



St Pius X Primary School Year 5 students Batoule and Nyalang with the school's prized chook Chatterbox. Picture: JOSIE HAYDEN

## CHOOKS WAIT IN WINGS FOR A FIRST PLACE

CHATTERBOX is one good-looking chook who is not afraid to strut her stuff at St Pius X Primary School.

The lush, brown hy-line bird has been chosen by animal food manufacturer Barastoc as its National Chook Health Day eggbassador to raise awareness about making sure your chickens are healthy.

Chatterbox was put up for the role by St Pius X Primary School's student chook monitors, who take care of the 17-strong flock at the Waterdale Rd grounds.

Prep teacher and chook carer Carmel Barro said the day promotes having chickens and the importance of keeping your chooks healthy.

But St Pius X chickens are not just your average layers.

A few of the feathered flock came second at the Royal Melbourne Show school poultry competition in 2015 and Ms Barro said the team was hoping to do even better this year.

"I think we could make first place this year," Ms Barro said.

The chooks live in two separate hutches at the school and are fed and watered by some of the dedicated monitors, she said.

To get ready for the show, the St Pius X team has been weighing the chickens and documenting all the data to submit to the show judges later this month.