PETER HALL

FIVE-year-old Mia Roberts usually can’t stand having her Rapunzel-like locks trimmed. However, this week the Sunshine Coast youngster was ecstatic as her “mermaid hair” was cut and went to help children who could only dream of such luxuriant tresses.

The Pacific Lutheran College Prep student was delighted to support Variety’s Princess Charlotte Alopecia Program. The initiative generates awareness of alopecia areata (hair loss), for which there is no known cure, and gifts wigs to children with the condition.

“I feel really special to be able to help others,” Mia said.

Her mother Melanie said her daughter, who liked to pretend she was the character Elsa from the award-winning Disney film Frozen, was really proud of the donation.

“She has grown it for a long time and had a few trims, but hates getting her hair cut. This made it a lot easier because it means something,” she said.

Wigs are specially manufactured for each child to ensure the colour and size fit and they look as realistic as possible, allowing children to play sport and swim.

Without donations, families of those affected would have to pay between $3500 and $5000. Contact Variety Qld Alopecia Program.

SELFLESS ACT: Mia Roberts before, during and after losing her locks at Deanie’s Kids Cuts, Currumbin. Her hair will be made into wigs for children suffering from alopecia.

Pictures: Glenn Barnes
PACIFIC LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Caloundra firefighters share secrets at Early Learning Centre

The Caloundra firefighters stepped off their vehicles into a crowd of thrilled children who had been waiting for the much-anticipated arrival. Children were able to gain valuable insights into the role of a firefighter and fire safety at home and school. They checked out all the bells and whistles inside the vehicle and were able to hold the 15m fire hose as it released a burst of water on to the college oval.

The visit followed the Early Learning Centre’s recent unit of study into the roles and occupations of people in the community.

FIRE DRILL: Pacific Lutheran College learn from Caloundra Fire Brigade staff.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Children had shown a keen interest in firefighters, which was supported by class discussions, books and role-playing.

The visit also coincided with the Early Learning Centre’s regular mock fire drill.

— TARA COOPER

Fires’ visit lights the fire of Pacific Lutheran College students’ interest

HANDS-on learning applied to real-life situations is what Pacific Lutheran College pride themselves on.

A visit from real firemen in their real fire trucks was no exception at the Early Learning Centre. There were smiles all round, excitement and cheers as the firemen stepped off their fire truck into a crowd of thrilled children.

Children were able to gain valuable insights into the role of a firefighter and fire safety at home and school.

They checked out all the bells and whistles inside an actual fire truck, and were able to hold the 15m-long fire hose as it released an explosive burst of water onto the college oval.

The visit followed the Early Learning Centre’s recent unit of study into the roles and occupations of people in the community. Children had shown a keen interest in firemen, which was supported by class discussions, books, role-playing and prop creation — and topped off with the firemen’s visit.

The visit also coincided with the Early Learning Centre’s mock fire drill. Fire and lock-down drills are carried out at least four times a year and completed with the Pacific Lutheran College (Kindy-Year 13).

Early Learning director Aunwre Lumbies said while she was pleased to have received excellent feedback for meeting all the correct fire evacuation procedures, she was equally thrilled to have been able to provide children with an exciting, hands-on experience.

“To be able to incorporate their interests and unit of study with the college’s quarterly fire drill provided a perfect opportunity,” Ms Lumbies said.

“The children loved the experience... The visit was also important because it means that if a real emergency occurs, children will be well prepared.”

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

FRIENDLY VISIT: Students from Pacific Lutheran College with the Caloundra Fire Brigade.
East meets West

OCEANfest teaches cultural diversity

Students from Pacific Lutheran College unleashed their creativity in the lead up to tomorrow’s OCEANfest celebrations by decorating a 12m-long Chinese-style dragon. During the festival, which will be a themed celebration of East meets West, up to 50 students will walk underneath the dragon, handing out fortune cookies to guests.

OCEANfest creative director Jenny Lee said the decorating had been “a really good uniting exercise” for the school community. “The dragon is all about good will,” she said. Students from preschool to Year 12 had gotten in on the fun, Mrs Lee said. “They’ve made tassels, they’ve put little stickers on, they’ve done some painting,” she said. Creating awareness and an interest in other cultures was a main goal of the festival, Mrs Lee said. “We’re pretty lucky in this part of the world, but we also need to say there is a broader community,” she said. A portion of funds raised will go to supporting Cambodian communities, through the school’s involvement in Lutheran World Service.

Each year, a group of about 10 students from Year 10 to 12 pay their own way to Cambodia and experience living in a different country for two weeks, staying in youth hostels and teaching in schools. Flags and trinkets from the 2013 trip to Cambodia will adorn the dragon, to remind students of their connection to the country. Funds raised will also be used to purchase new equipment for the school. OCEANfest will kick off tomorrow from 3.15pm. Highlights include the dragon parade, Launces ton unplugged, Old McDonald’s animal farmyard, rides, live music and bouncy castles, cultural displays and the popular cent and silent auctions.

Cultural theme for festival

By EMILY DITCHBURN

It may look fierce, but this dragon is here to help students learn about cultural diversity. Students from Pacific Lutheran College unveiled their creativity in the lead up to tomorrow’s OCEANfest celebrations by decorating a 12m-long Chinese-style dragon.

During the festival, which will be themed celebration of East meets West, up to 50 students will walk underneath the dragon, handing out fortune cookies to guests.

