

Primary school entry #43: Redhead Public School



Redhead Wave



BIG-HEARTED: Redhead Public School assistant principal John Kelleher after his long ride.

— Picture by Blair Davy, Torrii Gregory

Hard work, training pay off for YOTS

By **TORRII GREGORY, BLAIR DAVY, TYNE WAY** and **GWENDOLYN NORTON**

REDHEAD Public School assistant principal John Kelleher has combined his passion for long-distance cycling with a desire to help disadvantaged youth.

Mr John Kelleher set off on Saturday, April 5, this year with about 160 other riders on the 1000-kilometre Hornsby to Surfers Paradise ride.

The riders were raising money for Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets charity.

Youth Off The Streets began in Sydney in 1991 and has since helped thousands of young people.

Many of the riders, including Mr Kelleher, took a week's holiday from work and their families to raise money for this worthy cause.

"I am glad I trained hard before the ride. It was a great experience and I made many new friends," Mr Kelleher said.

Riders camped at Morisset, Bulahdelah, Laurieton, Nambucca Heads, Grafton and Kyogle before flying home from the Gold Coast.

"I enjoyed the experience so much that I have commenced training for next year's ride," Mr Kelleher said. "I encourage all riders to be part of this great event."

The ride raised more than \$250,000.

New hall for next 100

By **TIARNE BARNARD, JACKSON PROCTOR, RACHAEL NEALE** and **ALEX TSERAPAS**

REDHEAD Public School is this year celebrating its 100th birthday and the raising of enough money to build a much-needed hall.

The tight-knit community of Redhead began as a small and relatively isolated mining suburb of Newcastle more than 100 years ago.

Celebrations for the school anniversary have already begun but will culminate on Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2.

The Parents and Citizens Association decided it wanted to do something special to acknowledge what the school has done for the community in providing a safe and secure centre of learning for generations of children.

Pupils and staff swelter in the heat of summer, freeze in chilly winters and have to run to classrooms during school assemblies and special functions when it rains because the school lacks a hall.

More than \$6500 was raised towards the cost of a hall at a \$100-a-head centenary ball attended by almost 200 people at The Glades function centre on May 31.

Former students, staff, parents and members of the community



UNITED STAND: The entire school forming 100 in the playground. — Picture courtesy the Di Nardo family

attended the lavish affair and were entertained by the Man From Uncle, a band made up of former students

"It was a wonderful night and we raised over \$6500 which will be put towards the cost of our new hall," Redhead Public School P & C president Ms Nicole Britz said. "And when Ian Murray announced that the Mineworkers

Trust was donating \$100,000 to our building fund I nearly fell off my chair with excitement!

"It brought tears to my eyes." What began as a tiny school operating out of one building, now used as the school library, has 201 students and eight classes.

School principal Jo Clews announced on the evening that

the former principal's residence had been sold and with that money, combined with the Mineworkers Trust's generous donation and other funds raised by the P & C, the school now had sufficient funds to build the hall.

"The students will have a beautiful new hall that will be used by students and the Redhead community in 2009," Ms Clews said.



ERADICATE: Weed Warriors Liam Tamplin and Cody Lawrence surrounded by the offending bitou bush.

— Picture by Thomas Pugh

Watch out weeds or bugs will get you

By **LIAM TAMPLIN, CODY LAWRENCE, DREW HUDSON** and **ANDREW BELL-WEINBERG**

REDHEAD Public School Year 5 and 6 students have become 'weed warriors'.

Bitou bush was introduced to Australia between 1946 and 1968 to reduce erosion of sand dunes.

But it rapidly spread out of control, now infests

80 per cent of the state's coast and can be found 10 kilometres inland.

It is a problem because it replaces native plants and destroys native animals' habitat.

Bitou can be controlled by aerial spraying and biological methods.

Students conducted a biological experiment in conjunction with the national Weed Warriors program.

The class selected bitou because of its relevance to Redhead, where it even grows in the school grounds.

Bitou bush was grown in pots in the classroom then exposed to the Paterson's curse seed-feeding weevil. The bugs eat and kill the plants without attacking native vegetation.

For more information, visit the program's website www.weedwarriors.net.au



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That's what we're here for.

What we eat and do is what we are

Editorial

By REID AYLIFFE, KURT HUDSON, KATE FAIRBAIRN and NIKKI SZOMOLNOKI

HEALTHY food plus exercise equals a healthy you. But a frightening 25 per cent of Australian children are overweight or obese.

This is causing health problems such as heart disease and childhood diabetes.

So is it just the food children eat or is the amount of exercise children are doing a contributing factor?

The community should expect to see a school canteen serving fresh and healthy food. If all school canteens got on board and provided students with healthy alternatives to junk food then everyone would be encouraged to adopt more healthy eating patterns.

