

Primary entry #15: St Patrick's PS, Cessnock

ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL CESSNOCK



THE CATHOLIC CHRONICLES



KICKING ON: Brianna Schofield, Angus Donohoe and Matthew Soper-Lawler.

— Picture by Grace Whitaker

Sports stars score a future

By **MARIAM SATER, KAILANI PICTON, GRACE WHITAKER** and **MATTHEW SOPER-LAWLER**

ST Patrick's Primary School students Angus Donohoe, Matthew Soper-Lawler and Brianna Schofield have recently had great success in their chosen sports.

Angus, 9 was selected in the diocesan representative soccer team after recent trials.

"It was hard but it was worth it," Gus said.

Gus aspires to be like his favourite soccer player, Thierry Henry, and to play for the Newcastle Jets when he grows up.

Matthew, 11, hopes in a few years time to be the next "greatest rugby league player".

He was selected in the diocesan rugby league team after the trials.

Although he wasn't very confident about making it through, he was excited to find out that all his hard work paid off.

As he gets older, he hopes to play for the North Queensland Cowboys because Johnathan Thurston is his favourite player.

Brianna, 11, has been selected in the diocesan, regional and state netball teams.

She hopes one day to be a netball player like her hero Liz Ellis.

The pilgrims are coming

By **KAYLEIGH COOMBES, LIBBY GODFREY, KIERRA KENNEDY** and **BRYCE TRUDGETT**

HUNDREDS of thousands of people are expected to attend the 23rd World Youth Day celebrations in Sydney from July 5 to 20.

World Youth Day was begun by Pope John Paul II in 1984.

This year young people from all over the world are expected to attend.

The purpose of the day is to bring the world's youth together to give each other strength and confidence without being discriminated against for their differences.

Students from St Patrick's had the opportunity to see the cross, icon and message stick, which travelled to many countries in the lead-up to World Youth Day.

The cross is three metres tall and weighs 40 kilograms and the icon weighs 15 kilograms.

Some of the areas and countries from which the youth will come include Asia, Oceania, The Philippines, Guam, Chuuk in Micronesia, Gizo in the Solomon Islands and Dili in East Timor.

The school's Sister De Porres said that it was fantastic the Pope was coming because it would help unite the youths and encourage them to live up to and spread the good news of the gospel.

Religion education co-ordinator



Mrs Lynne Kauter said the cross and icon were special because they had journeyed from different countries and were a symbol of Christ and all he sacrificed for humankind.

HOLY TIME: Children from St Patrick's touched and kissed the cross during a procession last year to mark the upcoming World Youth Day.



STILL GOING: Drayton's quickly re-opened despite another terrible family tragedy.

— Picture by Paige Whitfield

Community rocked by blast deaths

By **DENNIS JEFFERY, BONNIE MOYLAN, RACHAEL SHUMACK** and **PAIGE WHITFIELD**

THE students, parents and staff of St Patrick's Primary School at Cessnock were deeply saddened by the loss of life in the Drayton's winery explosion in January this year.

Winemaker Trevor Drayton and boilermaker Edgar

Orgo were killed in the blast but assistant winemaker William Rikard-Bell survived the accident with major burns to 80 per cent of his body.

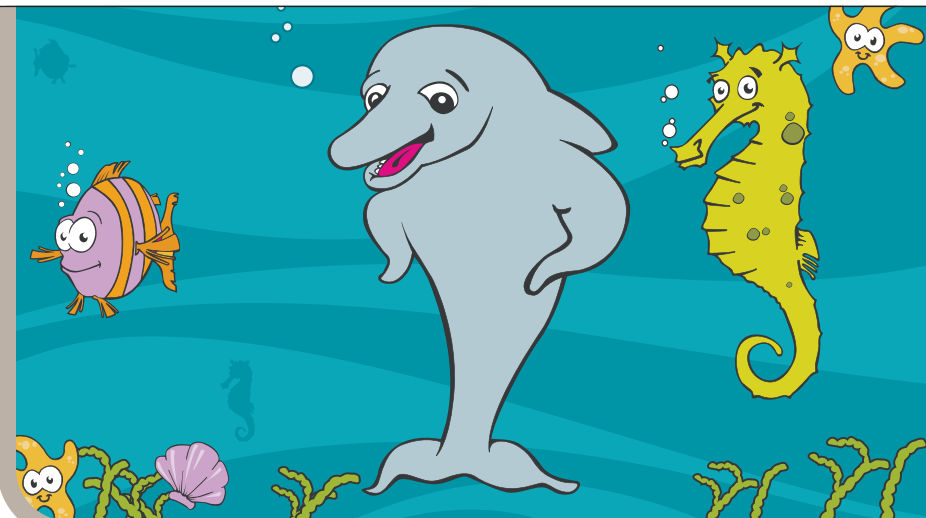
Mr Drayton was well known and respected within the Hunter community, demonstrated by the number of people who attended his funeral at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Cessnock.

The accident is believed to

have been caused by an ethanol tank igniting due to sparks from welding equipment.

Mr Rikard-Bell ran and jumped into the dam near the building to put out the fire burning his face and arms.

