

SCHOOLS — DANDENONG WEST PRIMARY

SCHOOL PRODUCTION — A DANCE SHOW

1 CALLED "US" AT DRUM THEATRE — DANCING

STAFF AND STUDENT ALL IN PRODUCTION

DANDENONG WEST

PS

10th AUGUST 2015

LEADER

SCHOOLS
DANDENONG WEST



Dandenong West Primary School student Adau was one of many at the school with a big grin thanks to the school's first production in two decades.

Picture: VALERIU CAMPAN

School production goes off without a hitch

IT HAS been more than 20 years since Dandenong West Primary held a school production.

But based on the success of last Wednesday's show, an annual school production will be back with a vengeance.

Students performed a dance show called *Us* in

front of a sellout crowd at Dandenong's Drum Theatre.

Performing arts teacher Belinda Annan said the entire school community was thrilled with how the production came together.

"It went really, really well," Mrs Annan said.

"(There were) lots of kids

smiling and parents and staff were happy."

The production aimed to showcase the entire school community.

With all of the students and many of the staff not having taken part in a school production before, Mrs Annan said there was a "big learning curve".

"It was also difficult explaining to parents who don't necessarily understand what a production is," she said.

"Particularly as most of them had never been to a theatre before in their life. But it was a good night, a great success and everyone had smiles on their faces."

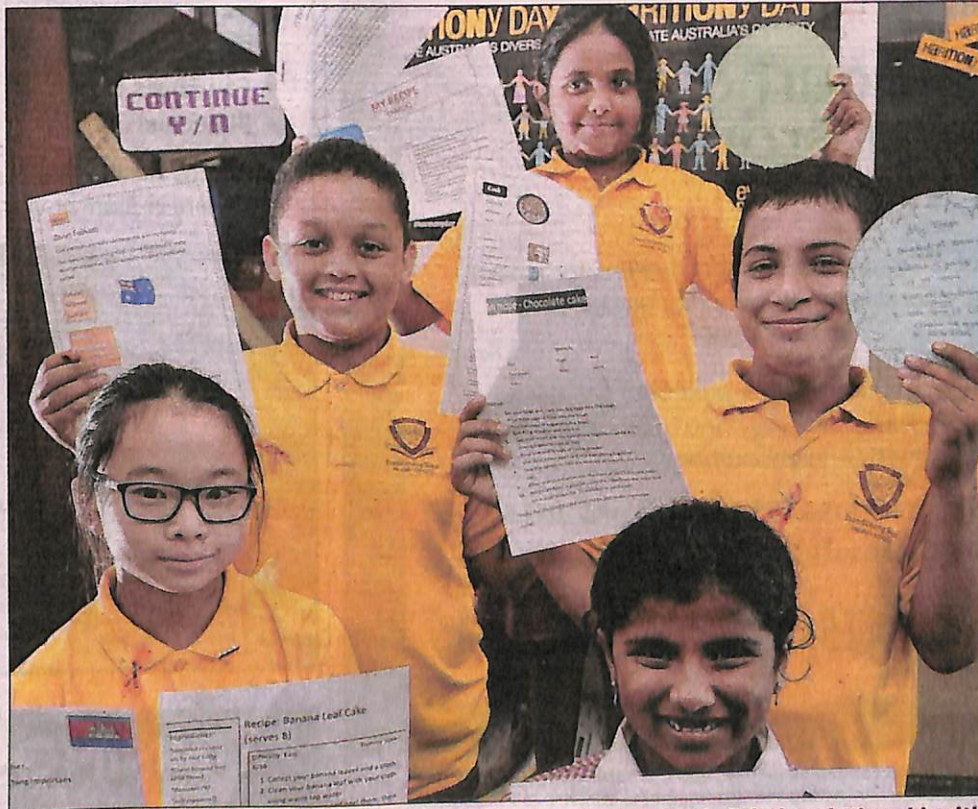
HARMONY DAY 18th MARCH 2016.

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL - 'A LESSON IN TOLERANCE'

LEADER PIC4 MARCH 14 2016

DANDENONG WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

A lesson in tolerance



Dandenong West Primary School students Jessica, Zavier, Saki, Sahel and Tharuki with recipes for harmony they have created for the community festival on Friday. Picture: ELLEN SMITH

HARMONY Day is bringing out the best in community spirit across Greater Dandenong.

On Friday, Dandenong West Primary School is celebrating the day with a community festival brimming with cultural performances and family-friendly activities. The free event will include a jumping castle, inflatable slide, face painting and farm animals.

