

Primary entry #16: St Joseph's Primary School Taree



# The Manning Mail



AN APPLE A DAY: Emily Stacey and her favourite snack.

Picture: Joshua Stacey

## Obesity leads to lifetime of poor health

By JOSHUA STACEY

IT is an undeniable fact that our children are getting fatter and it is partly due to what adults feed them.

Obesity Prevention Australia has identified obesity as the most significant health problem currently facing our nation, affecting more than 61 per cent of adults and 25 per cent of children.

Major concerns are growing for the health of young Australians as more are becoming overweight and risking their future health.

Obesity Prevention Australia links obesity to chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, which the Heart Foundation reports is the leading cause of death in Australia, killing one person every 12 minutes.

Keith Duncanson, a community nutritionist specialising in childhood nutrition, is supporting members of the Manning Valley where 30 per cent of the four to five-year age group are considered overweight or obese.

Mr Duncanson explains poor role models like *The Biggest Loser* are giving the wrong view of how to achieve a healthy weight.

He promotes projects like Greater Taree City Council's "Learn to Love Life", programs that are helping residents change their lifestyle, nutrition and activity habits.

The project has engaged over 400 residents with evaluation, proving success in changing behaviours.

By BONNIE GRICE,  
THALIA SIMON and  
CAYLEY GRIBB

ALCOHOL is the leading health concern for the Gloucester and Manning Valley region.

So the plan to place an alcohol superstore, Dan Murphy's, in the middle of Taree is being questioned as a sensible thing to do.

Mayor Paul Hogan and six of Taree's Council councillors don't believe it is.

They have rejected a plan for the development of the liquor outlet to go ahead.

They have cited their main issue as being the adverse social impact to the community of Taree.

The vote went against a staff recommendation for conditional approval, and shocked many in the community.

Greater Taree City Council are in dispute over the decision, with only two councillors – Trent Jennison and Alan Tickle – voting for the idea of the development of the Dan Murphy's store.

Cr Jennison explained: "It is not a local council's decision to say where people can buy their alcohol and then be responsible for people's behaviour when drinking."

Cr Jennison continued to say that there is a liquor licence already in place for the area, and it is simply a case of "closing down a small



DIVISION: Councillor Trent Jennison standing at the location of the proposed Dan Murphy's store in Taree.

Picture: Andrew Jennison

business to open a larger business that has a higher level of security system that aims to stop the risk of under-age drinking".

However, Mayor Paul Hogan is not only concerned about the social impact but also the location.

"The proposed location is the

gateway to our beautiful town, and I do not want an enormous alcohol superstore to be the first thing people see when they visit," he said.

Greens MP John Kaye said: "Taree has a 73 per cent higher rate of alcohol-related violence compared to the state-wide average. This alone provides a strong argument for reducing the number of outlets."

The rejected development application for the Dan Murphy's liquor outlet in Taree will have a fresh airing, with a rescission motion now lodged with Greater Taree City Council.

They are seeking the deferment of a final decision, to allow the Woolworths-owned operation time to provide confirmation on several vital issues affecting the

amenity of the surrounding location, and for council staff to clarify where there might be adverse social impact.

## Award for one of teaching's finest

By EMILY DEBERG and  
GRACE McCALLUM

THERE are many great teachers, but some simply jump out at you for all the right reasons.

They have that special spark that keeps children engaged and excited about learning. That spark is especially evident in Gail Young.

Mrs Young, currently teaching at St Joseph's Pri-

mary School Taree, has been officially recognised for her professional expertise by winning the honourable Monsignor Coolahan Award for Excellence in Teaching.

This award has extensive criteria that is challenging for even the most experienced teacher to achieve.

Mrs Young is described by peers as the teacher every child wants. Her gentle and caring approach can soften

the most challenging pupil.

"Parents make the effort at the end of the year to put in a special request for their child to have Mrs Young," said school principal Sidonie Coffey.

"Her teaching philosophy endears her to young and old alike, and I feel blessed to be able to work with her."

"I don't know what all the fuss is about," said a modest Mrs Young in reply.



STAR: Gail Young has received an award for teaching excellence.

Picture: Margaret Schmitzer



## "his Vision is no real impairment"

In 10 years we've given over \$10million to fund more than 250 important community programs, like the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's video conferencing service that ensures hearing and vision impaired children like Cruz get the support they need in their own homes.

For more information on the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and to see more of Cruz's story, visit [newcastlepermanent.com.au/foundation](http://newcastlepermanent.com.au/foundation)

Join us at [facebook.com/charitablefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/charitablefoundation)

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT  
CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION