

The Observer

COLY-POINT'S OWN NEWSPAPER

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New additions to Coleambally wildlife

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Littlies start out at Coleambally schools

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Another great six-a-side cricket carnival

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Local schools get top marks

WITH the release of the My Schools website last week, many local parents were asking, how do our local schools stack up with the rest of the state?

The website shows average statistics for schools across the state based on results from literacy and numeracy tests completed by students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Each school is awarded an overall score for reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy, which is then compared to the state average.

According to the website both St Peter's Primary School and Darlington Point Public School scored above the state average in at least half of the core learning areas.

Coleambally Central School (CCS) did not fare as well.

However, the majority of its scores were within the average band width.

Many teachers and members of the community have been question-

ing the benefits of the website and making the figures widely available.

They are keen to point out that it is important the general public understands the figures provided are average figures.

Local MP Adrian Piccoli has used the data on the website to back up his claims that funding is not being directed to regions where numeracy and literacy are of biggest concern.

In a media release from Mr Piccoli's office, it is claimed that in western NSW 15 per cent of year 3 students are not meeting the minimum standards in literacy and numeracy.

Despite this, the region has only received \$115,000 over the past three years under the \$15.2m Reading Recovery Program.

In general, schools in the Coleambally and Darlington Point area were above average for the year 3 statistics, except for CCS, which returned figures slightly below the state average.

Birthday celebrations on first day of kinder



BIG DAY FOR JOE: It was an extra special day for Joseph Rawson on Monday as he headed off to kindergarten for the first time, as well as celebrating his fifth birthday. Eight children started kindergarten at St Peter's, five at Coleambally Central School and 12 at Darlington Point Public School.

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