



News Articles -Former Staff & Students

Carole enjoys a zest for teaching

By Martin Mullan

DAPTO Public School teacher Carole Hicks has received a Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching for her outstanding contribution and commitment to public education.

Mrs Hicks was one of 52 government school and TAFE teachers recognised by Education and Training Minister John Aquilina during Education Week for their achievement, excellence and dedication.

After 23 years as a teacher Mrs Hicks has lost none of her enthusiasm and zest for her vocation.

"Teaching is interesting and never boring," she said.

"It is nice to think that what you do is appreciated.

Mrs Hicks said that she was impressed with the award because it also indirectly recognised the incredible support from the local community.

"We couldn't do it without the parents and this reflects what a wonderful community Dapto is and what we can do for our children," she said.

The devoted teacher works tirelessly to promote literacy, acting as support person for the

school's Reading Recovery program and for children returning from Intensive Reading.

She is also coordinator of third year students from the University of Wollongong who are studying Reading Difficulties.

"I have a passion for children learning to read because if you don't read you fail," she said.

"My son couldn't read when he was 12 years-old until someone taught him and today he is a very successful businessman.

"I will do anything to help students," she said.

While teaching kindergarten Mrs Hicks also coordinated the 'Parents as Tutors' program for children experiencing difficulty in reading in Years 2 to 4.

For 10 years she has acted as coordinator of Aboriginal programs in the school and has helped establish a strong working partnership in the community.

"We meet with members of the Aboriginal community and parents become very involved with what their children do in the school," she said.

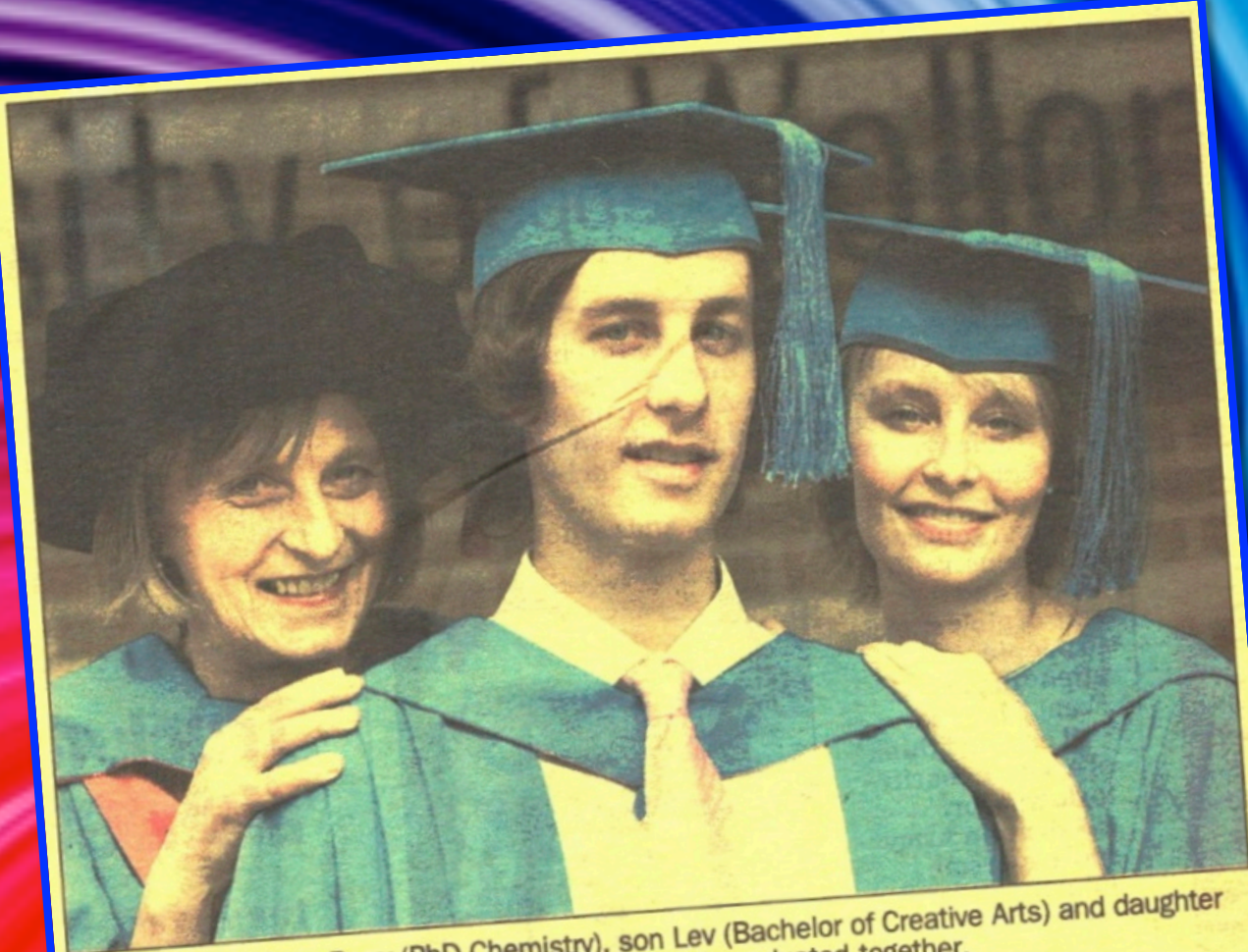
DAPTO PUBLIC SCHOOL



• Carole Hicks displays her Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

**Mrs Carole Hicks of Dapto
Public School receives the
Minister's Award for
Excellence in Teaching 2000
from NSW Minister for
Education & Training,
John Aquilina.**





Family circle: Yoke Berry (PhD Chemistry), son Lev (Bachelor of Creative Arts) and daughter Louise (Bachelor of Nursing) graduated together.

Family graduates together

CHANCE made Yoke Berry's graduation this week an "absolutely incredible" experience.

The Wollongong mother received her PhD at the University of Wollongong's Monday morning graduation ceremony before she watched her two children also graduate.

Daughter Louise graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing on Monday afternoon and yesterday son Lev donned the gown and mortar board to receive his

Bachelor of Creative Arts.

Mrs Berry said finishing university at the same time as her children made the celebration more exciting.

"It's absolutely incredible, it's the nicest gift I could have been given," she said.

However, the graduations were a coincidence.

Mrs Berry decided to return to study to find out more about the effect of mobile phone towers after being involved in a campaign against installing

them in Dapto. Louise, 23, took six years to complete her degree because she did some of it part-time and took time off to travel.

Lev, 21, did his three-year degree at the normal pace - bringing the family together this week.

