

Fun with maths

PRIMARY school students have learned just how fun the world of maths can be.

Chatham High School hosted its first Maths Tracks field day at Taree Racecourse for 158 year five and six students from its partner schools.

These included Harrington, Crowdy Head, Coopersnook, Lansdowne, Upper Lansdowne, Chatham, Cundletown and Manning Gardens.

Aimed at students in stage three learning, the day was run in a similar vein to an athletics carnival but the focus was on mathematics rather than physical prowess.

Chatham High's priority schools program coordinator Susan Ballard said such days were

regularly held for sporting activities but an academic focus was more of a rarity.

The inaugural day was the culmination of nearly four months planning and was somewhat of a dress rehearsal for the program.

The knowledge gained from the event will be used to stage the first official day for year six students only in term one next year with the intention of it then becoming an annual event.

The day included a range of maths-based hands-on activities with students rotating through the various elements to learn in a fun way.

Many of the activities involved teamwork and there were prizes up for grabs to serve as an incentive and increase the enjoyment.

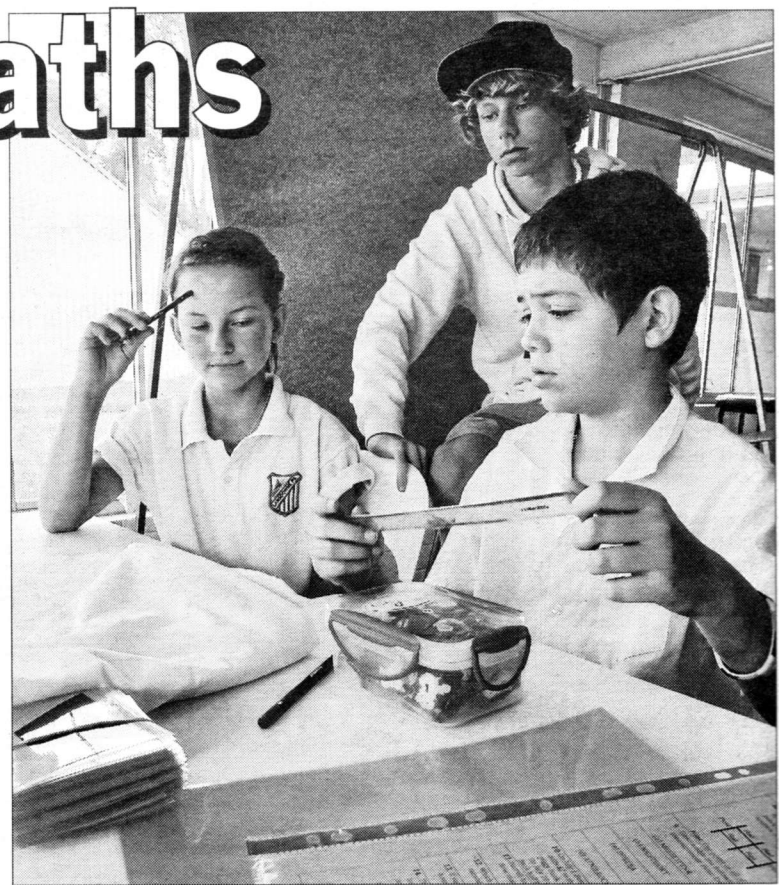
It also provided senior-level primary students with a taste of what's in store in the high school maths classroom.

At least two teachers from each participating school were involved with Chatham High year nine peer support leaders assisting with the groups and year 10 maths students marking the work.

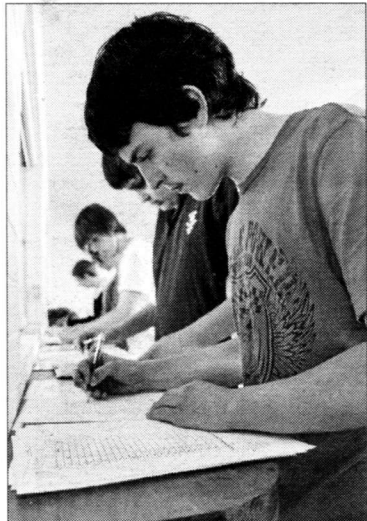
All participating primary students also received a Maths Tracks shirt which can be worn as part of their uniform when they progress to high school.

Maths Tracks forms part of Chatham High's current push on learning in numeracy.

If the days prove a success there may be an opportunity to offer similar field days in cultural subjects, such as music, in the future.



Bebe Wares, Tim Fletcher and Mitch Watson of Lansdowne Public School.



Lachlan McCarthy marking the work.



Jake Jackson and Tekaaho Tumai of Harrington.



Jessica Ballangarry and Emma McFadden of Chatham.