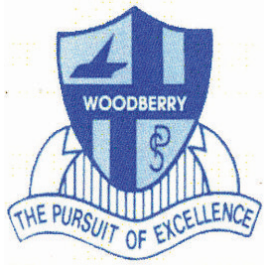


Primary entry #7: Woodberry Public School



Woodberry Whisper



POSITIVE: Working together to halt the hurt. Picture: Michael Penner

Stopping the bullying in its early stages

By CHLOE SPEERING

INTERRELATE is a service across NSW providing programs that strengthen and support all relationships in your life.

One program offered to schools is the bullying awareness program, sponsored by the Newcastle Permanent Building Society.

This program is for all children in need that have been bullied or have bullied someone.

Interrelate have identified hard evidence regarding the physical and mental harm that continued bullying does to vulnerable children.

The statistics prove children who continually engage in bullying are more likely than others to engage in criminal activities.

The bullying awareness program aims to break the cycle for the victim and the perpetrator.

Bullying is when people repeatedly and intentionally use words or actions against someone or a group of people to cause distress and risk to their well-being.

Bullying can happen anywhere. It can be physical, verbal or emotional.

Interrelate's positive solutions bullying resilience program delivers positive results in dealing with this major social issue.

The program co-ordinators at Interrelate believe you have to address bullying head on. The anti-bullying program engages students, teachers, and parents to help break the bullying and victim cycle.

The program instils, reinforces, and rewards the values of empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

By SHELBY KOVACS

BRANDED litter items account for 24 per cent of the total litter stream across Australia.

The Branded Litter Study conducted in 2011-2012 by Keep Australia Beautiful found the overall average number of branded litter objects identified across all sites nationally in 2011-12 was 10,565 items.

The study displays which are the most prevalent brands overall and within each category, both nationally and across all states and territories.

Analysis of category results throughout Australia shows that highway sites generally contributed the highest proportion of branded litter across all eight industry categories.

Additionally, the contribution of branded litter by the main material categories shows that the majority of branded litter objects were either paper/paperboard (35.7 per cent) or plastic (33.7 per cent).

Takeaway food and drink containers and packaging account for 18.6 per cent of litter in 2011-2012.



WASTE: McDonald's came out on top in a recent survey on branded rubbish.

Picture: Shelby Kovacs

When weighted proportionally against the overall branded litter count, McDonald's emerged as the most frequently identified brand.

In total, 12.78 per cent of all branded litter items recorded during 2011-12 bore this brand name, making up more than two thirds of the total items counted.

Other brands that contributed a notable proportion of litter within this category included: Hungry Jack's 10.9 per cent, KFC 7.6 per cent, Subway 3.7 per

cent and Red Rooster 1.8 per cent.

An understanding of which brands are in the litter stream and where they are found will help industries such as the packaging supply chain to meet its responsibilities under the National Packaging Agreement.

The agreement requires signatories to address issues of packaging litter and to contribute to improved consumer decision-making relating to the areas of consumption, value, use and disposal of packaging.

This places a lot of pressure on companies such as McDonald's to take responsibility for their consumers' choices.

McDonald's not only offers dine-in facilities but garbage bins are available both inside the restaurant, in the car park and at the driveway as its customers exit.

Highways were identified as having the highest proportion of branded litter as consumers are still throwing rubbish out of the car instead of in garbage bins or waiting until reaching their destination.



HANDS UP: Woodberry Public is excited about the proposed plan. Picture: Dominic Tupou

Funds set aside for education reform

By MIKAYLA MAMMEN

WITH \$16.2 billion going into the national education system over the next six years if the Gonski plan goes ahead, school communities are beginning to buzz.

Principal of Woodberry Public School, Josie Bailey, said: "I'm very excited about this because it will give us the necessary resources to make sure all children are supported.

"It will provide us with the scope to make more thorough plans and work more extensively with the entire school community," she said.

Mrs Bailey hopes to improve academic skills and develop a sense of community and social justice.

"I would like to provide the opportunity to express and develop creativity, to inspire all students for the future and to develop technology skills and

most importantly develop positive citizens for the future," she said.

After much hesitation about whether or not the government was going to support the plan, Julia Gillard said: "It's not about the fight, it's all about the outcome."

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell initially had hesitations, but is now determined that any deal done is in the best interest of families and students.

Rachel - Newcastle Permanent



A good reason to be here

As a mutual building society, with no shareholders to pay, Newcastle Permanent is different from the major banks. We are here to look after the interests of our members and our community, not raise profits for shareholders.

This community focus flows right through the organisation. "That's definitely one of the reasons I like working here," says Rachel from Newcastle Permanent. "As staff we get two bonus annual leave days to volunteer in the community. We also raise over \$50,000 a year in staff donations for charity."

"So by doing your banking with Newcastle Permanent, you're not only getting great products and services, you're also helping us support your community." That's another good reason to do your banking with Newcastle Permanent.



To see other ways we support the community visit facebook.com/newcastlepermanent

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Here for good.

