

Primary entry #18: St Mary's Primary School Warners Bay



THE BAY WATCH



SINGER: Ivania Coluccio performed at the 2013 DioSounds spectacular.

Picture: Lavinia Coluccio

Students fill theatre with musical acts

By **JASMIN BENNETT, JACKSON BOTHAM, LAVINIA COLUCCIO, MOLLY GOULD** and **DARCY GREW**

MORE than 350 students aged 12 to 18 practised their moves and polished their performances for DioSounds, the musical spectacular which displayed the talents of students from Catholic high schools around the Newcastle-Maitland diocese.

Held across two shows on June 13 at the Civic Theatre in Newcastle, the students performed to more than 3000 spectators.

Acts included soloists, folk groups, choirs, rock bands, dances and individual instrumentalists.

Year 9 student Ivania Coluccio from St Mary's High School, Gateshead, has been a singer in DioSounds for the past two years. She says that there is a lot of preparation involved but it's worth it.

"It is a great opportunity to perform in front of a live audience, it is a lot of fun and gives me more confidence," Ivania said.

"The best thing about DioSounds is you can meet other students that have the same interest as you."

Music teacher Lisa Pockran directed a winning performance from last year's show.

"The students are always keen to be involved and we often have about 100 students performing," Ms Pockran said.

By **ELLIOT HAINES, CAMERON SPARKES, DANIEL ROBSON, LOGAN PANOZZA** and **JOSHUA GESELL**

ACCORDING to her mother, 12-year-old Molly Gould, of Valentine, owes her life to recent advances in medical technology and treatments.

"Improvements in technology probably saved Molly's life," Lisa Gould said.

When she was just five, Molly was diagnosed with juvenile dermatomyositis, a very rare inflammatory auto-immune disease which affects only about three in 1 million children. The disease caused Molly's immune system to malfunction and attack healthy tissue in her muscles and skin.

Juvenile dermatomyositis affects girls and boys in equal numbers, and the average age of onset is seven years.

While it has no known cure, it is treatable.

"The development of MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] and the improvement in turn-around times of blood test results enabled her doctors to start aggressive treatment," Ms Gould said.

Molly is now a happy and active year 6 student, who participates fully in school life.

"Molly's specialists are able to



ADVANCES: CAT scans have been a lifesaving advancement in modern health practices.

Picture: Joshua Gesell

keep in touch with the latest research from around the world via the internet," Ms Gould said.

"They are also able to communicate with national and international colleagues by email to help in the treatment of her illness. None of this would have been possible

without improvements in technology in health care."

Newcastle's modern health professionals have seen a number of significant changes. Healthcare today has advanced machines and cutting-edge medicines to assist with treatment of patients.

Intensive care nurse Helen Haines has seen many changes since she started working at John Hunter Hospital in 1991.

"Probably the biggest development has been the progressive introduction and development of computer systems to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients," Ms Haines said.

"It also allows us to make a quick diagnosis of diseases through X-rays, CT scans, MRI scans and ultrasounds."

Dr Mark Miller, a specialist in the John Hunter Hospital emergency department, agrees that technology plays a huge role in modern health-care.

"Nowadays all medical notes are scanned and digitised," Dr Miller said.

"All blood tests and X-rays are viewed on computer terminals in the emergency department."

"This means we can instantly access and share information with other departments in the hospital."

Retired Charlestown GP Dr Brian Hardie practised for almost 70 years. Besides the huge influence of antibiotics, Dr Hardie believes the most advanced piece of equipment used in medicine today is the electrocardiograph machine (ECG) - a device for examining the different chambers of the heart and testing its rhythms.



MENTOR: Former student Anthony Quinn with students at St Mary's Primary School.

Picture: Mary Gralton

Origin star returns to his roots

By **LIESEL GILLIES, BILLY MILNE, RHYS ASHFORD** and **LINCOLN SELBY**

WELL-KNOWN NSW Origin winger and former St Mary's student Anthony Quinn has made a return to his roots, playing this season with the Newcastle Knights.

Quinn started his football career with the Knights, playing 103 games with the local side from 2002 to 2006, before signing with the Melbourne Storm.

Now with a young family, Anthony says he has rejoined the Newcastle Knights to be closer to family and to give his

children the opportunities and lifestyle offered here.

Anthony started playing rugby league at age seven and he developed his skills further playing for Valentine-Eleebana Red Devils.

As a junior player, he received career-developing mentoring. Quinn has now jumped at the opportunity to act as a mentor for the under 20s Knights players.

"It's a good way to give back to the community. I am an electrician by trade and I combine this with my 12 years experience as a first grade footballer to mentor for the younger players," he said.

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