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Spelling Bee P15

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The P&C Journal is published once a Term and is a great way to showcase what your P&C Association and school community is up to. If your School, Students or P&C Association is doing something special this year, share your story and photos with us and fellow school communities.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Susie Boyd

We start 2019 braced for some big changes in the near future. Within the next few months, New South Wales residents will head to the polls twice, as Federal and State elections are approaching. It is not often that we get such an opportunity to make our voices heard at both Federal and State levels, and while there is no doubt that disillusionment with politicians has grown over the years, it is crucial to not let dissatisfaction lead to apathy. Our elected representatives serve at our pleasure, so if we're unhappy with our representatives, the power to make a change is in our hands, and political parties have been reminded in recent times that they should not take even their supposedly safe seats for granted.

In our view, this is the perfect time to ensure our elected representatives give public education the level of support it deserves. A high-quality, equitable education system is one of the basic necessities for a healthy society and we have been dismayed by the undermining of public education over the years. We saw this when the Federal Government in 2013 guaranteed a six-year funding model for education, then cancelled the agreement in 2017 just as it was due to release most of the promised funds. We saw this again last year when the Federal Government entered into a special deal with non-government schools that could cost New South Wales government schools over \$6 billion over ten years. At every stage, Federal and State governments have underfunded government schools and overfunded wealthy non-government schools, exacerbating the divides between the haves and have-nots. Such divides are never healthy for society, and with over 65% of students attending government schools, equitable education funding should not be a partisan issue. So whichever political party you support, the time is ripe to remind your elected representatives of the importance of public education. We intend to help our P&C Association members in this by supplying them with details of what each party is

promising for education and details of how to get in contact with elected representatives.

In addition to securing a high-quality education system, the core of P&C Federation's work is to ensure that our P&C Association members are functioning in the most optimal way possible. As the primary parent bodies of public schools, P&C Associations are part of the fabric of public education. Our role is to assist P&C Associations in fulfilling their roles in their school communities.

To that end, we are greatly looking forward

**THIS IS THE PERFECT
TIME TO ENSURE
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REPRESENTATIVES GIVE
PUBLIC EDUCATION THE
LEVEL OF SUPPORT IT
DESERVES.**

to the 2019 Annual Conference, following the gratifying success of last year's 2018 Conference. This conference will be an invaluable occasion to network with members of different P&C Associations, as well as with P&C Federation Councillors and staff. There will be guest speakers and workshops offering information on a range of topics involving the governance and operations of P&C Associations, so they may be better informed on educational matters and how to provide support for their students and school community.

Our members are also reminded that the Member's Portal is up and running, where there are extensive guides available involving Employment, Canteen Management and Financial Management & Control. With



P&C Federation President,
Susie Boyd

this portal, you can also upload audits, update your details and gain access to other information. Our role is to provide P&C Association members with the best possible tools to be effective organisations in their school communities, and we intend the Member's Portal to be a useful tool for our members in managing their details and accessing valuable information. I encourage our members to get in touch with the P&C Federation office if you need any assistance in accessing the Member's Portal.

2019 is the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and I am eager to see the events and celebrations around this theme. With among the richest and most ancient Indigenous cultures in the world, Australia is well-placed to make the most of this. Languages are a repository of cultural knowledge, and so are an important part of cultural identity. Given the uniqueness of our Indigenous cultures, we owe it to future generations to ensure Indigenous languages are sustained. If your P&C Association is planning an event or celebration around this theme, we welcome you to share it with us, so we can include it in the P&C Journal.

Once again, I welcome you to the 2019 school year and wish your P&C Association many successes in the year ahead.

WELCOME TO ANOTHER YEAR OF LEARNING AND INSPIRATION

By Mark Scott

The start of a new year is a time of great excitement in schools as we welcome new students, parents and school staff. It's an incredibly busy time, too!

In 2019 our NSW public schools will enrol record numbers of Kindergarten students. The enrolment growth we've seen in primary schools since 2011 is now moving into our high schools, which also have increased numbers of Year 7 students in 2019.

This baby boom dates to 2008 when there were more than 100,000 babies born in NSW for the first time since 1971. Our high school enrolments are predicted to continue to rise for at least the next decade.

Demographics is a fascinating science and we're preparing for growth in student numbers with a \$6 billion NSW Government building program. This term eight new schools and 13 schools with major upgrades will open their doors for new and returning students.

Our Strategic Plan for our 86,000 staff provides a commitment to around 1.5 million

parents that every student is known, valued and cared for in our schools.

As I visit schools all around the state I'm struck by how significantly schools have embraced the fundamental challenge to have students at the centre of our education system.

When it comes to another goal of the strategic plan – that every student, every teacher, every leader and every school improves every

THIS YEAR THE FIRST CLASS OF ASPIRING SCHOOL LEADERS WILL GRADUATE FROM OUR NEW SCHOOL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.

year – we are working hard to improve the supporting infrastructure around our schools.

We want to reduce the administrative burden on schools so that principals, teachers and support staff can do the work they love and the work that matters – educating and supporting the wellbeing of children and



Mark Scott, Secretary
NSW Department of Education

young people in NSW.

There's a great team of people working outside of schools, and in our meetings and on our strategies we continue to focus on how we support schools, teachers, admin staff and school leaders to do their job more effectively.

As I often say, there are only two types of jobs within the department – those who help students learn every day, and those whose job is to help those people be as effective as they can in that job.

This year the first class of aspiring school leaders will graduate from our new School Leadership Institute.

Research shows school leadership is second only to classroom instruction as the most powerful in-school influence on student achievement. Highly effective leadership is required to ensure our teachers equip students with a love of lifelong learning and the knowledge and skills to thrive in a fast-paced, changing world.

The first 52 future leaders have already started their 12-month journey, which includes eight leadership seminars, online learning, one-on-one coaching and ongoing support from a principal facilitator as they lead an inquiry and innovation process in their school. We look forward to the day when they will lead their own schools.



Secretary Mark Scott learning from students.

NESA NEWS

By David de Carvalho

Everyday maths

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has a new Numeracy course for Years 11 and 12 teaching core numeracy skills for everyday life. These skills will be developed through authentic and relevant learning scenarios such as budgeting, shopping, record and account keeping. The new numeracy course will be trialled in schools in 2019.

Your school will let you know if they are part of the trial.

What's taught in primary school?

Has your child talked about what they are doing in class?