Community hub leader Vikki Home said it was a true community event because local residents were involved in planning and implementing it. "We're all working together because we all believe in multiculturalism. We're a vibrant community and we want to celebrate that," she said.

The festival will run from 2-6pm on Friday.

Athol Road Primary School and Kindergarten is also running an event on Tuesday, featuring shows, singing and dancing from 9.15am-3pm.

Cheer is an act of fete

By Casey Neill

Dandong West Primary School students raised more than \$1400 to buy Christmas presents for children in need overseas.

They organised and held a fete at the Dandong Baptist Church on Saturday 3 September - with help from Dandong Baptist Church youth community worker Abby Weller.

They had aimed to bring in \$1000 to deliver gifts overseas through Operation Christmas Child.

"We raised \$1443 between stallholder bookings, a sausage sizzle, jumping castle, bake sale, and garage sale," she said.

"While the morning started off cold we were very happy that the sun came out which brought with it a buzz of people."

Ms Weller said the CFA stopped by to hold a demonstration and "the pastor at Dandong Baptist Church was giving out Harley rides!"

The Grades 5 and 6 students who ran the day participate in Youth Unlimited, which is a weekly after-school program held at the school by volunteers.

"I'm so incredibly proud of our youth students and the way they carried themselves on the day," Ms Weller said.

"They came excited and full of enthusiasm and I think that showed through to everyone who supported us.

"The day couldn't have gone better.

"The next two weeks we will be working on putting our Christmas boxes together, which the kids cannot stop raving about."



Dandong Baptist Church Youth Community Worker Abby Weller with fete organisers Veak, Nyanchiok, Atus, Oyin, Naomi and Jessica. 158661
Pictures: ROB CAREW



Nyanchiok and Nudrat welcome visitors with sunscreen and gifts. 158661



Gloria mans the barbecue with her children Naomi and Isaiah. 158661



Sanjana and Tara with cakes from the bake sale. 158661



Youth Unlimited leaders Nicole D'Souza and Julie McConachy. 158661



Mother and son Xavier and Sharron serve up snags. 158661

GRADES 5 AND 6. "FETE" WITH HELP FROM BAPTIST YOUTH
\$1400 RAISED TO BUY CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OVERSEAS



Dandenong West Primary School principal Bev Hansen with the school's award.

Hub of learning

By Casey Neill

Dandenong West Primary School is leading the way in drawing the wider community into school life.

It picked up the Education and Early Childhood Award at Victoria's Multicultural Awards for Excellence, which was held at Government House on Thursday 13 October.

The annual awards are now in their 15th year and acknowledge and celebrate contributions to multicultural communities.

Judges said that Dandenong West "serves as a best practice example of community engagement in learning".

They acknowledged the school's community hub, its connections with libraries and civic centres, its playgroups and men's shed, and classes for adults in English, computers, cooking and craft.

Principal Bev Hansen said the school was immensely proud and honoured.

"We believe it is a school's responsibility to

serve the community in which it is located," she said.

"While our core focus is student learning, we understand that this is best achieved working in partnership with families and the wider community."

Ms Hansen said her students came from more than 50 countries, 93 per cent had a language background other than English and a third were likely to be refugees.

"Our families are typically newly arrived families, with a large proportion having been in Australia for less than two years," she said.

She said war many of them were affected by isolation, family dislocation, interrupted schooling and poverty.

"It is essential that, as a school, we develop our own understanding of the consequences of such circumstances and work to develop a school environment that is welcoming and supportive," she said.

"Our focus on cultural diversity supports our students academically, emotionally and socially."

AWARD: EARLY CHILDHOOD AWARD AT VICTORIA'S MULTICULTURAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

LEGO LEAGUE. AT SWINBURNE. UNI
TO INNOVATE SOLUTIONS FOR OUTER SPACE
EXPLORATION USING LEGO ROBOTS.
THE LEAGUE PROMOTES PROBLEM SOLVING
CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING IN
STUDENTS FROM DISADVANTAGED
COMMUNITIES

Lego kids in space race

It was a battle of ingenuity at a recent First LEGO League competition at Swinburne University.

Students from Dandenong West and Rivergum primary schools were among 40,000 teams of budding scientists around the world taking on an 'Into Orbit' challenge.

Their brief was to innovate solutions for outer space exploration using LEGO robots.

Kylee Bates, chief executive of co-sponsor Ardoch, says the league promotes problem solving, critical and creative thinking in students from disadvantaged communities.

