

Primary entry #12: St Joseph's PS, Gloucester



GLOUCESTER GAZETTE



CLEAN IS GREEN: Some of the students who took part in the clean-up. - Picture by Ellen Forbes

Getting dirty for a cause

By ELLEN FORBES

ST Joseph's Primary School students got down and dirty to make their school spotless as part of Clean Up Australia Day in February.

Armed with rubber or disposable gloves and a plastic bag to collect rubbish, students hit the playground, weather shed and around the boundary to pick up rubbish.

Some students even borrowed school brooms and dustpans to sweep up leaves and dirt.

The school has taken part in the clean-up for many years as one of the school's environmentally friendly projects.

Students collected about a garbage bin full of rubbish each. The bins were mostly full of lunch wrappers, papers, bottles and biscuit wrappers.

Some other environmentally friendly activities at St Joseph's include composting and having a class vegetable garden to make use of leftover food scraps.

Clean Up Australia Day began in 1992 and this year about 7000 tonnes of rubbish was collected around the country including 2930 tonnes in NSW.

Long summer, no cricket

By BEN RELF and JOEL L'GREEN

THE Gloucester area's cricket players have finished the season with their whites still white and their cricket bats mostly unmarked after only five games were played in the season from October because of wet weather.

The sun rarely shone on junior cricket, with the grounds closed week after week as heavy storms at the end of most weeks left the fields unplayable.

Junior cricket association spokesman Darryn Yates said it had been disappointing not to have much cricket over the summer.

"It was a first for the local association to have to cancel so many games during the season," Mr Yates said.

"It impacted on our young players, with the new players not getting a chance to practise new skills."

Two local players, Joel L'Green and Benjamin Relf, are typical of many of the keen juniors in the local competition.

For all of them, it was a long summer without cricket.

"It was frustrating not to be able to play cricket each week," Joel said. "This was my first year at cricket and I was really looking forward to playing."



SHOULDER ARMS: Benjamin Relf, Jesse Lloyd, Darcy Barlow and Joel L'Green are looking forward to summer 2008 and hopefully some more cricket. - Picture by William Miller

Joel said that despite not getting many games in this year, he was still keen to play again next season.

"It was really annoying not being able to play as this was my last year in Kanga cricket and next year I'm moving up into under-13s."

Benjamin said he had been looking forward to improving his skills before stepping up to the tougher competition next year.

Gloucester Rural Fire Service recorded 665 millimetres of rain at its depot from October 2007 to the end of February.

It hasn't just been the cricket that has been rained out, with other sports including the swimming club, little athletics and school carnivals becoming victims of the rain.

But the region's farmers are smiling and making the most of the conditions.



PRETTY AS A PICTURE: Gaby Middlebrook shows off her winning artwork. - Picture by Olivia Middlebrook

Show time for Gaby's great artwork

By BEN RELF, JESSE LLOYD and DARCY BARLOW

FORMER St Joseph's student Gaby Middlebrook had her artwork selected to be on the cover of the 2008 Gloucester Show pavilion schedule.

Gloucester Show Society invited local school students to design covers for both the pavilion and

livestock schedules as part of its celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the first Gloucester Show in 1908.

Show society secretary Ann Plumridge said the society had been looking for pictures that were imaginative, creative and colourful, just like Gaby's picture.

Gaby, who is now in Year 7, said it felt really good to win and she felt really

special that her picture was chosen.

Her picture was a birdseye view of Gloucester Show. It featured cattle, fireworks, a horse, the woodchop, Ferris wheel, fairyfloss stand and people having a picnic.

The other winner was Kloe Smith from Barrington Public School. Her picture featured on the livestock schedule.



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Screening planet from more harm

Editorial

ONE of the causes of global warming is believed to be a huge hole in the ozone layer.

The ozone layer acts like sunscreen for the earth but it is rapidly wearing off because of carbon and greenhouse emissions. These wear away at the ozone layer which protects earth's atmosphere and life as we know it.

As we all know, without sunscreen our skin can burn to a crisp, and this is what may be slowly happening to our planet.

The hole in the ozone layer is getting bigger and climate change is altering the planet as we know it. Earth Hour, an organisation that promotes saving of electricity through simple acts, managed to get 60 per cent of the population of Australia to turn off lights and other electrical appliances for one hour on March 29. Two power stations also shut down for one hour.

It would all be so simple if we could just re-apply the sunscreen and fix the problem but we can't.

