

Primary entry #55: Rathmines Public School



Rathmines Rathfinder



HOME SWEET HOME: The straw bale house under construction.

Living in the house that straw built

By **MIRANDA CHRISMAS, SIDNEY HOPKINS** and **TALIAH PALMER**

A STRAW bale house is an alternative type of construction which is environmentally friendly and has great insulation properties.

The Christmas family chose a straw bale design for their home for its aesthetic appeal, its cost savings and because it is energy efficient.

"We wanted to build something different that was energy efficient with a low carbon footprint," they said.

The family chose this land because it has a great view, gets the lake breeze and has bushland and native animals. The house faces north-east, giving it good solar access which keeps the house cool in warm weather and warm in the cool weather. The house has rendered straw bale walls and a 90 millimetre earthen floor in its lower storey.

The earthen floor has excellent thermal mass, is pleasant underfoot and can have patterns printed on it.

The earthen walls can have different types of plaster finishes like lime, clay or normal gypsum. All have positives and negatives.

The plaster is made of fine sands and clay. The colour of the clay generally sets the render colour. Lime plaster is made from fine sand and lime putty and allows a larger range of colours. It is naturally more weather resistant.

The design allows for niches which are pretty holes in the wall.

By **TY LEWIS, JOEL MATHER** and **THOMAS GRICE**

WHEN you think of technology these days you might think of iPhones, iPods, iPads, PCs, TVs and many types of consoles. But what would you say the technology of the future will be like?

Many people would say it will include slim, unique, portable computers and consoles bursting with impressive graphics. But what does our technological future really have in store? And what does this mean for kids growing up in the technological age?

In the future, you could argue that everything will be technological, with surgery being completed by robots making more precise incisions to save more people.

Miners will have many more machines controlled by remotes like a game. But how are people going to know how to use this technology if the children of today are being restricted from playing consoles and computers?

We should let them play.

Even though there might be one or two problems with the internet and gaming in general, surely this is a small price to pay for future-proofing our response to technology's growing demands.

The future will be technologically advanced as nearly every highly paid job will have some



LEARNING THE ROPES: Joel Mather, Thomas Grice and Ty Lewis prepare for the future.
Picture: Ty Lewis

technological function involved, from having to complete heart surgery with a robot, to working in a factory where cars are manufactured while you just press a button to start and stop.

Still not convinced? Have a look around. Chances are you're surrounded by some sort of high-end technology or other "smart" device.

Only overprotective parents would risk their child's future not letting them do anything but play outside.

The future is bright, with technological advances set to not only make things easier for us but to also assist the lives of those living with disabilities.

One doesn't have to think too

hard to imagine a bionic eye or such device which can only improve the lives of thousands.

Mum and Dad, isn't it possible that the people likely to pioneer these kind of technological advances could be the very people who are currently "wasting their time" in front of the computer? Food for thought indeed.



DISAPPOINTED: Holli Lavis and Takira Baldock survey some of the school's damage. Picture: Caitlin Chalmers

Vandalism a waste of time, money

By **HOLLI LAVIS, TAKIRA BALDOCK** and **CAITLIN CHALMERS**

VANDALISM is a massive problem which is happening all across the community.

Such an incident took place on August 20 at Rathmines Public School. Vandalism broke in after school hours, graffitied the hall and damaged the computer room. While this is not the

first instance of vandalism at the school, its effects are no less troubling.

The repairs and repainting continue to inconvenience staff and students alike with relocation required for some activities.

The principal, Mr Walker, estimates that it happened after 10pm but before 8am.

"Incidents such as these are indeed disappointing but do serve to remind stu-

dents of the importance of appropriate behaviour and making a conscious effort to look after our school," Mr Walker said.

The current security of the school grounds is being reviewed and, in particular, the effectiveness of the security fence.

It is hoped that with continued vigilance, this problem can be minimised or eradicated.



An easy way to fundraise!

Newcastle Permanent is proud to support our local communities. Just get your school, charity, sporting club or similar local organisation to sign up to our Introducer Program, and with us, you can help raise much needed funds for your local community organisation. Mention them when you apply for a new home or business loan (over \$100,000) and for each eligible new loan they will receive \$600!*

To find out more or to arrange an appointment with a Newcastle Permanent home or business loan expert, contact us today.

13 19 87 newcastlepermanent.com.au

Here for good.

