

Primary entry #4: St Joseph's Primary School, Merewether



# The Truth

St Joseph's Primary School, Merewether



**COMMUNITY:** Back row, from left: Fiona McDonald, Mitchell Nesbitt, Olivia Kelly and Claudia Boyce. Front row: Glenn McNamee-Orrrock and Sister Patricia McCarthy.  
— Picture by Ben Kingham

## 120 years of history

By **FIONA McDONALD, OLIVIA KELLY, GLENN MCNAMEE-ORROCK, MITCHELL NESBITT** and **CLAUDIA BOYCE**

THIS year, the Sisters of St Joseph's are celebrating their 120th anniversary.

Now located on the corner of Kenrick and Farquhar streets, The Junction, the first community of Josephite Sisters was appointed to Burwood Parish in 1888. This later became known as the parish of St Joseph, Merewether.

Between 1888 and 2008 more than 250 sisters have taught in St Joseph's Primary School and St Joseph's High School, which closed in 1984.

A number of these sisters still live in the parish and are active in various roles, including education, home visitation, meditation, parish work and hospital visitation.

Parish Pastoral Co-ordinator, Sister Patricia McCarthy, previously worked in Catholic schools as a religious education consultant.

She said that life in schools had changed dramatically over the years and that many roles previously performed by sisters in the parish were now carried out by others.

"There has been a decrease in the number of priests and sisters and also in the number of people attending church but an increase in people's spirituality," Sister Patricia said.

"The Church will go on but not in the same form."

# WYD approaching fast

By **MARIANELA O'BRIEN, OTIS RYAN, JAMES BOWER, JACOB HUMPHRYS** and **SOPHIE RAE**

WORLD Youth Day (WYD) is the largest youth event in the world and will be held in Sydney from July 15 to 20, 2008.

It has been organised by the Catholic Church and aims to bring young people from around the world together to share friendship, hope and faith.

WYD was first thought of by Pope John Paul II, who was inspired by the large gatherings of young people in Rome celebrating youth in Jubilee in 1984 and the International Year of Youth in 1985.

Pope Benedict XVI will make his first visit to Australia during the event.

The leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict will speak to the pilgrims and celebrate Mass on Sunday, July 20 at Randwick Racecourse.

In the Maitland-Newcastle diocese, many families will be hosting pilgrims from around the world leading up to the events in Sydney.

According to Mark Spencer, one of the organisers of the Days in the Diocese activities in Newcastle, more than 5000 pilgrims are expected to arrive in the diocese leading up to WYD in Sydney.

Two families with students in year 6 at St Joseph's will be hosting



**HOSPITALITY:** Students hosting World Youth Day pilgrims include, from left, Danilo O'Brien, Marianela O'Brien, Otis Ryan and Hattie Ryan.  
— Picture by Jacob Humphrys

pilgrims. The students are Marianela O'Brien and Otis Ryan.

"It will be an amazing experience to meet new people from other countries and share our faith and culture with them," they said.

The pilgrims will stay with the families for a few days before their Sydney visit.

From Monday, July 7, pilgrims will be able to register at the

Saint Laurence Centre, Broadmeadow.

On Friday, July 11, the pilgrims will be expected to undertake an act of social service for the community for hosting Days in the Diocese. On Saturday, July 12, the pilgrims, their host families, Church leaders and hundreds of others will gather to celebrate with a concert at Newcastle Foreshore.

On Saturday, July 13, the pilgrims will be invited to attend Mass at the local parish of their host families and celebrate afterwards with a barbecue or picnic.

On their last day, which is Monday, July 14, everybody will say farewell to the pilgrims as they travel to Sydney to celebrate the rest of the week and greet Pope Benedict.

## Family members have flippers for feet

By **CONNOR MCGOWEN, SEAN STRAITON, BEN KINGHAM** and **ISAAC SLATER**



**CHAMPS:** Emma, Daniel and Jessica Collins pictured wearing medals they won recently.  
— Picture by Sean Straiton

THE children of Sandy and Peter Collins have recently competed with great success at the State Surf Life Saving Titles at Blacksmiths Beach.

Emma, 16, Jessica, 14, and Daniel, 11, all did extremely well, bringing home 13 medals in total.

Daniel, a year 6 student at St Joseph's, Merewether, went

home with three gold medals for the swim, board and iron person in the under-11 age group.

During the first week of April, Emma travelled to Western Australia with her father to compete at the National Surf Life Saving titles.

