

Students take some time out



CLOSE TO NATURE: Austin Burton and Kieran Power at the Darling Downs Zoo.

A TRIP to Dreamworld in July might seem like a strange way to start a school year, but that is exactly what happened at Warwick's School of Total Education (SOTE).

The SOTE Year 7 students started their Time-Out year this term with a trip to the Gold Coast theme park.

"We like to start the program with a bit of a bang," teacher Gavin Leslie said.

For the next four terms, the 13 students will come to school in casual clothes and spend the last three days each week following their own interests under the guidance of Mr Leslie.

After doing their core

schoolwork on Monday and Tuesday, the children go on an excursion on Wednesday.

"Last week, we all went out to Connolly Dam for some fishing," Mr Leslie said. "The week before, we travelled to the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane to see the surrealist exhibition."

Thursdays and Fridays are spent at the Time-Out Centre at the school, where the children have their own kitchen, lounge and classroom in a separate building. There they can follow up their own interests, which might be gardening, cooking, a particular sport or instrument or even an academic pursuit.

By taking this time out between primary and secondary to take a breather from the education treadmill and relax at a deeper level, the children get an opportunity to discover and pursue their own interests.

Deputy principal Judy Currie said children also learnt the value of planning, developed the ability to make choices and built a more intrinsic motivation, which was helpful in preparation for their secondary studies.

"We find the children are bursting with enthusiasm to get back to a full academic program at the end of the Time-Out year," she said. "It really revitalises them."

Scots PGC teachers recognised as inspirational

SIX teachers from The Scots PGC College have received special recognition for their contribution to teaching through the NEiTA 2011 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards.

Elizabeth Bowen, Mrs Noela Ensby, Michael Keevers, Kirstie Andrews, Melissa Stephenson and Anne Bush have a combined teaching experience of more than 80 years. These teachers' nominations are among the first of those received for the NEiTA 2011 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards.

The theme of the awards this year, Teachers Count, encourages recognition of the important work of inspirational



NOMINATED: Scots PGC teachers Anne Bush, Melissa Stephenson, Noela Ensby, Michael Keevers, Kirstie Andrews and Elizabeth Bowen. **Photo:** Judi Haidley

teachers and education leaders by the community. This is the third nomination for English teacher Mrs Bowen, and a first for the other five teachers, who specialise in geography, maths, music, history, science and junior school.

NEiTA (National Excellence in Teaching Awards) is Australia's only national, independent community-centred teaching awards program that gives Australian parents, early childhood and school communities, and second-

dary student councils, the opportunity to formally thank their hard-working, inspirational teachers, principals and directors.

NEiTA's chairman, Mr Terry O'Connell, said the awards program acknowledges the profound im-

portant outstanding teachers have on students, the community, education system and the country.

"We've long recognised that, outside the family home, a teacher is the greatest influence on a student's learning and performance. For 18 years, NEiTA, with the support of the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG), has helped pioneer teaching awards as a way of acknowledging the important work of teachers," he said.

"NEiTA is the only teaching awards program where education communities can nominate the teachers and leaders who make a real difference."

Showcase of culture

ON AUGUST 25, many Assumption College students came together to compile a series of presentations to display what they had learnt this term at a Cultural and Classroom Showcase.

The night went amazingly well, starting with wine and cheese in the courtyard, with entertainment provided by Emma Siebenhausen and Emma Bell.

During this time there were art displays from all year levels for the public to view.

Guests then moved to

the hall, where continuous entertainment was performed by students from all year levels, including Year 12 drama assessment, Year 9 and 10 combined drama, Year 8 drama, Assumption College's amazing singing group (led by Mrs Butler) and also performing moves from Cameron Anderson.

The night was skilfully MC'd by Tom Hardy and Kaitlyn Natividad.

Special thanks were expressed to the lighting and sound crew and backstage crew.



ON STAGE: Gabby Richmond, Nadia Virgen, Tarni Rea, Kelsey Jakins and Ella Tregurtha in the Year 10 drama presentation.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE: Mrs Wockner and Nicole Roser, from the hospitality department, serve parents wine and cheese.

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Septemberfest III

Theme: Let's put a STOP to youth violence!

YOUTH: SEPTEMBER FEST 2011

Friday 16 September, Warwick Town Hall, 4pm to midnight

Young people are urged to join in this drug-and-alcohol-free youth music event to raise money for Beyond Blue, organised by Young Ambassadors Verity Thorburn and Ashleigh McArthur. The event features local artists John Marshall, Revelations, Tailored Trio, Us Vs Them, Ambitions and more - showcasing many forms of music and dance - heavy metal, acoustic, hip hop, break dancing, rap dancing, and contemporary dance. The Beat Box district champion, Cameron, will wow the audience with his amazing skill.

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