"It's incredible how it happened, it's a special time," Lev said.

Lev has started his own graphic design business, while Louise starts at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney in March.



Name: Adrian Wood.

Age: 11.

School: Dapto Public.

If you could go anywhere, where would it be? Back in time to World War II. (We've taken Adrian to visit the Diggers on the Kokoda track in Papua New Guinea.)

What book would you take with you? *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* by JRR Tolkien.

What are you reading now? *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*.
If disaster threatened, what five books would you rescue?

1. *Star Wars: Jedi Apprentice* by Dave Wolverton;
2. *The Hobbit*, JRR Tolkien;
3. *Chronicles of Narnia*, CS Lewis;
4. My journal;
5. *The Bad Book* by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton.

Who is your favourite character from a book? Gandalf the White from *Lord of the Rings*.

If you wrote a book, what would it be about? The future - a crew of people travelling through space.

What book should be made into a film? *The Hobbit*.

What book should never have been made into a film? I don't really know. I have liked every film I've seen.



Perfect start: Cody Nicholls shows the power of one in the new IO unit at Dapto Public School.

Pictures: ADAM McLEAN

Cody's in class of his own and loving it

By MICHELE TYDD

CODY Nicholls is in an enviable position for a kindy kid.

Cody, 5, comes first in every class challenge, never gets into trouble for talking to other kids and has no competition for the role of teacher's pet.

That's because Cody is the first - and only - pupil in Dapto Public School's spanking new IO class for children with intellectual disabilities.

The five-star classroom, complete with a fully equipped ensuite, opened yesterday.

Although it has a capacity for nine students, Cody, from Kanahooka, is revelling in the attention he has to himself.

"It's a fantastic facility for all children like Cody who has his educational needs met without travelling out of the area," deputy principal Justin Quinn said yesterday.

And it just happens to be the perfect start for teacher Melissa Wilson, from Gilgandra, who is fresh out of college with truckloads of enthusiasm.

"It's our first official day together and it's so easy to click with Cody



Five-star classroom: Cody Nicholls and his teacher Melissa Wilson revelling in the space and luxury of their own classroom yesterday.

because he has such a great personality and he's eager to learn," Miss Wilson said.

Miss Wilson is following in the footsteps of her mother and sister who both teach children with special needs.

She will work with teacher's aide Donna Blinksell to ensure Cody reaches his potential.

"I find the work so enjoyable and rewarding and I'm looking forward to seeing Cody's progress," Miss Wilson said.



Picture: ANDY ZAKE

Multi-round sportsman Chad Blanch with the tools of his trade.

Chad's a top sport in 3 different codes

By BEN EVERILL

Ten-year-old Chad Blanch would love to represent Australia one day, he's just not sure which sport.

Chad represents Illawarra in baseball, cricket and soccer.

The Dapto Public School student is the youngest person to be awarded junior player of the year for both the Berkeley Eagles Baseball Club and the Dapto Cricket Club.

Playing up a grade, he also won the batting and bowling awards for his cricket team, scoring 254 runs and taking 30 wickets.

His batting average of just under 30 is all the more impressive considering players must be upon scoring 20 runs in an innings.

Add to this the fact he is a member of the Illawarra Lions soccer team and you can see he's a busy young man.

Chad's next baseball assignment will be to help the Illawarra team in the Junior NSW Country Championships at Wollongong in September.

When asked what he loved most about competing in a number of sports Chad's reply was typical of any 10-year-old.

"I like having fun and it's good when all the guys get to travel together for baseball and soccer," he said.

If his recent efforts are any indication it won't matter which sport Chad chooses, he'll be a star.

CHELSEA KING (Dapto Public School)

Chelsea is a Year 6 student at Dapto Public School. During 1999, she represented Dapto District in Basketball, Netball, Cross Country and Touch. She was selected in the South Coast Netball team for the South Brisbane Exchange and received the coaches' award for her outstanding performance during the tour. She was again selected to represent her Area in the New South Wales PSSA Netball Championships held at Bankstown.

However, it is in Basketball that Chelsea has achieved her greatest success. Having been chosen to represent South Coast at the New South Wales PSSA Championships in Albury, she helped her team achieve a creditable second placing. Her tremendous skill and team work were rewarded with selection in the New South Wales PSSA team. Area coach, Deb Sansom, had these glowing comments, "Chelsea made an outstanding contribution to the South Coast Primary Girls Basketball team. She showed excellent sportsmanship, great talent and a positive attitude towards all aspects of the carnival. She is a great sportswoman and team member."

As a member of the State Basketball team, Chelsea had a major impact at the National Exchange in Ballarat, helping New South Wales gain second place. In supporting Chelsea's nomination for a Blue, New South Wales PSSA coach, Peter Banks wrote..."it gave me great pleasure to be of assistance in the nomination of Chelsea. Whilst away at the National Exchange, Chelsea was an outstanding representative for New South Wales. Her efforts on and off the court were of the highest standard. She won the respect of team mates and opposition through her determined play. Whilst being billeted at my school, she certainly brought credit to her school and family."

Dapto Public School is very proud of Chelsea's achievements as evidenced by Principal, Ann Henniker's endorsement, "Chelsea possesses exceptional sporting ability and is highly regarded by her peers and teachers. A South Coast Blue would be a fitting reward for her outstanding efforts." Chelsea King is a dedicated and tenacious competitor with exemplary behaviour and attitude. Her representative achievements clearly endorse her as a suitable recipient of an Area Sporting Blue.

Name: Erinn Powell.

Age: 12.

School: Dapto Public.

If you could go anywhere, where would it be? Hollywood, LA. I'd love to go overseas. (We've taken Erinn to the Hollywood Walk of Fame.)

What book would you take with you? Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

What are you reading now? *So Little Time: the Love Factor* by Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen.

If disaster threatened, what five books would you rescue?

1. *Deadly* by Morris Gleitzman and Paul Jennings.
2. *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.
3. *Big Book of Bart Simpson* by Matt Groening.
4. *The Love Factor*.
5. *Wicked* by Paul Jennings.

Who is your favourite character from a book? Violet from the Lemony Snicket books.

If you wrote a book, what would it be about? It would be about a road trip to somewhere famous.

What was the first book you ever read? I don't remember.

What book should be made into a film? *Deadly*. It's a great book and would be even better in a film.

What book should never have been made into a film and why? I don't think *A Series of Unfortunate Events* should have been made because the movie was long and boring. The book was way more exciting.



Kind Jackson gets his guitar at last

JOSHUA BUTLER

THEY say what goes around, comes around. The cliché rings true for Jackson Paulic, whose good deed to help a lady he never met has been recognised with a lovely reward.

