

Primary entry #57: St Brigid's Primary School, Raymond Terrace

**ST BRIGID'S BUGLE**

St Brigid's Primary students with their sunflower seedlings.

**Children are the future of our planet**By **MARIA CODY**

IN August, St Brigid's Primary School participated in environment week, an extraordinary week of environmental events that is hoped to become an annual activity.

On the Monday students could come to school in environmental colours. Some of the most popular colours the students wore were blue, green and pink. This helped raise awareness in both the school and local community on the importance of environmental issues.

On Tuesday the inaugural Soup Day was held. Students ordered pumpkin soup made from pumpkins grown in the school's very own vegie patch. Afterwards, Mr Morrow, the pastoral care worker and garden supervisor, helped the students plant sunflower seeds in the used cups.

The students enjoyed participating in the activity with Jack stating "the soup was delicious and I can't wait to see my sunflower!"

Two officers from Port Stephens Council came to St Brigid's hall on Wednesday educating students about the waste management processes of the local council, hoping "the children take the knowledge home and educate their families on what can be recycled."

On Thursday the school participated in Earth Hour, with the school turning off the power for an hour and heading outside to learn.

By **SOPHIE RODNEY**

JOSIE Boyd, a year 4 student at St Brigid's Primary School has become a celebrity in her own right after starring on the hit Channel 10 television show *The Great Australian Spelling Bee*.

Josie applied to go on *The Great Australian Spelling Bee* program earlier this year.

Before applying Josie realised that she had the ability to spell very difficult words.

She said "At first I didn't want to go on the TV show but Dad convinced me to give it a go."

It took many rounds of spelling and interviews to be shortlisted for the program.

Eventually Josie made it into the top 52 contestants and started taping the show.

She said there were many ups and downs while taping.

"Some of my very closest friends went home, this made me sad," she said.

Josie made it through into the elimination rounds showing compassion for her fellow contestants and spelling very difficult words to

the best of her ability.

Although she did not go on to win the first-ever Great Australian Spelling Bee title she has inspired a new generation of spellers.

"I want to be just like Josie, I practice spelling new words every night," said student Jack.

"I read the dictionary to learn how to spell new and harder words," said Saxon.

Josie's teachers are also very proud of her achievements, with Jacqueline Wilkinson saying "This is an incredible achievement and we are all very proud and excited."

The show wrapped up on September 8, with Anirudh, aged 9, from Victoria becoming the overall winner.

Although Josie did not win the first ever Great Australian Spelling Bee she certainly did win our hearts.

**Josie Boyd, a student at St Brigid's Primary School Raymond Terrace has spelt her way to stardom on *The Great Australian Spelling Bee*.**



Raymond Terrace Courthouse has re-opened after a six-month upgrade.

**Courthouse refurbishment done**By **HARRY McKECHNIE**

THIS week marks a month since the Raymond Terrace Courthouse was re-opened after its \$1 million upgrade.

The Courthouse, which was first erected in the 1840s, had its first major refurbishment in a decade earlier this year.

It was closed for just over six months. During this time court proceedings were

moved to the East Maitland Courthouse.

The refurbishments have made the Courthouse more accessible and safer for the community. They have allowed people with disabilities, mothers with prams and the legal profession easier access to the courthouse. The improvements have also provided a new safe room for vulnerable witnesses to use.

The Parliamentary Secret-

ary for the Hunter, Scot MacDonald, said recently that the safe room was important because it would help in "...greatly reducing the stress and trauma caused of the court process" for the most vulnerable members of the community.

The new safe room will also be used for mediations by the Community Justice Centre when it is not being utilised by vulnerable witnesses.

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