Robotics technology kits, teacher training and STEM resources are provided to the target schools.

"As more and more employers begin to value STEM related skills, it's important that all students are given the opportunity to dive headfirst into science, technology, engineering and math," said Paul Ancombe, director of co-sponsor Cummins South Pacific.

The league was founded in 1998 challenging kids to research a real-world problem such as food safety, recycling and energy.



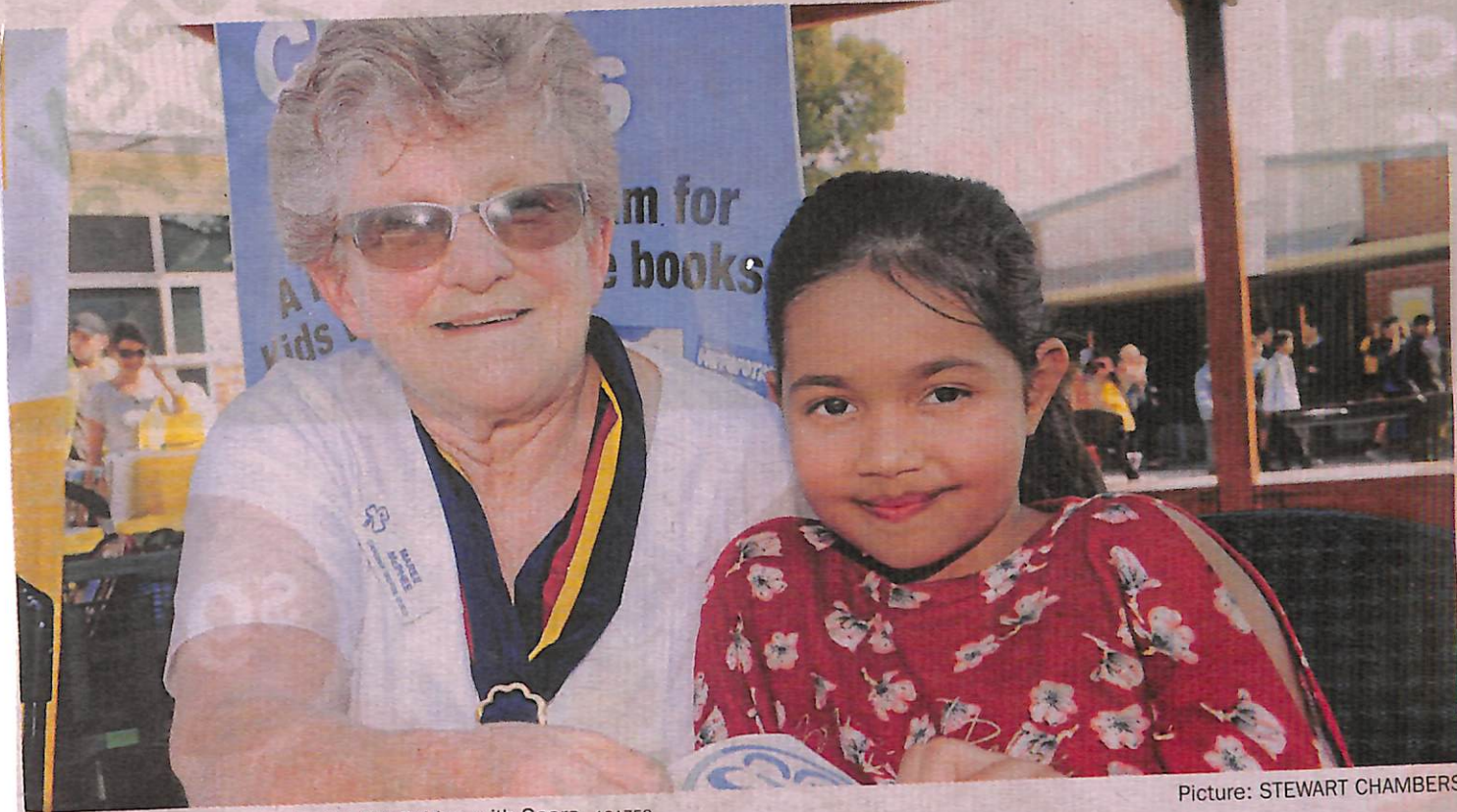
Dandenong West Primary students Shukriya, Farwa, Roseanna, Vivian, Irraiyanbu and Raeli with their Lego robots.