Eight-year-old Jackson, of Horsley, last week bought a Wollongong Hawks jersey at auction. Hawks point guard Rhys Martin had put the signed, framed singlet up for sale to raise money for Joanna Christodoulou, who had her bag – containing \$150 of her church's money – snatched at Figtree.

Jackson had been saving for a guitar, but instead put his savings towards buying the jersey. "It was sad so I really wanted to buy it to help her," Jackson said last week.

The Mercury's story on Jackson's good deed prompted an outpouring of support and goodwill across the region, with at least a dozen Illawarra residents and businesses offering guitars to Jackson.

On Thursday, Haworth Guitars presented Jackson with a brand new Martinez "Slim Jim" acoustic guitar in his favourite colour, blue.

"He really deserves a guitar after doing what he did," said Glenn Haworth, owner of Haworth Guitars.

"Giving away a guitar to a good kid, it's not a big deal for us but for an eight-year-old, it's big. I know what it felt like to get my



Singing: Jackson Paulic, 8, with the Martinez Slim Jim guitar given to him by Glenn Haworth of Haworth Guitars to recognise Jackson's kindness to others.
Picture: ROBERT PEET

first guitar," Mr Haworth said. Jackson said he had recently been inspired by seeing contestants perform acoustic guitar numbers on television talent shows, and was keen to start

learning how to play.

"It's my first proper instrument ever," he said.

"I'm really happy. This is really cool."

Mr Haworth said he wanted to

show people that good deeds do get noticed, and should be rewarded.

"If you do something good, it comes back to you," he said.

"It's all about karma."



Dapto gets a double dose



Justin Potter and Tara Edney played important roles in Dapto Public School's double success this year.

Picture: HANK van STUIVENBERG

School's soccer, netball teams grab victory

By PAUL ZALUNARDO

Dapto Public School showed its sporting versatility by winning two Illawarra Zone primary schools championships in 1999.

The boys provided a win in the soccer while the girls gave the school a victory on the netball court.

With captain Tara Edney leading the way on the netball court, the school was too good for Culburra, scoring a 19-4 victory in the final.

Earlier in the event they disposed of Sussex Inlet 15-7, Minnamurra 10-6 and Berkeley South 16-4 to book a spot in the final.

The team consisted of: Edney, Rachel Mastroianni, Chelsea King, Ruby Darragh, Amanda Mastroianni, Ashleigh Judd, Alana Morris, Melodie Willis, Chanel Relf, Emily Parker and Melanie Skeggs.

NSW PSSA representative Justin Potter was the star of the victorious boys soccer team. The

tournament was played in a round robin format.

Potter had plenty of help as his team scored wins over Balarang (2-1), St George's Basin (3-0) and Nowra (2-1) to take the title.

The team was: Potter, Andrew Ucles, Jamie Madigan, Luke Hill, Dragan Balaban, Andrew Troman, Brendan Jones, Robert Josevski, Cameron Last, Andrew Reid, Alex Boardman, Nicholas Hardy, Alex Katopidis and Mitchell O'Donnell.

Soccer stars' state selection



The South Coast Primary Schools soccer team finished sixth at the state championships last week. Photo by KIRK GILMOUR

Justin Potter from Dapto Primary School and Breagan O'Connor from Balarang Primary School were chosen to represent SW in the Australian Primary Schools Soccer Championships in Adelaide at the end of the month.

The boys were selected after their outstanding performances for the South

Coast Primary Schools team at the State Championships at Macquarie University last week.

The South Coast team - with representatives from Coledale, south to the Victorian border - won four of its six matches, losing one and drawing the other.

Team manager Wayne Thomas said

the team was unlucky not to make the finals.

"The boys played some excellent soccer and were great ambassadors for the South Coast region," Mr Thomas said.

The South Coast team finished sixth in the state.

Asperger's syndrome no barrier on Kieran's field of dreams

By COURTNEY TRENWITH



Little champion: Kieran Hodson loves playing rugby league for Dapto, despite having Asperger's syndrome.
Picture: WAYNE VENABLES

KIERAN Hodson loves playing rugby league, but when he's had enough, he's had enough. The six-year-old Dapto boy has Asperger's syndrome which makes it difficult for him to comprehend the rules of rugby league. So when Kieran doesn't feel like playing anymore, he will wander off the field at his own free will. But Dapto Junior Rugby League Club and other clubs in the regional junior competition have learnt to accommodate Kieran's

condition, which also affects his social skills, such as taking turns. He has played in the Dapto under 6 team for the past year and his parents Debbie and Nathan have been overwhelmed by the support. Each opposing team and the referees are made aware of Kieran's tendencies before the game. "One of the rules in the game is that each player has to spend a full 10-minute period on the field," Mr Hodson said. "But for Kieran, if he's had

enough, he's had enough and he just walks off the field. "Every single (opposition) coach I came across, every referee said, 'that's not a problem'." There has been a marked improvement since Kieran started playing last year. "Kieran would have no problem sitting in the corner and playing on his own for hours on end but now he interacts better with other kids," Mr Hodson said. "At times when Kieran first started playing he couldn't comprehend that when he got tackled

he had to get up and play the ball. There were times when he just wanted to get up and keep running." Mr Hodson said the support of the region's junior rugby league competition had allowed Kieran to sport as other kids. "Kieran is involved, he's competing, he's active and I think people should be more aware of it," he said. "Just because he's a little bit different doesn't mean he can't get out there and have a go."



Name: Kasey Sigmund.

Age: 11.

School: Dapto Public.

If you could go anywhere, where would it be? To the future to see all that has been created. (We've taken Kasey to meet Asimo, the walking robot.)

What book would you take with you? *The Wide Window* by Lemony Snicket.

What are you reading now? *The Valley of Thorns* by Patrick Carmen.

If disaster threatened, what five books would you rescue?

1. *Charlotte's Web* by E B White.
2. *Matilda* by Roald Dahl.
3. *The Twits* by Roald Dahl.
4. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by J K Rowling.
5. *The Wide Window*.

Who is your favourite character from a book and why? Goldilocks - my most fave book ever.

If you wrote a book, what would it be about? A girl who wants to be a star on the stage.

What was the first book you ever read? *Thomas the Tank Engine*.

What book should be made into a film? *Goldilocks* - a real-life version, not animated.

What book should never have been made into a film and why? I'm not sure. I like most films.

Eye of the beholder

IQ showcases art from students and teachers



Title: *Ned Kelly.*

Medium: Acrylic paint, oil pastel, cardboard.

