

Primary entry #24: St Paul's Primary School Rutherford



The Rutherford Rag



Year 5 students raising money for Caritas. Picture: Laura Thow

Busking for Caritas and those in need

By KATIE BEVAN and GRACE CARTER

AS part of their Project Compassion fundraising this year, St Paul's Primary endeavoured to raise money to support needy families in other countries, particularly those affected by poverty, famine and war.

Caritas Australia has been working in those communities to build schools, establish sustainable fresh produce to sell at markets and work with families to make them a stronger unit.

An enterprising St Paul's year 5 student, Michael Sansom, decided to make his own contributions in the spirit of Caritas. "When I saw the Food for Life video, I thought that if we started at school, we could make a change," Michael said.

Michael started to busk impromptu jam sessions out the front of the school canteen. Children that had received their change from their lunch money were generously filling the large Caritas box with their coins while Michael played AC/DC and Metallica songs.

He was soon joined by Tahneisha Walls, Paige Ycas and Alannah Horne. "I was inspired after watching videos in class and wanted to help Caritas raise money to help the poor," Alannah said.

This ensemble raised \$28 on their first day and went on to further raise almost \$50 within two weeks.

Project Compassion is a Caritas Australia initiative. Visit the Caritas Australia website if you'd like to help.

Super storm hits Hunter

By ZARA HAYNES and JORDANA SOLOMONS

FRIGHTENING, unbelievable, eye-popping, isolating and heart-breaking are words to describe the severe storm that hit the Hunter region on April 21.

Lives were lost, roads were closed, thousands of people were without power and wide-spread damage shook the area.

The wild rain caused floods around the region with the cyclonic wind causing trees and power lines to fall. The rain and wind rapidly destroyed businesses and homes.

Farms were washed out including the animals. Sporting grounds were wrecked and precious household items wiped out.

Due to the large amount of damage hundreds of people were in need of help from the SES and overall had sustained millions of dollars in repairs.

Schools across the region were closed due to loss of power, damage or due to staff and students being without access to roads.

Students and staff from Gillieston Heights, Woodville and Hinton were among some of the worst affected in our community.

Year 2 student Xavier Kranias' family farm at Woodville was seriously damaged by the storm. Xavier's family couldn't access the farm through nearby Bolwarra and



SES assisting residents at Hinton after they were flooded in.

Picture: Eadie Critchley

had to go all the way to Newcastle to get through. "We had to go all the way up to Newcastle and then meet our friend and go by boat and go over to our farm. It was the only way," Xavier said.

Animals were also injured and killed during the storm which was

upsetting for families. One of Xavier's horses was killed in the flood, which Xavier was very sad about. Now the focus is on repairing and moving on. "Our whole shed looked like a wreck and we have been tidying up the farm for weeks now. We only finished clean-

ing up last weekend," Xavier said. Year 6 student Eadie Critchley and her family were flooded in at Hinton for six days: "After the storm, it was frightening to see how much damage there was".

It's a storm that we will never forget.



Caleb Chisholm, Joshua Fenton, Madison Fenton and Ebony Carter testing out the new sandpit.

Picture: Phoebe Field

New infants playground at St Paul's

By CLARE FARRELL

ST Paul's students and staff came back to school with a surprise awaiting them. During the Christmas break, work had been done in the infants' playground.

It was organised by the school executive. The once dusty area has been transformed into an area that all now love.

The first step was to erect

a blackboard underneath the infants' Covered Outdoor Learning Area. It is very popular with students enjoying drawing and practising their writing during breaks. "You can't get them away from it," teacher Julie Nepia said.

Synthetic grass was applied to the dirt and rocks were placed in the playground. Year 1 student Lucas Coyle loves the new play-

ground and new grass. "I like being able to run around on the grass," he said.

A garden was also arranged around the playground. Kindergarten teacher Kate Cooper and her students are enjoying the new garden. "The garden gives all the children another activity to do at recess and lunch," she said.

Finally, a sandpit was installed.



here for our Community

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, just like the Technical Aid to the Disabled. The Charitable Foundation offers grants for important community projects which make a difference in the lives of those in need in our community.

To date the Foundation has provided almost \$14 million in grants for more than 300 important community projects and we believe the Foundation is now one of the largest regionally-based charitable foundations in Australia.

To apply for a grant or for more information visit charitablefoundation.com.au or call 13 19 87.

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