

Primary entry #52: Charlton Christian College



PATH OF DESTRUCTION: Devastation in Carnarvon Gorge National Park.
— Picture by Kelvin Rayner

Disaster leading to great beauty

By FAITH RAYNER

A DISASTROUS flash flood in the middle of a severe drought has resulted in a bloom of beautiful wildlife at Carnarvon Gorge, south of Emerald, in Queensland.

Last February, a 20-metre deep flood came through the gorge, leaving devastation in its pathway. "We found dead animal bodies hanging from trees and bunches of logs all through the gorge that had travelled kilometres from the dam," said ranger Mrs Winafred.

Although the damage caused was great, with plants and wildlife destroyed, nature has already started its own process of reconstruction.

Mrs Winafred said there was a positive side to the flood.

"It has been an example of nature's way of healing itself," she said.

"In fact, not long after the water levels decreased, termites came in colonies, eating away all the excess wood. Echidnas followed the termites and have been finding good homes among the excess wood pushed by the flood.

"Platypuses have also increased in number, finding great homes in small ponds where park visitors can watch them.

"Isn't nature amazing?" Mrs Winafred said. "It has its own mind and restores itself."

Mission of awareness

By EBONY JOBSE,
ANGELA MCKENZIE
and COURTNEY SCHWARZ

AN ordinary Australian family will soon sacrifice comfort and security for a year to help the poor and homeless in Manila.

On December 27, the Snellgrove family, of Marmong Point, will be flying to the Philippines to work with the King Solomon Learning Centre (KSLC).

KSLC is a school that offers education and sponsorship to the poorest of the poor in Manila.

In 2005 the Snellgroves joined a two-week mission awareness trip to the Philippines and in 2006 they spent six weeks over Christmas in Manila.

"The nagging in our hearts just grew," said Cherie Snellgrove, mother of Kristyn and Nicholas and full-time kindergarten teacher. "We saw so many areas that we as a family could make a difference."

During their stay, people in Manila kept telling them: "You must come back for 12 months. You must."

"We said 'we can't, we can't afford it,'" Mrs Snellgrove said.

But even before they got home from their second trip, they felt that God was already preparing their return, David Snellgrove said.

"We don't know how financially



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: The Snellgrove family at the King Solomon Learning Centre in Manila.

we can do this but we just feel it is something we should be doing," Mr Snellgrove said.

"We are going for it and will trust in God. That's all we can do."

During their absence, Mr Snellgrove will close the doors of his own business for a year.

Once in Manila, the Snellgroves will have a busy year ahead of them. Mrs Snellgrove will be train-

ing teachers. She also believes that having a "white" teacher in the school will attract the richer, fee-paying families of Manila.

More money would mean more opportunities to sponsor children, many of whom are now on the streets, she said.

"[They] will get a chance to learn. In essence, they would take a step towards breaking the poverty

cycle," Mrs Snellgrove said.

With the same objective in mind, Mr Snellgrove will be promoting the school among the wealthier to get their support.

"At the moment there is a huge gap between the poor and the rich and we want to help reduce that gap," Mr Snellgrove said. "I am sure we will only scratch the surface but anything can only help."



IN THE FAMILY: Members of the Croatian Singers group Jasmina, Kristina, Miljana and Daniel.

— Picture courtesy of The Croatian Singers

Songs touch hearts through bars

By ZOE PARSONS, JAIME MCGHEE-STOKES, DION MCGOVERN, NAOMI HAMON and KIANA PURU

MEMBERS of a Woodrising family are pouring their hearts out while singing music to the inmates of a Sydney correctional facility.

"Last Saturday, we were singing in the visiting area when everyone went quiet," Miljana Kurtovic said.

"When we finished, they all started clapping."

Miljana's mother Madga, who is the leader of the group, agreed.

"Most prisoners are touched by the songs, as you can see in their faces," Mrs Kurtovic said.

The Croatian Singers was formed three years ago under the leadership of Mrs Kurtovic and includes her four Australian-born child-

ren: Daniel, Jasmina, Kristina and Miljana.

"The main reason [we do it] is that lonely people ought to have some company and we also want to let them know that there is someone who cares and that they are not forgotten," said Miljana.

"I would like to see more prisons opened for us to make contact with those who need visiting," Mrs Kurtovic said.



Save for a brighter future

An Education Savings Account with Newcastle Permanent has no account keeping fees and free deposits, which means your money stays in the account working for you. With the growing cost of education, it's the perfect way to save for a brighter future.

Call today 13 19 87

www.newcastlepermanent.com.au



That's what we're here for.

Good news can be newsworthy, too

Editorial

By **SIMON HICKEY** and **CHRISTOPHER HOOPER**

HAVE you ever realised that much of the news we read, hear, or watch looks at the negative aspects of life?

This is a fact. Just read a newspaper, listen to the radio or watch the news and tally the stories. Observe how many stories are positive, how many are negative and how many are neutral. You will be surprised.

This year Charlton Christian College's primary entry in *The Newcastle Herald's School Newspaper Competition* includes six stories, five of which focus on positive news stories selected by the students.