Artist: Lachlan Wright.

Lachlan Wright and his Year 2H class at Dapto Public School have been learning about Sidney Nolan.

"In 1946 Nolan painted Ned Kelly," Lachlan says.

"We created our own Ned Kelly artwork using paint and oil pastel.

"The background was painted using paintbrushes, cardboard pieces and our fingers."

Know any artists? Send your nominations:
education@
illawarramercury.com.au
or phone 4221 2329.



18. 9. 07

mercury

21. 7. 07
news

Leo's lion-hearted fight



Living in hope: Leo Lagana and his mum Pauline wait on a hospital bed. Pictures: DAVE TEASE

Fingers crossed for birthday boy

By PAUL MCINERNEY

LITTLE Leonardo Lagana will turn seven on Thursday, but it will be a birthday the plucky youngster would probably rather forget.

Instead of candles, cake and presents, the kid from Kanahooka, dubbed Leo the lion-hearted, will spend his special day wired to an array of intensive care unit monitors in Sydney Children's Hospital.

Leo will be recovering from delicate surgery that hopefully will stop a rare neurological disease from killing him.

That's if the health system doesn't let him down for a third time.

Leo should have been home to celebrate his birthday, but a shortage of acute care beds at the hospital forced the cancellation of his surgery twice in the past three weeks.

His mother Pauline said Leo had coped well with the setbacks, but she is worried that surgery scheduled for Tuesday might also be cancelled.

Late yesterday, Mrs Lagana rang the hospital as instructed, only to discover there were still no beds available.

She was told that Leo was on top of the priority list, but the family has to wait until Monday morning to find out if the surgery will go ahead.

"Leo is a public patient and I understand the demands on the system, but his condition could bring on a massive stroke at any time and that's worrying me," Mrs Lagana said.

"He already had a series of mini strokes, the latest just a few days ago, and the longer the delay the greater the chance of a more serious stroke."

Life has never been easy for Leo and his parents since he was diagnosed soon after birth with a condition known as primordial dwarfism, which dramatically stunts growth rate and affects about 50 people worldwide.

But, incredibly, things have got even tougher for the Lagana family.

They were stunned earlier this year when Leo was diagnosed with yet another million-to-one condition - Moyamoya disease.

A degenerative and life-threatening illness, Moyamoya is caused by blocked arteries in the base of the brain.

The Japanese name means "puff of smoke" to describe the look of the tangle of tiny blood vessels formed to compensate for the blockage.

The last cancellation of surgery on July 17 was particularly grueling for the family.

They had booked accommodation and parking and had arrived at the hospital the previous day so Leo could undergo a series of pre-op tests.

"He was almost to the doors of the operating theatre when the surgery team was again forced to cancel because of a bed shortage," Mrs Lagana said.

"But that was only the start of the nightmare, because on the way home our old car broke down at Miranda and we were stuck for almost six hours with Leo in the back."

This time around Leo, who is the chief ambassador of the Kidzwith Foundation, and his parents, will be chauffeur driven to the hospital in a limousine, thanks to the charity and Leisure Coast Limousines.

Yesterday afternoon, the hospital's director of clinical operations, Dr Michael Brydon, said: "We endeavour to perform all surgery on the scheduled day, but if a critically ill child presents to our hospital requiring intensive care, that child must be given priority."

"We are confident all parents would support this position," Dr Brydon said. The hospital was managing a higher than usual peak of respiratory illness.



Brave face: Little Leo Lagana, who is battling two rare disorders, will spend his seventh birthday in intensive care at Sydney Children's Hospital.

Picture: DAVE TEASE

Seven years of untold courage

LITTLE Leonardo Lagana will spend his seventh birthday on Thursday wired to an array of intensive care unit monitors in Sydney Children's Hospital.

The brave youngster (pictured) will be recovering from delicate surgery that will hopefully stop a rare neurological disease from killing him - provided the health system doesn't let him down for a third time.

A shortage of acute care beds at the hospital has forced the cancellation of his surgery twice in the past three weeks.

Life has never been easy for Leo who has primordial dwarfism, which dramatically stunts his growth.

Earlier this year he was also diagnosed with a degenerative and life-threatening illness.

SEE PAUL MCINERNEY'S REPORT ON PAGE 7

Big school gives Leo plenty of challenges on day one

By MICHELE TYDD

BIG school provided a few small challenges for this kindy kid, who stands 78cm tall.

Leonardo Lagana, who has a rare growth condition, is so small that even the tiniest of uniforms fell off him.

No problem, said Dapto Public School principal Ann Henniker, whose school has gone out of its way to help Leo walk tall.

Leo's parents, Pauline and John Lagana of Kanahooka, were given help in getting their little man decked out in a custom-made size O uniform.

"The school and the P&C have been tremendous - they put us on to Sylvia Vogue at Dapto who made special uniforms for class and sport.

"The school has thought of everything, including a little block to stand on to reach the canteen counter," Mrs Lagana said.

Leo is in a class for children with mild physical or intellectual disabilities.

"It's the best option for Leo at the moment because although he's a real livewire, he does not have the physical strength to do things other kids could do," Mrs Lagana said.

"Even unlocking a water bottle can be too much for his little hands to handle."

Leo has a rare form of primordial dwarfism. He will reach a height of 1.3m fully grown.

"He's aware that he's shorter than other kids but he has a big personality," his proud mum said.

"He's ready for school but sometimes I don't know if school is ready for him," she laughed.

High spirits: Tiny Leonardo Lagana meets his first school teacher, Melissa Wilson.

Picture: ROBERT PEET



mercury

news

'Scary' time for mum as daughter starts school

Condition won't stop Madison

By ANGELA THOMPSON

AS the region's smallest students take their seats for the first time, one Illawarra mum is fretting more than the others at the prospect of saying goodbye.

Madison Davies starts kindergarten at Dapto Public School today with a bright pink backpack, a re-strained whip of long blonde hair... and an unenviable medical condition.

In 2007 Madison became only the fourth person in the world diagnosed with the world's rarest mitochondrial trifunctional protein deficiency.

The condition, so rare that diagnostic testing had to be sent overseas, means Madison's body can't produce energy from food.

As a result she has a cataract in her left eye and a heart murmur that requires regular check-ups.

She mustn't consume more than 11g of fat each day and her muscles are weak, causing her to be treated to her wheelchair when her stamina wanes.

She is smaller than other children her age, and last August she fell into a diabetic coma.



A child fights for life

It's little wonder that mum Sarah Davies finds leaving her - albeit with a carer for three hours of the day - "pretty scary".

"It's a big school," Mrs Davies said.

