



# The Margate Messenger

a news page from Margate Primary School and Margate Online Access Centre



## Margate celebrates a culture

### In brief

By **PATRICK EDWARDS** and **ADAM NORRIS**

THE Margate Aboriginal Education Centre recently ran an activities week for all classes in the school as a lead-up to NAIDOC Week (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee), which is held in July.

The activities included the role-play *Gumnuts to Buttons*, which is a walk through Tasmanian history from an Aboriginal perspective.

Other activities were shell mobile- and necklace-making, weaving, bush dyeing and art work.

Other activities offered at the centre to all schools in the state include bush tucker, story-telling, and talks on the Stolen Generations, tools, shelter,

mutton-birding and both traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal people present all sessions.

The Margate Aboriginal Education Centre first opened in 1994. It evolved into an education centre as a result of the hard work of parents in the community.

The Aboriginal Education Unit, Department of Education supports and funds the centre through the Commonwealth Indigenous Strategic Initiatives Program.

If you or your school would like to know more about the Margate Aboriginal Education Centre, please contact Debbie Clifford on 6267 2238 Monday to Thursday or e-mail [debbie.clifford@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:debbie.clifford@education.tas.gov.au)



**LIVING HISTORY:** At the Margate Aboriginal Centre, from left, Bianca Payne, Mythrin Murray, Sarah Briggs, Christine Balke and Patrick Edwards play *Gumnuts to Buttons*.

A GROUP of students created a website about North West Bay last year.

The site features the natural attractions of the area such as beaches, waterfalls and bush walks.

It also includes some local groups such as scouts and guides.

The group of students, working with Margate Online Access Centre and community members, interviewed people, wrote webpages and took digital photos. The website is [www.margate.tco.asn.au/NWBay/index.htm](http://www.margate.tco.asn.au/NWBay/index.htm)

**ADAM NORRIS**  
A SMALL group of students from Margate Primary School discovered history in a cupboard at Margate Florist and Crafts.

In a small room called Our Father's Shed, owners Carol Mackey and Helen Lindsay have created a display of historical pieces that belonged to their father, Mr Kennelly, who owned a mixed farm in the Margate area.

The oldest piece is a set of kitchen scales more than 150 years old.

Other artefacts include one of the very first motor lawn mowers, a radiogram, a butter churn, an early stove, kitchen utensils and school books.

**MYTHRIN MURRAY**  
A CLASS from Margate Primary School is trying to save the swift parrot because it is an endangered species.

For seven years the school has been planting trees along the Channel Highway near the Margate Train as well as on Bruny Island.

The habitat of the swift parrot is blue gum and black gum trees.

Margate Primary School obtains funding from the Commonwealth Government through National Heritage program.

**CHRISTINE BALKE and SARAH BRIGGS**

**Editorial Team:**

Christine Balke, Sarah Briggs, Patrick Edwards, Mythrin Murray, Adam Norris, Bianca Payne, with AST 2 teacher Roger O'Meagher and Margate Online Access Centre co-ordinator Avril Priem.

## Native regeneration in school's patch

By **BIANCA PAYNE** and **MYTHRIN MURRAY**

ONE of the main projects a class of students is working on this year is the Adopt-a-Patch project.

The Patch is located at Dru Point Bicentennial Park in Margate.

Margate Primary School first started to work on The Patch in 2000. Students are weeding this area of land and planting native plants.

The main weeds they are pulling out are boneseed, which originated from Africa, and blackberry bushes.

They then plant native trees and bushes such as she-oaks and native pigface.

A project within the Patch program

is a bird identification sign.

Some of the students wrote a letter to the Kingborough Council asking for permission to put up the sign. They then had to get a quote from a designer to find out how much the sign was going to cost.

"We are raising money for this bird identification sign," the co-ordinator of the program, Anne Briggs, said.

To further enhance the work at The Patch, students are working with some of the latest computing technologies to record and interpret plant and bird information.

Funding for this has been provided through the Innovations Online Project.

The Patch program is funded by Greening Australia.



**BUSHWORK:** Elizabeth Phillips and Lizzie Armstrong measure the growth of trees as part of The Patch program.

### Net rewards

MARGATE Online Access Centre brings affordable access to the Internet and computers to the local community.

A variety of computer courses from how to use a digital camera to a popular two-hour course called *L-plates on the Cyberhighway*, are offered.

Community groups can also have their own free web page as part of the Tasmanian CommunityNet.

Web pages are easy to do and groups are encouraged to keep their page up-to-date by learning how through their local online access centre.

To view examples of community pages browse [www.margate.tco.asn.au](http://www.margate.tco.asn.au)

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