

Primary entry #7: St Columban's Primary School, Mayfield

ST COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL MAYFIELD



TELLIT LIKE IT IS



LIFE'S A CYCLE: Children prepare their entry for the Newcastle Show. — Picture by William Mathews

Show a hit for Newcastle

By NOA TAUFARAO, LUKE NUNAN and JAKE DENTON

THE new-look Newcastle Show was bigger and better in 2008, with thrill-seeking rides and the tradition and competitions that have been a part of the event for many years attracting record crowds.

This year the Newcastle Show evolved into a new era. Exciting new ideas were put in place to build atmosphere.

There were new attractions such as Alvin and the Chipmunks, live performances, IWA-International Wrestling Australia, camel races and a stagecoach heist.

The show also featured Pied Piper ducks on parade, Little Scallywagz land, a vintage speedway show, country corner exhibition arena, beaut ute competition, demolition derby, caravan derby, hay-stacking competition and nightly fireworks displays.

These events ensured that attendance reached record numbers.

Ring events, horse judging, the Miss Showgirl competition, fence post-splitting, charolais cattle exhibitions, sheep shearing, dairy exhibits, junior judging and parading, cattle judging, poultry and animal nursery and pavilion displays gave the show its agricultural focus and maintained traditions.

Ethnic community on move

By SAMANTHA HOOVER, MELISSA STEFOULIS and CLOVER RYAN

THE Ethnic Community Council (ECC) of Newcastle will soon move from its existing premises in TPI House, Newcastle, to the vacant Waratah Bowling Club site in Waratah Park.

The ECC has outgrown its premises at TPI House.

The ECC is a volunteer, non-profit organisation that has been established in Newcastle for 27 years.

The ECC provides help to many ethnic communities in Newcastle and surrounding areas through its aged-care centres and activity days.

It helps non English-speaking residents assimilate into the community.

The new premises will enable the organisation to continue its long-running projects while implementing and maintaining new and exciting projects that will further help the Hunter's ethnic communities.

The new premises will need major renovations before the ECC can occupy the site.

The estimated cost to refurbish the Waratah Bowling Club is \$500,000.

A new commercial kitchen will be installed so that students can be taught to cook through vocational education programs.

A harmony garden will beautify



HISTORY TO CHANGE: Waratah Bowling Club will take on a new look with murals showing Newcastle's history to replace the boxed-in windows. — Picture by Samantha Hoover

the environment and provide a quiet area for aged people who are suffering dementia. It will give them a place to wander and calm down.

The garden will be part of a special day-care program for dementia patients that will be in place to also help carers.

The Society of Artists Newcastle will be working on a project to paint

the front windows of the Waratah structure. This project will be murals of Newcastle's multicultural heritage – past, present and future.

The ECC will continue its rural outreach program. This is organised to help non English-speaking people in country areas go shopping and visit doctors.

Families in crisis will be sup-

ported in their need. The ECC, in conjunction with the Benevolent Society, will provide interpreters as well as other assistance.

Harmony Day and Fiesta, which are popular events in Newcastle, are run by the ECC.

These events give the community an understanding of other cultures.

The ECC will share the building with Life Without Barriers.



CULTURAL SHARING: Children at St Columban's Mayfield share their cultures. — Picture by William Mathews

Making a splash with a STOMP

By WILLIAM MATHEWS

CULTURAL STOMP 2008, now under way in Newcastle, is exploring the theme of water through performing arts.

The aim is to help students in the process of listening to stories and thinking creatively.

The project offers an opportunity for students to work together to create original

performances, visual art and written expression, open up dialogue through self-expression and break down barriers to communication and collaboration across communities.

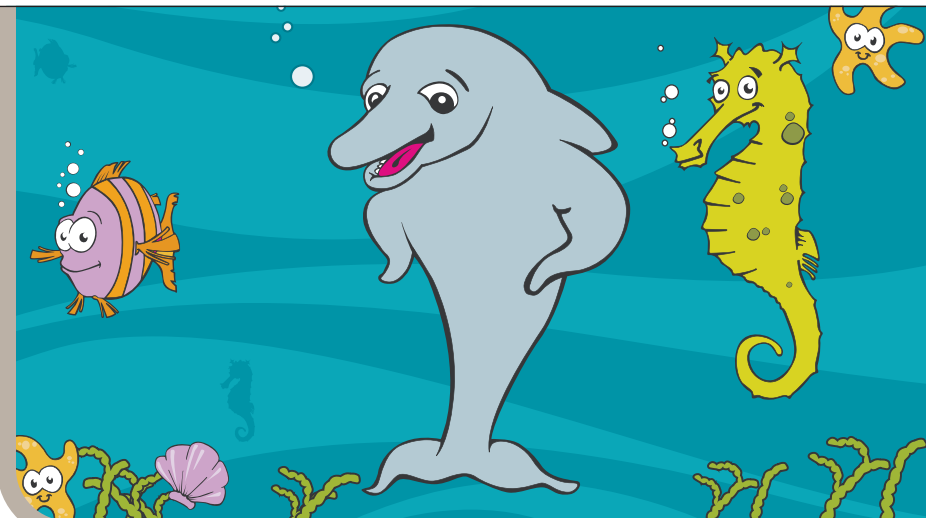
The STOMP is taking in theatre sports, music, dance and installation art.

It involves engaging with and encouraging participation from Newcastle's various communities, including African

refugees, indigenous people and members of the wider arts community.

Representatives of these communities have attended schools, community service and other group meetings to seek participation.