Dandenong West Primary students Rossy, Sethuli and Somayeh load a robot during the First Lego League comp.

dandenong.starcommunity.com.au

SCHOOLS - CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK. 2019.
DANDENONG WEST PRIMARY



Maree McPhee, of Cardinia Trefoil Girl Guides, with Saara. 191758



Grade 5 and 6 Dandenong West Primary students dance group members Uroj, Julie, Teya, Kaosar and Samayah. 191758
Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS



Shahbaaz with Ann from Bunnings Dandenong at the Cultural Diversity Week Festival. 191758
Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

Strength in cultural diversity brings community together

The annual Cultural Diversity Week festival once again brought the Dandenong West community together on 22 March.

Hosted by the local primary school, more than 1000 flocked for free family-friendly activities, performances and affordable treats.

Among the entertainers were Mark Tambo, who played didgeridoo and spoke powerfully on reconciliation, and the Bollydazzlers dance group.

About 25 service providers including the Dandenong-based Bunurong Health Services

with an anti-smoking message, AMES, Red Cross, SES, Melbourne Victory and YMCA attended.

The school was brightly festooned by 'Flags of Peace' created by Dandenong West Primary students.

The school's community hub leader Vikki Noisette said it was a chance to celebrate the community's strength.

"It was an opportunity to work together to create an event that celebrates who we are."

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| 1st Apr 2019 |
| JOURNAL |

SCHOOLS - DANDENONG WEST PRIMARY

SCHOOLS: \$5.2 MILLION UPGRADE - FINALISED

A. NEW LEARNING WING OF 5 CLASSES -

WITHDRAWAL SPACES AND STAFF AND OFFICE AND
WORK SPACES AND CANTEEN

A MULTI PURPOSE SPACE

School's upgrade done

Dandenong West Primary School's \$5.2 million upgrade is complete.

The upgrade included a new learning wing of five classrooms, withdrawal spaces, offices and staff workspaces.

A new multi-purpose space and canteen was also created.

Dandenong MP Gabrielle Williams said the school community could look forward to "learning in these great new facilities as they prepare for the staged return to on-site learning in coming weeks".

29th SEPTEMBER 2020
JOURNAL

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17th MAY
2018
JOURNAL

SCHOOLS — DANDENONG WEST PRIMARY

\$5.1 MILLION FOR NEW BUILDINGS.

Cash for school pride is on cloud nine

By Casey Neill

Dandenong West Primary is "over the moon" about its \$5.1 million State Budget boost.

The school will demolish existing facilities and build a new learning community area with five classrooms, administration and staff workspaces. The cash will also build a multi-purpose area and a canteen.

Money for planning came in the 2016-'17 State Budget, so the school can now appoint and builder and get started.

"The highlight for me is that we're able to show our community that education really matters," principal Beverley Hansen said.

"We're absolutely so over the moon and excited.

"It's just so wonderful for the school.

"For many years we've been hoping and working towards new buildings coming onto our site.

"It's something the community has wanted."

Ms Hansen said the upgrades would have an impact on student learning.

"They'll be sitting in spaces where they can have absolute pride in themselves and their school," she said.

Dandenong MP Gabrielle Williams said she was thrilled the students would benefit from new facilities and classrooms.

Elsewhere in Greater Dandenong, Springvale Rise Primary will receive a \$1.7 million boost from the 2018-'19 State Budget.

Premier and Mulgrave MP Daniel Andrews said it would upgrade the school's main administration and classroom building.

"Our teachers at Springvale Rise Primary School do an incredible job - now they'll get the world-class buildings and classrooms to match," he said.

The Victorian School Building Authority will work with school staff to help them identify where to best direct the funding, including through Bricks and Mortar training course.



Students Beka and Dhattatray, Dandenong MP Gabrielle Williams, principal Beverley Hansen, and students Zohraa and Nyanajith. 180372

Picture: GARY SISSONS

P5
17th MAY 2018 J

SCHOOLS

DWONG WEST PRIMARY

"TRANSFORM-US"

PROGRAM TO MAKE STUDENTS ACTIVE.

RUNNING MATHS RELAYS. JUGGLING MATHS COUNTERS.

STANDING UP FOR CLASS DISCUSSIONS



JOURNAL

1st OCTOBER 2018

P1

Mobile classes in swing

Mortaza, pictured, swung his hips into an actively interactive, online program at Dandenong West Primary School. The world-first Transform-Us! program gets kids out of their seats and running maths relays, juggling maths counters and standing up for class discussions. The concept of 'active lessons' was developed by Deakin University.

Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

SCHOOLS. — DANDENONG WEST

! TEACHING STUDENTS ROAD SAFETY. OPENING OF A TRAFFIC COURSE.



BIKE SAFETY ON COURSE

SOME of the city's youngest residents will learn to be safer around roads with the opening of a traffic course at Dandenong West Primary School.

Dandenong state Labor MP Gabrielle Williams launched the course, which creates road conditions that mimic reality.

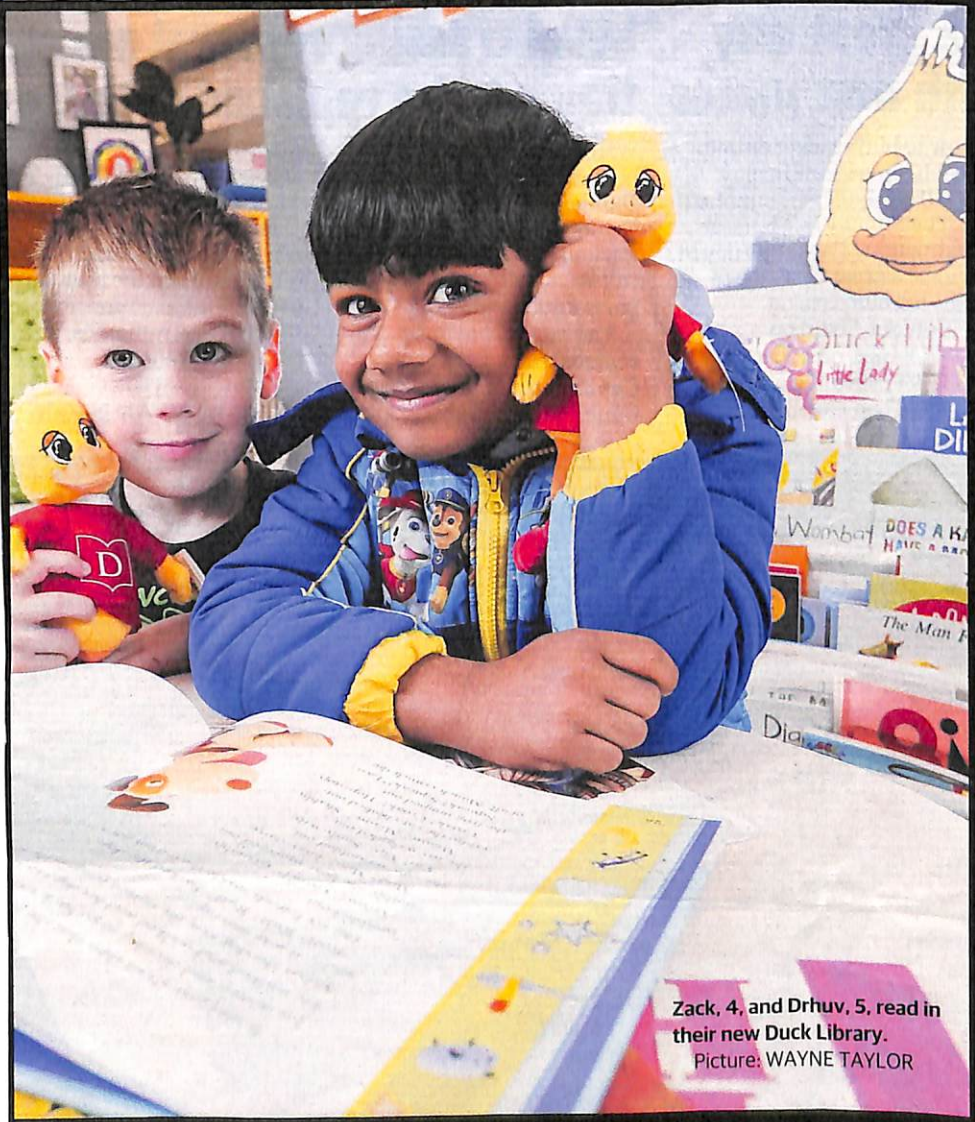
"It's a fun way to get our young children active, while teaching them to be safe on their bikes," Ms Williams said.

The school received \$7800 for the project from the Transport Accident Commission's Community Road Safety Grants Program.

Students test out the asphalt traffic course on their bikes. Picture: WAYNE TAYLOR

\$16 000 WORTH OF NEW BOOKS
HELP FROM DYMOCKS AND STATE GOV.

