

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

21 October 2020

NEWCASTLE WALDORF SCHOOL

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend):

It is so important for all generations to be taught indigenous culture and about indigenous resources. That is exactly what is happening at Newcastle Waldorf School with their Indigenous Resource Garden.

Teacher, Mr Jeremy Robinson, started the garden in 2018 after a parent's suggestion of building an Aboriginal Bora Ring. Mr Robinson advises that the students were involved in the whole process; planning, researching plants, building steps and putting in mulch.

Edible plants, medicinal plants and plants that are known to have been used to create Aboriginal tools were planted in the garden.

Each student from kindergarten to year 12 has a plant to be responsible for, to learn about and to pass on the knowledge when they graduate.

The area was overgrown and full of weeds until the garden was created, and is now home to birds, bees and other wildlife, as well as being a great resource for students and teachers.

Thank you Mr Robinson, and the Newcastle Waldorf School, for ensuring that students are educated about the environment and culture.