Nothing like real pages of a book

EDITORIAL

By **GENYA DOHERTY, TODD** VÁNDYKE and CALEB WATTS

MANY people think of an e-reader as a great and amazing thing and an easy way to read whenever and wherever they desire. With advances in technology e-readers are becoming a part of everyday life. However, it is argued that books remain a much better option.

E-readers are quite expensive and then you have to add the cost of each online book you purchase. Books are much more affordable than e-readers because they are a

There is also a big risk of losing lots of money if you lose an e-reader. Losing one is like losing 10 books – they are expensive and that equals lots of money if you had to replace it. That's not to mention the cost of repairs if it was damaged.

Once you have bought an actual book, it is yours to keep or pass on to others. It is always there for you to read and enjoy.

Also, e-readers are destroying the book industry. E-readers are putting books and bookstores out of business because people are spending their money on them instead. Small local bookshops and even some national book chain stores have already been forced to close.

The pleasure young children have in finding their own books to buy from the shelves of bookstores may soon be gone.

Many more publishing jobs will continue to be lost and that will have a flow-on effect in the community as people who have been employed in the industry will not have the disposable income to spend locally. This will negatively affect other local businesses and families.

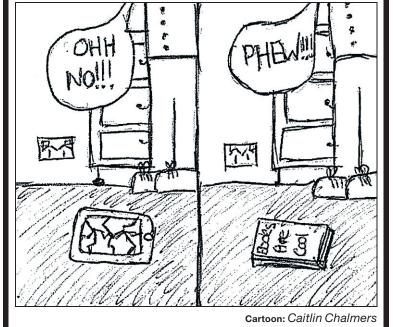
And what about your favourite authors who will never publish their books on the internet? Some authors refuse to publish any of their books online or on any electronic device, which means you will not be able to access them on your e-reader. Books are much better than e-readers because you can get every published book you have ever dreamed of.

So why buy an expensive e-reader when you can get a book which is better in every way?

You do not have to worry about losing books because they are much more affordable than e-readers.

Imagine having a world with no libraries or bookstores - it would be horrible. Just think, not having your favourite author's book, it would be so boring.

Books must never be replaced by e-readers.





BARREN: The land has been cleared near Buttaba. Picture: Jake Painter

Missing trees need replants

By BRAYDEN JENKINS, JAKE PAINTER and BILLY IZZARD

IN Buttaba, a suburb near Rathmines, the Lake Macquarie Council has allowed the clearing of land for a new housing estate.

People in the community are disgusted as huge dirt piles have just been left there

The trees that have been cut down could be a native species and most animals that live in this environment need the trees to survive.

If the trees get chopped down and some animals leave the area, the food chain will change. Some animal species may die out and others may overpopulate the area, which will do even more harm to the ecosystem.

People who live in this area have different thoughts and opinions about the removal of the trees.

Residents Sue and Joe Jenkins said: "If the trees have to be removed, what council needs to do is chop down all of the trees on site, and plant trees in the yards of the new houses that are of the same, or a suitable species that would grow in the area to a size that is easy to manage.

The idea of the houses being built having a suitable species of tree in their yards would keep the species in that area and give the bush's animal inhabitants a place to live while more trees grow in the open spaces for future animals and their young to grow and live in.

Getting rid of bullies: a school plan

By JAXON FORD and **WILLIAM GREENHALGH**

BULLYING affects people everywhere, every day. Initiatives have been set up at Rathmines Public School such as You Can Do It, Student of the Week and Blue Merit Awards in order to help prevent bullying from occurring at the school.

Rathmines Public School principal Nick Walker reiterated this message and highlighted Rathmines Public School's stance on bullying and all anti-social behaviour.

"It is important that all children feel safe and attend a school that supports a very strong stance against all forms of bullying," Mr Walker said.

"Whilst bullying is a complex issue, I think it's fair to say we've implemented many strategies to minimise or eradicate any reported instances of such behaviour."

Bullying has always been in society, but it has changed over time – it can be physical, verbal, indirect or social, and includes intimidation and cyberbullying.

While the direct effects of bullying are difficult to measure, many are well documented. Such effects can include increased levels of stress and absenteeism.

Any form of bullying behaviour must be stamped out, not only for children to get the most out of their schooling but for society in general to function.

Henny, Penny and their friends add flavour

By **MALIA TILLEY** and **EMILEE STITT**

RATHMINES Public School has continued its focus on sustainability with the addition of chickens which now live within the school grounds.

The addition of the chickens complements other environmental initiatives currently running within the school including vegetable gardens, a worm farm, rainwater collection and Nude Food Day.

Co-ordinating the school's environmental

and sustainability push is Cherylin Seymour. Mrs Sevmour ensures all children within the school are aware of the message of sustainability.

"The kids love the chickens and they only add to the many initiatives we already have in place," she said. Each week the chickens

are fed scraps from the Crunch and Sip break and they are given the run of the $\,$ school. As well as laying eggs, the chickens fertilise the garden which grows lavender, spinach, snow peas and other vegetables.



CLUCKY: Emilee Stitt, Malia Tilley and "The Girls" who provide eggs and fertiliser

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