Redhead Public School's canteen was relocated earlier this year and introduced a range of tasty healthy options, low in fat, salt and sugar.

To the surprise of many, canteen supervisors report an increase in the number of students ordering lunch and teachers have noticed that students seem more focused in class and are joining in more physical activities.

Good for Kids, Good for Life is about students leading the way to implement one of Australia's largest programs promoting healthy eating and physical activity.

Teacher Mrs Jan Vallin addresses the assembly each week to reinforce the benefits of healthy eating, including a nutritious breakfast and daily exercise.

The school's P & C supports the healthy eating and exercise initiatives and the program is reinforced in class where there are frequent fruit and vegetable and water breaks.

Redhead students appreciate that the school has one of the best grassed playgrounds in the district. It fosters physical activity, with children playing soccer, touch football, cricket, basketball, handball and netball before school and at lunchtime.

We are told that all children need to be active participants in physical activity and that children benefit greatly from 60 minutes of exercise daily. Developing daily eating and exercise habits mean such positive actions become automatic and normal parts of a person's lifestyle.

A good breakfast and a healthy lunch ensure students have the energy, strength and good health to try new active challenges. This also helps children maintain a healthy weight.

The Good for Kids, Good for Life is a great initiative but the whole community needs to get behind the program. The school does its best but the messages must be reinforced at home and governments must do their bit by prohibiting the advertising and promotion of foods and activities that are clearly not in the best interests of children.



CARTOON CHARACTERS: Class Phi 1 with some of the colourful cartoon props used at the assembly. — Picture by Robert Hayes

A week of fun in education

By NICK AUDET, LAURA McLEAN, ROBERT HAYES and CHLOE McLEAN

AS part of the celebration of Redhead Public School's 100 years, the children treated parents, relatives and guests to a performance about changes in society at a special assembly on Tuesday, May 27.

The assembly was hosted by three students Jules Rankin (alias Ivan International), Lucas Holmes (alias Ned National) and Olivia Munro (alias Lucy Local).

Every student was involved as significant events over the past 100 were acted out.

The audience was reminded of the many changes in the world.

Kindergarten's Sigma class students read stories from very old and new books and Omega kindergarten put on a cute performance about changes to classroom activities.

Phi 1 danced and sang cartoon theme songs, Delta 2 played music from the past 100 years, Lambda 2/3 acted out a play to highlight differences at home and Epsilon 3/4 gave entertaining examples of the changes in discipline at schools.

Theta 4/5 did a very physical display of games and activities including cricket, soccer and hopscotch, and Iota 5/6 acted out events such as the appearance of the first Holden car, television, man landing on the moon, mining disasters and the grounding of the Pasha Bulka.

Scoring wins helps lift spirits

By MADDISON LANCE, JULES RANKIN and BRADLEY STOWE

REDHEAD Public School has enjoyed great success on the sporting field this year after struggling to compete with bigger schools.

With only about 200 students, the school often finds it difficult to compete.

But this year the rugby league team was delighted with a 48-6 win against Hamilton Public School, with Leo Fisher and Alex Tserapas scoring hat-tricks of tries, before a 22-4 win against the strong Gateshead Public side.

The soccer team defeated Kahibah Public 4-0, with Alex Tserapas showing his skills at another code by scoring a hat-trick of goals, before a 4-1 win over Belmont and an extra-time win which took them to the next round.

The netballers scored 17 unanswered goals in a great win against Mount Hutton Public.

Redhead also has a futsal indoor soccer team.

Coaches have included former Knights Robbie McCormack and Tim Maddison in rugby league; Emmanuel Tserapas, Craig Lawrence and John Horsley for soccer and futsal; Rebecca Szomolnoki and Lyn Norton in netball; and school sports organiser Mr John Kelleher.



Illustration by Nikki Szomolnoki

Wising up on ways to reduce use of water

By CODY LAWRENCE, RACHAEL NEALE, KURT HUDSON and REID AYLIFFE

REDHEAD Public School's Year 3/4 class has conducted an audit to help save water.

Students measured water leaks and recorded the results in tables and graphs.

They found that one leaking tap could lose more than 46 litres a week.

The class then conducted a survey of students

and teachers to observe water-use habits.

Two water meters were checked daily and average weekly water consumption was calculated.

Students were concerned that some were not turning bubblers off properly and many classes were leaving taps running while they were cleaning paint brushes and art containers.

It was decided to appoint bubbler monitors and to install a water tank for the school's sensory garden.



WATER-WATCHERS: Year 3/4 show off their report in front of school bubblers that don't drip anymore. — Picture by Cody Lawrence and Reid Ayliffe

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the competition sponsors.

Answer:

The \$100 note features world-renowned soprano, Dame Nellie Melba (1861-1931), and the distinguished soldier, engineer and administrator, General Sir John Monash (1865-1931).

