

Primary entry #60: St Benedict's Primary Edgeworth



# ST BENNIES BEACON



Students Charlotte Bradley, Riley Thomas and Angelina Joyce enjoying Crazy Hair Day.  
Picture: Jessica Rowe

## Sugarloaf parish lets its hair down

By JOSEPHINE BRACKEN  
and JESSICA ROWE

On June 19, St Benedict's Primary School went wild for Crazy Hair Day and students went to school wearing wigs, coloured hair spray and even wire in their hair to help create outrageous hairstyles.

Students made a gold coin donation to participate as well as purchasing baked goodies, which included biscuits and cupcakes baked by the senior students, all in an effort to raise money for the Ba Rau-Loi Hai School in Vietnam.

St. Benedict's have a very close bond with Vietnam as they have Vietnamese Sisters working within the Sugarloaf Parish.

One of the Sisters, Sister Lucie assists with fundraisers by making Vietnamese foods and crafts.

Before arriving here, Sister Lucie didn't even know Australia existed and now, after being in Australia for over six years she loves it.

Sister Lucie loves working at St Benedict's because of how nice the students and teachers are to her; she feels like she is at home.

Sister Lucie has seen for herself what an impact the fundraising at St Benedict's makes for the underprivileged children and families in Vietnam – children are given the opportunity to have an education.

Crazy Hair Day was a lot of fun as profits soared close to \$600 and everyone agreed that it was a huge success.

By LAUREN WILMEN

ARTIFICIAL reefs have been helping to increase the population of fish and other creatures in our lake for over 10 years.

Lake Macquarie is home to six artificial reefs that are scattered amongst various points with the closest being 200 metres off-shore and the furthest being one kilometre off-shore.

The artificial reefs have been placed in Lake Macquarie due to the large desert-like areas within it to enhance the recreational fishing opportunities for local fishermen.

The reefs are created using modules or reef balls that have been clustered together.

Local NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries Officer from Swansea, Ben Audet said, "The modules or reef balls are made up of special environmentally friendly concrete called 'micro silica' which allows the marine organisms to grow safely".

The first modules were manufactured by a concrete company in Western Sydney and deployed in the lake by NSW DPI Fisheries in 2005.

These specialised modules can measure anywhere from 30-centimetres up to one metre in width, can weigh up to a tonne and have a life span of about 30 years, however they are expected to last



NSW Fisheries Officer Ben Audet with one of the Fish Aggregating Devices.  
Picture: Madeline Sheather

is not granted people are in danger of committing a littering offence".

In addition to the creation of artificial reefs, NSW DPI Fisheries also place Fish Aggregating Devices (FADS) in strategic off-shore areas as a further effort to attract certain species of fish into specific areas. As the FADS are placed at or just below the surface of the

water, NSW DPI Fisheries may remove them for maintenance during the months when whales are migrating.

At this stage there are no future plans to deploy any additional artificial reefs in Lake Macquarie.

Mr McNamara has stated that, "the project has been very successful, making recreational fisherman very happy".

much longer. Additional waterways including Botany Bay, St Georges Basin, Lake Conjola and the Bellinger River on the Mid-North Coast also have artificial reefs.

Mr Audet also reports that the artificial reefs have had a great and positive impact on tourism which may benefit Lake Macquarie's economy.

Artificial reefs are funded by the

fees collected from recreational fishing licences and are a component of the Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Program.

The state program manager of the artificial reef project, Nathan McNamara said, "Before a module can be deployed, NSW Fisheries require approval from the local Council, Crown Lands and the Environmental Agency. If approval

## Spanners are flying at the Lake

By JESSICA DARR

LOCAL artist and business owner Rebecca Murray has a lot of talent and now operates a café from her Teralba Art Gallery and Studio – Flying Spanners – alongside her husband and sculptor, Grahame Wilson.

From the moment you walk through the front doors you are welcomed by the aroma of coffee, artwork and

friendly owners. Rebecca is well-known within the St Benedict's school community for the amazing murals that she has created around the school grounds; she likes to look at and appreciate the natural world and then paint it in many different perspectives.

Having worked for 25 years as a contracting artist, Ms Murray has travelled Australia sharing her talent and has

been the recipient of many awards including the Jimmy Cook Memorial prize for Excellence in Drawing in 1988, the Le Gay Brereton Drawing prize in 1989 and recently the South Australia Jamestown Muralfest, 2013.

Rebecca also works in partnership with her long-time friend, Patricia Smart. The Becsmart team design and create both interior and exterior frescoes.



Rebecca Murray at the home of the Flying Spanners.  
Picture: Jack Cherniayeff

Funding applications close  
16 October 2015



Noah Quinn (Technical Aid to the Disabled)

## Need funding for a Community Project?

Each year, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation provides more than \$1.5 million in grants to eligible not-for-profit organisations in communities across regional NSW, including the Hunter. The Foundation offers grants for projects and initiatives which address disadvantage in the areas of health, social wellbeing and marginalised or vulnerable young people.

To date, the Foundation has provided over \$14 million in grants for more than 350 important community projects. Applications for this round of funding close 16 October with grants announced in February 2016.

To apply for a grant or for more information  
visit [charitablefoundation.com.au](http://charitablefoundation.com.au)  
or call 13 19 87.

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