In primary school, teachers may choose a topic that combines learning areas, rather than teaching content in isolation. For example, students read *Tears in the Jungle* about two boys and their efforts to save orangutans in Borneo. Outcomes and content from English, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Science and Technology could be incorporated into the lessons.

All schools deliver learning in different ways depending on their context, but must teach and assess syllabus outcomes. This ensures your child's understandings and skills are consistent with children across NSW.

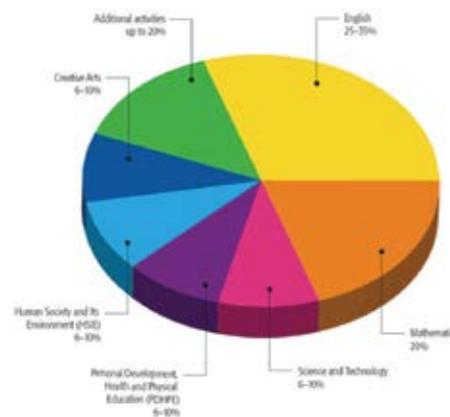
The syllabuses provide teachers with examples of what to teach. However, teachers have the flexibility to select examples that are appropriate for their school and students.

They consider:

- students' past and current learning experiences and performances
- students' achievement
- students' interests, learning needs, abilities and cultural background and
- other factors such as local contexts and resources.

To assist primary teachers, NESA provides a guide for allocating time across subjects.

The allocation for 'additional activities' gives schools flexibility to include activities that suit their community and students. For example, schools could use this time to incorporate a program for Languages, scripture, school sport or debating.



There's a new PDHPE course

Parents, families and schools all play an important role in reinforcing and validating messages learnt in PDHPE to strengthen and promote healthy, safe and active lives for our children. In addition, a whole of school approach towards the health, safety, wellbeing and physical activity needs of all students enriches their learning experiences.

The syllabus covers personal development, health and physical exercise – hence the name PDHPE.

This means students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to live healthy, safe and active lives. They also explore contemporary health areas such as respectful relationships, alcohol and other drugs, food and nutrition, mental health and wellbeing, sexuality and sexual health and safety including online environments by drawing on their strengths and the strengths of others to make healthy and safe decisions.



David de Carvalho, CEO
NSW Education Standards Authority

Importantly, the syllabus provides opportunities for students to develop positive attitudes towards physical activity and the fundamental skills needed to partake in a lifetime of physical activity.

A key feature of the new syllabus is the focus on developing self-management, interpersonal and movement skills in students. These skills will assist students to have greater control over their behaviour, manage and cope in stressful situations, take personal responsibility for their actions, effectively relate to and interact with other people and engage in and enjoy the benefits of regular, vigorous physical activity.

The new K-10 PDHPE syllabus is implemented in 2019 for Years 7 and 9, with optional implementation for K-6 and full implementation from K-10 from 2020.

David de Carvalho

Chief Executive Officer
NSW Education Standards Authority





UPCOMING P&C FEDERATION INFORMATION SESSIONS

P&C Federation would like to invite your P&C Association to attend any of the free information sessions

Tuesday 12 March 2019	Forest Lodge Public School, Bridge Road, Forest Lodge	Sign-in 5.30pm, Start 6.00pm-9.00pm
Tuesday 26 March 2019	Birchgrove, Birchgrove Road, Balmai	Sign-in 5.30pm, Start 6.00pm-9.00pm
Tuesday 2 April 2019	Merriwa Central School, Bow Street, Merriwa	Sign-in 9.30am, start 10.00am- 1.30pm
Tuesday 2 April 2019	Merriwa Central School, Bow Street, Merriwa	Sign-in 5.30pm, start 6.00pm- 9.00pm

To attend go to our webpage pandc.org.au and click on P&C Federation Information Session icon (on the homepage) to register.

If your P&C Association would like to host a P&C Federation information session in 2019, please send an email to mail@pandc.org.au, and you will be contacted.

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P&C FEDERATION 2019 CONFERENCE AND NSW P&C VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2018 AWARDS DINNER

Friday 1st March & Saturday 2nd March 2019

The theme for P&C Federation's 2019 Conference is "Healthy Mind, Healthy Future". With mental health a growing concern with our young people, the conference has been designed to provide information, resources and tools for parents, carers and community members to use and share to better support our students.

During the conference attendees will have the opportunity to join in a Q&A with the current NSW Minister Rob Stokes and Shadow Minister of Education Jihad Dib, a representative from the DoE Learning and Wellbeing unit will present on learning and wellbeing in our public schools.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Friday 1st of March

Andrew Fuller will be the keynote speaker presenting on Learning Strengths, followed by Part 2 as a workshop on the subject for those interested. Andrew will join us at the Awards Dinner as well as deliver a second presentation on the Saturday titled Stress to Strong - Tricky People.

Saturday 2nd of March

Presented by a Foundation family member, **The Blue Datto Foundation** is a NSW based registered charity that aims to protect



Andrew Fuller
Clinical Psychologist



Eddie Woo
Mathematician

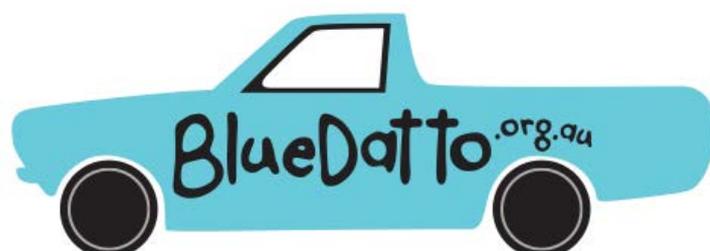
the lives of young Australians through innovative road safety education. Blue Datto's mission is to change the culture of young drivers by altering attitudes and behaviours.

Blue Datto was established by the Vassallo family following the death of 17-year-old Philip Vassallo in a crash in which both drivers were red 'P' platers. Phil, 'the kid in the Blue Datto', was a much-loved teenager who brought happiness to everyone who knew him.

Blue Datto established its flagship education program, 'Keeping Safe™' in 2014.

Awards Dinner Keynote Speaker

On Friday evening our keynote speaker and presenter for the NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year Awards Dinner will be **Eddie Woo**, the public school mathematician who made headlines when his innovative idea to teach math to an ill student via YouTube went viral.



Proud Sponsors of P&C Federation's 2019 Conference

Conference workshops

Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a number of engaging and interactive workshops being hosted over the 2 days relating to grants, healthy canteens and employment, to name a few.

