social areas to mix and entertain themselves. The development of the new PCYC facilities should help cater for some of these needs but Cessnock City Council should provide alternatives – the youth of Cessnock are crying out for it.

While we understand the closure of the cinema is financial, what cost will it have on our town?



Cartoon: Eloise Brown



TROPICAL CONDITIONS: Residents of the Kokoda village, where Heather Brockwell taught. Picture: Heather Brockwell

# Learning that keeps giving

By EMILY CREWES, LIAM O'BRIEN, NICK NEWSTEAD, LOGAN SMALL and JOE STEPHENSON

HEATHER Brockwell, a teacher from Nulkaba, visited Papua New Guinea last year as part of a Rotary Australia initiative to improve the educational conditions in the country as well as walk the famous Kokoda Track.

She taught at a variety of schools and took some learning supplies with her to help the children learn.

"I went there to help the kids because it is a Third World country, and to assist the teachers in how to use the learning supplies," Ms Brockwell said.

"The teachers only go to university

for four months before they are qualified to teach and are not very well resourced."

Teaching conditions were very different to those she was used to.

"I taught in a school which is a bark and bamboo hut with open windows. They have no fans, airconditioners or curtains. The conditions over there were very tropical and very dangerous due to floods."

The Kokoda Track took 14 days to walk with Papua New Guinean people helping. It was an emotional reminder of what soldiers faced in World War II, Ms Brockwell said.

She has plans to return in the near future to see the developments and to continue to give back to this rewarding project.

# Living and coping with diabetes

By CHLOE BAIN, MOLLY BOYD, ALISON COOMBLEY, BETHANY LENNARD and LILY LONGWORTH

TYPE 1 diabetes is a non-curable condition affecting many Australians, including primary aged children.

It occurs when the pancreas is no longer able to produce insulin.

The lack of insulin results in the body being unable to use glucose from the carbohydrates we eat for energy. The treatment is replacement of the insulin which can only be given via injections or infusions.

Research shows that of the 119,227 people diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in Australia, 7221 were aged 0-15 and 5809 were aged 16-20. Three people with type 1 diabetes currently attend Nulkaba Public School.

The children use small computerised pumps connected via tubes to a small needle inserted under the skin which infuses insulin every few minutes.

Lily Longworth, a student in year 6, was diagnosed at 11 months after having chicken pox.

"It doesn't affect my everyday life and I can do anything and everything that an average child would do," she said.

However, her mother answered differently, stating: "I have never really adjusted to having a diabetic in the family. You just manage as well as you can and try and lead a normal life."

# School students draw upon new life skills

By NOAH AMBRUM, JED CRAIG, TOM INGRAM, CHARLES MURRAY and LACHLAN O'BRIEN

CARTOONIST Jeff Taylor (also known as Joffa) is travelling around Australia teaching kids to draw.

He teaches students to believe in themselves, not just in drawing. More than 350,000 children have witnessed his skills in more than 1000 schools.

Toonschool, his travelling program, is a valuable program which has been awarded the prestigious

Frazer Award by the NSW Department of Education.

Joffa makes students feel confident in their abilities and prepares them to "have a go" at drawing.

He takes them through the process step by step and the students emerge surprised at what they have achieved.

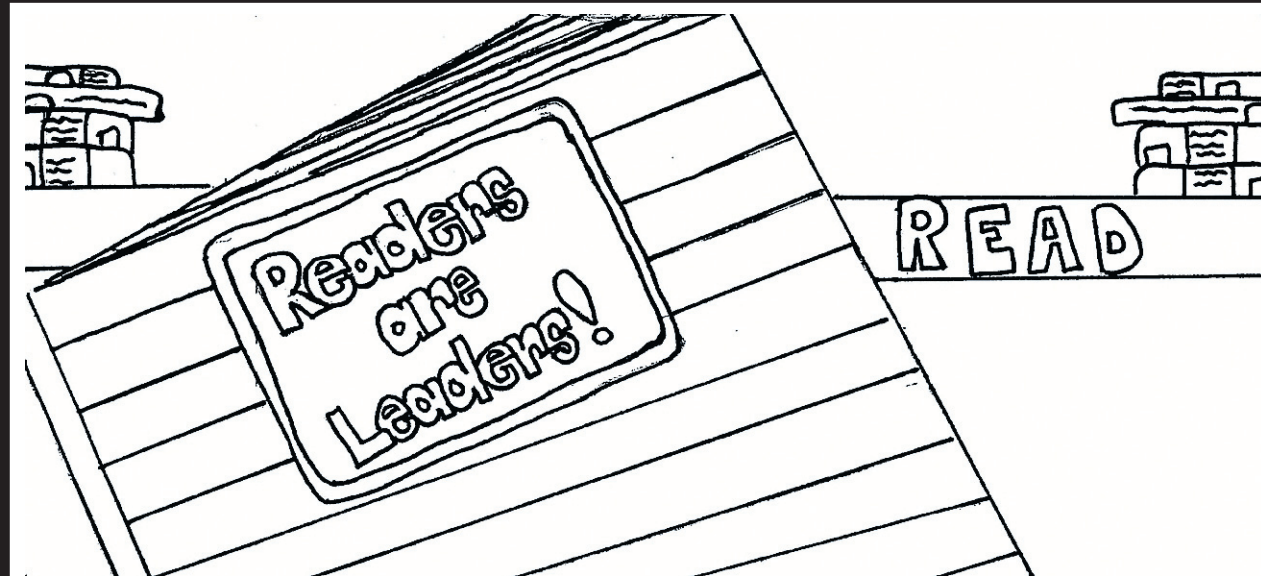
"It was exciting to see what I was actually capable of," said a year 6 student.

Joffa says that while nearly every child states, "I can't draw", they walk out with fantastic cartoons.



HANDIWORK: Noah Ambrum, of Nulkaba Public, uses the drawing skills taught to him by cartoonist Joffa. Picture: Jed Craig

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