

Primary entry #53: St John's PS, Lambton



Love One Another

Lambton Laser



Love One Another

St John's Lambton

Celebrating World Youth Day

By **JAMES GRIFFITHS** and **JORDAN VELICH**

LATE in the afternoon of July 23, 2007, students of St John's PS, Lambton, attended the World Youth Day Cross & Icon service at Lambton Park.

Many residents were present despite the cold weather and darkness, and Bishop Michael Malone and Newcastle Lord Mayor John Tate were in attendance.

The event began with a procession of the Cross & Icon by six Blackbutt region Catholic primary schools and one secondary school. Each school presented a segment.

St John's segment was about symbols of the Catholic region. The 15 students representing St John's PS put together speeches and made a banner.

Sascha Burgess, the World Youth Day Blackbutt regional co-ordinator, visited St John's.

"You were great performers," she told the students.

To commemorate this event, a plaque and native shrub were presented to the school.

The World Youth Day Cross & Icon arrived in Australia on July 1 and are currently making their journey around Australia.

An Indigenous Message Stick is accompanying the Cross & Icon in Australia. The Message

Stick is an invitation to the indigenous youth of Australia to come to World Youth Day, which will be held in Sydney from July 15 to 20, 2008.

World Youth Day is the largest youth event in the world. Its 3.8 metre high wooden Cross is a significant symbol of the Catholic faith.

Pope John Paul II saw World Youth Day as a way to reach out to the next generation of Catholics, to rejuvenate the Church and to provide a moving and sanctifying pilgrimage in faith.

According to the World Youth Day website, the first World Youth Day was held in Rome in 1986 on Palm Sunday.

Each year since, World Youth Day has been celebrated at a Diocesan level on Palm Sunday. Each two or three years there is a massive international gathering with a different host city.

At the most recent World Youth Day in 2005 in Cologne, 1.2 million people attended the final mass. It is hoped that a similar number of people will attend next year's World Youth Day in Sydney.

KEEPSAKE: Right, St John's PS principal Liz Latham standing beside the World Youth Day tree, with the school's commemorative plaque.



SAFE: The new fence keeps vandals out and members of the school community in.

— Picture by Jessica Chapman and Jock Sharman

Fencing and cameras bring security

By **LACHLAN BLACKFORD** and **JACK SWINBURN**

IN the past, vandalism was a problem at St John's PS, Lambton. On weekends, vandals would come into the school. Graffiti, broken windows and wet toilet paper all over the roof of the toilets and walls of the school became commonplace.

The worst thing the school experienced was when vandals broke into two classrooms and ruined items from students' and teachers' desks.

They painted swear words on the walls and threw paint everywhere.

Now, the school has installed security cameras to catch vandals. If they come near the school, their photos will be caught on tape.

There is also a new fence around the school, which is keeping most vandals out.

Staff and students at the school are happy with the new security cameras and fencing. They would not be happy if vandals got into the new building, which is now being erected, and trashed it.

If anybody sees anyone suspicious around St John's PS, Lambton, please notify the police.



CENTRE OF FUN: Is this familiar site about to change?

— Picture by Jessica Chapman and Jock Sharman

Super-special swimming spot

By **SARAH DODDS, EMILIE HALL** and **LORELEI BATES**

LAMBTON pool is located at Durham Road, Lambton and has been part of community life since 1963.

It is a popular sporting and leisure arena for people of all ages.

It also attracts many schools for their swimming carnivals during the year.

The centre has a large

diving tower, a learners' pool, a toddlers' pool, a 50 metre pool and a 100 metre giant water slide.

While the pool is heated, it was closed during winter and re-opened on Saturday, August 18.

Professional lifeguards are on duty and safe practices are encouraged.

"At the moment there are three permanent workers and three casual workers

employed at Lambton Pool," said a spokesperson for Lambton Pool.

"But the threatened closure of Mayfield Pool and the likelihood that Lambton Pool may become an aquatic centre means more staff will probably be needed because even more people will come through the gates.

"Last year a massive 170,600 people visited Lambton Pool."

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School security

Editorial

By JORDAN VELICH

OVER the years, St John's Primary School, Lambton, has experienced extensive vandalism.

So, at the start of 2007, builders from North Construction and Building Pty Ltd were told by the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese's Catholic Schools Office to install security cameras and large fences to stop vandalism in the school.

The *Laser* believes it was very necessary to install these items. They have proved to be very successful.

Since the fences and cameras have been installed the vandals haven't been back and no damage has been done to the new building.

It is also rather sad, as it is an indictment against the society of the 21st century.

The *Laser* strongly believes that the Catholic Schools Office made a wise choice in deciding to install security measures at all its major city schools.

The *Laser* also thinks that it is quite sad that schools have to lock up on weekends in fear of vandalism.

With the new security systems in place, acts of vandalism at St John's have stopped. There is no more unnecessary damage or time wasted cleaning up the mess

of irresponsible vandals.

Previously, students didn't have to spend time cleaning up acts of vandalism, but staff dedicated their time to doing so. This took them away from time spent preparing student lessons.

During the last Christmas holidays, vandals inflicted the worst damage ever at St John's.

Two classrooms were extensively damaged. The year 3/4 classrooms had paint spill all over the walls and floors. Furniture was wrecked and CD players, books and teachers' personal items were also badly damaged.