Exhibitors

There will be a mixture of different exhibitors at the conference, where information and resources can be gathered to assist P&C Associations as well as resources and /or tools for parents and caregivers to support the wellbeing of our young people.



Exclusive Photographer for P&C Federation
2019 Conference and Awards Dinner

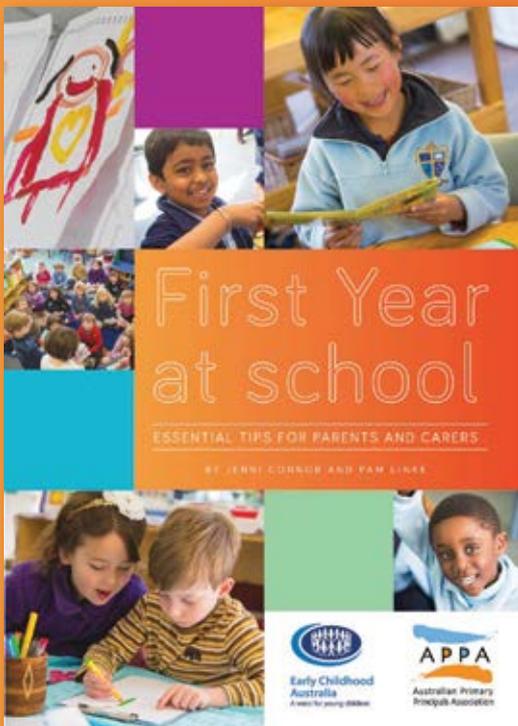


Commonwealth Bank is the Primary Sponsor of P&C Federation 2019 Conference Awards Dinner, hosted on Friday 1 March 2019, where the announcement of "NSW P&C Volunteer of the year 2018" will take place.

If your P&C Association hasn't registered anyone to attend yet, it is still not too late . Get in quick and go to P&C Federations website at www.pandc.org.au and click on the link on the left hand-side, tickets start from \$40.

P&C Association members who are outside the 200km radius (from Parramatta), register and attend the 2-day conference as well as the Volunteer of the Year Awards Dinner may be eligible to receive financial assistance up to \$500* to use towards travel and accommodation expenses to enable participation at the conference. Financial assistance excludes cost of tickets to the Conference and the Awards Dinner .

*per current financial P&C Association



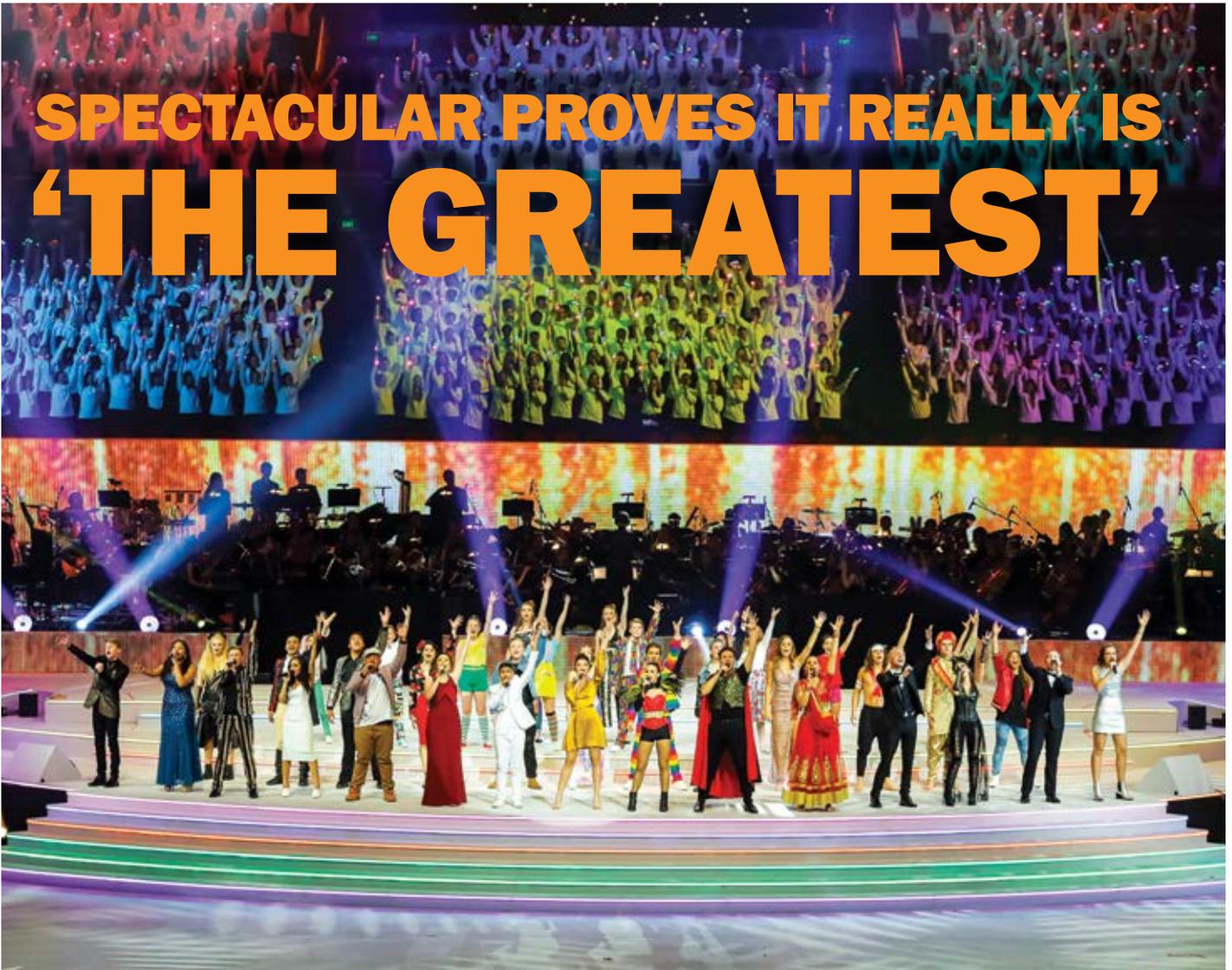
A GOOD FIRST YEAR AT SCHOOL LASTS A LIFETIME

First Year at school: Essential tips for parents and carers is a comprehensive guidebook filled with real-world advice, across a breadth of topics, that will help parents and carers support their children throughout one of the most important years of their life.