"I'm worried about her in the playground."

Problems first showed up in genetic tests soon after Madison's birth and doctors didn't expect her to live long.

Because her condition is so rare, there is little precedent to show how her health problems will progress later in life.

"Most children (with the condition) don't live past the newborn period. When Madison was born, they gave her six months," Mrs Davies said.

"They can't tell me anything else because they have no-one really to go off."

For Madison, today is the one she's been waiting for. She's thrilled to be starting school.

"She's very excited," Mrs Davies said. "She loves doing craft and meeting new people and she says to her little brother that she's a big girl now."

The Mercury met Madison in June 2007 when a benefit night was held to raise money to have her tests done in Germany - one of only two countries with the technology to help her.

Mrs Davies and husband Mark were inundated with donations then and remain grateful for the support.

Touching story: How the Mercury reported the story of Madison's rare medical condition in June 2007.

Little battler: Sarah Davies helps daughter Madison, 5, get ready for her first day at Dapto Public School. Madison suffers from a rare protein deficiency.
Picture: ROBERT PEET

● BELOW: Primary school winners (from left) Lauren Elms, Noel Spencer, Raylene Howard, Jason Hooper and Tim Berry.
Pictures: GRAHAME FOTHERGILL



ILLAWARRA MERCURY, Thursday, Dec 7, 1989 — 27

Spencer's on road to glory

NOEL Spencer's Central Coast Mariners are ready to defy the odds and claim the inaugural A-League title from glamour club Sydney FC.

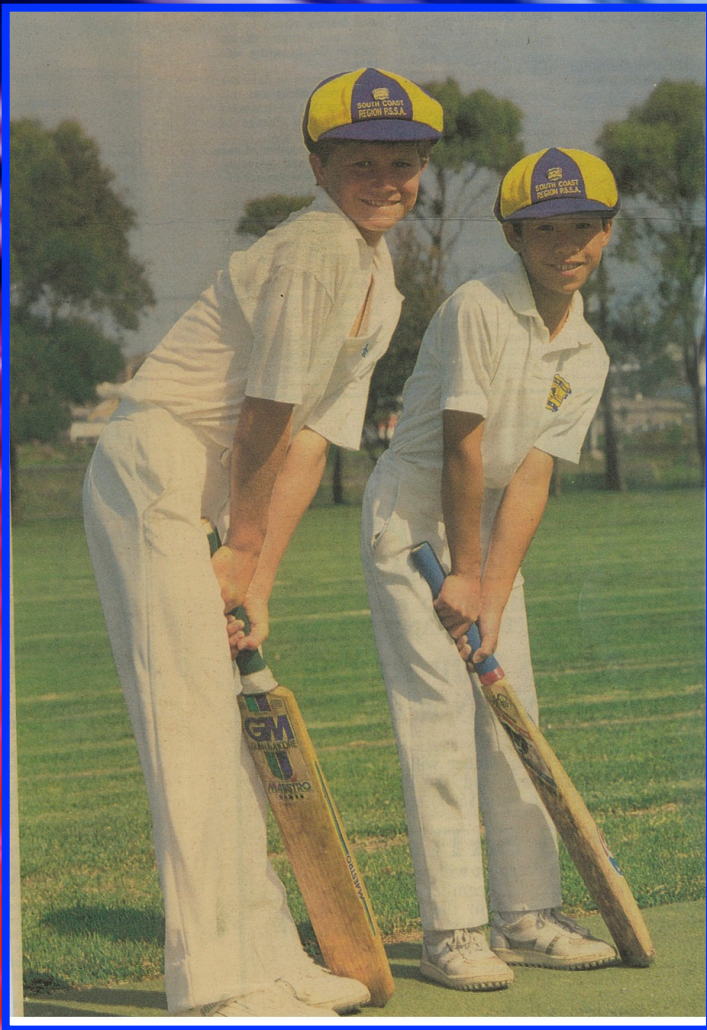
Spencer, the Mariners captain, who grew up in Dapto, has led his team through some tough games away from home during the season to qualify for Sunday's grand final. He is expecting the crowd to be dominated by Sydney FC fans, but believes the Mariners' form on the road this year will give his players plenty of confidence.

"We've only lost one away game all year and we're pretty happy with that," he said in Wollongong yesterday.

"There are a lot of positives for us and the boys are quietly confident that if we play the way we can, we will give them a good run for their money."

REPORT PAGE 60





Dapto boy leads NSW to junior cricket title

Dapto Primary School student Noel Spencer yesterday captained NSW to victory over Queensland in the final of the Australian PSSA Cricket Championship at Dalton Park.

Two other South Coast cricketers were in the NSW team — Gareth Lee Shoy, of Keiraville Primary, and Adam Poulus, of Milton.

The final was originally scheduled for the turf wicket on Lysaghts Oval but wet weather forced the match to be transferred and reduced to 40 overs.

NSW won the toss and batted first in greasy conditions. They lost three early wickets and at one stage were

A fourth-wicket partnership of 81 runs between Camden's Brett Van Deinsen (60 not out) and Scone's Cameron Boyd (33) put NSW back on the rails to finish with 5-121. Queensland were also in trouble early, losing both openers with only one run on the board.

A third-wicket partnership of 42 runs gave NSW slight concern but Queensland's middle order began to collapse

and the northern state was reeling at 7-50, eventually being dismissed for 61.

Medium pace swing bowler Tim Cox was the destroyer with 4-22 while Adam Poulus chipped in with a handy 3-19.

NSW had reached the final by defeating Northern Territory outright and recording comfortable wins over Victoria and South Australia.

The South Coast trio were valuable members of the team, Noel Spencer scoring 69 not out against Victoria and 30 retired against South Australia.

Gareth Lee Shoy scored 33 retired against South Australia while Adam Poulus was the team's first change bowler and collected two good hauls of three wickets.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING, Telephone 295611



Name: Rebecca Ellis.

Age: 11.

School: Dapto Public.

If you could go anywhere, where would it be? Africa.

What book would you take with you?

Cats of Myth: Tales From Around the World by Gerald and Loretta Hausman.

What are you reading now? *Cats of Myth*.

If disaster threatened, what five

books would you rescue?

1. *Animal Heroes* by Anthony Hill.
2. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J K Rowling.
3. *A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Carnivorous Carnival* by Lemony Snickett.
4. *Sands of Time* by Michael Hoeve.
5. *Cats of Myth*.

Who is your favourite character from a book? Klaus from *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

If you wrote a book, what would it be about? It would be about two best friends who went to Fiji.

What was the first book you ever read? *Kitten In and Out*.