25 PS 11 SEPTEMBER 2017 PS LEADER



Zack, 4, and Drhuv, 5, read in their new Duck Library.
Picture: WAYNE TAYLOR

DUCK LIBRARY IS QUACK-TACULAR

DYMOCKS Children's Charities has stocked Dandenong West Primary School and Good Start Noble Park Childcare Centre with new books.

Dymocks "Duck Library" at the centre means children have access to \$1500 worth of new books that

preschoolers could borrow to read with their parents or carers.

Dymocks Children's Charities general manager Paul Swaine said the library would get another \$300 worth of books next year.

Mr Swaine said Dandenong West Primary School got

\$16,000 worth of new books, thanks to Dymocks and an \$8000 State Government grant.

"That's over 900 new books for the 306 kids at that school with families who come from 36 different countries," Mr Swaine said.

SCHOOLS DANDENONG WEST PRIMARY

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2017
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GRANT OF \$7800 TO EDUCATE
STUDENTS IN SAFE ROAD BEHAVIOUR.

DONATED
FROM DYMOCKS CHILDREN'S CHARITIES
LIBRARY REGENERATION PROGRAM
AND ANDREWS FOUNDATION

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2017
JOURNAL

1000 NEW BOOKS TO HELP
IMPROVE STUDENTS LITERACY

P12 25th SEPTEMBER 2017 J. SCHOOLS



Dandenong West Primary School students, back, Princey and Saki, middle, Taha, Kiran and Akash and, front, Sanjana and Ayoum check out the new books.

1000 books give a literacy boost

The Dandenong West Primary School shelves have \$16,000 in new books.

The Dymocks Children's Charities (DCC) Library Regeneration program and the Andrews Foundation delivered the nearly 1000 picture stories and novels on Friday 1 September.

Ninety-six per cent of the 306 Dandenong West students have a language background other than English.

The program aims to help improve the students' literacy skills, promote daily reading for pleasure and encourage all the students to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge next year.

Teacher Kathy Watson said the donation would

provide a greater diversity of texts for students. "We've purchased multiple copies of the same title so it's going to mean that students can have greater access to book club books," she said.

But it's not just students who'll benefit. Ms Watson said parents and preschool-aged children would also have access to the books.

"We are hopeful that in the future we will have a new library that will accommodate these books so that our whole school community can access this generous donation," she said.

"When I applied for this grant we said 'where are we going to put these books' and my reply was 'that's a problem we want to have.'"

P6 5th JUNE 2017 J.

In Brief

Catch 'em young for safety

Some of Dandenong's youngest residents will learn to be safer on local roads. Dandenong MP Gabrielle Williams announced on Monday 29 May that Dandenong West Primary School would receive \$7800 to teach students how to be safer near roads and on their bikes. The school will build an asphalt traffic course that three local kindergartens will use as part of their road and bike education programs. The course will have road conditions that mimic real traffic, so children can learn about road safety in a simulated environment. "Congratulations to Dandenong West Primary School for this exciting proposal to teach young children and families how to be safe on bikes and our roads," Ms Williams said. "I encourage local community groups and organisations with an idea to promote road safety, to apply for the next round of the TAC's community grants program." The funding is part of the Transport Accident Commission's Community Road Safety Grants Program, which provides up to \$25,000 to community and not-for profit groups to promote road safety. Dandenong West Primary was among 20 Victorian recipients in the latest funding round.

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29th MAY
2017
Dandenong

Kids make some happy campers

Dandenong West Primary School students learned and grew at school camp thanks to community support.

A \$3000 donation from the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and \$8800 from Dandenong Club meant all families were able to send their kids to camp this year.

Assistant Principal Daniel Frew said 84 students signed up the 24 to 28 April trip to Woorabinda Camp in Yallourn North.

"It is an education department camp, like Somers, and is run by teachers," he said.

"Because of this, the camp fees are a lot cheaper. We have been able to find funding for the buses through Ardoch Youth Foundation.

"Even with this sponsorship, camp will cost \$200 per student.

"For most students this is way beyond their family's means.

"Yet these children probably need camp more than the students in the more affluent areas."

Students said they got to try new things, had the "best week of my life" and learnt a lot about the environment and how to care for it.

"The zip line was really scary but I learnt that I can beat my fear," one student said.

Mr Frew said the Dandenong West community was made up of about 40 different language groups and less than 10 per cent of the students spoke only English.

"Having a language background other than English can be hard for any family," he said.

"However, many of our families are also from a refugee background or are asylum seekers.

"Even our families that have been in Australia for a few years still struggle financially."