'It was fabulous. The chapters were clear, concise and contained practical information. A perfect resource for new parents'
—Felicity Molineux, primary school teacher and mother of three children, NSW.

To view sample pages, or to purchase this resource, please go to:
www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/shop/first-year or call **1800 356 900**

SPECTACULAR PROVES IT REALLY IS 'THE GREATEST'



The 2018 Schools Spectacular was *The Greatest*, quite literally, as the show paid tribute to some of the best music and theatrical shows of all time.

A 2,700-strong choir, 2,300 dancers and an 80-piece orchestra performed a range of pieces, including an opening number from the Hugh Jackman film *The Greatest Showman*, a gladiator segment, and a tribute to Sir Elton John.

More than 400 public schools participated in the event, with students from public schools as far away as Ballina, Lightning Ridge and Norfolk Island taking part in the show.

Now in its 35th year, the Schools Spectacular set a new GUINNESS World Record title in 2016 for the largest amateur variety act.

Sonja Sjolander, Schools Spectacular Creative Director, said the energy around the show was “electric”.



“[The song] *This Is Me* became an anthem for our cast who were keen to show the world they are proud of who they are and what they are about. This show is giving a voice to

thousands of students. This is their moment,” Ms Sjolander said.

Hundreds of Schools Spectacular participants have used the performance as a launchpad for a professional career. Alumni include Human Nature, Paulini, The McClymonts, Felicity Urquhart, David Le’aupepe, Anja Nissen and Jai Waetford.

Among the highlights of the event was the performance by 153 students from the D’Arts Dance Ensemble. D’Arts began with a group of 50 students with disabilities from four schools eight years ago and has grown to a troupe of more than 150 performers from 28 schools across the state.

“This is all about ability,” said Michelle Davies, founder of the specialist performance group.

“We’ve got deaf and signing students who are dancing, kids with autism, kids with cerebral palsy and with intellectual disability,



kids of all shapes and sizes,” Ms Davies said. “So all those stereotypes about disabilities are gone. They have the same opportunities on the dance floor as everyone else.”

The teachers who play a critical role in making Schools Spectacular a success were also given their moment in the spotlight.

A seven-piece teachers’ band played Led Zeppelin’s *Stairway to Heaven*, backed by the choir and the 80-piece orchestra.

The NSW Education Department’s Director of Arts, Sports and Initiatives, Rosemary Davis, said teachers were the “backbone” of the Schools Spectacular.

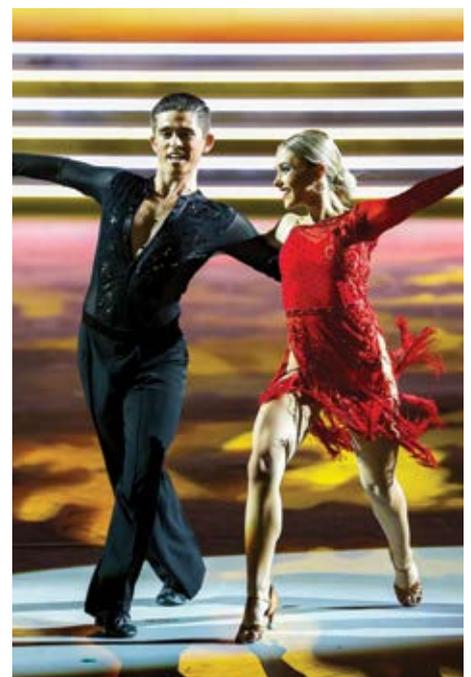
“They are the ones that give up endless amounts of time and energy to ensure the students are well-prepared, rehearsed and

ready for the show,” Ms Davis said. “Without their support and involvement, there would be no Schools Spectacular.

“This year, the teachers’ band was a way to put the teachers in the spotlight and to showcase some of the amazing, talented teachers we have in our public school system.”

Teacher and singer Kim Sheehy, who was on Team Delta in the 2016 season of ‘The Voice’, reunited for the performance with fellow contestant Nic Jeffries, who was on Team Ronan in the same season.

Ms Sheehy said the depth of talent in the teachers’ band was not surprising, as everyone involved had “played forever in different bands and all of them are professional musicians on the side”.



MULWALA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Former and current students, teachers, principals and administrative staff of Mulwala Public School throughout Australia celebrated the schools 150th anniversary of public education at Mulwala on the 26th and 27th of October 2018 . A very dedicated committee worked for 8 months to put together a fantastic weekend of sharing and reminiscing.

On Friday the 26th the celebrations began with a school assembly. Visitors were welcomed to the country by Many Mobs followed by the National anthem, the schools two captains, Jessica Linehan and Maddison James took centre stage and spoke about the school's history in comparison to today. Special Guests were MP Mr Greg Aplin who presented the school with the The Ministers Commendation 150 years of service signed by NSW Minister of Education Robert Stokes MP and Director Educational Leadership Sue Lowe present the Mulwala Buddy Award. Students performed "I am Australian" for the audience. This was followed by cutting of the cake by the present and former school captains.

On Friday night 150 students and guest attended the Bi Annual Art Auction with 160 piece of student art up for grabs. It was a great success with the majority of pieces sold and raised \$1040 for the SRC. Students again performed for the crowd singing "Raise my Voice".

The P&C hosted a morning tea and open school on the Saturday morning from 10-2pm. Up to 300 people came through the gates and were greeted by grade 6 students for a tour of the school and scrumptious morning tea. There was rock painting, all classrooms were open, with memorabilia and merchandise for sale.

Saturday night saw 220 people gather at the Yarrowonga Mulwala Golf Club for a celebration dinner. Robert Possum Purtle former student was master of ceremonies. The room was decorated in red and gold balloons of the school colours and Robert



150 year celebrations organising committee



Guest Speakers Bert Washington, HG Fisher, Trude Augustat and MC Robert Purtle



Current and previous Mulwala PS school captains cutting the cake

said it was great to see representative and descendants from the traditional Mulwala families attend. Everyone had the pleasure of hearing from the oldest former student Mack Stewart at 99 years of age. He recalled his 1925 to 1933 school days with 140 students. Guests also heard from Trude Augustat who was one of thousands of students who went on to achieve her dreams to become a Doctor. She said Mulwala was such a wonderful grounding and was full of praise for the buddy program of big kids looking after little kids.

