



# Emmanuel Christian School

Shield of Faith Sword of the Spirit Eph 6:16.17

## MISSION ACHIEVED

SIXTEEN enthusiastic students, their teachers and a few brave parents from Emmanuel Christian School have experienced real mission work as they met, befriended and served local villages and schools in parts of Fiji earlier this year.

Each year a group of Grade 10 students from Emmanuel raises about \$2000 each to help meet expenses and get them to Fiji, as well as provide gifts and equipment for the schools they have established friendships with over the years.

Some of ways the students collected the money was through selling chocolates, helping out in the school canteen and putting on sausage sizzles.

Claremont Baptist Church and Lauderdale Abundant Life Church also provided support, raising more money for the causes in Fiji.

This year's group of 16 students and six teachers and parents left Hobart late on May 21 and arrived the next day in Fiji.

Their work was to

serve communities and to provide the Fijian school children with sport and school equipment, which they cannot afford themselves.

The first place the missionaries arrived at was Narewa Village, West Fiji, where they scrubbed and painted the inside and outside of a house and replaced some broken windows.

Coral Coast Christian Campsite was one of the more enjoyable places the students visited.

At the Deuba Village school they presented exercise books, pencils and sports equipment to the children. A couple of days were spent helping to repair the guttering of buildings, put in a water tank, fix some taps and lay down a concrete path.

"Meeting the kids was absolutely fantastic and we had really great weather while we were in Fiji," said Amelia Vander Niet and Samantha Miller, two of the older students who really enjoyed the Fiji trip.

"We got to swim in the



**HELPING OUT:** Students Sophie Benson Calvin Bartle, Joshua Quan, Jamie Warr, Caleb Handasyde, Amelia Vander Niet, Andrew Huxley and Peter Targett (both obscured), with a Fijian teacher.

bluest water we'd seen. It was magical."

After each hard day's work the students enjoyed time out with the local kids, cooling off with a swim and playing volleyball on the beach.

"The only hard thing this time was the plane flight at night time," said Sue Dishington, the sec-

ondary school coordinator at Emmanuel, who has been on the trip to Fiji for the past six years.

"It was another really great experience, and spending time with the Fijian kids was unforgettable. These students and the kids they met will have fond memories of their experiences and

friendships they made for years," she said.

This year's Grade 9 students are now raising money towards next year's trip to Fiji.

Emmanuel Christian School will continue the trips to provide support to communities in Fiji.

By **MEGHAN GIBB** and **TEGAN ANDERSEN**



**CONSERVATION:** Students Beth Sharples and Eilish Eagling planting a Morrisby gum.

## Growing gums for the future

EMMANUEL Christian School has taken the lead towards a better environment for future generations.

Twenty-three rare and endangered Morrisby gums have found a new home on Emmanuel school grounds after being transplanted on July 25.

The enthusiastic students of the Grade 5-6 classes spent most of their school day toiling to plant this special species of tree on the property.

The decision to place an endangered species of tree on school grounds started with a conversation between newly appointed principal Geoff Hewitt and school parent Jackie Vander Niet.

This led to a meeting with the school committee where a group of teachers decided it was a good opportunity to take place in National Tree Day to help save the environment.

Eucalyptus Morrisby was named after the Morrisby family when the tree was found growing on their property. There are two Morrisbys in Grade 10 at Emmanuel.

Mr Hewitt's ambition in this endeavour is that God's people can appreciate and look after this wonderful creation God has given to our people so that this tree will not become extinct.

Another reason the Morrisby gum was selected to be planted on the school grounds is because this particular species is native to south-eastern Tasmania.

Emmanuel also sent a group of students to the Morrisby farm in Sanford where the trees were originally found. There they planted 14 young Morrisby gums.

"Planting the trees makes me feel like I am doing my part to help the environment," student Jesse Albert said.

The rare trees will be cared for at Emmanuel and the Morrisby property while they make their slow growth before reaching full size.

The Morrisby gum has a slow growth rate making it harder but more rewarding to care for.

By **JOSHUA SPINKS, JESSE ALBERT** and **CONNOR EAGLING**

## In brief

### Mentor program

A MENTORING program aimed at bringing younger and older people together is being managed by school chaplain Anna Gregory at Emmanuel Christian School. "Go Mentoring" is an exciting program that aims for students to be nurtured, encouraged and valued and to help them with their life skills. David Smith, who is the school's bus driver and groundsman, is one of the mentors and he said he chose to be a

mentor because he wanted to make a difference in young people's lives. A student involved in the project said: "I really love what I am doing with my mentor — we are currently hand-making teddy bears together."

**JOANNA HUTCHISON**  
and **ANNA TRY**

### Meeting benchmarks

LIKE many schools, Emmanuel had a small amount of students who did not meet the Federal Government's benchmarks for literacy and numeracy. Jackie Brown has been appointed as Emmanuel's tutor for the feder-

ally funded Even Start program and will work with nine students from Grades 4, 6 and 8 for two half-hour sessions a week over 12 weeks. It began last month and concentrates on reading, writing and maths.

**OLIVER FISHER** and  
**JESS HUXLEY**

### Money for music

EMMANUEL students from Grades 5-8 have benefited from a \$30,000 grant from the Federal Government used to buy woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, guitars and new skins for the school's drum kits.

This *Mercury* School Page was produced by Emmanuel Christian School's Grade 8 English class, with thanks to all sponsors.

The most expensive instruments were two euphoniums and a xylophone. Music teacher Belinda McDermott said the new instruments have helped to increase popularity of music throughout the school.

**KRISTIAN VINES** and  
**JOSHUA ORCHARD**



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