Iraqi-born theatre practitioner Niz Jabour has worked to create a celebration performance for the Cultural STOMP Festival at Newcastle Civic Park on Saturday.



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Binge drinkers: cool or fools?

Editorial

By **MARIA KARMANOLOS** and **HAMISH MACLEOD**

RECENTLY Newcastle was splashed all over national television as an example of one of the worst places for binge drinking and violence.

It appears that our teenagers are out of control.

This is not only happening in our back yard. Under-age drinking, binge drinking and alcohol-related violence is happening all over Australia.

Although alcohol is widely accepted by the community, alcohol is a drug. Violence and out-of-control behaviour is a result of the abuse of this drug.

Teenagers who are drinking under age are often the worst offenders. This then poses the question: "Who or what is responsible for this problem?"

Pubs and clubs, as part of a government crackdown, are getting tougher with the responsible service of alcohol. Opening and closing times are being altered to restrict the amount of alcohol being consumed.

The Central Coast and Maitland areas have had early closing for some time. This has added to Newcastle's problems. Young people from these areas travel to Newcastle to take advantage of the late closing hours.

This trend of over-indulging in alcohol, drugs and violence isn't restricted to pubs and clubs. Birthday parties have also come under fire. Birthday parties around the country are being crashed by unwanted visitors who not only ruin party plans but

wreck the venue and neighbouring houses and property.

We can ask the question: "Is this hip and cool, or is it just plain foolish?"

This type of behaviour is setting a bad example for the younger generations who are always looking for things to do. It is criminal damage. It is life-threatening behaviour. Young people are being injured and in some cases permanently maimed. The health of the person indulging in the drink and drugs is also at risk.

This problem is not only the responsibility of parents. Although parents do need to take control and know where and what their children are doing at all

'It is criminal damage. It is life-threatening behaviour. Young people are being injured and in some cases permanently maimed. The health of the person indulging in the drink and drugs is also at risk.'

times for the safety of those children, this is a community problem. The community needs to pull together.

Whether the answer is locking up offenders, closing the venues, putting up the age of legal alcohol consumption or just producing an updated education scare campaign, something has to be done, and fast.

It is a national disgrace to have Newcastle shown in this ugly light.



NO MORE: Binge drinking is no longer cool. — Illustration by Soo An



FEET AND ALL: Children make footprints for the shoe project. — Picture by William Mathews

Take a walk in my shoes

By **NATASHA FILIPOVSKI, SUBIN YOON** and **SOOHYUN YOO**

THE John Hunter Hospital Arts for Health Program and Hunter New England Multicultural Health Unit have joined forces to develop a project involving the Newcastle African community.

The project is part of the Global Community Art Project for war-affected children.

Artist Stella Meades, from Vancouver Island, Canada, hand made 1001 child-sized ceramic shoes. The shoes were unglazed, smoke-blackened and altered to suggest some of the ways that children affected by war have suffered.

Based on UNICEF statistics, each

shoe represented 6000 children affected by war during the previous 10 years.

Some of these shoes were sent to Newcastle as part of the project.

Artists and teachers met at St Columban's parish hall for several weekends and worked with local refugee children. The children created artwork and wrappings to go with the special shoes before they were sent back to Canada.

The shoes and artwork will be exhibited and auctioned with the proceeds going to projects for children affected by war.

Photographs of the children at work and some of their artworks will be exhibited in the Arts for Health Gallery at the John Hunter Hospital.

Indigenous education

By **DANIEL TO, GAK BOK, DHUI NOI** and **TOBY PULVER**

UNUSUAL track-and-field events were seen at Danger Park, Mayfield, for the St Columban's Primary School annual athletics carnival.

Kai, parndo, gorri, koolchee, wana, kolap and buroinjin were played by children with the help of staff from the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation.

The indigenous games are only one of the initiatives that St Columban's Primary School has adopted in the area of aboriginal education.

Some of the teachers and children worked with Louise Campbell, the aboriginal education adviser from the Catholic Schools Office, to research material for the Awabakal language project.

Life after netball is a good breakfast

By **LAUREN FULLER, VICTORIA AOAKE** and **JENNA HAWES**

LEGENDARY Australian national league netballer Liz Ellis has retired from her 18-year representative career after winning the world championship in Auckland.

Since her retirement Ellis has been very interested in promoting breakfast clubs in schools. She has contacted St Columban's to find out more about its breakfast club, which is organised by the Red Cross and sponsored by St Vincent De Paul.

Norwegians in cultural education exchange

By **ZANE LAWSON**

FOUR Norwegian exchange students have arrived in Newcastle to learn about Australian education and school culture.

The five students are from Trondheim University.

While in Newcastle they are enjoying the classroom experience at St Columban's and San Clemente High Sschool.

They arrived in Australia at Cairns airport and travelled to Brisbane, where they then boarded a plane to Newcastle.

The students explained that schools were very different in

Norway, where the school day begins at 9am and concludes at 2pm.

They often have days off in the middle of the week.

The school children do not wear uniforms.

Since being in Newcastle the students have experienced the area's beautiful beaches and Blackbutt Reserve, where koalas and kangaroos had them enthralled.

They found the vineyards and Hunter Valley irresistible. It seems that the students will take a very positive experience of Australia home to Norway.



AUSSIE CULTURE: Norwegian students enjoy St Patrick's Day at St Columban's. — Picture by William Mathews

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

What Australian animal is on the ten cent coin?
See page 44 for answer.

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