

Primary entry #15: St Patrick's PS, East Gosford



# The Shamrock



**WELCOME:** Father Robert Masternak, the newest parish priest at St Patrick's, East Gosford.

## Q & A with Father Robert

By HANNAH BURRELL, LAURA SCURRY, JASON JOHNSON and GABE CONWAY

**FATHER** Robert Masternak is the newest parish priest at St Patrick's, East Gosford. *The Shamrock* asked him some questions.

**Q: Where were you born?**

**A:** I was born in Poland.

**Q: What do you like about Australia?**

**A:** It is a very peaceful country, with very friendly and helpful people.

**Q: What don't you like about Australia?**

**A:** The hot weather and humidity.

**Q: How long have you been in Australia for?**

**A:** Two years.

**Q: What do you like about Poland?**

**A:** There are a lot of beautiful places and the people are very open to visitors.

**Q: What sports do you like playing?**

**A:** Soccer, table tennis and rock climbing.

**Q: What do you like about them?**

**A:** I like a competition, exercise and the challenge.

**Q: What made you become a priest?**

**A:** This is a very difficult question but I believe this is my vocation.

**Q: What do you like about being a priest?**

**A:** I like talking with people. But I also enjoy teaching about our faith, working with children and celebrating mass.

**Q: How long have you been a priest for?**

**A:** Nine years.

# Students rocking on

By LUKE MOORE, ERICA FARDY, ERIN JAMES and ELIZA AZZOPARDI

CLASSIC Australian rock songs feature in the music lessons being undertaken by students in years 3 to 6 at St Patrick's PS, East Gosford.

The students have been learning about musical concepts by listening, performing and moving to songs written by The Screaming Jets and Eskimo Joe.

"It might be loud but the children have really enjoyed learning about how some classic Australian rock songs have been constructed and they have also enjoyed working with technology that enables them to create music," said St Patrick's teacher John Hession.

As part of the students' musical learning they deconstructed songs in terms of pitch, volume, tempo, beat, rhythm and song format.

Working in pairs or small groups, the students used a software package called Sony Jam Trax to create and publish their own musical pieces.

"The easiest part about using Jam Trax has been painting on the soundscape," said year 6 student Eliza Azzopardi.

Once the pieces are completed they are posted on the internet and students are able to share their work with their parents and friends.

The students at St Patrick's had a lot of positive things to say about their Jam Trax experience.

"It has been a great musical experience," said year 6 student Alex Vickery.



**LEARNING LOUD:** Luke Moore and Erica Fardy exploring music with the Jam Trax program.

"You get to learn more about music and the instruments used," said Sam Keene, of year 5.

"Jam Trax is the easiest way to make up your own music," said year 5's Catherine Bauer.

The positive experience was shared by the

younger students involved in the innovative musical program.

"I like everything about Jam Trax and the instruments that I like are the guitar and drums," said year 3 student Jonah Meggs.



**GREEN DAY:** Students prepare to celebrate their school's patron saint, St Patrick, with students at Somersby.

## Celebrating St Patrick

By LAURA PAAVOLA

FACE painting, a sausage sizzle, food stalls and a lucky dip formed part of the St Patrick's Day celebrations at Somersby on March 16.

Students from St Patrick's PS, East Gosford, travelled to St Francis Assisi, at Somersby, to honour the life of their school patron, St Patrick.

To show their appreciation of and respect for St Patrick, students wore green. This symbolised the shamrock and Christianity.

"We went to Somersby by bus and it was an exciting trip," said student Laura Paavola.

"We saw lots of farms and I loved

talking to my friends on the way."

Students said the stalls were fun and had been enjoyed by everyone.

"We saw all the activities, including face painting, hair spraying, ice cream and food stalls, and lucky dips," Laura said.

"I'm sure that the whole school - staff, students and parents - enjoyed it immensely."

After the activities, mass was held by Father Robert. The mass reflected the gathered students' religious culture and the values they hoped to fulfil during their journey through life.

After mass, students and staff were provided with a sausage sizzle.

"It was yummy," Laura said.



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# Part of the solution to global warming

## Editorial

By MORGAN FUTTER

THE term global warming describes the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near-surface air and oceans in recent decades and its projected continuation.

Global warming is our fault. We are the cause of the world's significant climate change, so now we've got to be part of the solution.

A lot of people think that global warming is something that could happen but probably won't. That's not true - it became a threat more than 50 years ago.

We as Australians are part of the cause. So, despite the fact we are in the middle of a drought, we have to do our best to be energy-efficient.

How many animals will become extinct if we don't do something about global warming? Many.

And, as sad as it is, it just might be too late for the beloved polar bears. Climate change is threatening polar bears with starvation by shortening their hunting season, and, with the polar ice caps melting, polar bears are struggling to find somewhere to stand.

As a result, many polar bears have died, either by drowning or from starvation.

Polar bears aren't the only victims of global warming. Prob-

ably the greatest threat humans face is the melting of the polar ice caps and the rise in sea level.

Unless greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, temperatures could rise another three to nine degrees by the end of this century. Sea levels will rise, flooding coastal areas. Heat waves will become more frequent and more intense; droughts and wildfires will occur more often and disease-carrying mosquitoes will expand their ranges.