The Principal from 1962-1968 Gordon Fisher spoke of his times at Mulwala. The now 86 year old from Canberra said that Mulwala today is a lovely looking school and grounds.



MP Greg Aplin with Captains Jessica Linehan and Maddison James

The 4th speaker on the evening was Mr Bert Washington. Mr Washington was a teacher in 1961-1962 and then back as Principal from 1973 to 1979. Many guests had very fond memories of the two principals. A fantastic weekend was had by young and old.

Photos and story courtesy of Yarrowonga Chronicle

POSITIVE POWER AT EPPS

Emu Plains Public School has always had a strong push towards building resilience within the student community. This year has seen the introduction of the PBL program in our school. Positive Behaviour for Learning is a whole school approach for creating a positive, safe and supportive environment for children.

Students at Emu Plains Public School have been participating in a strong anti-bullying program this year. This has meant that students from all grades have met regularly and discussed what bullying is, how bullying makes people feel and ways to stop bullying from happening. Students have been empowered to write their own anti-bullying code for our school.

The core values the Emu Plains Public School students decided on are;

- Bullying is never okay
- Putting an end to bullying is everyone's responsibility
- We all have the right to feel safe and supported
- We all have the right to be valued for who we are

To celebrate the new anti-bullying code the students have worked so hard on, our P&C decided to surprise the students with a "give back" just for them. So as part of our Term 3 working bee, members of our P&C worked through the holidays and gave all the student bathrooms a "positivity" makeover and painted empowering messages and bright and cheerful murals, with the hopes of bringing a smile and sense of encouragement to every student's day. We wanted to provide a light-hearted and fun reminder to our students that it is ok to "just be you" or even a simple boost of happiness for every child that might be feeling a little down. Becoming a "Parent Pride Squad" and cheering on our kids as they tackle the sometimes-difficult school days.

We drew inspiration for our murals from images on social media of high schools in different countries as well as choosing

positive affirmations from popular children's books. Aiming to inspire a positive mindset and continue the school's strong theme of building resilience and tolerance within the student community. Reminding our EPPS kids each and every day that kindness matters and never goes unnoticed.

Photos of the positivity and inclusivity centred murals were shared by the school's principal and staff via the EPPS Twitter account and Facebook page, these were then liked and shared over the world and admired by many. Some of the shared posts receiving over a thousand likes and comments! We went VIRAL! It was so wonderful to see a strong



Bathroom Motivation



positive message about our school being shared repeatedly across the world and the flow on effect it could have in many other schools around the country is so amazing.

This particular "give back" cost our P&C a total of \$511.00 and took two weeks of painting to achieve, but this was well worth the absolute joy and sense of pride the bathroom makeovers have given to the students at EPPS.

This year we have focused our fundraising efforts towards highlighting the strong sense of community we enjoy at Emu Plains Public School. Our P&C have enjoyed family friendly events such as an Outdoor Cinema night and Fair, "Flip-out" trampoline sessions during

the holidays and our first ever Gingerbread house decorating night! Our aim has been to continue to foster the sense of pride and belonging our EPPS families have, while we fundraise to be able to give back to our wonderful EPPS children.

We are already thinking of more ways to continue the positivity surprises to inspire the students at Emu Plains Public School to "Shoot for the stars!".

We love our school and our students
#ParentPrideSquad

Alicia Pullen
P&C President
Emu Plains Public School

NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

by Maruschka Loupis

This popular initiative promoting reading for leisure and for pleasure has reached new heights – again!

A record number of students across NSW were actively involved in the Premier's Reading Challenge in 2018, devouring almost 8.4 million books.

The most popular books in 2018 were *Pig the Pug* (Aaron Blabey), *The Very Cranky Bear* (Nick Bland), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Roald Dahl) and *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (JK Rowling).

2018 was also the third year of the popular NewsLocal 'Words and Art' competition. Hundreds of students enthusiastically illustrated their favourite book from the Challenge and provided short book reviews, in an attempt to win a visit to their school by children's authors/illustrators.

Their work was culled by a series of panels, including Department of Education Curriculum staff and a team of editors, illustrators and photographers from sponsor NewsLocal.

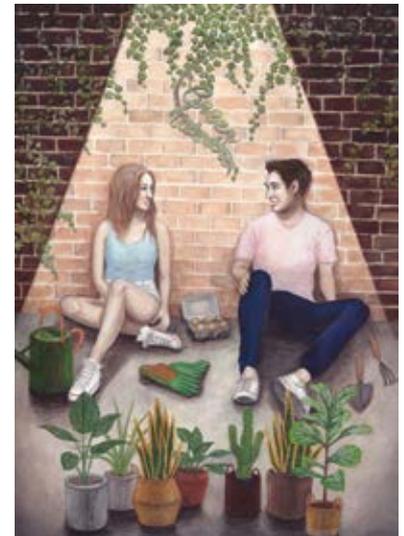
There were many high-quality entries, but – as with all things – there could only be one winner in each group. They were Year 2 at Belrose Public School in the Kindergarten – Year 2 category; Ivy Kim from Strathfield South Public School in the Years 3 – 6 group; and Emily Chajin Yun from Hornsby Girls High School in the Years 7 – 9 cohort.

In addition to a generous bundle of books provided by Dymocks Children's Charities, the winners received visits to their schools by illustrator Tom Jellett, author RA Spratt, and author/broadcaster/maths geek Adam Spencer, respectively.



Tom Jellett at Belrose Public School

302,000 STUDENT
READING RECORDS
COMPLETED
2,570 SCHOOLS
INVOLVED
8,353,630
BOOKS READ



NSW PREMIER'S

SPELLING BEE

In the biggest-ever state final of the Premier's Spelling Bee, 100 students from schools across NSW converged on the ABC Centre in Ultimo to test their O-R-T-H-O-G-R-A-P-H-I-C skills.

ABC newsreaders Wendy Harmer and Chris Bath served as 2018's announcers, tossing ever-more challenging words at the young spellers.

Some students were rapid-fire spellers; others deliberated and took their time, tracing out the words with fingers on their arms; and others seemed to be looking for inspiration somewhere in the sky above their heads.

As with every year, the audience of teachers, parents, fellow classmates and officials were often heard to gasp when an especially tricky word was spelled confidently and correctly by the impressive young people as they stepped up to the microphone.

In a marathon Junior Division final (years 3 – 4), Emilia McCarthy from Glenmore Park Public School in Sydney's West triumphed in the 10th round. Emilia correctly spelled crowd, paddle, familiar, oasis, cautious, scenario, oxygen, etymology, irredeemable and enthusiasm.

