

When the bosses sleep in the cold

EDITORIAL

By **GEORGIA COOMBS,**
CARMEN JAMESON and
KAITLIN LINDSAY

THE students of years 5 and 6 have initiated a new group this year at St Patrick's Primary School, Swansea, called Mini Vinnies.

This program is led by the students and supported by year 6 teacher, Mrs Ogden, to raise awareness of issues that are occurring in the world, and to raise funds and support the people who are helped by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

One such cause is the CEO Sleepout, supported by Ray Collins, the director of Catholic Schools in the Maitland Newcastle Diocese.

This year on June 20, the CEOs of various organisations participated in a sleepout in the grounds of St Therese's Primary School, New Lambton to raise awareness for the homeless.

The Vinnie's CEO Sleepout began as a community event in Sydney's Parramatta in 2006. Since then, the event has raised important funds for Vinnie's Homeless Services across NSW.

The aim of the CEO Sleepout is not only to raise money, but to

raise awareness for the homeless.

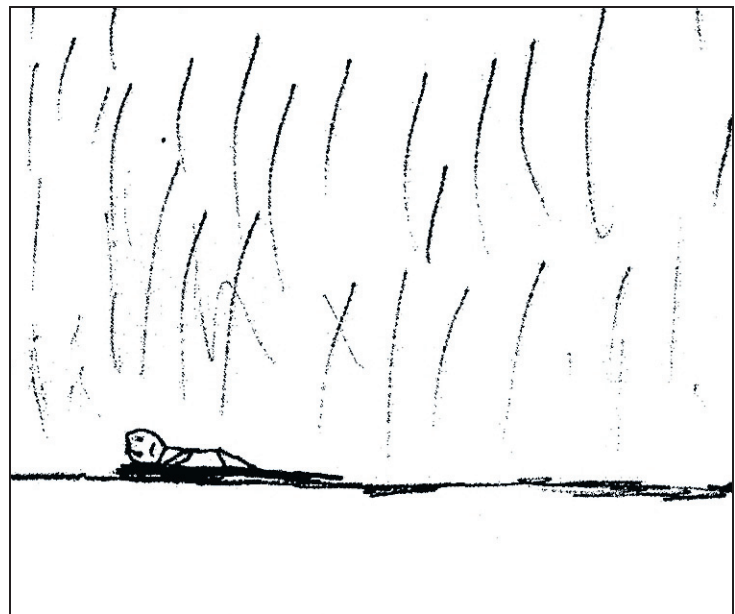
The discomfort of sleeping out on the street is horrible: imagine lying on the hard floor in the middle of winter where it is cold and the ground is very solid. You would wake up with a sore back ... and then have to do it all again.

Ray Collins said he decided to participate as "I was approached about it by my brother who is the Diocesan vice-president of the St Vincent de Paul Society, telling me the Sleepout would be held in Newcastle this year. I had read of it and sponsored another director of schools in the Sydney Sleepout a couple of years ago and so I was keen to take part this year."

He has been set a target of \$5000 but hopes to raise more. Last year, CEOs raised \$693,136.13 doing the Sleepout. This year they are aiming to exceed that amount.

Isaac, a student and vice-president of Mini Vinnies at school said: "I know it is important because most of the money that is raised from the CEO Sleepout goes to the homeless. It also helps us learn about where the money is going, and what these people have to go through each and every day to survive."

The students of St Patrick's will support the CEO Sleepout by having a Winter Woollies Day, which involves all children wearing a beanie, scarf and gloves to school and donating a gold coin to the fund-raiser.



Cartoon: Zachary Pont



BINLESS: Eliza Davies demonstrates the new recycling program.

Picture: Annabelle Fry

School is now without bins

By **ELIZA DAVIES, MEGAN LEES**
and **ANNABELLE FRY**

LAST year St Patrick's Primary removed all playground bins and replaced them with a recycling program. This program was used to help the environment, save money for the school and reduce rubbish going into the nearby bay.