As nine to 11 year olds we can't change government policies but we can make a difference. We can help put the sunscreen back on.

At school we can put on a

jumper instead of a heater.

Walking or riding a bike to school instead of getting your parents to drive you will also help the ozone layer because less cars on the road mean less carbon and greenhouse emissions. Imagine if all students in Australia walked, rode bikes or caught public transport to school how much more our earth's "sunscreen" would be effective.

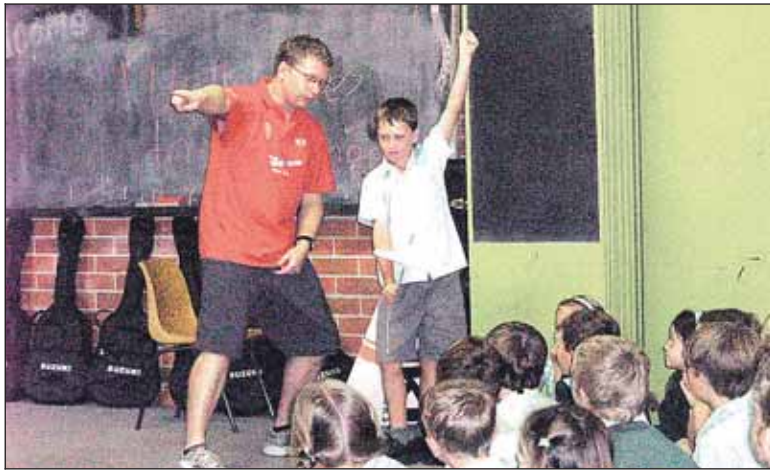
Doing something simple like turning off the lights when you leave the room plays a big part in helping save the ozone layer.

Most of the electrical appliances in your house are always switched on at the power point which is not good for the environment because it is using up a lot of energy and therefore emitting carbon and greenhouse gases.

Our school's participation in cleaning up the school for Clean Up Australia Day highlighted other ways to reduce greenhouse gases and carbon emissions by doing easy and effective things.

Picking up rubbish is one way to help our environment. Reducing our waste will also help, as will composting fruit and vegetable scraps. Using less electricity will contribute to reducing the current effects on our planet's "sunscreen".

The *Gloucester Gazette* asks, what will you do for the environment today?



EXPERIMENTAL BEHAVIOUR: Morgan from the Questacon Science Circus with St Joseph's student Brodie O'Brien at the science exhibition.

Circus shows science is fun

By HANNAH MULLEN, JORJIA EARLE-BROADLEY and ELLEN FORBES

THE Shell Questacon Science Circus travelling exhibition came to St Joseph's Primary School at Gloucester on March 17.

The science circus has been running for 23 years.

One of the presenters, Kathy, showed St Joseph's students how vibration makes sound.

She did this using an upside down bucket and cup with string stuck to the top. Using a wet cloth she pulled down on the string and made sound.

Questacon's Morgan taught us

about the four forces of flight using an inflatable toy plane.

The circus also visited Taree, Forster and Port Macquarie as part of visiting more than 100,000 students, teachers and families each year.

Brothers Callum and Lachlan Howard enjoyed seeing how a lit teabag rose up to the ceiling.

Grace McKechnie and Billy Dulihanty liked an experiment in which a tablet and water were shaken up in a film canister that shot up to the ceiling.

Years 5 and 6 are now looking forward to visiting the Questacon Science Museum when they travel to Canberra on an excursion later this year.

Candles light way for new year of learning

By JORJIA EARLE-BROADLEY and HANNAH MULLEN

WHITE candles were presented to teachers at St Joseph's Primary School to mark the start of the new school year.

The presentation was made at a commissioning Mass in St Joseph's Church on March 2.

The Mass is where the parishioners, parents and students remind the staff of the important work they do in schools.

The annual commission-

ing Mass is usually held every year in term one to bless the staff and welcome in the new school year. It has been held at the school for at least eight years.

At the Mass were acting director of Catholic schools Mr Ray Collins and newly ordained deacon for the Maitland Newcastle-Diocese Vince Ryan, who helped parish priest Father Paul Malconry.

Years 4, 5 and 6 students acted out the gospel reading in which Jesus performs a miracle to bring sight to a blind man.



BLESSING: Staff members Lynn McLeod and Kelly Middlebrook with the candles presented to them.

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

Five!

The standard one dollar coin has five kangaroos, one of Australia's most recognisable animals. The one dollar coin is also used to carry commemorative designs.



Here for learning.

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