Despite this tragedy, and the deaths of Reg and Pam Drayton in a 1996 air crash, Drayton's is still making wine after 150 years.



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Editorial

By JOSEPHINE BLISSETT, KATHERINE WEEKS and KURT MUSGROVE

ST Patrick's Primary School is proving that it is an environmentally friendly school by taking positive action. It has recently applied for and had approved a \$36,000 government grant to install a rainwater tank, which cost the school \$1300 for council approval and installation.

The tank will provide the school with extra water to use for flushing toilets, watering plants and hopefully in the future will be used to water a planned vegetable garden.

School principal Miss Penny Tully realises the importance of educating children about conserving water because there are so many areas still in severe drought. We are all responsible for protecting and conserving the environment in any way we can and this is one area where St Patrick's intends to make a difference.

The new vegetable garden will help educate the children of the school to become environmentally friendly and hopefully encourage and inspire other schools in the area to do the same. It will not only provide the children with valuable educational and life

experiences, it will also allow some of the produce to be sold in the school tuckshop.

During the recent building project and renovations, the school also looked at other water-saving features, such as installing new downpipes, while artificial grass was laid in play areas to avoid the expense of watering.

The school may apply for another grant for a smaller tank and is also waiting to hear about a grant for a solar panel. St Patrick's is continually looking for ways to save water and electricity.

Other projects planned for the school include a frog pond, for the children to learn to care for animals and to attract frogs and other wildlife, and an Aboriginal garden with native plants and trees.

This year an environmental committee was formed as part of our eco-friendly school plan. The committee consists of Years 5 and 6 students chosen specifically for their concern about the environment and ability to educate other children within the school on important environmental issues such as sustainability and preservation.

Raising awareness is viewed by St Patrick's as the key to preserving our environment. We can all make a difference in one way or another. Our vision is to be the best eco-friendly school that we can possibly be, and to be proud of it.



STRONG SIDE: St Patrick's Primary School Leadership Team 2008. — Picture by Bridget Allen

Year 6 leads from the front

By BLAKE SMITH, BRIDGET ALLEN, ALECIA MCCALLUM and JOSHUA MEYERS

THE school selected its new student council representatives and leaders for this year at the end of term four last year.

At the end-of-year Mass held at St Joseph's Church at Cessnock, school principal Miss Penny Tully announced the new school leaders for 2008.

This year's school captains are Joshua Meyers and Brianna Schofield.

The school councillors are Lachlan Edwards, Libby Godfrey, Dennis Jeffery, Josephine Blissett, Kurt

Musgrove, Lauren Watson, Katherine Weeks, Abbey McCord, Kailani Picton and Grace Whitaker.

Library councillors are Isabella Parkes and Blake Smith and sports captains are Alecia McCallum, Dominic Fiorenza, Emma Murray, Matthew Soper-Lawler, Makayla Goldman, Daniel Raszewski, Morgan Fay and Benjamin Molenaar.

Miss Tully said the council was a great role model for the school in which students learn about responsibility, taking pressure off teachers.

The leadership team's responsibilities include liturgies, weekly assemblies and helping guests on special occasions such as grandparents' day and open days.

Excitement hits a peak

By MATTHEW HUGHES, TAHKIESHA KING, BRIANNA SCHOFIELD and LAUREN WATSON

ST Patrick's Primary School at Cessnock has been working hard for the past 18 months to complete a new look.

Despite some delays to work at the school caused by factors such as rain and changing plans, students at the school will soon benefit from new classrooms and bigger, better buildings.

The new buildings include a practical arts room, also to be used for liturgies and singing practice, administration office, canteen, sports sheds, staff room, principal's office and three new classrooms.

Those buildings will replace the old weather shed and demountables, with three new classrooms for Years 3 and 4 in the quadrangle.

The school's students are also being better protected by a new fence to keep strangers and vandals out.

A new fitness playground is a big hit with all students and a vegetable patch is being cultivated to help the canteen sell healthier food.

Principal Miss Penny Tully said that work at the school had not yet finished.

"We are striving to enhance our technology and make the playground more child-friendly with more shaded areas," Miss Tully said.

"Nearly all of our classrooms have a SmartBoard and will all have one in the future."



Legal drugs hurt too

By MATILDA BARRETT, SARAH KENNEDY, BENJAMIN MOLENAAR and SIENNA THOMAS

THE students of St Patrick's have learned that the use and abuse of drugs is one of the most deadly behaviours known to mankind and that alcohol and cigarettes are also drugs.

Smoking cigarettes in hotels has recently been banned.

Other measures are also being put in place in some towns and cities to

stop people drinking too much alcohol.

When people drink too much alcohol they can get cancer or heart disease.

Alcohol can wreak havoc in the liver, causing vomiting, loss of consciousness, choking and hallucinations.

Each standard drink of beer, wine or spirits contains about 10 grams of alcohol.

Cigarettes contain many toxic chemicals and smoking can cause gangrene, emphysema, cardiovascular disease and many cancers.



LESSON LEARNED: Sarah Kennedy, Matilda Barrett and Sienna Thomas with some of the resources used to educate children about the dangers of drugs. — Picture by Benjamin Molenaar

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