



RICHMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL

SMALL BUT SPECIAL

Leapfrog into learning

By JESSICA HOFFTO and GEORGIE KARAS

THE Grade 4/5 and 5/6 classes at Richmond Primary School are involved in an environmental program at Frogmore vineyard and wetland between Richmond and Sorell.

Manager Tony Scherer and partner Pam Mueser are trying to create a world-class, completely organic vineyard and a wetland for frogs and other animals.

The students have been visiting Frogmore learning about endangered animals and taking samples of the water and plants.

They will create a vision of what they would like the Frogmore wetland to look like and what extra features they would like to see there.

The owners plan to build a restaurant near the wetland to attract more people to



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: Students at Frogmore.

Frogmore and to increase the awareness about wetlands and the environment.

Frogmore is supported by the Leapfrog project which is designed to raise awareness about frogs, such as the green and gold bell frog, and other

endangered species such as the swift parrot.

The Leapfrog project is funded through the Natural Heritage Trust and it supports about 20 schools around Tasmania. Without Leapfrog's support Richmond Pri-

mary would not be able to be involved with Frogmore to the same degree.

Tasmanian Leapfrog coordinator Nel Smit said the project was originally designed to support the habitat of the green and gold bell frog, the most endangered frog in Tasmania.

"But the main reason is to save all species of frogs," she said.

Ms Smit said Frogmore became involved in the Leapfrog project when the owner approached at Agfest and said he would like to be involved in the project and invited her to come to the farm.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students and teachers to learn about endangered species and making wetlands," she said.

Community project a model for future centres

By PATRICK HENRY

THE community at Richmond Primary School celebrated the opening of the new \$380,000 kinder/childcare building and toilet block by holding a mini fair early this month.

At the official opening, student Hamish Dunbabin welcomed Education Minister Paula Wriedt, Clarence Mayor Cathy Edwards and invited guests.

Ms Wriedt declared the childcare building open while her young son look bemused by the occasion.

Ms Wriedt said the school had grown along with the community and the site now included the primary school for 160 children, the childcare centre for up to 20 pre school children, the Monday playgroup and a busy Online Access Centre.

"In future there will be a



FAIR CALL: Student Hamish Dunbabin addresses guests at the opening of the new childcare centre.

seamless transition from pre-school to kinder and then over to prep and the 'big school'."

"You can be justly proud of the results of your efforts, the Richmond Childcare and Kindergarten facility will be an excellent model for similar developments in the future," she said.

Principal Martin Hilliard then announced the start of the Richmond mini fair to further celebrate the important occasion then the Clarence City Band performed along with the Scottish Dancers.

Finally, the fairy floss, white elephant, grocery and plant stalls all came to life.

Centre success

THE Childcare Centre didn't just happen overnight.

A parent management committee has been working on the project since 1993.

The parents were committed to getting a good childcare facility in Richmond.

The government was lobbied and finally convinced of the need for a purpose-built facility.

Centre director, Mrs Garland said: "Children have settled in, are enjoying themselves and are allowing their parents to leave without too much fuss."

Ben Johnston and Hamish Dunbabin

EDITORIAL TEAM: Luke Johnston, Georgie Karas, Oliver Nicholas, Shelley Nicholas, Samantha Nolder, Hayden Parkyn, Kate Schwartz, Codie Ackroyd, Patrick Berry, Alice Bosworth, Angelia Bradshaw, Hamish Dunbabin, Nigel Fahey, Damian Gibson, Emily Giffard, Karyn Grimmond, Jessica Hoffto, Megan Hughes, Ben Johnston, Ella Jones, Melissa Joseph, Portia Reid, Hayley Sharp, Allana Smith, Estella Walker, coordinator - Mr N.G.Bills
www.ric.tas.edu.au/

Richmond Bridge at risk

CONVICTS built the Richmond Bridge, the oldest in Australia, in 1823.

Many people are worried about the bridge, a major tourist attraction, because it was meant only for people and horses and carts and now has to cope with big semi-trailers and tourist buses.

Some of the Richmond community are planning a by-pass to keep heavy vehicles off the bridge.

Oliver Nicholas, Damian Gibson and Nigel Fahey

Principal's principles

SCHOOL principal Martin Hilliard says to any parents thinking of sending children to Richmond Primary school that it is a very supportive school.

The children are friendly and generally care for each other and the school is small enough for all the children to be known by and looked after by all the school staff.

Luke Johnston and Hayden Parkyn

Old School House

THE Old School House in Torrens St was built in 1835 and is the oldest still in use in Australia.

The sandstone building designed by John Lee Archer was specifically designated by Lieut Governor Arthur as a school house.

Local farmer and World War Two veteran, Mr John Jones, went to Richmond Primary School from 1927 when there was just one classroom in the Old School House containing seven grades, one teacher and one monitor.

Mr Jones said: "The teacher was always ready with the cane in the corner."

Portia Reid and Emily Giffard

Red Cross calling

RED Cross has a huge involvement in the Richmond area with a junior Red Cross at Richmond Primary School and a senior Red Cross across the road.

The junior Red Cross was formed a couple of years ago by Mrs Harrold, a teacher at Richmond. In that time the group has made teddies for the kids in hospital, raised money for the roadhouse, held a breakfast on World Red Cross Day, helped the senior Red Cross plant a tree for the late Rose Barwick, had meetings in the Red Cross units across the road, and raised money for a plaque that will be put underneath the tree that was planted for Rose.

Megan Hughes and Alice Bosworth

Game, set and match

FORMER student Emma Oakford has been playing in tennis tournaments since grade 6 and this year was the top female under-16 tennis player in Tasmania.

Emma, whose coach is Simon Youl, has been selected to play for Tasmania six times.

When asked what she liked most about tennis Emma said: "I like going on the court and trying to carry out what I have learnt in training. I like winning; I like going on the court and having fun."

Kate Schwartz and Samantha Nolder

Humpty's nightmare

THE school had an egg drop and throw competition in which competitors had to design a contraption that would protect their egg.

First the eggs had to survive being dropped off the grade 2 classroom roof, then all surviving eggs had to be dropped off the grade 5/6 classroom roof.

Megan Hughes and Alice Bosworth came first; Shelley Nichols and Patrick Berry came second; and Estella Walker and Karyn Grimmond came third.

Shelley Nichols, Karyn Grimmond and Melissa Joseph

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* Now located off Commercial Road (on the Richmond Primary School site)
* Quality child care and pre-kinder programs
* A large child-friendly playground with excellent toys and equipment
* Professionally staffed and community managed
Phone 6260 2647 or arrange a visit!

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