

Secondary entry #18: Swansea High School



TAKING CHARGE: Hands up for positive thinking.

Picture: Danielle Lamborn

Inspiring and empowering all our girls

By **JESSICA GRAHAM**
and **DANIELLE LAMBORN**

IN May and June, two year 11 girls at Swansea High School initiated a positive values-based program called "Inspire". Danielle Lamborn and Jessica Graham led the program with inspiration from their local church community. About 100 girls attended each weekly session.

"Jess and Danielle were just so impressive," relieving principal Robyn Leggatt said.

"They led a small group of year 10 students to deliver a wonderful message of self-belief, positive thinking and decision-making."

"The outcomes were immediate, with students having a more peaceful and positive outlook. The program was indeed an inspiration."

The girls ran three sessions involving encouragement of positive words, thoughts and actions, food, games, music and lots of prizes.

To conclude the program, a dessert night was organised including a candy bar, photo booth, live music and dancing.

"Throughout the program I learnt about developing positive attitudes and thinking." Year 7 participant Arrazona Cassar said.

Student Lara McSpadden said it inspired and encouraged girls having issues with friends or family.

Student Nikkira Dowsett said Inspire taught students to value who they are.

Saving historical jetty

By **DANICA FENWICK** and
JASMIN HARTGE

AS one of the last deep-sea jetties on the east coast of Australia, many locals feel it is important that the Catherine Hill Bay jetty is maintained. This historical jetty has been part of the NSW mining community since 1873 and it signifies the importance of Australia's mining history. It was in use up until 2002, but ceased operations due to the closing of the Wallarah and Moonee collieries.

The name Catherine Hill was adopted to commemorate the schooner Catherine Hill, which had run aground in 1867.

Coal was discovered by the New Wallsend Company which bought up the land, built a jetty and opened the mine in 1873. The coastal location enabled shipment and avoided the bar at the entrance to Lake Macquarie. The enterprise hired up to 100 men. Their cottages formed the basis of the community and still line the roadside today.

Approximately 1000 tonnes of coal per week was taken by horse-drawn skips from the mine to a loading chute towards the end of the jetty.

The Catherine Hill Bay miners' cottages were made state heritage-listed sites; this was to show the importance of Catherine Hill Bay to the mining industry in the 1800s,



PRESERVE: Catherine Hill Bay jetty is a part of the Hunter's mining history. Picture: Danica Fenwick

although the jetty, an important part of this era, fell short of state heritage listing.

Many members of the community believe that the jetty is the main attraction of Catherine Hill Bay. The majority of divers and fishermen come to the area because of the vast range of marine life that are inhabitants of the jetty.

Surfers and local community members also believe that it is a historical icon and makes Catherine Hill Bay what it is today.

Community members have previously inquired that if the jetty were to be demolished, a reef would be put in its place as a substitute to create another environment for the marine life to thrive on.

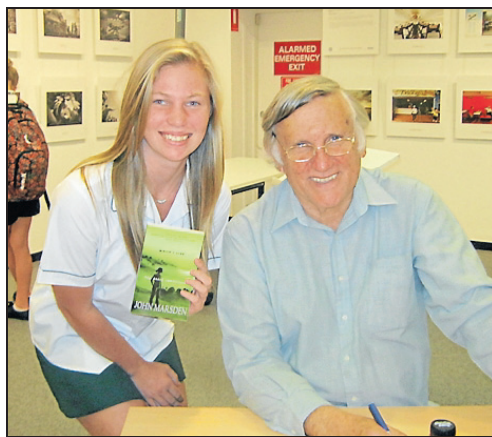
The initial cost of restoring the jetty is approximately \$3 million and in order to maintain it, and another \$3.5 million would need to be spent over the next 10 years.

The historic jetty is of significance to the Australian and NSW mining record and should be maintained so future generations can appreciate its contribution.

LESSONS IN WRITING:

Author John Marsden with year 11 student Tamara Pearson.

Picture: Jacob Dizon



Top author provides novel insights

By **JASON DIZON**

AUSTRALIAN author John Marsden visited Newcastle Regional Library to talk to a select group of English students and avid readers from Swansea High School.

The audience, from classes 7/8 Karakal, 8S and year 11 Extension English, listened to his views on dominant and non-dominant characters, clichés, the use

of language and the inspiration behind his books, especially the hugely popular *Tomorrow When the War Began* series.

Marsden also performed an improvised scenario on dominant and non-dominant characters with year 11 student Joshua Wheatley.

He took the time to answer some student questions, and then afterwards, the audience was given the chance to

purchase books and have them autographed.

The author presented inspirational ideas to students and offered food for thought on the nature of writing. Marsden's ideas and insight were thought-provoking and helpful to aspiring young authors.

"The visit was definitely a worthwhile experience," English teacher Kylie Bates said.

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