

Primary entry #3: Thornton Public School

THE THORNTON THUNDER



LENDING A HAND: Students learn about the effects of global warming on Australia.

Picture: Ryan Liddell

Our planet is heading for more change

By **AYMAN PALASARA, COREY PARKES, RYAN LIDDELL** and **TELIAH CLARKE**

GLOBAL warming is affecting Australia, with humans pumping more carbon dioxide in to the atmosphere.

Many things are contributing to this, even flatulating cows because of the methane they release.

Global warming is affecting the ocean's surface temperatures and it has been observed that there has been an increase in warmer days and nights.

There is strong scientific evidence that indicates that global warming increases certain types of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, coastal flooding and more severe droughts. The rise of sea levels affects coastal property, people and ecosystems.

The Hunter region, and in particular Lake Macquarie, has experienced the effects of rising sea levels due to global warming.

Lake Macquarie Council has amended its flood-resilient housing guidelines to approve the building of floating houses in the area. Other options include raising floor levels, moving houses to higher land, relocatable homes and converting lower floors to car parking and storage.

If ice caps continue to melt, rising water levels will be a major problem for coastal towns across the world.

Move to a smarter class

By **LOCHLAN VARDY, THOMAS ROMEO, GEORDAN LANDER** and **JESSICA LOOSEMORE**

TECHNOLOGY is the future. Public schools throughout Australia are benefitting from the Federal Government's \$2.2 billion Digital Education Revolution initiative.

This program aims to prepare students for further education and training, provide future jobs, and to help them confidently live and work in a digital world.

Today's school students are so dependent on technology that they are now downloading their homework from sources such as iTunes, wikis, blogs and weebles.

And it's not just high school kids who are making good use of the fast-moving technology. Australia's primary school students are now equipped with the skills needed for the digital age.

Sue Wright, a teacher at Thornton Public School who has been teaching for 38 years, said that in the past there were "no photocopiers, no printers, no computers, laptops or SMART Boards."

"Ink wells and paper were used instead of iPads, slate boards instead of computers, and chalkboards instead of SMART Boards," she said.

She also said that "it [technology]



has changed the way you teach and it has changed student behaviour because they know what will be shown will be fun. Kids are more engaged and are excited to come to school because they know teaching is different."

In future, children will soon be

arriving at school carrying much more than books and a new pencil-case in their backpacks.

Laptops, tablets and memory keys will accompany mobile phones and digital music players, as technology begins to merge the classroom and home.

TECH TIME: Students in schools today have access to a vast range of technology.

Picture: Lochlan Vardy



CONNECTED: Social networks have become the new hangouts for tweens.

Picture: Liam Martin

The dangers of social networking

By **LEVI CLARK, JASMINE MAXTED, TYLER CRAWFORD** and **NOAH BALL**

STUDENTS are spending far too much time on the online world of social networking, a survey undertaken at Thornton Public School has found.

Results showed that 38 per cent of students in years 3-6 indicated that they actively use Instagram; 28 per cent of students in

years 3-6 use Kik, 27 per cent of students in years 3-6 use Snapchat and 15 per cent of students in years 3-6 indicated that they had an active Facebook account.

There are many dangers that come with such access, including children posting personal information, photos and videos of themselves.

There is also the danger of children inadvertently giving away their personal information to strangers.

Young children do not always have the nous to handle Facebook.

Parents need to actively monitor their child's internet usage because there are too many adults falsifying their personal information, which enables them to perpetrate crimes against children.

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