

Primary entry #4: The Junction Public School



# The Junction Journal



**CHANGES:** Niamh Lewis finds out what school was like back in the 1970s. Picture: Rose Potter

## Reflecting on a schoolyard of years past

By NIAMH LEWIS

LIKE everything, schools change over time. Some changes are for the better, some things change for the worse and a few things stay the same.

Former Junction Public student Kylie, who is now a parent of students who attend the school, pointed out some changes.

One of Kylie's memories of school was that boys and girls were treated a little differently – they played separate sports on Friday, and boys were more likely to get the cane.

Kylie also recalled a teacher who had a ruler that she used to whack students on the leg with if their work wasn't neat enough. It wouldn't happen now.

Today is no different from the 1970s for uniforms. Students still complain about wearing them. There were no sports uniform for girls, just plain blue pinafores.

Kylie remembers games like hopscotch, elastics, and handstands. Nowadays cartwheels and handstands are considered a safety hazard. Boys no longer play jacks or marbles like they used to.

Kylie also talked about what happened on wet weather days. When it rained, all the children went into a big open building called the weather shed. While most of the teachers stayed in their staffroom all the children were left out in the cold.

By EMILY DONOVAN-SCHULTZ

IT'S not just the teachers who enjoy teaching history at The Junction Public school. Stage three students also love the interactive way they're being taught.

During this term, year 6 has been studying the Federation of Australia. They've learnt a lot and discovered the different ways Australians reacted to Federation.

Students now have a deeper understanding of how the constitution was formed in 1901 and it has been learnt in an interesting way.

They didn't learn all this by copying facts from the board in the classroom or reading long worksheets. The teachers have used what is around every day – the city. The students were taken for walks around the Junction, Cooks Hill and Newcastle precinct to experience living history.

The excursion was fun and interactive, giving everyone a break from the classroom. It was also a great experience; allowing everyone to see, feel and discuss how Federation changed the way people did things.

It was discovered that Newcastle was settled quite early and there is still a lot of preserved Federation architecture around the city streets. So it was decided that a look at the Federation houses would be a good idea.



**LATEST MODEL:** Laura Sullivan, Joshua Lynch, Billy Biddle and Lachlan Austin study a street of Federation-style houses as part of their history lesson. Picture: Rose Potter

Australian Federation architecture is quite distinctive because the Australian people back in 1901-1914 wanted to show a new country or Australia as a whole.

In order to keep a record for discussions in class, the teachers asked students to draw some of the houses. The focus was on the

distinctive decorations such as picket fences, stained glass windows, or the terracotta rams horns protruding from the roof points.

Back at school and a group design project was formed. The challenge was to create a model Federation house using the features from the drawings.

They were made mostly out of recycled materials such as cardboard boxes and ice-cream containers and a lot of red and green paint.

Overall, the students and teachers of year 6 loved the new way they learnt history and be creative at the same time.



**FAIL:** Tamara Lazarus, Harry Rundle, Kahn White and Lucy Wilsmore aren't afraid. Picture: Caitlin Flanagan

## The scarecrow without the scare

By CAITLIN FLANAGAN

THE Junction Public School has a little problem with its garden. It's not the dirt, it's not the flowers and it's not Tom the gardener. It's the scarecrow. It isn't scary at all. It doesn't even frighten the kindergarten children.

The senior students have decided to make a new one to be scarier than ever before to ensure the birds

will leave the sensory garden alone.

The scarecrow was constructed three years ago by a group of parents who donated their time and all the materials. When it was new it was very effective.

Over the years it has started to look more like a ragdoll. Its clothes are old and ripped and all the straw is falling out. Its face has started to droop and it is

permanently damp and dirty.

Year 6 are organising the materials. As well as old pants, a shirt, a hat and lots of straw, the students are using their most talented artist to help with the face.

The garden is a beautiful part of the school. A new scarecrow will make it look better and if the birds can be kept away all students can really enjoy all the fruits of their labour.

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