



Cartoon: Jacob Napier

Raymond Terrace park: is it doomed

EDITORIAL

By **BRIANNA JENNINGS** and **KEIRA GOOD**

RAYMOND Terrace's biggest and most loved park is being logged and turned into houses.

Boomerang Park covers 50 acres and is situated opposite St Brigid's School in the heart of Raymond Terrace.

The park is used for variety of recreational activities including kindergarten picnics and after school care.

The construction of the buildings is expected to take three years. Not only is there going to be noise and air pollution, but the destruction of animal homes will lead to the displacement of whole communities of animals. Where will they live? In your backyard, in your roof?

The old soccer fields are at the end of the park are utilised by the community's children on a daily basis.

After this park goes what other park is there to relax and enjoy the fresh air in?

Boomerang Park has been around since the establishment of Raymond Terrace.

During construction roads will be blocked off.

These closures will make accessing St Brigid's Primary School difficult if not impossible

for some.

It will adversely affect St Brigid's throughout the timetable construction period.

Public transport such as buses and taxis will also be disrupted because of blocked roads.

Resident Anna Hughes has three children, one of which attends St Brigid's Primary School.

"I am disappointed at the council because they had promised the community of Raymond Terrace a playground in Boomerang Park similar to the one at Maitland Park, not a development."

Mrs Hughes went on to say she has contacted the council voicing her concerns: "I wrote letters to members of council and parliament asking that they do up all the parks and playgrounds in Raymond Terrace."

Mrs Reid said "I prefer the park to stay a park so there remains to be parks in Raymond Terrace and we keep its beautiful outlook."

"I guess I'd just be disappointed to lose such a beautiful park."

It is clear the people of Raymond Terrace agree there should be no development on the Boomerang Park site.

It should continue to be a refuge in an ever-widening urban area for our already-threatened native species.

And it should remain a facility that the children and families of Raymond Terrace can use long into the future.

Educating our pupils for over 165 years

By **KYLE WILSON** AND **TALLYN QUARLES**

THIS year the St Brigid's Parish and School community are celebrating 165 years of Catholic education in Raymond Terrace.

The community of Raymond Terrace were invited to celebrate the momentous occasion earlier in the year by attending a concert and formal dinner with Port Stephens councillor Ken Jordan and past and present staff, teachers and parents attending.

The students of St Brigid's performed in a concert, each grade highlighting the music of the various eras from St Brigid's early years to the present day.

The performance began when year 2 took the crowd back to the 19th century with a maypole dance and finished with year 6 dancing to *Uptown Funk*.

"It was a wonderful showcase of the present students and teachers creative skills," said former staff member Sister Mary.

The anniversary is extremely poignant for the Hughes family with five generations of their family attending St Brigid's throughout its 165-year history.

Their long affiliation with the school began in 1916 when Edmund Feeney began kindergarten in what is now known as the Old Hall.

The latest member of the Hughes family to attend St Brigid's is Edmund's great-great-grandson Zach



Five generations of the Hughes family have attended St Brigid's Primary since it opened in 1850.

Picture: Kirsten Jones

Hughes who started kindergarten this year. When asked about what he was most looking forward to Zach said "learning to read and buying iceblocks at the school shop."

Although the buildings have changed and the children are no longer taught by the Mercy Sisters who started the school in 1850, the

same things are still important, with children in the school following the school motto "Truth and Trust," that Zach's great-grandparents and great uncle created in the 1970s.

St Brigid's has been an integral part of the Raymond Terrace community for the past 165 years and will continue to be for many more.

Spring has sprung so let's have some fun

By **MATILDA LYDON** and **BILLIE-ANN AUSTIN-RICH**

ST Brigid's Primary School in Raymond Terrace is hosting a Spring Fair on October 11 on the school grounds.

The school is working very hard to provide a fun and exciting event in a friendly environment for the whole community. There will be stalls, a lollipop tree, chocolate wheel and plenty of prize giveaways plus the teacup ride, jumping castles, bungee trampolines, rocking ships

and a huge slide that will entertain the community throughout the day.

The day is co-ordinated by one of the school's amazing relief teachers, Kristen Jones and the Parents & Friends Association. "We raise money for school resources and it creates a strong connection with the local community," Mrs Jones said. She went on to say "the whole spring fair is organised by a committee of eight or nine



The St Brigid's Spring Fair will be held at the school and all are invited to attend.

hardworking mums, with the help of close to 100 people on the day." The spring fair is an opportunity to come together and have a fun day, creating a sense of community for all.

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