

Primary entry #40: Waratah Public School.



WARATAH WATCH



CELEBRATE: Verity Currey, giving hope through Relay for Life.
Picture: Niamh Currey

Running for their lives and surviving

By **LUCAS BERRIGAN**
and **RORY JOHNSON**

RELAY for Life is an all-night event where teams of 10-15 people participate in a relay-like walk or run to raise funds for the Cancer Council.

The relay brings the community together for a night of fun, entertainment, celebration and remembrance. In NSW, more than 40,000 people take part each year and according to the Cancer Council, it raises around \$18 million, \$6 million in NSW alone.

Verity Currey is the chairwoman of the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie committee. She became involved after a personal experience with cancer. "A 15-year-old friend of mine died of cancer and I didn't think children died of cancer, so that's the reason I got involved."

The proud survivors of cancer also do it to show anything is possible.

"You can run in whatever style; you can run, walk, dance, or hop. You can do anything as long as you're doing laps," Ms Currey said.

Some do it to raise money, while others do it to remember loved ones. There are no restrictions - all ages and fitness levels are welcome.

Ms Currey encourages all to get involved by making up a team and raising money, or donating. This year's goal is \$250,000, and the event is on November 2 at the Hunter Sports Centre, Glendale.

Treasure in performing

By **KAYLA TRAVERS** and
ISABELLA HULL-FRAS

CREATIVITY is a huge part of learning at Waratah Public School, recently expressed through a school production that has been the focus for 2013.

Kids at Sea is a musical that has been performed by schools all over Australia. It is set in London and the "mysterious Far East" in the early 1900s. The main character meets pirates, mer-people, sultans and Roc Birds along the way.

Maria Williams, the school principal, is the director of the production and while it took a while to get started, everything began to fall into place.

"It was a long process choosing the actors, because some children had great talent but were too shy to come and audition," Mrs Williams said.

"We needed more people and slowly those talented people came and saw how fun and easy the play was."

Although some children didn't get a leading role, every child was able to participate through group performances of song and dance, helping out as stage hands and preparing costumes and props.

Community involvement is a strong part of Waratah Public School, and the production has seen the school community become even stronger.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Students William Baird, Hayley Sullivan, Daneka Kennedy and Ruby Howard perform in *Kids at Sea*.
Picture: Kayla Travers

According to Mrs Williams, "The whole school has come together to do something wonderful. The students have learnt how to perform and entertain in front of people. The teachers get to see students having fun and getting engaged in learning and this wonderful production. The community benefits

because they get to see their children up on stage singing, dancing or playing a part and performing for the school. Parents also helped make the costumes and props."

The local high school, Waratah Technology High, was also involved, generously providing the

use of their hall for the production. Hayley Sullivan, a year 6 student, played Albert Sinbad, the father of the main character, Harold. When asked about the play, she said: "It was fun working with the whole school and Mrs Williams was great at teaching the children their parts."

Learning about indigenous culture

By **BYRON RUSSELL** and
JAMES SHANAHAN

AT Waratah Public School, indigenous students make up just over 10 per cent of the student population.

Students are given the opportunity to participate in events to learn about their culture. Past events have included an Aboriginal dance workshop, and an indigenous excursion to the

Murrook Cultural Centre.

NAIDOC Day is another important part of community-building at Waratah Public School. Parent helper Karleigh Ping said: "It was a fun and really exciting day to watch the students learn about Aboriginal culture and NAIDOC."

Students completed hands-on activities, including how to throw a spear, painting, cooking and eating

Aussie delicacies such as kangaroo and crocodile, storytelling, singing and dancing. Students also planted and learnt about bush tucker.

David Matheson, a former teacher of Waratah Public, believes it would be a great thing to have dancing and didgeridoo as active programs, as does Bailey Myers, age 11, an indigenous student in year 6.

HERITAGE:

Isaiah Talbot and Bo-James Jenner in the bush-tucker garden.

Picture: Byron Russell



Need funding for a Community Project?

Each year, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation provides approximately \$1.5 million in grants to eligible not-for-profit organisations in the regional areas in which we serve. To help community organisations gain an understanding of the easy application process, how funding applications are assessed and the types of community projects funded to date, the Foundation is holding a **free two hour workshop**. If you are a representative of a not-for-profit organisation, please register to attend our free workshop.

Venue: **Raymond Terrace Bowling Club, 2 Jacaranda Ave**

Time and date: **10am, Tuesday 17 September**

RSVP: **By Monday 9 September to Sue Jones (02) 4927 4435**

or sue.jones@newcastlepermanent.com.au

**NEWCASTLE PERMANENT
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**