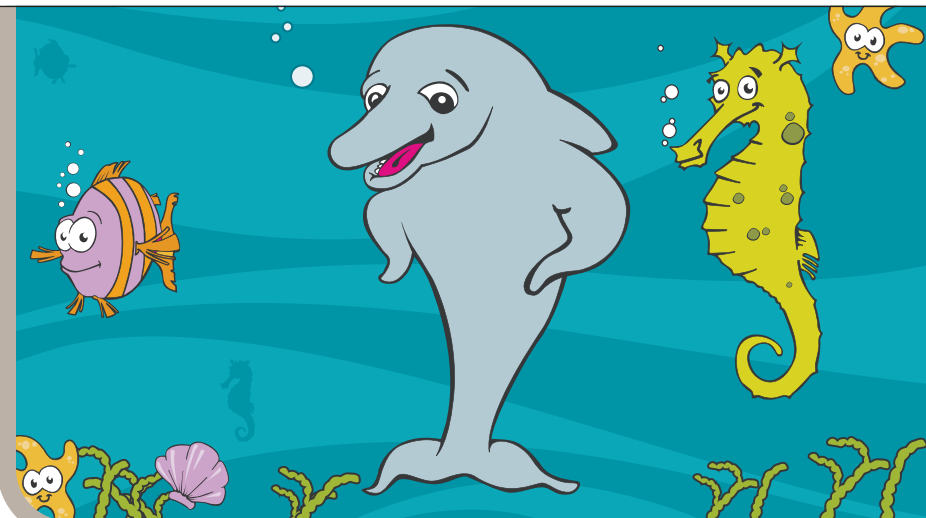
Jessica went to Queensland to compete at the National Pool Swimming Competition in the second week.

Daniel was scheduled to compete at the Primary School Sports

Association swimming carnival at the same time, but was unable to attend due to another family sporting commitment.

"The children swim about five times a week and attend board training twice a week, depending on their school work," Mrs Collins said.

Daniel's idol is Shannon Eckstein, the ironman. Jessica's idol is Naomi Flood, an ironwoman, and Emma's idols are her mum and dad.



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# Wine isn't the only thing that matures

## Editorial

By **BRADY WALKER, ISAAC SLATER, DANIEL COLLINS, SAM SCOWEN, CASSIE NUGENT, GLENN MCNAMEE-ORROCK** and **BEN KINGHAM**

ONE of the biggest problems facing society today is the consumption of alcohol, legally and illegally, by young people.

Unfortunately, many teenagers who consume large quantities of alcohol until they are severely drunk cause injury not only to themselves but also to others.

This is a big concern for society in 2008 and there have been many incidents recently to highlight the problem.

If the legal age of drinking is raised to 21 we will surely benefit for many reasons.

If we raise the legal age for drinking it will strongly and aggressively impact on the number of alcohol-related deaths that result from road accidents. There are even more alcohol-related deaths due to the combination of drugs and alcohol.

If we want to protect and support the young people of today, wouldn't it be wise to increase the legal age of drinking?

Binge drinking by young people not only leads to anti-social behaviour, it can have an enormous impact on a person's ability to learn and focus.

A teenager's education and

future career can be threatened by their inappropriate actions.

If an education is the most important thing a person can have, doesn't the community have a responsibility to protect these teens and their chances for academic success?

Recent reports have shown that children of 12 and younger are binge drinking once a week. Another side to the problem is the suffering of the families involved.

If a law was passed increasing the legal age of drinking to 21, it would certainly help to stop a number of young people from either ruining or ending their lives.

It is up to the community to pressure the government to take action and bring this necessary change about.

Another reason for raising the legal age for drinking is that a 21-year-old is surely more responsible and mature than an 18-year-old and is able to make better judgements and decisions.

The maturity level of a 21-year-old should enable them to make more informed choices, therefore helping to prevent a variety of medical problems and injuries that can occur as a result of alcohol abuse.

The problem of under-age drinking and the abuse of alcohol by young adults in particular is both a legal and social one. If the community is serious about addressing the problem something needs to be done now before it is too late.



**HIGH-TECH TEACHING:** Parent Susan Morrissey and daughter Maegen using one of the newly installed SmartBoards at St Joseph's, Merewether.

# St Joey's jumps into 21st century

By **GABBIE LYNCH, LILY DRINKWATER, NICHOLAS MURRAY** and **DANIEL COLLINS**

ST JOSEPH'S Primary School, Merewether has jumped into the 21st century with SmartBoards.