What book should be made into a film? *The Deltora Quest: Forest of Silence*.

What book should never have been made into a film and why? *Storm Boy*. It didn't have a very good introduction or conclusion.



DAPTO PUBLIC

We work as a team to provide a quality learning environment

Dapto 1876-1991

Dapto's first teacher, Mr Joseph Bayliss, was appointed to the school on August 7, 1875 with 38 pupils enrolled. The school was situated on the Princes Highway on the site of the present Dapto College of TAFE. In 1877 there were 48 pupils.

By the end of 1895 the enrolment was 104. More buildings were now needed to overcome the overcrowding. It was decided to move Dapto Public School to a more central site in 1900.

Dapto enrolments continued to climb with 300 pupils in June 1900 with a staff of five teachers.

In the early 1920s plans were prepared for a new school with three classrooms costing 2806 pounds. It was occupied on July 11, 1928 at the corner of Byamsee and Moonbarra Streets where it still stands today. Our class uses one of these original classrooms.

During the 1960s the population continued to increase and further brick buildings were added. Today over 450 pupils attend the school, many coming from the new housing developments at West Dapto.

Research: Suzanne Manilla, Dali Vajic, Shelley Kerr, 60

What's in a name...

Although there has been some disagreement about the origins and meaning of the name, it most likely comes from the Aboriginal word meaning "Plenty Water". The western portion of the Hooka lands towards West Dapto ... was called "Dabpeto" by the Aborigines.

— by Andrew Hammond and Nathan Dean, 60

In tune...

Dapto Public School have always had excellent choirs through the years, but this year's choir (of approximately 50) have worked hard and achieved high standards.

We performed at Gleniffer Brae in an Education Week display. Then came Dapto Mall where we performed the 1920s Medley for their Spring Fair promotion.

Next came the Illawarra Choral Festival at the Wollongong Town Hall where our individual item was tremendously successful.

— by Amanda Jarquin and Danae Catterall

The Instrumental Group is formed from primary students, many of whom are talented musicians. The purpose of the group is to learn to play together.

Many tunes are being played in rounds with various instruments.

by Ben Boardman

Helpful parents

Many children's parents come up to help us. Some help with reading, computers, kindergarten groups and sport days.

— By Luke Skipworth — 8 years

Parents and teachers from other countries come to our school to talk about their country of origin.

We learnt about these countries: Finland, Germany, Uruguay, Pakistan, United States and Vietnam.

One mum who came from Germany gave us some gingerbread biscuits to taste. Another brought slides to show us about Finland. We liked learning about the customs and the way of life in other countries.

— by Bianca Prince — 7 years

Learning to think...

The Thinking Skills Group is for children who really enjoy the challenge of solving problems.

Each week Mr Vernon, our Principal, conducts the 40-minute lesson. So far we have discussed the topic of aggression, performed science experiments and designed a kite.

We talk about lots of things too. One debate was whether or not petrol cars should be banned.

We formed and held a trialment and the group has had to find ways of solving problems such as how to determine the mass of a dinosaur.

The topics are stimulating, the lessons enjoyable and here are children from all over the school in the Thinking kills Group.

— by Ben Cass, Rochelle Condie and Daniel Willis

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING, Telephone (042) 212222



□ ABOVE: Amos Koeller and Megan Pratt with an original stone from the year Dapto Public School was founded in 1876

□ BELOW: Dapto's school choir in period costume (clockwise from top left): Donna Kerr, Dallas Loomes, Shelley Kerr, Terry Rust, Leanne Caddick, Melissa Booth, Amy Bowditch, Louise Porter and Clifford Ryan.



Sport has a proud history at our school

Dapto Public School has a great tradition in sport, and many students have gone on to represent NSW and Australia.

For competition within our school we have four sports groups. They are:

DIMOND named after Bob and Peter Dimond, both ex-pupils of Dapto Public School who represented Australia many times at rugby league and toured with the Kangaroos.

BEACH — William Beach was a Dapto citizen from age four. He was educated at Dapto and became a blacksmith. He trained at Mullet Creek and went on to become world rowing champion in 1884, a title he successfully defended six times.

WONGAWILLI — this coal mine opened here in 1888. It was bought by the Hoskins for the Steelworks in 1962. A number of fathers of children from our school work there and a number of our school families live in the historic village.

Environmental care

The environment group drew labels and then pasted the labels on to envelopes so they could be reused.

We have a compost heap and children on a roster system feed it every day. We have planted trees, seedlings and shrubs in both our playground and the roundabout outside the school.

Visitors come to talk about the environment. The children wrote to the Wollongong Council to save the West Dapto Woodland. The children made posters about plastic at school and put it in the school library and the Dapto Mall. Lots of children like to belong to the Environment Group.

— by Louise Berry, 2W

Camping out on the farm

Last term Year 5 went on a camp to Illaroo Farm on the Shoalhaven River.

We went on a night bushwalk and the owner told us some alarming stories. Some children were scared so we all stayed together for safety.

We had a talent quest and each cabin had to perform a different circus act. We played games and sketched pictures and went on a 10km hike in the mountains. When we got back we were exhausted. We had a great time singing around the campfire.

— by Leanne Caddick

In July the first class children from Dapto Public School went to see the Bernie Cinders Fire Safety Show at Crown Central, Wollongong.

It was very funny and exciting.

There was a puppet called Bernie Cinders. Bernie and a fireman Rex talked to us.

— by Jessica Thornton



□ Young environmentalists (from left): Louise Berry, Sharon Baxter, Ryan Brophy, Aaron Redman and Hayley Dean tend a young tree in the school grounds.

ILLAWARRA MERCURY SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

□ Today's feature was compiled by students at Dapto Public School, under the guidance of Mrs Margaret Spiers. Next Tuesday: **BERKELEY WEST**

ILLAWARRA MERCURY, Tuesday, October 8, 1991 — 13

Extension course helps achievers



Year 6 students Mitchell Smith, Tamara James and Cassidy Reid benefit from extension classes in maths and technology.

An extension program in mathematics and technology has proven successful at Dapto Public School.

Initiated this year, the voluntary program operates outside of school hours two afternoons a week and is staffed by two high school maths teachers.

Principal Ann Henniker said the program catered for high-achieving Year 6 maths students,

to help break down any barriers between primary and high school.

"We found that students who were high achievers in the areas of maths and technology sometimes experienced a bit of a drop-off once they got to Year 7 because of the different way the subjects are arranged in high school," Mrs Henniker said.

"This program helps able students make that step to high level, high schools maths easily, by

working with high school teachers now.