Again, this is our fault. The ecosystem is out of balance due to climate change. This means that many insects, such as pine beetles, live their lives in tune with the climate. Birds that feed on insects don't live in tune with the climate, they live at their own pace.

Now that in some places insects aren't being hunted down as vigorously, the plants, trees and crops that the insects feed on are slowly being depleted.

So, what are you going to do about global warming? Here are a few tips:

- Ride your bike instead of your car.

- When you walk past some rubbish, don't think someone else will pick it up. Do it yourself.

- Turn off power sources when you are not using them.

To fix the mess we've created, we all have to play a part in creating a solution to global warming.

This is our fault.



GOING NATIVE: Students listen to the story of Fantastic Mr Fox.

# Strickland State Forest

By SARAH WADICK, CLAUDIA BENNETT, ELIZA AZZOPARDI and ALEX HARTZ

A HECTIC but fun day was had by students and teachers from St Patrick's PS, East Gosford, when they visited the Strickland State Forest, on the Central Coast.

Year 6 students and teachers Miss Cass and Mrs Dell travelled by bus to the forest, located between Somersby and Narara, on March 23.

During their visit, the group was assisted by two tour guides.

"When we got there we had an introduction which went for around 20 minutes," student Sarah Wadick said. "Then we were split up into two groups."

Student Claudia Bennett said that

each group took a different track during their forest walk.

"As we walked deeper into the forest the temperature rose in various places," Claudia said.

Both tracks took students past a range of trees, plants and animals.

After a while the groups sat down to eat lunch.

"One group ate at a leech-infested carpark while the other group ate at a leech-infested river," said student Eliza Azzopardi.

After lunch the groups took a second walk, during which they met at either side of a wooden bridge over the Stony River. They then headed back to the bus.

"On the way to school the leeches were on the bus with us," said Alex Hartz.

# Young leaders' day out

By NICHOLAS IVERACH, JARROD THOMPSON and SARAH MacDONALD

ON March 6, 2007, six children from St Patrick's PS, East Gosford, went to the Acer Arena in Homebush for Young Leaders' Day.

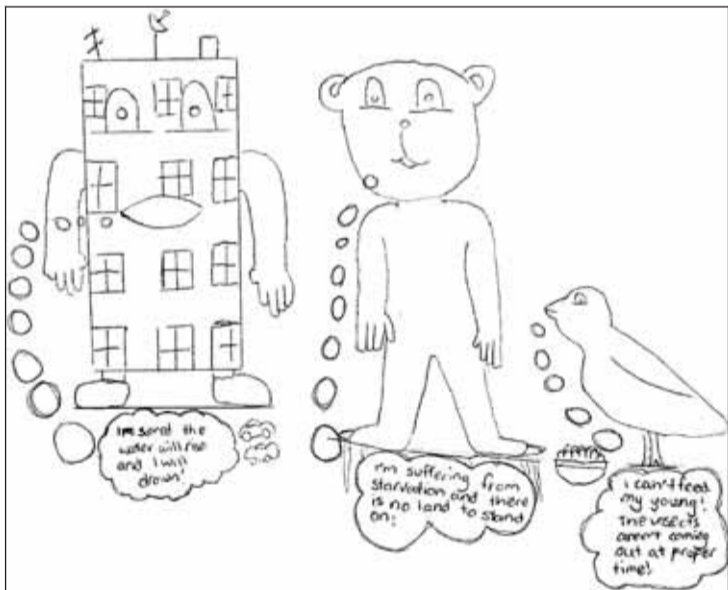
At Acer Arena the students listened to speeches by journalist Mike Munro, Paralympic athlete Katrina Webb, author Matthew Reilly and players from the Sydney Swans.

The speakers gave the assembled students advice on how to become good leaders.

The first person to present a speech was journalist Mike Munro. During his speech, Mr Munro talked about his childhood and how that had affected his life. He gave the students advice about how they could change their lives and become better leaders.

The next speaker was Paralympic medal-winning athlete Katrina Webb, who has cerebral palsy. Ms Webb spoke about how her disability had affected her life.

The third speaker of the day was author Matthew Reilly, who shared with students an inspirational quote from *Rocky Balboa*: "Life isn't about how hard you hit, it's about how hard you get hit and how fast you get back up."



— Illustration by Ben Poole

# Fun day for year 6

By JUSTIN ZWAN, GRACE HUTCHINSON and KATIE KELLY

STUDENTS from St Patrick's PS, East Gosford, recently enjoyed ten-pin bowling as part of the school's fun day activities.

The students' day began with morning tea on the waterfront at Gosford followed by a bus ride to the bowling alley.

"When we got there we had to get into groups," said Justin Zwan. "Then we played one game soon after that we had a little

break, if we wanted to we could go to the candy bar."

Student Grace Hutchinson said there was some excitement during bowling.

"When the break was over, a girl was about to bowl and she threw the bowling ball backwards," Grace said.

After their second game, students had a dance before catching the bus back to the waterfront for soccer and football.

"It was a lot of fun," said student Katie Kelly. "We got to do what we wanted to and we had a blast."



HAVING A BALL: Students at the bowling alley.

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