The oh-so-close runner-up was Belair Public School's (in Adamstown Heights, near Newcastle) Callan Peterson. Callan conquered rose, android, decimal, quarrelsome, trowel, resplendent, intelligible, delirium and cologne, but just couldn't quite master cantilever.

The Senior (years 5 – 6) division was won in 8 rounds by McCallum Kho (Ryde Public School), who had no trouble with innumerable, consumption, connotation, abalone, responsibility, occurrence, annuity and egotistical.



McCallum Kho, family, announcer Chris Bath and Matt Maher from MTA



Emilia McCarthy and family

Runner-up Alexandria Noonan (Jerrabomberra Public School, near Queanbeyan) mastered invertebrate, antenna, accessory, troubadour, aquiline, contemplative and delicatessen, and then – following a misspelling of 'appellant', found herself in a 2-way battle for second place with Priyasha Prasad from Caddies Creek Public School, Glenwood, who had misspelled 'albeit'. They each got one more word to decide 2nd place. Priyasha couldn't quite find the correct spelling for 'instantaneous', while Alexandria confidently spelled 'differential', thereby cementing her second place achievement.



Alexandria Noonan and Callan Peterson

THE BEST START TO SCHOOL

Literacy and numeracy are important because they form the basis of all learning. They are required to learn other skills, as well as for participation in everyday life. Literacy and numeracy skills underpin workforce participation, productivity and the broader economy, and can also impact on social and health outcomes.

The NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2017-2020 is a four-year plan to support the quality teaching of literacy and numeracy in all NSW schools.

Key initiatives of the strategy are being implemented to improve student outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

This year a revised Best Start Kindergarten Assessment will be conducted in all NSW public primary schools. Best Start Kindergarten has been in place since 2010 and helps teachers identify the literacy and numeracy skills of each student when they

start Kindergarten.

The information gathered will help teachers to develop effective learning programs that build upon what each child knows and can do when they start Kindergarten. Parents will be provided with feedback about how to support your child during the first year of school.

In 2019 there will be 292 secondary schools who will begin using Best Start Year 7, an optional online literacy and numeracy assessment. Best Start Year 7 is similar to Best Start Kindergarten in that it is designed to provide teachers with a snapshot of the literacy and numeracy skills students demonstrate on entry to Year 7.

This will help teachers to identify students

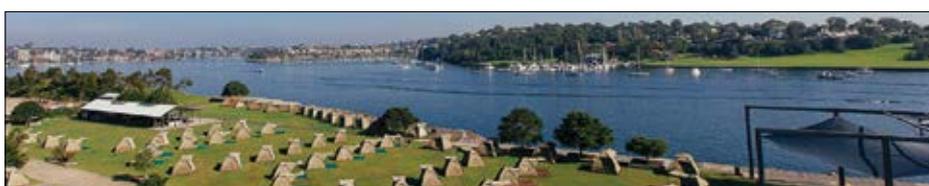


who may require additional support with the development of key literacy and numeracy skills and help inform teachers' planning and programming to meet the learning needs of all students.

To support our teachers to plan learning experiences that are differentiated to the needs of students, schools are starting to use new National Literacy and Numeracy Learning Progressions. These do not replace the curriculum being taught in classrooms but provide some additional support for teachers to identify students' literacy and numeracy skills. Teachers using the learning progressions have provided positive feedback about the ways the learning progressions support their teaching.

Each of these initiatives, together with the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, aim to ensure that every student has the support they need to develop strong literacy and numeracy skills needed for future learning and life.

Visit the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy website to learn more about the strategy: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/literacy-and-numeracy/literacy-and-numeracy-strategy-2017-2020>



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Election Notice

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are hereby invited on and from Thursday 14 February 2019 for Councillor and/or Delegates from the following Electorates as indicated:

Electorate	Electorate	Electorate
Central Coast 1 Delegate Hunter 1 Councillor & 2 Delegates Macarthur 2 Delegates Mid North Coast 2 Delegate	New England 2 Delegates North Coast 1 Councillor Riverina 2 Delegates South Coast 1 Councillor & 2 Delegates Southern & Central Tablelands 2 Delegates	Southern Sydney 2 Delegates South West Sydney 2 Delegates Sydney 2 Delegates West Sydney 1 Delegate
For information on which Electorate a school belongs to, please visit the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW website at www.pandc.org.au .		

Candidate's Eligibility

The prescribed eligibility requirements are set out in the Constitution of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations made under the Parents and Citizens Associations Incorporation Act 1976 No 50. You can view the Constitution on the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW website at www.pandc.org.au.

Nomination Form and Candidate Profile Form are available from:

- P&C Federations website at <https://www.pandc.org.au/pc-federation-elections-casual/>;
- P&C Federation Office Level 4, 55 Phillip Street, Parramatta, telephone 1300 885 982.

Lodgement of Nominations and Candidate Profile Forms

Completed Nomination Forms and Candidate Profile Forms must be received by the Returning Officer, P&C Federation from Thursday 14 February 2019 and by no later than 12.00 noon, Wednesday 3 April 2019. A candidate may only withdraw his/her nomination in writing so as to be received by the Returning Officer prior to the close of nominations 12.00 noon, Wednesday 3 April 2019. Any defect in a nomination form or a candidate profile must be rectified by the candidate prior to the close of nominations.

Nomination form and Candidate Profile form can only be lodged with the Returning Officer:

- by hand: P&C Federation, Level 4, 55 Phillip Street, Parramatta; or
- by post: Locked Bag 5114, Parramatta NSW 2124; or
- by fax: 1800 655 866; or
- by email: returningofficer@pandc.org.au

Should more than the required number of nominations be received a draw will be conducted to determine the order of candidates' names on the ballot paper at the P&C Federation Office at 2.00pm, Wednesday 3 April 2019. Candidates or their representatives are invited to witness the draw.

President Contact Details

To be eligible to vote your P&C Association was requested, via email issued on Thursday 31 January 2019 to submit the contact details of the President (or the Secretary or another member nominated by the P&C Association if the President will be a candidate in the election) of your P&C Association to the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW. To be eligible, the name of the President (or the Secretary or another member nominated by the P&C Association if the President will be a candidate in the election) must be submitted so that it is received by the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW by no later than 12:00pm, Wednesday 3 April 2019. The President (or the Secretary or another member nominated by the Association if the President will be a candidate in the election) of your P&C Association will be responsible for submitting your P&C Association's vote.

