

# A school that has a focus on giving

## EDITORIAL

By KATE LLOYD and  
BRONTE COLLINS

THIS year many people and organisations in the Upper Hunter have generously given large donations to St James' Primary to purchase a brand new piano.

The grand piano was used earlier this term for the Upper Hunter Eisteddfod and the organising committee wanted the school to be able to keep it.

The community has donated \$30,000 for its purchase.

The school uses it at weekly assemblies and is very grateful for the community's support in purchasing this fantastic addition.

Recently, the generous Mini Vinnies group from St James Primary took a short trek down to the Mt Providence hostel and gave warm blankets to the elderly residents. They all most definitely enjoyed it.

This hard-working group is made up of around 20 year 6 students who really want to help and care for the community. They want to do whatever they can to help out. This group also engages in fund-raising for St Vincent de Paul and other foundations like the Catholic Mission, Project Com-

passion and the Winter Appeal. Mini Vinnies is helping our school focus on support for the orphanage in Cambodia.

With so much need in the world, it is important that children understand the need to give to others.

They can see the importance of providing education and food and water for children and their families who do not have the basics that we have.

St James' Primary has also joined in with generously donated money, food and clothing to the different foundations to help and support the community.

These gifts go to countries like Cambodia and India as well as to our local area.

They are always greatly appreciated.

The school loves caring and sharing for, and with, the community, holding community days where games and activities are run and money is raised for many charitable foundations.

These are all great examples of giving and helping. It's an important thing to do.

Giving is when you freely transfer an object or special feeling to other people as a gift or present.

We can be giving to our family members and friends by being friendly and on their special occasions giving them gifts of thanks. Giving is a great way to make friends and show others you care.



LEARN: Children in Siem Reap are benefiting from St James' generosity.

# Hearts smile for kindness

By JACINTA BALLARD, CHARLEE SCHMIERER and JESS DIMMOCK

ST James' Primary School in Muswellbrook is helping The Smiling Hearts Association for Children in Cambodia which opened on November 1, 2010. The school is located in the city of Siem Reap.

The school aims to help children in Cambodia by assisting them in getting a better education. The ability to speak English is a key skill for many young people in Siem Reap.

The most recent funds sent to Cambodia were used to buy plastic sheeting to cover the walls of the schools to stop water from getting in and wetting the children while working in the wet seasons.

At Smiling Hearts, children are taught in a stable and loving environment and with the on-site playground the children are free to feel joy and have fun – at least for a few hours each day.

St James' Primary is raising awareness of the situation in Siem Reap by organising a variety of activities throughout the year.

This has included selling hot Milo in winter, a colouring competition, fun day activities and information sessions.

The school recently had the privilege to meet Sue Morgan, who moved from the diocese to work in Cambodia. She introduced students to the work being done to help so many children.

# Wins show school has good sports

By KATE LLOYD and  
PARIS FORSYTH

RECENTLY, 42 students from St James' Primary School participated in the Newcastle Netball Gala Day.

Boys and girls from years 4 and 6 participated.

The year 4 girls were undefeated throughout the day, the year 4 boys won their first five games and lost the last four, the year 6 girls won eight games and lost their last one, and the year 6 boys won seven of their games and tied one.

The year 4 girls were lucky to win the day and the year 6 boys were also lucky enough to win as well.

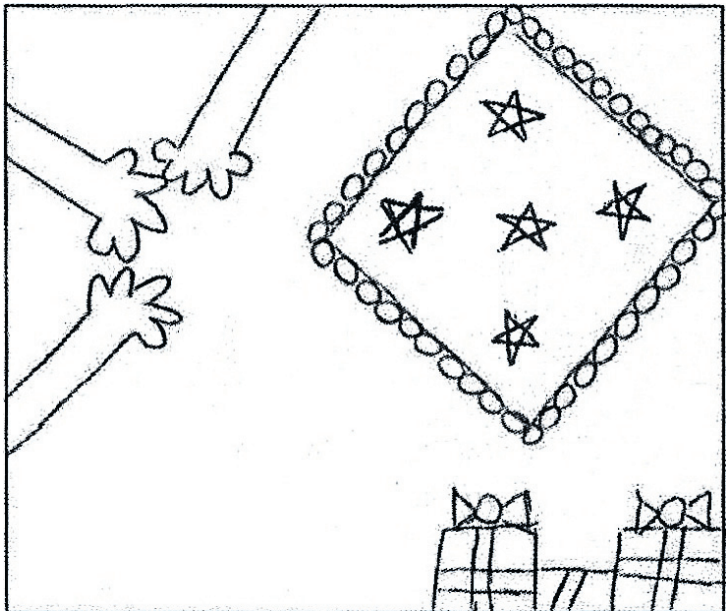
The gala day was enjoyed greatly by all the students who participated.

