Learning from ‘books of life’

Class Action
with TRACEY FINDLAY

WHEN students visited the library at St Leo’s College on Thursday they were able to open the chapter of a “living book”.

The “books” were in fact special visitors and the year 8 students could “borrow” them and listen to their life stories.

The “books” included Heather Gleeson (pictured right), who is blind and has a guide dog called Persia. Her husband is also blind.

Riana Head Toussaint, a year 12 student, spoke about her life as a paraplegic, the result of a car accident when she was 10 months old.

The students also enjoyed the tales of John Bitin who has spent 20 years at sea working on both passenger ships and in the Merchant Navy. He also chairs the Sydney Harbour Australia Day Committee.

The event was an opportunity for students to meet people who they would not generally encounter in their everyday life.

The students were able to interview the “books” and learn from real life stories. They are studying “In the News” for English and will write a journalistic article about their “living book”.

HORNSBY North Public School hit a high note at this year’s Sydney Royal Easter Show. It was one of only 15 schools from across NSW invited to be part of a special showcase on the opening day of the show.

Students in the school’s Concert Band 1 played several pieces and were on stage for over 30 minutes. Five of the pieces were new to the children and they rehearsed during lunchtimes.

ANZAC Day was commemorated by schools throughout the shire over the next week.

On Friday, Clarke Road School held a special ceremony in the school grounds.

Special guests included two representatives from the Hornsby RSL sub-branch and members of the Normanhurst cadets.

The school’s signing choir performed Lest We Forget.

Assistant principal Melanie Novak said the day went well.

“The children were so well behaved, they really responded well to the whole ceremony and enjoyed being part of it,” she said.

Children from Brooklyn Public School paid their respects by laying wreaths they had made using flower and foliage from their homes, and rosemary from the school’s commemorative garden.

The ceremony was attended by staff, parents and prominent community and RSL members.

FEDERAL MP for Bradfield Paul Fletcher officially opened Abbotsleigh’s new early learning centre, infants classrooms and junior school resource centre on Saturday.

The spacious, light-filled learning spaces are equipped with the latest technology.

Sustainability underpinned the project with features including the use of natural light, reticulated air flow, grey water collection and use of eco-friendly building products.

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