"Students don't undertake Year 7 maths. However, they do maths activities that are an extension of the work laid out in the Year 6 syllabus."

Mrs Henniker said the program also aimed to show students that "maths could be fun".

She said 13 students were taking part in the program which, with further funding, would hopefully be operated on a continuing basis.

Garden art competition



Students from St Plus X School at Unanderra with Wollongong City Council's Felicity Shaw. Picture: KIRK GILMOUR.

BUDDING young artists are being invited to enter Wollongong City Council's upcoming garden art competition.

The competition is part of the Wollongong Garden Festival, which will be held from October 19 to 28, and has the theme My Favourite Garden.

The competition is open to students in the categories of under six, under eight and under 12, and prizes will be presented in three zones across the city.

Each school is invited to submit its best five entries for each age category. These artworks will be displayed in Westfield Shoppingtown Warrawang, Figtree or Corral Court.

Final judging will take place at each shopping centre with the winning entries to take pride of place in the council foyer.

Entries close on September 14. For more information contact 4227 7302.

School centenary

WOLLONGONG Public School is looking to the community for help with its upcoming 150th birthday celebrations.

The school is planning a day full of fun and activities on September 14 and organisers are looking for photographs and other memorabilia for displays.

Students would also like to interview some past students to gain an insight into the school days of old.

Those able to oblige, or those interested in joining in the celebrations, should contact the school on 4228 9120 or via email at wollongongpublicschool@hotmail.com.

A planning meeting will also be held tomorrow at 2.30pm in the school library.

Readers are leaders at Dapto Public School

THE strong reading program at Dapto Public School lays the foundation for successful schooling, says principal Ann Henniker.

Reading is an emphasis from day one at the school, and there are three trained reading recovery teachers available for students in need of a bit of extra attention.

"The reading recovery program was established by the Department of Education as an early intervention program with the aim of solving any problems before students reach Year 2," Mrs Henniker said.

"The reading recovery teachers work with selected Year 1 students on a one-to-one basis for half an hour each day to overcome any little problems they might have with reading. They also work closely with parents to ensure the good work is kept up at home."

Mrs Henniker said the momentum was kept up with a guided reading program for students of all ages.

"Guided reading means students are placed in ability groups with teachers, which allows those who are struggling to catch up while stretching the skills of those with good reading abilities," she said.

The school allocates a lot of funds to buy books, and regular fundraisers by parents also add to the extensive range of books available to students.

"Reading is the foundation of every subject," Mrs Henniker said, "so is a major priority at Dapto school."



Reading recovery teacher Carol Harford helps Year 1 student Zac Carpenter with his reading skills.

WESLEY INSTITUTE
for Ministry & the Arts

"Australia's Premier Christian College of the Arts & Theology"

OPEN DAY - Saturday September 1, 2001

...offers degrees/diplomas in:

- Dance
- Theology
- Music
- Drama
- Counselling
- Graphic Design

Wesley Institute offers an exciting tertiary alternative with a high standard of academic excellence in a supportive Christian environment. Courses are approved for **Auxiliary/Abstudy and Youth Allowance** and are available for both full and part time study.

For more information please contact: **WESLEY INSTITUTE** on (02) 9719-1711 or email us at **enquiries@wima.edu.au**
Our website address is **www.wima.edu.au**

1. ALL COURSES ACCREDITED BY S.E.C. 1

Students' say

DAPTO Public School is celebrating its 125th anniversary this week.

Over the next two days the school will be open to the public, who will be able to enjoy displays of memorabilia as well as a variety of performances by students.

Students from kindergarten to Year 6 have also been learning about school life in the old days, and making their own displays on themes of past, present and future.

How different do you think when your school was established in 1876?

★ They wouldn't have had people like me. They wouldn't have had pictures in photo frames and nice desks. They wouldn't have had videos and I think television might be missing - **Cameron Rouse, kindergarten.**

★ School kids would have had different clothes and they wouldn't have had any shoes. They would have played different games to us - **Mitchell Howarth, Year 1.**

★ I think school would have been much harder because kids got the cane - **Kate Oliver, Year 2.**

★ When kids did good book work teachers would have had to lick the stamps to put on the page, because stamps didn't have any sticky on them - **Amy Thompson, Year 3.**

★ It would have been much harder because they didn't have technology like we do today - we've been doing a project on transport since 1876 and it was very different - **Adam West, Year 4.**

★ We don't get the cane and we don't use ink anymore - I think it's much better today - **Kayleigh Olds, Year 5.**

★ The technology we have today is much more advanced which makes it easier for us to do a lot of things - **Jade Hunt, Year 6.**



CAMERON



MITCHELL



KATE



AMY



ADAM



KAYLEIGH



JADE

Principal's message



ANN HENNIKER

DAPTO Public School, adjacent to Dapto's commercial centre, is one of the oldest schools in the state.

The present site is the second to be occupied by the school since its establishment 125 years ago.

The school serves the older, established residential area of Dapto as well as the newly subdivided.

The school has a steadily increasing student enrolment, the majority of who live in West Dapto and travel to school by bus.

The school is actively involved in the wider community. This year we have participated in many creative arts activities, dance and choral festivals, and have a mural on City Gallery, as part of the Centenary of Federation celebrations.

All children from kindergarten to Year 6 have contact with a specialist music

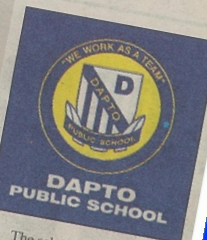
teacher through our release from face-to-face program. Students have been involved in the Musica Viva and Upbeat programs.

Students have the opportunity to play tuned and untuned percussion instruments, learn and compose songs and raps, read and compose music scores and be involved in choir.

Dapto Public School continues its success in a wide variety of sporting endeavours.

Already this year we have had students selected to represent South Coast in tennis, soccer, basketball,

DAPTO PUBLIC SCHOOL
Established: 1876
Principal: Ann Henniker
Deputy Principal: Justin Quinn
Motto: We Work As A Team
Enrolments: 520 Staff: 30
Phone/Fax:
4261 2247/4262 2038
Address: Byamee St, Dapto



rugby league and netball, while Holly King has been chosen in Sports Association basketball team.

Our Personal Development, Health and Physical Education programs encourage enthusiastic participation, self-confidence and positive interaction with peers.

They foster skill-building in games and sport, informed personal health choices and an active lifestyle.

The school was honoured to have its senior students involved in the presentation of Paralympic medals.

The school has three computer laboratories as well as computers in each classroom.

The experienced staff work hard to provide a balanced program in all key learning areas. Year 1 have three trained reading recovery teachers working to ensure that students make solid progress in the early years of school.