Replacing the bins with recycling bins has saved time and effort for senior students in year 5.

"Taking away the bins and replacing them with recycling bins has stopped senior children missing out on approximately 33 hours a year of learning time," said teacher Miss Wakely and head of the program.

They are no longer required to

empty the playground bins into the large dumpster daily after recess.

Initially some students and parents were against taking away the bins because of how much time it takes to clean out dirty or smelly lunchboxes. Parents are then left to clean them after a long day of work.

When asked, Miss Wakely said, "The next step of the recycling program was to install three worm farms on the playground. The farms help to reduce food scraps going home and leaving funny smells in the student's lunchboxes."

The staff of St Patrick's are in full support of the initiative.

"The program will have many benefits for the school," said Year 6 teacher Mrs Ogden.

Three Es conference more than child's play

By **JAMES MACAREE** and
STEPHEN MURPHY

IN June this year, the largest gaming expo known as E3 took place at the Los Angeles Convention Centre. It is organised by the Entertainment Software Association to show the release of new age electronic gaming devices.

E3 stands for Electrical Entertainment Expo but is just simply known as E3.

Game developers from more than 100 countries come together to show their latest products.

E3 has been around for 18 years; it is a yearly event usually held in late May or early June. E3 lasts for three days but it takes a week for the different companies to set up their work.

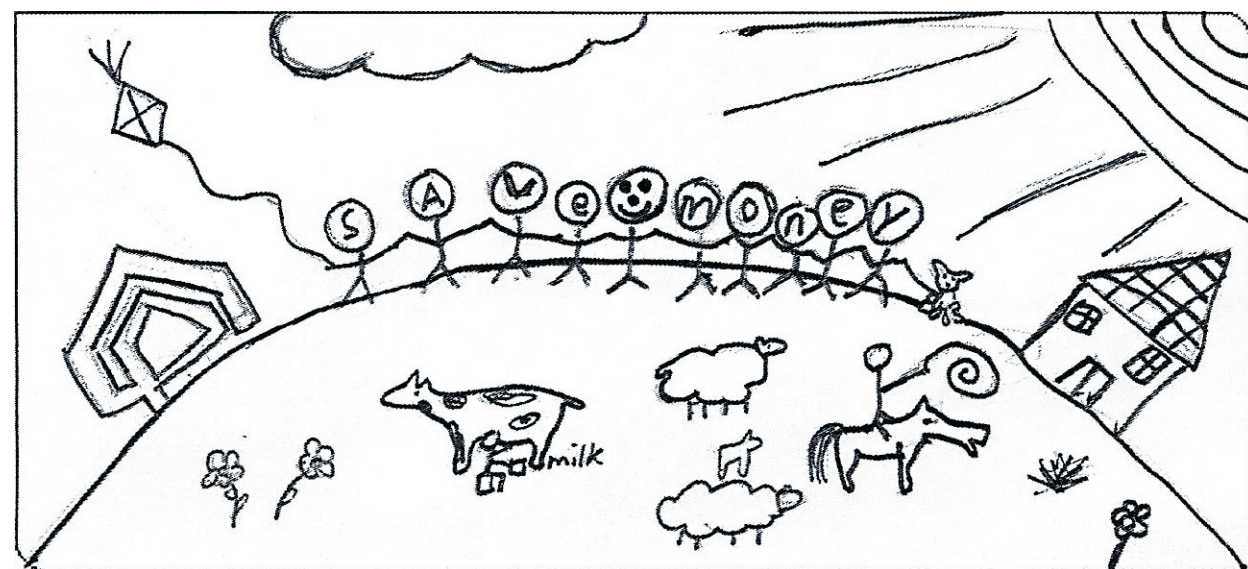
The expo was a good opportunity for children, adults and game designers to experience, first hand, the latest devices and software available.

Reporters wrote articles about the new developments. Children interested in becoming technology designers were amazed by the opportunities.



TECHNOLOGY: The Electronic Entertainment Expo ran again in Los Angeles this year.

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