

The show must go on . . . air

Their live theatre production was cancelled due to COVID-19 but the drama students at St Norbert College are continuing to perform – on the airwaves.

BROOKE EVANS-BUTLER

St Norbert College drama students were preparing for this year's production Blood Brothers when COVID restrictions meant the show had to be cancelled. Drama teacher, Kerri Hilton, says she was trying to think of COVID-19 safe options to give her students the opportunity to perform when one of her colleagues joked that they should do a radio play.

"I thought it was such a good idea, so I took the idea to our principal Simon Harvey and he was very supportive," Kerri says.

"I called one of my ex-students Brad Habib who runs Soundbyte Studios, and asked what equipment the school would need to purchase if we wanted to do some radio plays."

The drama students loved the idea and recorded the suspense mystery Sorry, Wrong Number as

their first radio play in March. The students also decided to start their own podcast called "Instead of doing homework, we're doing this". Now, every Tuesday and Friday afternoon after school, the students get together – socially distanced and using professional microphones – and record the plays and the podcast, which Kerri then edits at home before uploading the recordings to Spotify.

"The podcast is their favourite thing to do now and they are doing two podcasts a week – one is a fun podcast and one is on a topic," Kerri explains. "We are getting to the point now where other students are writing to the podcast kids saying: 'Can you do a podcast on this subject?'"

Kerri says recording the radio plays and the podcast has been a valuable new challenge for the students.

"One of the girls who was a



"We are getting to the point now where other students are writing to the podcast kids saying: 'Can you do a podcast on this subject?'"

lead in Blood Brothers said, 'I'm pleased Blood Brothers was cancelled because I would have never had the chance to do this.' It has introduced the students to a new art form that they didn't know existed.

"Another positive is that we have been able to get the plays out to people who may not have been able to attend a performance.

"One of the girls has friends and relatives in England and they could not have come to a performance, but they can hear her on Spotify and that is delightful."

You can listen to SNC Radio Plays and Podcasts on Spotify: spoti.fi/3OAbJ5J Sorry, Wrong Number is suitable for ages 12+.

Top: St Norbert College drama students (L-R) Nick Navarra, Aidin Fenwick, Mary Carter, Lachlan Fenwick, Rebecca Attwood, Hunter Bidwell & Brodie Christie.
Picture: Jackson Flindell



Year 11 student
Rebecca Attwood.
Picture: Jackson Flindell

SPOT ON

We asked these Year 4 students at Hilton Primary School:

KATRINA O'GRADY

WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT THE WORLD WE LIVE IN?



LEVI: The world is great because it is becoming easier for old people, people with a disability and people who do not have much education. Also, technology is great because it would be hard to do certain things without it.



CAMERON: We are safe in Australia. We want everyone in the world to be safe and happy.



LOUIE: We have good hospitals, doctors, friends and family to look after us. We are lucky to be safe in Australia.



DAVEY: We have lovely trees and the environment to look after.



JIMMY: The world we live in is great because we have good people who care for our environment. Not just on land, but the ocean, too. The 10c refund is also a great initiative.