

Secondary entry #5: All Saints College, St Peter's Campus



ST PETER'S POST



DIP: Chloe Hancock has been swimming for others.

Swimming for those less fortunate

By ISABELLE HAWKE and MAEGAN FORD

SWIMMING lessons do not come cheap but they are an integral part of growing up close to the coast.

On March 3, swimmers across the country participated in the YMCA Swimathon, a sponsorship-based fund-raising initiative for those who can't afford lesson fees.

More than 50 YMCA pools participated and more than 1300 people were sponsored and swam. A total of \$155,929.80 was raised, with the money donated to helping migrants, disabled and underprivileged children pay for their lessons.

Two Bhutan migrants, Sandy and Sajan, have benefitted from the money raised through the Swimathon. They have been enjoying school holiday lessons for the past two years.

One Hunter swimmer, Chloe Hancock, a 14-year-old Swimathon Ambassador of Kurri Kurri YMCA, raised a massive \$1566.60.

"I am extremely happy with where the money is going. It is the main reason I entered the Swimathon in the first place, to give people with disabilities the same opportunity as me," she said.

The one-on-one swimming lessons have been a great help for the participants in learning to be safe in the water, while the group lessons assist them with social skills and self-confidence.

By MOLLY BISCOFF, LILLIAN COOPER and CASEY BROWN

THIS year 150,000 brave people will take part in the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave and young locals are taking a great interest in this unique and rewarding opportunity.

Jessica Hogan and Ashlyn Horder, students at All Saints College, St Peter's Campus, will be aiming to raise more than \$6000 by taking part in this event, and sacrificing their hair to find a cure.

They have both taken different approaches to their fund-raising techniques, but have dedicated themselves to the cause and have dynamic fund-raising tactics.

Ashlyn Horder, of year 9, shaved her head in front of a crowd of students at All Saints College, St Peter's Campus, during lunchtime on March 18, and each spectator gave a gold coin donation to the cause.

She also organised a raffle and the winner earned the privilege to cut off her ponytail, which she donated to the Beautiful Lengths Programme that gives human hair wigs to cancer sufferers, free of charge.

Ashlyn began aiming to raise \$1000 but currently has managed more than \$3900 – a figure which substantially exceeds her goal.

She hopes to encourage others to support charities.



BEFORE AND AFTER: Jessica Hogan and Ashlyn Horder shaving for a cause.

Picture: Molly Biscoff

"It has been a very worthwhile experience and I would encourage others to think about ways in which they can support any of the various charities, which we are fortunate to have there to support us if needed."

Another student from ASC St Peter's Campus who has been involved in this event is Jessica

Hogan, of year 10, who shaved her head at Paterson Tavern on May 4. She sacrificed her hair alongside her mother and together they aim to raise \$5000 for the Leukaemia Foundation.

At present, the "Baldlees" have raised more than \$900, and are committed to reaching their goal.

Jessica placed posters and donation tins in Hunter businesses to raise more money for the foundation.

The school community are very proud of their efforts and hope that they will inspire others to take an active role in raising awareness for cancer sufferers Australia-wide.



REWARDING EXPERIENCE: St Peter's students take to the stage at the Newcastle Civic Theatre.

Sounds of students fill the diocese

By CAITLYN BAIRD and DANIEL ARMSTRONG

DIO Sounds, a performing arts initiative run by the Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office, will be showcasing at the Civic Theatre June 12 and 13.

Now in its seventh year, 11 secondary schools from across the Catholic Diocese, with more than 350 students, contribute their talents to

this popular event.

Michelle Burgess, creative and performing arts coordinator at St Peter's Maitland and a member of the organising committee said: "Dio Sounds allows students to experience and develop skills in a big scale production from backstage to the performance perspective."

"Dio Sounds teaches students how to cope under pressure and deal with prob-

lems on stage," she said.

Since 2011, due to popular demand, the Dio Sounds Committee has been offering the chance for Catholic primary school students to see a matinee performance to be inspired by their peers.

Zoe Crittenden, a student at St Peter's Maitland said: "The experience is extremely rewarding, fun, challenging, worthwhile and an unforgettable night."

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