

Primary entry 21: Sandy Hollow PS



# The Integrity

A Sandy Hollow Public School Publication



**WATER WALL:** A Sandy Hollow student unleashing the fire hose.

## Fire brigade gets out and about

By **KIMBERLEY COTTER**

IN early April, firefighters from the Sandy Hollow Rural Fire Brigade visited Sandy Hollow PS to discuss fire with students.

The firefighters explained the dangers of fires and told children what to do if they were ever caught in a fire. Students learnt important messages, such as: "Get down low and go, go, go", and also had a lot of fun.

"I liked spraying the hose," said year 5 student Brendon Parker. "I tried to soak the teacher."

Students from kindergarten to year 2 discussed good toys and bad toys and identified that items such as matches and lighters were not safe and not to be played with.

Year one student Zac got to try on a firefighter's uniform and several students practised how to call 000 in an emergency.

Primary students watched a demonstration model of a fire taking place inside a house before they practised with the fire hose.

School principal Caroline Saunders said her students learnt a lot on the day.

"It was the perfect opportunity to have a fire drill at school and find out if students have a fire emergency plan at home," Ms Saunders said.

"I learnt a lot," said year 4 student Georgia Merrick. "Everyone should have a plan in place but can depend on the fire brigade in an emergency."

# Rain a welcome relief

By **DANIEL JONES**

A WELCOME 28 millimetres of rain was recorded in Sandy Hollow on Thursday, May 17.

The rain topped up tanks and since the fall farmers have been seen ploughing up paddocks and planting seed. Around town, the lawnmowers have also come out.

There are other happenings afoot, with the Sandy Hollow Progress Association meeting with Muswellbrook Shire Council's Mayor, John Colvin, and general manager, Steve McDonald, for updates and plans of action.

"A park for the village has been allowed for in the management plan for the year 2010 but we hope it comes sooner," said Sandy Hollow resident Alice Jones.

Sandy Hollow Progress Association and Sandy Hollow PS recently combined their efforts and held a successful trivia night. Eight teams competed and raised more than \$1000 for the community. First place on the night went to the team from the Camel Hill Gun Club.

Many Sandy Hollow businesses are also expanding.

"We've put in new motel units, with king-size beds and cooking facilities, and we are also in the process of setting up a café/restaurant serving up home-cooked meals," said Noel Shearan of the Sandy Hollow Tourist Park.

Tourists and locals both make use of the Sandy Hollow Service Station, which incorporates a post office and a general store.

The Sandy Hollow Art Gallery serves morning and afternoon tea and light lunches and has artwork on display and for sale.

The town also has the Tourist Hotel, which features a pool-table room and a bistro; lots of wineries offering tastings; and several horse studs such as Widden and Baerami.

"There is a growing population at the school," said principal Caroline Saunders. "The 45 students have wonderful facilities including a large oval, a tennis court, two classrooms and a well-resourced library."



**HOME-TOWN HEROES:** From left, Sandy Hollow school captain Blake Ellis, sports captain Jesse Woodward, Jake Hutchison, Blake Cooper, Chloe Moxey and Thomas Chambers stand proud on their home turf.



**MAINTENANCE:** Piles of gravel along Flags Road.

## Residents call for council action

By **KYNOMIE JUDGE**

RESIDENTS say the Upper Hunter Shire Council has ignored complaints Flags Road, Gungah, but council says maintenance to the road has been undertaken in line with general policy.

Robert and Caroline Saunders have written letters of complaint to council about a 2.5 kilometre section of corrugated gravel on Flags Road.

They have asked why a federally funded Roads to

Recovery sign has been erected and piles of gravel lay waiting ready for resurfacing of the road.

Upper Hunter Shire Council's director of technical services, Bede Spannangle, says council's policy is not to seal currently unsealed roads.

The council area took in 2000 kilometres of unsealed roads and maintenance was carried out on an as-needs basis, taking into account priorities such as traffic and bus runs, he said.

Mr Saunders believes this

maintenance is not enough.

"The twice yearly grading does no more than remove the corrugations for a few weeks," said Mr Saunders. "The road is an accident waiting to happen and something should be done."

The road's surface has also placed the area's mail delivery under threat.

"The road is so bumpy that I will no longer be able to do the mail run because my car has started to rattle apart," said the area's mail delivery person, Alison Baker.



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# Children at risk in school zones

## Editorial

By **KIMBERLEY COTTER, KYNOMIE JUDGE, DANIEL JONES, GEORGIA MERRICK and LEAH WRIGHT**

IN SPITE of regulation speed zones and signs, much of the passing traffic on the busy Golden Highway outside Sandy Hollow PS does not slow down.

The area is increasingly used by heavy vehicles and tourist traffic.

During March and April a Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) speed trailer was placed outside the school zone from 8am until 4.30pm each school day.

A laser radar detected the speed of each vehicle as it made its way from the 100 kmh zone through to the 40 kmh (or 60 kmh) speed zone.

A flashing sign indicated the driver's speed and a "too fast", "slow down" or "thank you" message as appropriate.

The local Progress Association and the school received the data recorded and results indicated that in most cases, the flashing screen alerted the drivers to an otherwise ignored speed zone.

Many vehicles were travelling well over 100 kmh on their approach to the school zone, which would suggest little chance of slowing to the correct speed in the 40 kmh zone.

Locals know that many vehicles

do not slow down to 60 kmh, let alone 40 kmh in school zone times. They will be asking the police to come down more often to book speeding drivers, asking the RTA to place more visible signs for the school zone and appealing to drivers to slow down.