Recently the Polding Athletics Carnival was held at Glendale and six students from St James represented the school.

The students who made it to this level were Matilda Jones, Heidi Richards, Amber Morgan, Maggie McTaggart, Bronte Collins and Charlee Schmierer.

The junior girls relay team finished in second place. Their great efforts have earned them a place at the state carnival.

During term three all of the primary students from St James participated in Sports Fun, where some of the year 10 students at St Joseph's High School Aberdeen come to teach different sports to the children.



Cartoon: Jacinta Ballard

# The halls are alive with the sound of music

By REBECCA KENNEDY

MUSIC can be heard coming from St James' School Hall, with the acquisition of a recently received grand piano.

But before the school could receive it, the Muswellbrook community had to reach out and help.

The grand piano was sourced by the Muswellbrook Eisteddfod Committee for this year's eisteddfod and it was very eager for the school to be able to keep the piano.

The Muswellbrook com-

munity contributed \$35,000 to ensure that beautiful instrument remained in the town.

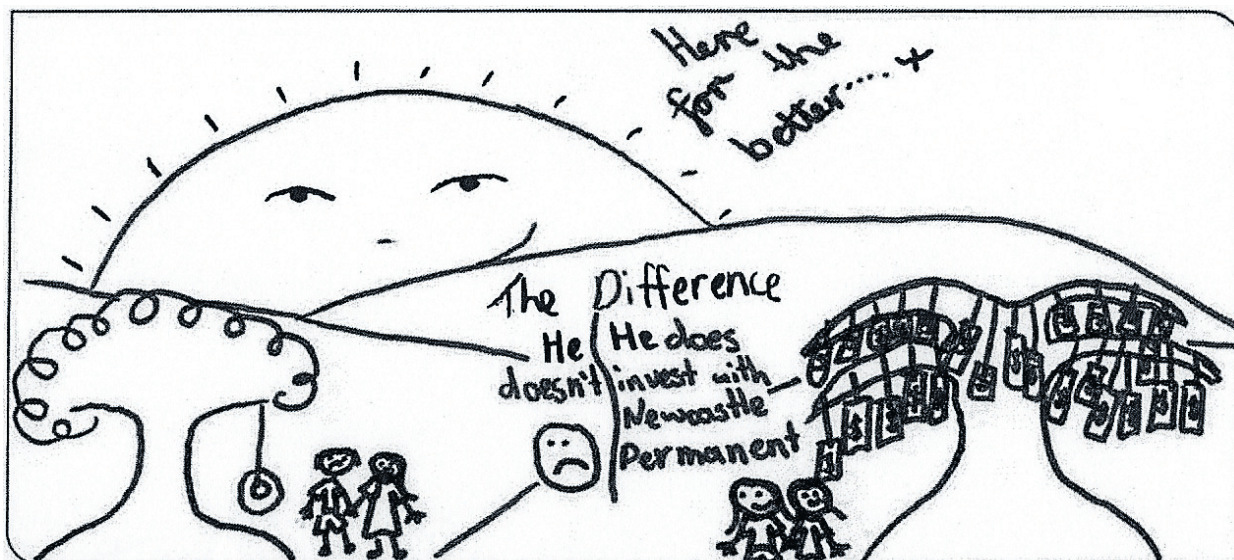
St James' Primary School also now has a new hall and the addition of the grand piano has been appreciated by the whole school community as well as members of the public.

The school appreciates the piano and thanks the Muswellbrook community for donating money so that the children of the area can enjoy the beautiful sound that it makes in the new hall.



IVORY TINKLING: Ben Fragiadakis enjoys playing the new piano.  
Picture: Samantha Bell

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