



St Therese's Times



NEW FACILITIES: These toilets were built using money raised by students at St Therese's PS.

Reaching out to sister school

By **MARNEY GREENWOOD, ASHLEY KELLY** and **NICOLA MAZALO**

CHILDREN who attend St Therese's PS, New Lambton, know how lucky they are to live in Newcastle and grow up in Australia.

They know what it is like to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. They know how privileged they are to be able to decide whether they'd like to read, visit friends or play a game on the computer after school.

They also know, compared to the children who attend school in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, that they have many opportunities, fantastic classrooms and access to many school resources.

Earlier this year the principal of St Therese's PS, Duilio Rufo, travelled to Papua New Guinea to visit St John Dela Sale PS, Wurrup, which is St Therese's sister school.

The sister school relationship began three years ago when a teacher from the Wurrup school did a practicum at St Therese's while attending the University of Newcastle.

Since then, St Therese's has raised money to build facilities at the school, including a library and a toilet block; supplied books, pencils, reading materials to the students; and sponsored several students by offering educational scholarships.

"The school is the only one in the area to have any facilities," Mr Rufo said.

LITRES of technology

By **TIARNY NEESOM** and **ERIKA SORBY**

STAGE three students at St Therese's PS, New Lambton, have been the first school to put in to use the LITRE project. LITRE stands for Learning in a Technology Rich Environment.

Each day, students from stage three, which consists of two year 6 classes and two year 5 classes, take turns working in the two computer-pod classrooms where teachers have developed learning experiences that utilise technology.

The computer classroom has 16 computers and students work in pairs on each computer.

These classrooms also have an extra computer and interactive white board for teacher use. On the teacher's computer there is a program called Vision, which can be used to lock student computers. Teachers can also show demonstrations using Vision.

The LITRE program has been operating successfully for 12 weeks. During this time students have gained experience with technology and have experienced new ways of learning, such as finding their own information using reliable search engines, making movies and much more.

They are becoming more and



LITRES OF FUN: Children enjoying the new technology.

— Picture by Olivia Gallimore

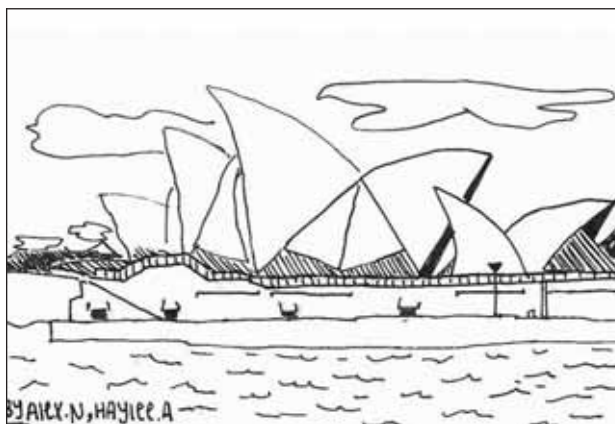
more excited about work because it is not just "chalk and talk".

One year 6 student working on the LITRE project has found the experience to be a fun and interactive way to learn.

"I am more excited about doing my school work because it's a more modern classroom and it's reflecting what I like to do at home," she said.

It is hoped that the LITRE

program will become a permanent fixture at St Therese's PS and that it is expanded to include lower grades so those students can also experience learning in a technology-rich environment.



— Illustration by Alex Nesbitt and Haylee Archibald

Have you ever wondered why?

By **OLIVIA GALLIMORE** and **CHRISTOPHER TURNER**

ALTHOUGH the Sydney Opera House has not been named one of the Seven Wonders of the World, it is still considered an Australian icon.

For many years this building has hosted many events such as operas, orchestral performances and Australian Idol grand finals. Today, the Opera House has

become a symbol for a city and a country.

The Sydney Opera House was designed by Danish architect Jorn Utzon in the 1970s and opened by Queen Elizabeth II on October 20, 1973. It cost Australia \$102 million to build and attracts about two million tourists every year.

Inspired by its position on the Sydney Harbor, Utzon decided on a sail-shaped design. But Utzon did not

stay to finish the job. He left the builders to complete the project and the finished product was not entirely what he first intended.

Students at St Therese's believe that the Sydney Opera House is just as important as the Taj Mahal or the Great Wall of China, both of which are among the world's seven wonders.

The opera house is an Australian icon and Australians are proud of it.



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Rock the right way to send a message

Editorial

By ZOE CORCORAN, OLIVIA GALLIMORE and ADRIAN LEE

FOR the first time ever, high-profile Australian bands Powderfinger and Silverchair will perform in 14 Australian cities during a two-month period.

The Times is very excited that their first and last concerts are being performed in Newcastle.

Both bands have chosen to use their concerts to draw attention to social and political issues that they see as important.

These issues include their concern for the level of respect given to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia and the government of the day's response to this.

Is a rock concert the right way to raise awareness of a social or political issue?

The Times believes it is a very good way to bring issues into the public eye.

Powderfinger and Silverchair are not the first bands to use music to express a social or political point of view. Several musicians have used their popularity to send a message to governments using a catchy tune.

U2 lead singer Bono has always sung and spoken about the imbalance between the "haves" and the "have nots". He and his band use

their concerts not only to entertain, but to state a point of view about an important social issue.

Several U2 songs focus wholly on sending a specific message. For example, *City of Blinding Lights* and *Love and Peace or Else* are powerful anti-war songs.