Voting

If a ballot is necessary, voting material will be posted to all eligible P&C Associations on Thursday 4 April 2019. The ballot will close at 12.00 noon, Thursday 13 June 2019 and the count will be conducted at 1.30pm, Thursday 13 June 2019 at the P&C Federation Office. The method of voting for this election is 'First Past the Post', using numbers only.

Any enquiries should be directed to Steve Carpenter at the P&C Federation, telephone 1300 885 982.

Steve Carpenter
Returning Officer
P&C Federation

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WHY SHOULD EVERY SCHOOL CANTEEN BE HEALTHY?

Throughout every child's school life, they will eat around 2600 school lunches. Eating habits are primarily formed during childhood and adolescence and poor eating habits are associated with being overweight and obese.

Currently, 1 in 5 NSW children aged 5-16 years are overweight or obese. It is the Premier's Priority to reduce Childhood Overweight and Obesity by 5% by 2025 and the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy is one of a host of initiatives that form part of the NSW Government's commitment to achieving this priority.

Evidence shows that when school canteens implement a healthy food policy, students purchasing habits shift towards healthier food and drink choices. Students need healthy foods and drinks to support their growth, development and learning and to help establish healthy eating practices for life.



School canteens play an important role in helping students learn about making healthy food and drink choices, that can stay with them for life. A Healthy School Canteen reflects the school culture and the school's

investment in student wellbeing. School communities across NSW want their children to have every chance in life to be their best selves.

How can you help?

Here are some suggestions:

- ask the school what is being done to promote healthy eating
- endorse the Healthy School Canteen strategy at P&C meetings
- support the school to promote healthy food and drink choices in the canteen
- encourage students to make healthy choices.

By transitioning your school canteen to meet the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy, you will be helping to make healthy foods and drinks more accessible to children and supporting healthy eating habits. Will your school canteen make the change in time

Congratulations to the 140 P&C-run canteens that have already met the Food and Drink criteria set out in the Healthy School Canteen Strategy!

We need many more schools to help this number grow throughout 2019.

Your school's P&C plays a vital role.



For Primary Schools

Contact your
Local Health District Health Promotion Officer
Local Health District Contact

For Secondary Schools

Contact the
Telephone Support
Service
Sydney Region
02 9876 1300
Outside Sydney
1300 724 850



CASE STUDY

Grays Point Public School

In preparing to meet the Food and Drink Criteria within the Healthy School Canteen Strategy, Grays Point Public School's P&C surveyed parents to understand the purchasing patterns of students and ensure parents were involved in the decisions that would need to be made to the menu.

They found that everyone wanted less

processed foods, more healthy homemade meals, and treats. In fact 59% of all transactions at the canteen were "treats" – so the set their minds to making treats healthy.

Grays Point Public School is just one of many P&C run school canteens moving towards meeting the Healthy School Canteen Strategy and the video explaining its transition has been watched almost 46,000 times

across Facebook and YouTube healthyschoolcanteens.nsw.gov.au.

So what about those treats? The new Grays Point menu meets the Food and Drink Criteria as more than 75% of choices are 'Everyday' but the kids think the menu is full of treats! Healthy treats include things like frozen custard or juice cups, lavash bread pizza, rice paper rolls, apricot muesli balls and fresh fruit salad.

NSW CDS RETURN AND EARN: A NEW FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOLS



What is Return and Earn?

Return and Earn, the NSW container deposit scheme, is the state's largest litter reduction initiative. It aims to help reduce litter volume in NSW by 40 per cent by 2020. Anyone who returns an eligible drink container to an approved return point receives a 10 cent refund.

Return and Earn supports the community by raising awareness and driving participation in recycling, reducing litter and raising money for local schools, sports and recreational clubs, community organisations and local councils.

How it works for schools?

1. Collect eligible containers
2. Take your containers to a return point
3. Earn a refund for your school

Eligible Containers

Most drinks containers between 150ml and three litres (3L) made of:

- Glass;
- Plastic;
- Aluminium;
- Steel;
- Or liquid paperboard (cartons).

Containers need to be in good condition (not broken or crushed), be empty and have the label attached. Any other containers can still be recycled through the household recycling collection.

Return Points

- Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) a self-service machine generally suitable for collection of up to 500 containers. You can:
 - Receive your refund directly into your registered PayPal account via myTOMRA app;



- Receive a retail voucher to spend or swap for cash at participating retailer;
- Donate directly to a selected charity.
- Over the Counter (OTC): local businesses (corner stores, newsagencies, etc.) accepting small quantities, generally up to 100 containers, in return for a cash refund.
- Automated Depots (ADs): are staffed bulk container return centres and are best type of return points for larger volumes (500+). Some issue cash refunds and some provide EFT.
- Donation Station: an RVM that has only the donation feature available to a state-wide charity or local community group.

How your school can participate in Return and Earn?

- Become a Donation Partner and register your school to be listed as a donation partner on your local reverse vending machine. People returning their eligible drink containers to the machine can choose to donate their refund to your school.
- Encourage your school community to collect eligible drink containers and donate refunds to your school.
- Organise a container collection drive and fundraise by collecting donations of eligible drink containers from your school community, that you can then redeem at a return point for refund.

We encourage schools to work with local return points to collect containers and raise funds for the school.



CREATING LITTLE “ECO WARRIORS”



NARELLAN VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

It's 8:00 am on a crisp Wednesday morning at Narellan Vale Public School and eager students in their hats and high-vis vests are making their way to the school gates, excited for the treasures they are about to collect. Narellan Vale Primary School is successfully fundraising using Return and Earn to support their Environmental Warrior Program.

“Return and Earn is helping us to fundraise for eco projects. Our goal is \$1,500 so we can buy a water tank and some trees for the school grounds” says Ms. E. O’Meara, Coordinator of Narellan Vale’s Sustainability Program.

“It is helping to make children aware of what they can and can’t recycle. Children getting involved in Return and Earn at school can then go home and tell their families”.

Each Wednesday, Narellan Vale Public School students and parents are encouraged to bring in eligible drink containers from home to donate to the school program. Student volunteers in the schools’ Environmental Warrior Program collect the containers at the school gates in the morning, before Nepean Distributors, a local Return and Earn Automated Depot, comes to pick up the valuables in exchange for a cash refund.

