

Students all rapt over rescued reptiles

Leader **06**
educationawards

THE Terminator is back and he currently lives in Heany Park Primary School's reptile atrium.

Terminator, a bearded dragon, is one of 10 rescued lizards now occupying the Rowville school's specially designed enclosure.

Teacher Kathy James first organised the project, which rescues injured or abandoned reptiles, in 2003 with a small group of Year 6 science students.

Reptile handler Simon Watharow regularly visits the school to check the heating equipment and to make sure the reptiles are healthy.

"Simon works in conjunction with the Lost Reptile Home and has been able to rehouse several lizards in the atrium," Mrs James said.

The school was given a \$5000 State Government grant in 2004 for the atrium.

Mrs James said the grant had increased the number of volunteers maintaining the project.

A web cam has also been recently installed to allow students to view the lizards in their natural habitat from their classrooms.

Heany Park's project is one example of a local school getting involved in community life, and the *Knox Leader* wants to recognise schools playing their part through the Leader Education Awards.

Anyone can nominate students or a teacher in one of three categories: primary, secondary and teacher.

Principal sponsor Clive Peeters has donated more than \$40,000 in vouchers as prizes for the winners.

Entries close August 28.

To receive an entry form by mail, phone 9875 8250, or download from www.leadernewspapers.com.au/education.



Andrew, Samantha, Callum and Naomi in the reptile atrium at Heany Park Primary School.

Picture: JOANNA FINCHAM NO4KN609