The vandals also took the safe from OOSH, but luckily there was no money in it.

The shade cloth over the lunch tables was damaged and has now been replaced.

Students spend a lot of time preparing work and displaying it in their classrooms. Then some senseless people came along and wrecked it.

Vandals also graffiti swear words on the walls and this is completely wrong for people, especially children, to see.

All of this, needless to say, costs lots of money to fix, and causes lots of stress for the school.

Security makes the school a safer place to be in, even though it might make it look like a prison.

The *Laser* believes, if that's what is needed these days, then that is what has to happen.

Let's hope it doesn't get worse - for the children's sake.



WORK IN PROGRESS: Greg Procter, construction supervisor, stands in front of the new building at St John's PS, Lambton.

— Picture by Jessica Chapman and Jock Sharman

Massive changes almost complete

By KYLE DARE and WILL FAGAN

SINCE March, 2007, St John's PS, Lambton has been undergoing massive changes, with the refurbishment of the school's administration area and construction of a new brick two-storey building comprising three new classrooms, a much larger library, a withdrawal room, two general storage spaces and a sports shed.

This new building is being attached to the present building via a walkway.

The designers of the building are GHD Pty Ltd. North Construction and Building Pty Ltd are the builders.

So far, more than 98 tradespeople

have been working on the building, with workers from more than a dozen trades required. These have included carpenters, brick layers, cement layers, electricians, painters and plumbers.

The workers have laid more than 45000 bricks and around 80 cubic metres of cement have been poured.

The refurbishment of the administration area took place across a five-week period and is now almost completed.

In the middle of August, scaffolding was removed and work inside the building begun.

All at St John's are looking forward to a state-of-the-art school, built and planned for future generations who will attend the school.

Inter-school debating competition

By JESSICA CHAPMAN and SAMUEL TARASENKO

ST John's PS, Lambton participated in the 2007 inter-school debating competition against other primary schools in the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Diocese.

Well-known orator Les Chanter coached the student debaters.

Each school debated against schools in the same cluster. One hour of preparation time was given before each debate and an impartial volunteer was the adjudicator.

The competition began on June 4 with an introductory practise session. All debates

'Topics included: "Living in the city is better than living in the country" and "Winning is everything".'

were held at St Therese's PS, New Lambton.

Topics included: "Living in the city is better than living in the country" and "Winning is everything" .

In the final debate, students from St Joseph's PS, Merewether successfully argued: "All students should learn to play a musical instrument."



— Illustration by Samuel Tarasenko and Jack Curtis

From then until now

By CAITLIN FOSTER and MACFARLANE AMEY

LAMBTON contains many historic establishments, such as the Lambton Park rotunda and the former Lambton post office.

Many of today's very busy streets are named after early inhabitants of the area.

According to G. R. Hub-buck, who wrote *Glimpses into life in a Colliery Township*, Lambton began in 1860 as a mining area. This explains the miners' cottages that still exist.

A valuable copper and coal property, Lambton was leased to mining engineer Thomas Croudace in 1861.

Mr Croudace established and operated a mine on the site. Later he was directed to another property, acquired by Morehead and Young.

Newcastle Road was previously named Young Street. Other streets in the area were named after James De Vitre and Charles Kendall, of the Scottish Australian mining company.



MEMORIES: One of the last mining cottages in Lambton. — Picture by Jessica Chapman and Jock Sharman

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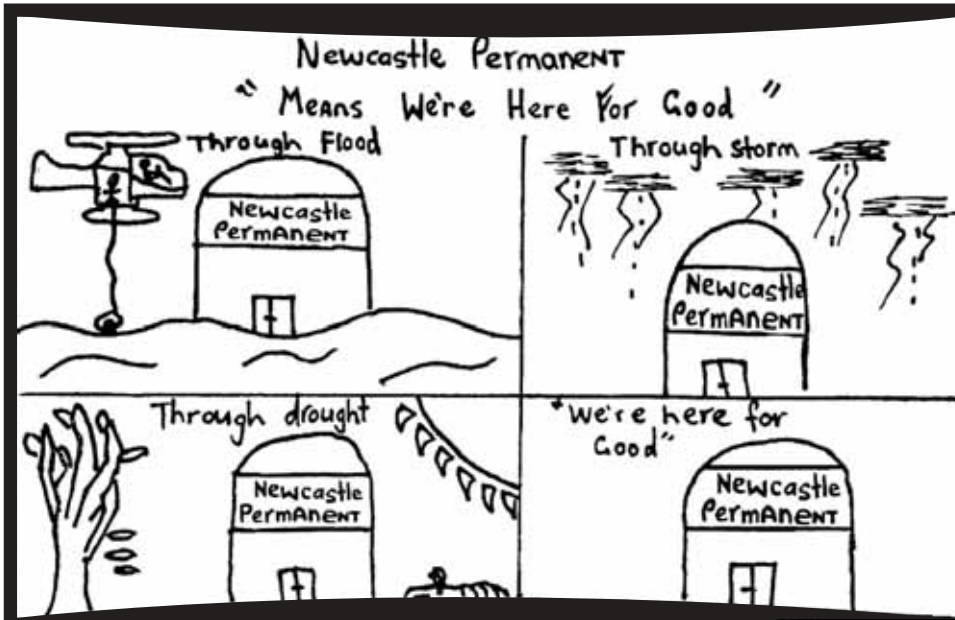
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