“Return and Earn has become much more than I thought it would be. I am operating a business that is stand alone and has much greater community reach than I had realised possible. It gives me a real buzz to know I am making a difference in so many ways” - Anthony Morrissey, Manager Director Nepean Distributors

KIAMA HIGH SCHOOL

Kiama High School and Envirobank Recycling, one of the automated depots in the NSW Container Deposit Scheme, have partnered together for an easier way to Return and Earn.

Initially, Kiama High School was dropping eligible containers at the pop-up Reverse Vending Machine at the Gerringong Surf Club. However, this required teachers and parents spending time out-of-school hours transporting and delivering the containers.



Engaging with Envirobank Recycling allowed the school to focus on collecting eligible containers and have them picked up for a small fee. Envirobank Recycling provided Kiama High School students and parents with collection bags to collect the containers. At Kiama High School, sustainability is key across all stages of the curriculum and Return and Earn is helping the school to raise money for two chilled water stations which will replace the use of single-use bottled water once installed. The school has also applied to become a donation partner on the local RVMs. Since Kiama High School appeared on War on Waste, a program on the ABC, there has been a noticeable increase in the school and local community in using Return and Earn to reduce litter.

Kiama High School meets on a regular basis with other local schools, including Gerringong Public School, Jamberoo Public School, Minnamurra Public School and Kiama Public School, to enhance sustainability in the broader local community. They are looking to combine their efforts to increase the volume of containers and the revenue stream generated through Return and Earn.

“Envirobank Recycling applauds the efforts and commitment of the Kiama High School students and is thrilled to be a part of the school’s effective sustainability program,” said Narelle Anderson, Founder and Managing Director of Envirobank. “Not only is the school’s sustainability program making a difference in their own community, it has become a showcase initiative to other schools in the area. “By working with Envirobank, Kiama High School is now able to streamline and add scale to their Return and Earn efforts and ultimately their fundraising bottom line. Envirobank has simplified the collection, delivery and redemption

process so the students can concentrate on increasing volumes and the amount of money being refunded. The school students can also be assured that every eligible container is being recycled in a sustainable manner. Envirobank has collected and processed more than 6000 containers since May, a fantastic effort by a group of highly motivated young leaders,” said Ms. Anderson.

If you have any questions about how Return and Earn works, have feedback about a return point or simply want to know more about locating and using our return points, please visit our website <https://returnandearn.org.au/>

ANTI-BULLYING CONFERENCE, SYDNEY 2018

The Anti-Bullying Conference was Australia's first event which brought together 18 national and international experts to address the global issue of student bullying under a single roof. It was attended by approximately 500-600 delegates from all walks of life including educators, school admin staff, school principals, government representatives as well as many other interested stakeholders.

The Conference commenced with Jenny Brockie as Master of Ceremonies and Auntie Yvonne Weldon delivering the Welcome to Country. This was followed by Gerath Ward MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Education, giving a Ministerial Address.

A number of guest speakers presented at the conference including:

Professor Michel Boivin from Laval University of Quebec, Canada presented on the topic "The New Science of Child Development and the Enduring Challenge of Prevention". He emphasised on peer difficulties and indicted that prevention should start early in life. Both Universal and Targeted interventions have positive impacts, but are limited. The way to move forward is to have an integrated information system on child development with tools. His findings talked about aggression and developmental pathways, children's social behaviours, peer relationships, and school adjustments.

Professor Donna Cross, University of Western Australia and Telethon Kids Institute, Australia presented on "Getting More for Less Effort", whole of school actions to improve learning and reduce bullying. She elaborated on community based research intervention projects and their approach on enhancing the social and emotional development and reducing anti-social behaviour amongst children and adolescents. The teacher's behaviours elevate things in class. Her quote was "If you don't like a student, keep trying until you do". Every contact is a pastoral care contact.



Professor Christina Salmivalli, University of Turku, Finland presented on "How good are we, really, in reducing bullying?" Christina talked about KiVa, an anti-bullying program. The 'Healthy Context Paradox' means the negative impact of victimisation may be especially damaging in contexts where the overall level of victimisation is low. Her key message was "Focus on Bullying, but from the positive perspective."

Lauren O'Callaghan, Assistant Director, Student Wellbeing Team, Australian Government Department of Education and Training, Australia. She mentioned about the Bullying and Cyberbullying Seniors Officers working group and Australian Student Wellbeing Framework. The key message from her talk was having an inclusive environment at school, a student voice, partnerships and support are all key components. A Student Wellbeing Hub is beneficial too. Two new programs for school are 'The Lost Summer' and 'Yes Project'. BeyondBlue National Education Initiative was mentioned and an emphasis was put on this to celebrate the 'National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence' on Friday, 15th March 2019 to raise awareness.

Julie Inman Grant- eSafety Commissioner, Australia had her presentation titled 'The



'4Rs' of the Digital Age: Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Reasoning'. Her statistics on the number of abuses and complaints were shocking. The virtual classroom has reached 280,000 students and teachers across Australia since 2015. The Lost Summer is a video game for 11-14 year olds encouraging digital intelligence. She touched on empowering parents by them being encouraged to explore the resources on eSafety website.

Professor Neil Humphrey from University of Manchester, United Kingdom had his presentation titled 'Addressing Mental Health Difficulties Among Students with Disabilities', he showed that the disability factor is often neglected in framing policies and their implementation. Social and emotional learning, mental health and particularly autism spectrum disorders were still not addressed appropriately.

Across the two day conference there were also numerous workshops with the national and international researchers. Each workshop presented different information relating to bullying research and anti-bullying strategies. The take away message was strategies are needed to combat all forms of bullying. Bystanders can help by being more proactive and supportive of the victim.

FUNDRAISE FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

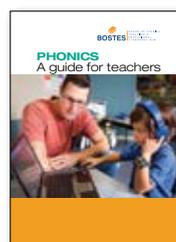
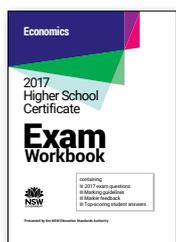
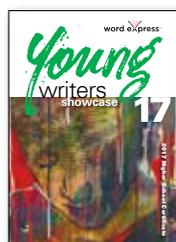
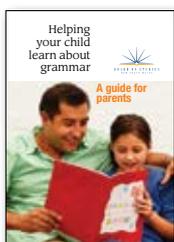
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