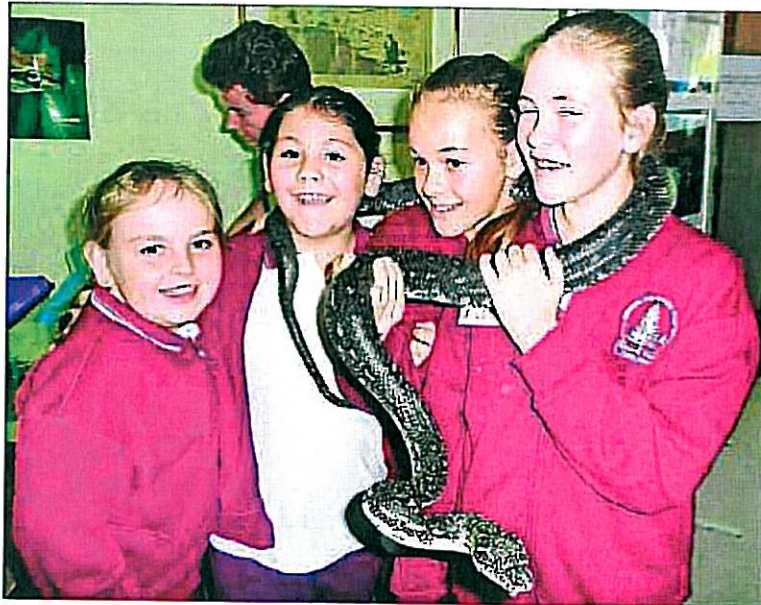




# Carnival shows connection



**Students get up close and personal with a python.**

Snakes, blue tongue lizards and razor clams all took centre stage when Lake Macquarie school students came face-to-face with some of our most recognisable creatures.

About 200 students from 18 different schools took part in the Catchment Connections Carnival at the Hunter Life Education Centre at Edgeworth.

The carnival celebrated World Environment Day and included a range of hands-on experiences for the students.

The day included cultural awareness talks, water catchment demonstrations, aquatic weed identification, water monitoring activities, and a wetlands interactive workshop and discovery tour.

There were also a number of displays – frogs, aquatic weeds, animals of the rocky shores, seagrass monitoring, bushfire protection and the Lake Macquarie City

Council footprint reduction pledges.

Lake Macquarie City Council acting manager of sustainability Hugh Cross said the students responded well to the hands-on interaction.

Mr Cross said the students appreciated learning about different aspects of the environment and how they all link into one another.

"They learned that we all live on the same planet and protecting it starts with us."

He said many of the children who participated in the workshops were environmentally conscious.

"Some of the kids were already involved in environment clubs, vegie gardens and Landcare groups in their schools," he said.

"These kids are our ambassadors for the future and the more they can understand, the better."