Academic extension programs operate in the areas of mathematics and technology. The programs operate two afternoons a week after school for Years 5 and 6.

- Ann Henniker

A long and proud sporting tradition



Dapto Public School South Coast sports representatives - (back from left) Michael Fittler, Phillip Smyth, Kristen Willis and Emma Ford and (front) Bradley Hooper-Mathias, Eugene Turner and Cody Morrow.

DAPTO Public School enjoys a long and proud sporting tradition.

Among the school's former pupils are world champion sculler William Beach, Dimond and Ted Goodwin, champion reinsman Vic Frost and soccer star Noel Spencer.

Deputy principal Justin Quinn said that the wide and varied sporting program at the school helped foster confidence, teamwork and self-esteem.

"At Dapto sport is a valuable and

integral part of the school curriculum, providing unique opportunities for students to gain self-confidence and to develop a variety of physical and social skills which will stay with them for life," he said.

Mr Quinn said students had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports through school-based sports programs and by participation in Public School Sports Association activities.

Basketball, netball, softball, cricket, tennis, rugby league and union, soccer, touch football, hockey, swimming,

athletics and cross-country are just some of the options available for students.

Mr Quinn said the school this year boasted a number of talented students selected to represent the South Coast.

Dapto sports master Marcus Arnold said students at all levels of ability were encouraged to participate and enjoy individual and team fitness activities.

"Our school-based sports activities emphasise sporting skills, social interaction and enjoyment," he said.

"Every child at Dapto has the opportunity to be a member of a team."

Dapto Public School
Celebrating
125 years
in Public Education

OPEN DAYS
Thursday August 30
Friday August 31
11am - 2pm



School Motto
'We work as a team'

Dapto Public School
Byamee St, Dapto Ph: 4261 2247
Email: dapto-ps.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Church's Dapto days

THE CHURCH
Sunday:
Yallah Roadhouse
Tickets \$34.40 (show
only)

Vocalist and bass player Steve Kilbey is no stranger to the Illawarra.

In fact, the frontman for The Church explains the region has influenced his music in many ways because of a childhood connection to the region.

"From age four to nine I lived in Dapto and went to Dapto Primary School," he explains from his Sydney home.

"I'm not a nostalgic guy but there are a lot of things I still draw on that come from there. For example I remember doing a class play and walking up Byamsee St to the community centre. That's where I got this complete fetish for backstage.

"That has stayed with me all my life. I like the feeling of being backstage and waiting to go on. It still gives me a thrill."

Kilbey returns to the region this weekend for a gig at the Yallah Roadhouse.

The performance promised to be different from anything The Church fans had experienced before.

"We all got together and had rehearsals for five or six days last week and it's sounding very promising," he says.

"It's all completely acoustic. We have never really toured anything like this before. We have had a go but people started bringing on electric guitars. This is the first time it has been acoustic all the way through."

The tour follows on from The Church's release *El Momento Descuidado*, an album which featured reworked versions of some of the group's most popular songs as well as a few new recordings.

The album, which was nominated for an ARIA award and listed in the top 5 for Best Adult Contemporary Album for 2005, was recorded in only two or three days and was a surprising success, Kilbey says.

"We're really trying to strip back to the essence and rebuild with as little fuss and fanfare as possible," he says.

"The music is very much stripped back. We're not attempting to re-present the songs ... The Church has always

piled on the extra stuff because we're good at that and known for that.

"This just accidentally came out good. (When I got my copy) I came home and played it to my wife. We just sat there in the dark and listened to it for the first time.

"I was pretty surprised by the effect of the album. It was great but it wasn't something we were aiming for. It just snuck up."

The Church's history dates back to 1981 and the release of *Skins and Hearts* which featured the hit single *The Unguarded Moment*.

From there the group released a number of albums including *Heyday*, *Starfish*, *Priest=Aura* and, in 1999, a collection covers titled *A Box of Birds*.

Kilbey says *El Momento Descuidado* explores songs from across The Church's diverse history including *The Unguarded Moment*, which has been redeemed in his eyes thanks to the acoustic version.

"*The Unguarded Moment* I really hated about two minutes after it was a hit and I went on hating it ever since," he says.

"I realise now it's not the song that's so bad. Just the performance because it's all guitar fanfare and melodrama. Now we have found that stripped back way of doing it it's not too bad."

In fact, Kilbey says the acoustic versions of the songs have been such a hit with the band, the group was planning to record another album.

That would come after the release of an album in February of songs recorded around *El Momento Descuidado*.

"Uninvited Like *The El Momento Descuidado*. That record we worked on for months doing this and that to it and jam sessions to write it, mix it.

"*El Momento Descuidado* was just bang. We went in played, mixed over and obviously that works for us. It's funny because sometimes the simplest thing can be the hardest thing to take the time to do. It's taken me a long time to know less is more and sometimes simple is better."

- KILMENY ADIE

The Church's Steve Kilbey (front) has a little bit of Dapto in his blood.



BUY IT, SELL IT, TELL IT, Mercury Classifieds 4221 2222

hair-raising effort

BRENDAN CRABB

EMMA Burns is proudly sporting a new look just in time for the colder weather - but doesn't regret losing her locks for charity for a second.

Eleven-year-old Emma came home from school several weeks ago and told mother Belinda she wanted to raise money for breast cancer.

She was inspired by her grandmother Dot, who was diagnosed late last year, and looks set to reach her \$2000 goal.

Joining the ACRF Online Fundraising Program for Australian Cancer Research Foundation's effort, she had her hair cut in front of family and friends at her Dapto home on Sunday.

The hairdresser left about an inch of hair, the 35cm cut off to be sent to Kylie Clarke Wig Making in Leichhardt and sold per ounce.

The money received there will also be donated to her fundraising efforts.

"My grandma is proud of me," Emma said.

"She had a couple of tears in her eye when I cut the hair off. The day was a great success and I absolutely love my new hair length. I will never regret doing this. I like it, it's something a bit different."

Belinda said her daughter, a vice-captain at Dapto Public School, was visibly pleased with how the day had went.

"She couldn't stop touching her hair after it came off yesterday," she said on Monday. "I'm very proud of what she's doing."

"She's the type of person who can carry it off, it doesn't worry her."

"If she decides to do something, once she's made her mind up she'll do it. She's very focused."

Belinda said once all pledged funds had been collected, it should add up to a little more than \$2000.

You can still donate until the end of May by visiting www.everydayhero.com.au/hero_pages/view_posts/emmaburns website.

ay. She expects to raise more than \$2000 for breast cancer research.