He said many families and students had experienced war, death, trauma and severe hardships "yet they remain happy, lovely children seeking all learning opportunities and appreciating everything."

Mr Frew said the government provided some money for camps, excursions and sporting activities.

"Out of \$125, excursions take up \$40, sport \$20, swimming about \$65," he said.

"Basically, the families choose between swimming and camp. Both are vital.



Mahnaz meets a cow.

"Even if the \$65 is used for camp, the residual amount is often too much for the families to pay."

He said the school had about 140 students in Years 4 to 6.

"Last year, only 64 were able to go to camp," he said.

"That meant that about 80 missed out, sometimes due to money and sometimes due to families not yet feeling safe enough and confident enough to send their child to camp.

"Going to camp teaches the students to get along with others, become more independent, to be organised, to accept challenges.

"Parents also learn a lot from allowing their children to go to camp.

"They must be able to trust the school and staff.

"After experiencing many forms of trauma, it is very difficult to allow others to care for your children."

Mr Frew said that by supporting families to feel confident enough to send their children to camp, "the parents are learning that Australia is a safe place"



Jordy enjoys a camp meal.

SCHOOLS — DANDENONG WEST PRIMARY
\$3000 DONATION FROM ROTARY
FOR SCHOOL CAMP.

6th JULY
2015

RIDE 2 SCHOOL BICYCLE NETWORK
\$5000. GRANT

SCHOOL RECEIVED 14 BIKES
TO ENCOURAGE SAFE RIDING

SCHOOLS

DJ Connecting people and communities

6th JULY 2015

dandenong.starco

Wheels turn

By **GEORGIA WESTGARTH**

DANDENONG West Primary School received 14 bicycles and helmets from the Ride2School Bicycle Network on Monday 15 June.

Dandenong MP Gabrielle Williams attended the official handover assembly and said to win the bikes was an impressive achievement.

"Dandenong West Primary beat more than 1000 schools to win the \$5000 grant for a class set of new bikes," she said.

Ms Williams said the bicycles would allow the school to encourage safe cycling habits.

"I think it's wonderful... as someone who's cycled a bit in my time its important kids know how to ride safely and enjoy the activity and keep safe with other road users."

The carefully chosen bikes have adjustable seats so grades three to six will be able to use them.

Wellbeing worker at the school, Filiz Omer, said the bikes would be used in a new bicycle education program.

"Incorporated into physical education, the program will be run with the help of parents and youth workers who have been trained in bike education and will teach many students how to ride a bike," Ms Omer said.

The program will start in term three and will deliver lessons on bike safety, how to ride, road rules and sustainability once a week.

"Most our students don't have a bike at home and don't



MP Gabrielle Williams and principal Beverley Hansen with a Ride2School representative and student leaders Jessilyna and Ankaksha with one of their new bikes.

have adequate riding skills so this program is really exciting and is a first for the school," she said.

A part of the schools Community Castle and Men's Shed the 14 bikes will be looked after and maintained by volunteers.

"The community castle is a place where adults and parents in the school can come together, socialise and take part in activities, it's great they can keep the bikes in working order and safe for the students to ride," she said.

SCHOOLS
D'NONG WEST

Celebrating big mo-moment

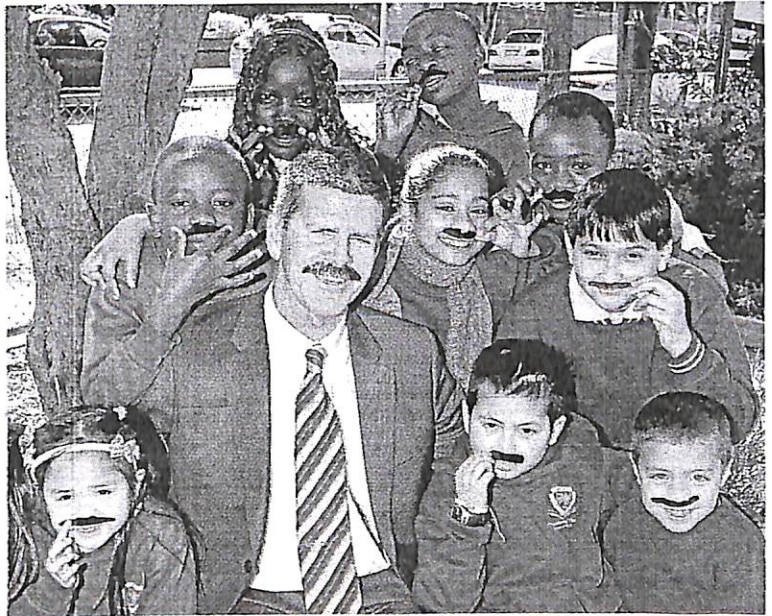
HOW do you honour a teacher who has worked for 30 years at Dandenong West Primary School? You don a fake moustache.