The Croatian singers article is a fantastic story about four young children who visit jails and sing to the inmates. At a time when most parents would not even think of taking their kids near a jail, the parents of these children are teaching their family lessons of love and compassion.

And what about the Snellgrove family going to the poorest area of Manila in the Philippines to support the work of the King Solomon Learning Centre? For a full year, they are going to trade family, friends, security and their jobs for

a hostile environment – all to help some children get an education and have a better chance in life.

The article about John Newsome is a tribute to a man who believes in following his dreams. From being a music teacher and worship leader at Charlton Christian College he has gone on to become a successful singer/songwriter, has self-produced his first album and still has time to lead the worship team at Macquarie Life Church in Cardiff.

In her article, "Disaster leading to great beauty", Faith Rayner has chosen to focus on the positive consequences – how the damage caused by the flood led to new wildlife in the Carnarvon Gorge National Park.

Finally, the extraordinary accomplishment of a team of dedicated experts who have invented a mining robot that is capable of doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the mines: placing explosives exactly where they need to go.

It would not come as a surprise if, after reading these news stories, people felt wonder and amazement. Some might even feel proud to belong to the same community as people who made the news.

If this is the case, why can't we read, hear and watch more good news?

Perhaps it is time that we all start telling the media that good news is also news.



KNOWS THE DRILL: Orica's robot in action. — Picture courtesy of ORICA Technical Group

Robot makes mining safer

By **DANIEL THEODOULOU** and **EBEN LE ROUX**

IN A world-first event, a team of scientists and engineers from ORICA, CSIRO and a Canadian software company have developed in Kurri Kurri a robot that places explosives underground.

In hard-rock mining, man-operated drills perforate rock and miners insert explosives into the hole.

A robot developed by ORICA's research and development unit in Kurri Kurri, under the management of Booragul's David Randall, takes away the extreme risks associated with this process.

"After locating the existing holes, this machine automatically

assembles detonator and primer, places them at the bottom of the hole and fills it all up with the explosive," Mr Randall said.

"The machine does this in a 360-degree radius and, once stage two of the project is completed, it will be able to be operated from a safe location.

Mr Randall said the machine was essentially a huge, expensive robot.

If the roof fell on the robot it would mean a loss of money, but no-one would be hurt, Mr Randall said, and that was the main thing.

The next challenge for ORICA's technical group in Kurri Kurri is to improve the machine so it also drills the holes before inserting the explosives.

Return of the menace

By **LUKA-MAREE OLESEN**, **EMILY CHARLTON** and **ASHLEA RANDALL**

SEVERAL acts of vandalism have been recently perpetrated at Charlton Christian College, affecting the new computer room and library.

At the beginning of term three, windows on the back of the library were smashed.

A few days later, students found graffiti in the toilets located underneath the library.

"The worst case of vandalism was when the art room windows were smashed," said the school's assistant principal, Alan Feeney.

However, students at Charlton were most upset when the college's illuminated logo appeared with graffiti that read "The Return of the Menace".

"It really upsets teachers and students because the college is almost like their second home and it is being vandalised," Mr Feeney said.

Mr Feeney said the school had spent more than \$1300 this term on repairs to windows, signs and painting.

The acts of vandalism were not unusual, according to the manager of Toronto police station, Sergeant Bruce Boyd.

"A lot of the vandalism we see in schools affects the fencing, but we also see a considerable amount of graffiti and smashed windows," Sergeant Boyd said.

According to Sergeant Boyd, the majority of the suspects were in their early teens.



— Illustration by Christopher Hooper

John's musical path

By **DANIEL BENNETT**

AFTER leaving Charlton Christian College, where he taught music for a number of years, John Newsome went on to become an accomplished singer/songwriter.

In 2006 he co-produced his first album, *Mesmerising*, with Kris Marks from G3 media, and this has been a great success.

Mr Newsome's music is often heard on Rhema FM and three of his songs, *Mesmerising*, *Far Side of the Ocean* and *Lonely Day*,

have been entered in the ABC Newcastle Music Awards.

Mr Newsome wanted to be a singer/songwriter from a very young age.

"Even at the age of 16 I was dreaming about writing songs and recording albums," Mr Newsome said. "I wanted to make a whole lot of songs that talked about love, bravery, wonder, and about living a life that is what God wants us to live."

Mr Newsome is creative director at Macquarie Life Church in Cardiff.



GIFTED: John Newsome – singer and songwriter. — Picture courtesy of John Newsome Music

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

RECORD UP TO 5 HOURS IN FULL HD

JVC The Perfect Experience

HOT new release

1920 X 1080i FULL HD | 3CCD | OPTICAL IMAGE STABILISER

\$2497

JVC EVERIO G FULL HIGH DEFINITION 1080 HARD DRIVE CAMCORDER

World's first full HD camera from JVC, offering the highest quality full HD recording. GZHD7

DOMAYNE **KOTARA**

Domayne stores are operated by independent franchisees. Visit our website - www.domayne.com.au

18 Bradford Close. 4941 3900

Save as...

Save In

\$ credit

\$ savings

\$ cheque

Quit Without Saving?

Advertisement created by Zoe Parsons, of Charlton Christian College.