The SmartBoards are educational tools used in classrooms to assist teachers and students in their learning.

SmartBoards have been installed in every classroom as well as the school library.

Children at the school use them for a variety of activities in all subject areas.

SmartBoards are an interactive educational tool which allow students and teachers to participate during lessons in a real hands-on

way. They feature an interactive whiteboard that requires a data projector and a computer to operate.

"The SmartBoards make it easier to teach the children but it takes longer to prepare because of all the typing," said Mr Fuller, the year 3 teacher at St Joseph's.

He also said that children got more involved when using the SmartBoards, mainly because of the touch screen and the new interactive technology.

Children in Year 3 said that they enjoyed them because they were interesting and entertaining and they loved playing the games.

Funding for the SmartBoards was provided by the school's P&F association, government grants, and the school itself.

# Mediterranean Miss Moroney

By **RUBY ABBOTT-MONNOX, LACHLAN ARGIRIS, SAMUEL CONNOR, TRAE COOPER, ELISE FELLAS** and **ANGUS McDONALD**

REGGIO Emilia, Northern Italy, is where St Joseph's Primary School assistant principal Kim Moroney spent most of last month.

She spent two weeks studying and one week exploring the town.

Her studies focused on approaches to early childhood education, which is a passion of hers.

Miss Moroney wants to learn how to enhance children's learning through self-discovery and exploration of their environment in a fun and educational way.

She is very excited to be achieving her professional goals.

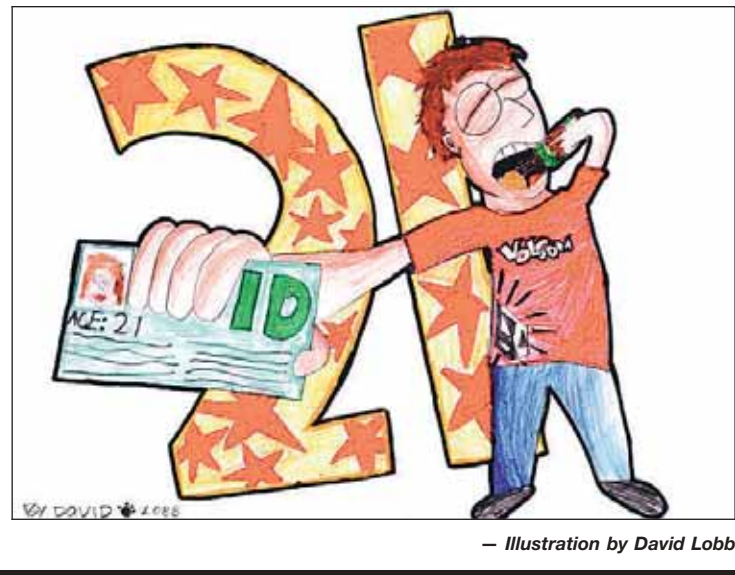
"I am very excited and very privileged to have this fantastic opportunity," Miss Moroney said.

Miss Moroney's course studies went from 9am to 1pm each day, and then she had a break, followed by another four hours of study.

Miss Moroney, who is also a year 4 teacher, said she missed the school and her class during her travels.

Despite embarking on this journey alone, Miss Moroney said she gained many happy memories from her experience.

She is looking forward to sharing the information and ideas gained overseas with the staff and students at St Joseph's.



— Illustration by David Lobb

# Year four goes green

By **BELLA GRAY, LACHLAN ARGIRIS, BRADY WALKER** and **JENNIFER HOGG**

STUDENTS at Holy Family Merewether Beach, St Joseph's the Junction, The Junction Public School and Merewether Heights Public School are participating in the Year Four Go Green project.

These schools are learning about how to look after the environment, protect nature and ecosystems.

The year 4 classes have learnt many strategies to

help the environment.

St Joseph's has visited Holy Family Merewether Beach and hopes to visit more schools in the future to exchange ideas.

The Go Green project team members are Jenny Robinson, Carolyn Taylor and Suzanne Pritchard.

The Go Green forging partnerships are Newcastle City Council, Lake Macquarie Council, Eco Edge, Coast Care, Land Care, Water Watch, Nature Watch, Hunter Watch and NPWS-Discovery Rangers.



**BIG PICTURE:** Student Patrick Twohill painting an environmental-themed artwork.

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