Since the 1970s Australian band Midnight Oil has pushed both environmental and indigenous causes. *US Forces* was a very popular anthem that commented on the relationship Australia had with the government and leaders of the United States of America.

Lead singer Peter Garrett went even further and quit the band to enter politics, hoping to make a difference by personally working to bring about change, particularly in the area of environmental conservation.

Green Day are a popular American punk band who have also used music to send a political message. Their hit song *American Idiot* criticised what they saw as the way the media controlled the national agenda, especially around the time of the Iraq war.

Pink's latest album *I'm Not Dead* with its popular song, *Dear Mr President*, sends a clear message to US president George Bush regarding her opinion of his politics.

The Times strongly believes that music is a great way to get a message out to a targeted audience. Not only are live concerts entertaining, they are also a great way to express an opinion and maybe educate at the same time.



HAPPY AT LAST: The Nolan family is happy to be safe and sound at home. — Picture by Emily Kilpatrick

St Therese's sporting superstars

By ALEX RUTLEDGE, PATRICK VAUGHAN and JESS HENDERSON

SPORT at St Therese's is alive and kicking. From kindergarten to year 6, children are given countless opportunities to develop all the skills necessary to be fit and have fun.

Participation in daily PE, as well as gymnastics, swimming, athletics and training sessions with the Hunter Jaegers, Newcastle Knights and Newcastle Jets are available to students.

Children with special talents are invited to represent the school in soccer, cricket, rugby union, rugby league and netball, as well as athletics and swimming.

Playing sport at this level is both competitive and very rewarding for students.

St Therese's has produced many sports stars including Ben Farrar, who plays for the North Queensland Cowboys, and Jarrod Mullen, the youngest half-back to play for NSW in the first State of Origin game in 2007.

Jarrod Mullen started at St Therese's PS in 1997 and played as a junior for Wests Leagues Club in the position of five eight. In 2002 he started his professional career with the Newcastle Knights and has been signed until 2009.

His first-grade debut was against the West Tigers at EnergyAustralia Stadium on May 15, 2005.

A little help from our friends

By ALEXANDRA MURRAY, JAKE HALPIN and ALEXANDRA SELDON

WHO could forget the tragic night of Friday, June 8, 2007?

As rain fell, the water rose and started to seep through the floorboards of the Nolans' family home.

The family of four had half an hour to collect their most precious belongings and get out of their house.

This story of devastation was repeated in many homes across the Newcastle area that weekend.

Several families from St Therese's PS lost their cars, household goods and most of their possessions.

More than 10 of the school's families had to leave their homes and several have been unable to return.

On hearing of this devastation a

group of parents from St Therese's took action.

Meals were cooked, cleaning products purchased and helpers dispatched.

The children were asked to bring in emergency supplies including food in cans and packets, toilet paper, clothing, blankets and cleaning products.

Wonderful mums put together hampers and delivered them to the families in need.

The local St Vincent de Paul group also assisted the flood victims, providing them with much-needed moral support.

When asked what important items she had lost, Mrs Nolan said that, as they were walking away, she turned around and thought she had taken her most important possessions with her — her family.

Democracy in action

By ALEX NESBITT and REGINA BALOGH

DURING the past few weeks, students at St Therese's PS have been learning about democracy.

Students learnt the first democracy started in Athens around 500 BC.

In this first democracy, only one-sixth of the population was allowed to vote.

These days, democracy lets people vote for Federal, State and local leaders.

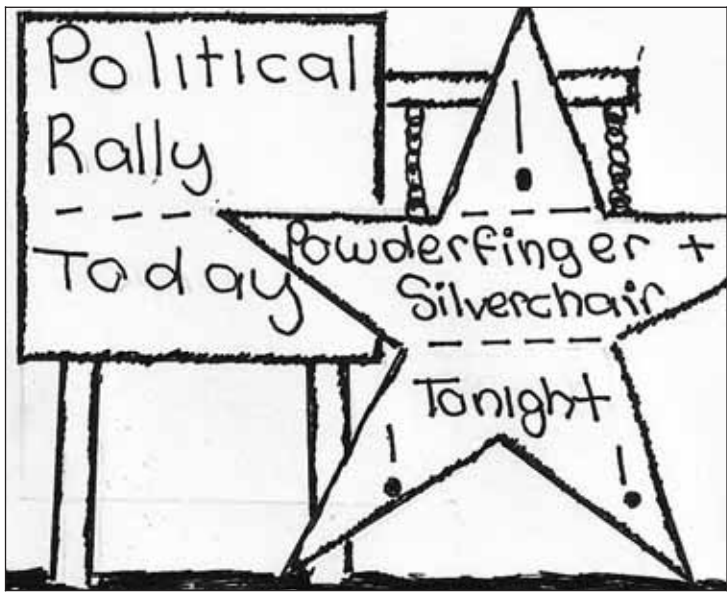
Later this term, students from St Therese's will study

how elections are run and gain a strong understanding of what will happen during the Federal Election later this year.

In Australia, people are lucky because they have rights. These rights are very important and must be protected.

In class, students have been studying various media sources and recording incidents where human rights have been threatened.

Learning about democracy is helpful for young teenagers.



— Illustration by Sam Williams



ROLE-PLAY: Demonstrating early democracy. — Picture by Olivia Gallimore

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