Pupils and staff took part in a week-long celebration last week for the school's "heart and soul", assistant principal Hugh O'Reilly, who reached the milestone at the Dandenong West school — the only one he has taught at.

To celebrate, pupils and staff took organised "something wacky" each day of the week in the theme of Mr O'Reilly. Children altered the school pledge to a Mr O'Reilly tribute, drew pictures of how they perceived him — all featuring his distinct moustache, of course — and presented a performance using the letters of his name.

"Hugh is probably one of the most modest, unassuming people I've met," principal Bev Hansen said. "That's what made it so much fun."

Mr O'Reilly, who has taught children of past pupils, said he always remembered a pupil's face, even if the



Classy effort: Hugh O'Reilly celebrates 30 years at Dandenong West Primary School with pupils.

Picture: Lucy Di Paolo

name escaped him. "It's very sad to see them go from grade 6 to high school," he said.

"But a lot return to tell us how they're going once they're older."

Mr O'Reilly had no idea his 30-year mark would even be noticed.

When the anniversary passed in May, he thought he'd escaped without much fanfare.

But last week certainly turned that around.

"I was happy to let the 30 years go by," he said with a laugh.

Family feel at school for a week

DANDENONG West Primary School celebrated National Families Week with its school community on 15 May.

Children created a personally-written invitation for a special adult in their life to enjoy breakfast with them on the morning, at the school's Good Morning Club.

The children then read books with their family, played card games and en-

joyed a hot drink and sweets while listening to a staff member from the Dandenong Library.

The families were provided with information about enrolment to the library and its programs and services for City of Greater Dandenong residents.

The preschool children enjoyed reading a book and parents joined in with their children to sing nursery rhymes

and songs.

The final activity included an informative session on CPR and child safety with a maternal and child health nurse and a council community project worker.

The families at Dandenong West had the chance to practise CPR and share their experiences about parenting and child safety.



Above left: Sami and his mum Akram enjoy a story. Above: Adri and her mum Nandita enjoy brekky. 98787

Pictures: MEAGAN ROGERS

Star

STAR - THUR. 23 MAY 2013

P.6.

SCHOOLS

D'NONG WEST

It's all hand-wove

THE QUEEN WEA CLOTHES FROM DANDENONG

ECLARTE Ltd.,
Dandenong, is probably the only factory in Australia designed to be built around gum trees growing on the property.

In fact, it's probably the only factory of its kind.

Twenty men and women inside the bright, airy steel structure weave about 400 yards of men's woollen fabric each week.

Not much, you say?—but it's all hand woven.

Queen Elizabeth wears a combined coat and suit made from a piece of Eclarte's fabric—a Coronation gift.

Eclarte material is, and will always be, exclusive, because hand weaving limits the production to four or five "pieces" a week—about 500 yards, double width.

Then why hand weave the

live more or less on a pittance — like all artists — so that we can keep out of the commercial world."

Three years ago they built their modern factory at Dandenong on a lovely eight-acre block of farmland, scattered with gnarled old gums.

They put all they had, artistically and financially, into that single storey building which covers a quarter of an acre of their property.

The factory is built in an L-shape, avoiding two beautiful trees close by.

Together Miss Grove and Miss Hardress designed, and with the help of an engineer, made twelve looms in a special workshop in the factory.

They also designed and made dozens of other pieces of wooden equipment for their specialised work, which they believe to be unique in Australia.

They employ 15 men and five women — mostly men because only they can handle the heavy hand looms, with up to two hours of constant

use of their own "common" kitchen, where they cook or prepare their own meals whenever they like, and where they can leave their own food in cupboards and an ice-box.

A special lawn, garden, and sun-terrace is just outside the diningroom also for the employees only — and colorful tables and chairs will also be theirs next summer.

Miss Grove and Miss Hardress boast of the pride the men and women have in their work—and their factory. They show this in the quality of their work, and in the way they leave their rooms each night—spotless.

In the 10 years Miss Hardress has been in the business she has designed more than 400 commercialised fabrics.

Probably she has made another 500 designs and thrown them out.

**Secret in
the dyeing**



● FIVE HAPPY 6th grade girls enjoy their lunch in the sun at West Dandenong State School.