The fear is that drivers may cause crashes near schools and harm children crossing the road to and from school.

Drivers are ignoring a lot of signs. They may be eating, talking on mobile phones, smoking or tired. The general traffic driving past Sandy Hollow PS, unaware that children are crossing, appears too "busy" to pay attention.

The risk is that a driver might take a child's life one day.

Since the data has come in, the 60 kmh sign has been moved further away from the school to warn drivers to slow down much sooner. This is a small step in the community's effort to get some real action to make the highway safer for locals.

There maybe a small population in Sandy Hollow, but each person fits into its history and means the world to others in the community.

A life lost would be a terrible tragedy, especially if the prevention had been as easy as slowing down and being aware of children.

Flashing lights and a greater police presence are needed, and the Sandy Hollow community will fight on until it has some action.



COMPLEX ISSUE: The proposed Anvil Hill mine site.

# Anvil Hill a complex issue

By **KIMBERLEY COTTER, KYNOMIE JUDGE, DANIEL JONES, GEORGIA MERRICK and LEAH WRIGHT**

THE proposed Anvil Hill mine has divided the Sandy Hollow community, with residents acknowledging both positives and negatives associated with the development.

Some hope that the mine will bring new jobs to the area and produce cleaner coal, while others are concerned about the potential impact of the mine.

Sandy Hollow student Kynomie Judge is concerned about pollution in the area and residents' properties being affected by the mine's location, but acknowledges job opportunities will be created.

"The mine will lead to pollution in the water and in the air but, on the other hand, it will be a great opportunity for new jobs in the area," Miss Judge said. "There might be some good reasons for the mine but the thought of friends and family losing their homes gets us down."

The general manager of Centennial Coal's Anvil Hill project, Joe Clayton, is sure the mine will bring benefits.

"If the NSW Government approves the Anvil Hill mine, we will demonstrate our genuine commitment to minimising our environmental impact, and work with Sandy Hollow and the broader community to promote local employment opportunities, community benefits and deliver long-term economic growth to the area," he said.

# Pittman Cup preparation

By **GEORGIA MERRICK**

ATHLETES from three small Upper Hunter schools will contest one of the region's oldest athletics carnivals in June when they meet for the Pittman Cup.

The Pittman Cup originally involved around 10 small schools but many of these schools have now closed and in 2007 only Sandy Hollow, Martindale and Cassilis public schools will participate.

Organisers are expecting approximately 70 children to attend on the day to compete in track and field events and ball games such as corner spry, captain ball and tunnel ball.

Despite strong performances in recent years from the students of Sandy Hollow, they have been unable to wrestle the cup away from Martindale.

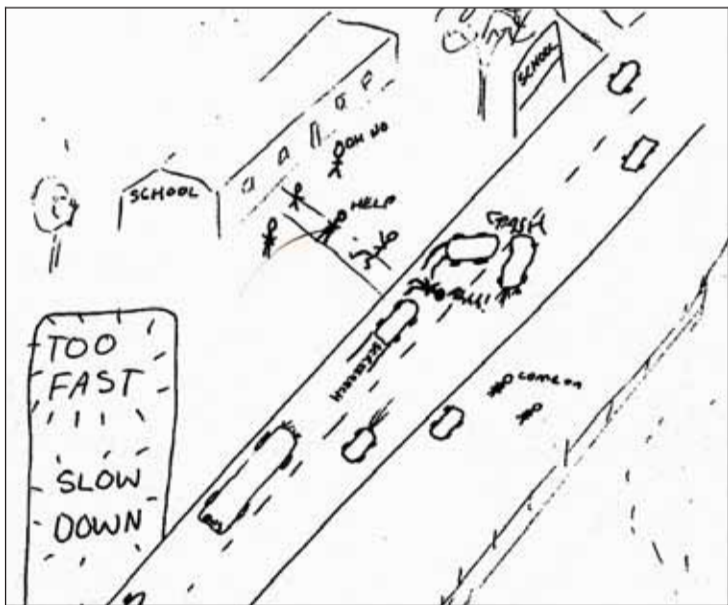
Sandy Hollow teachers and parents are helping the students to train hard with the introduction of athletics program for sport.

The former principal of Martindale PS, Mrs Caroline Saunders, is this year, the new principal at Sandy Hollow.

"I have some insider knowledge of the Martindale students and it's going to take a great deal of effort to take the Cup - but with good training we might just do it," she said.

School captain Kynomie Judge will compete in her seventh and final Pittman Cup this year.

"It's great to be able to join together with kids from other small schools and participate in such an enjoyable day."



# Sandy Hollow wins Cross Country Shield

By **KIMBERLEY COTTER, KYNOMIE JUDGE, DANIEL JONES, GEORGIA MERRICK and LEAH WRIGHT**

RAIN and cold conditions couldn't deter runners at this year's Cassilis Combined Schools Cross Country Carnival.

The event involved several schools of different sizes at Cassilis on April 27, 2007.

Spirits were high as students cheered in support of their classmates.

Students were covered

in mud as they ran the course, many finishing with the clay soil sticking to the soles of shoes like high heels.

In the end, points from all schools were checked against each school's enrolment figure. Sandy Hollow took home the shield.

Seven Sandy Hollow students then went on to compete at the zone carnival.

Blake Ellis achieved second place at zone and earned selection in the regional team.



WET TRACK: Students competed against the conditions and each other during the cross-country event.

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