OCEANfest creative director Jenny Lee said the decorating had been “a really good uniting exercise” for the school community. “The dragon is all about good will,” she said.

Students from preschool to Year 12 had gotten in on the fun, Mrs Lee said. “They’ve made tassels, they’ve put little stickers on, they’ve done some painting,” she said.

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Each year, a group of about 10 students from Year 10 to 12 pay their own way to Cambodia and experience living in a different country for two weeks, staying in youth hostels and teaching in schools.

Flags and trinkets from the 2013 trip to Cambodia will adorn the dragon, to remind students of their connection to the country. Funds raised will also be used to purchase new equipment for the school. OCEANfest will kick off tomorrow from 3.15pm. Highlights include the dragon parade, Launces ton unplugged, Old McDonald’s animal farmyard, rides, live music and bouncy castles, cultural displays and the popular cent and silent auctions.
Cultural festival roars into life

By EMILY DITCHBURN

TEACHERS may sometimes think students are little monsters, but now the kids from Pacific Lutheran College really are. Students unleashed their creativity in the lead-up to tomorrow’s OCEANFest celebrations by decorating a 15m long Chinese-style dragon.

During the festival, which will be a themed celebration of East meets West, up to 30 students will walk underneath the dragon, handing out fortune cookies.

OCEANfest creative director Jenny Lee said the decorating had been “a really good uniting exercise” for the school community.

“The dragon is all about good will,” she said.

Students from Preschool to Year 12 had gotten in on the fun, Mrs Lee said.

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Funds raised will also be used to purchase new equipment for the school. OCEANfest will kick off tomorrow from 3.15pm.

Highlights include the dragon parade, Lazerzone unplugged, Old McDonald’s Animal Farmyard, rides, face painting, crafts, live music, buskers, cultural displays and the popular cent and silent auctions.
LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL MAKES NATIONAL TEAM

Pre-devon starts are nothing unusual for Caloundra student Caitlin Gillman.

Recently named as the newest member of the 2014 Australian Junior Canoe Sprint Team, she starts her day at 6am with training on Maroochy River.

But the early mornings are just the start of a jam-packed schedule for the 17-year-old.

The Pacific Lutheran College (PLC) student tries to fit in a cardio session at midday and more kayaking in the afternoon while also juggling her education.

The school recognised Gillman’s talent and encouraged her to pursue it, giving her the option to achieve her year 12 accreditation over three years.

But she is not one to rest on her laurels and has set out to gain other qualifications, including a Certificate III in sports and recreation.

Gillman is also studying for a dual degree in education and science with a major in physical education and health at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Despite balancing year 12, university, high-intensity training and international competitions, Gillman still finds time to work in her school’s kayak instructor.

“My teachers at PLC were the ones who originally saw my potential for kayaking and encouraged me to push myself,” Gillman says.

“I love giving back to the school because it means that I can help others reach their dreams too.”

Success is not new for the teenager, who was accepted into the Under 17 Australian Sprint Kayaking team last year and ranked as sixth in the world at several events.

Recently she participated in the Australian Institute of Sport training camp, alongside Australian kayaker Naomi Flood, who won the 2009 Ironwoman series and competed in the 2012 Olympics.

Caitlin Gillman will compete at the ICF World Juniors and Under 23 Canoe Sprint Championships.

Gillman is excited to see where her career as a professional athlete will take her.

“The adrenaline of competing is contagious and it lets me travel the world at the same time,” she says.

“I love being an instructor though, so I can definitely see myself as a teacher one day.

In June she will travel to Europe to compete in the International sprint kayaking event at the ICF World Juniors and Under 23 Canoe Sprint Championships.

BUSY GIRL: All-rounder Caitlin Gillman is presented with her RSL Youth Development award.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTES

Caitlin also studies a Bachelor of Education and Science (majoring in HPE) at USC full time.

This is an early-entry uni pathway offered to select school students who demonstrate outstanding academic, personal and community achievements.

Caitlin was recognised for her high achievements last weekend, as one of 200 students statewide to receive the RSL Youth Development Program award and a grant worth $2500.

“I had no idea I would receive the grant. My family and I were so thrilled,” Caitlin said of her award.

– TARA COOPER

PACIFIC LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Caitlin finds time to collect award

THE demands on Year 12 students are huge. Countless assignments, exams, homework and pressure to land the ultimate OP score.

It’s survival of the fittest in its own right.

But for Pacific Lutheran College student Caitlin Gillman, it’s just one of many demands – and achievements – she successfully juggles on a daily basis.

The high achiever represented Australia in kayaking last year and was sixth in the world, recently was second in the under-19 ski event at the state championships surf lifesaving championships and competed at the state titles for surfing.

She will compete in surf lifesaving’s national titles coming up soon.

As if that’s not enough,
PACIFIC LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Camp challenge tests students

YEAR 8 students at Pacific Lutheran College tackled new heights physically and mentally at their recent school camp at Somerset Dam.

New friendships were formed and old ones strengthened during three fun-filled days of group-based activities, including bridge building, canoeing, mountain bike riding, archery and high and low-rope courses.

With the school experiencing a large influx of new Year 8 students each year, the camp presents the perfect opportunity for students to get to know one another and form valuable connections.

“The camp’s activities had a large focus on interaction between students and having fun,” co-ordinator Peter McMahon said.

“Students learnt new skills and were able to push each other through the activities.”

Mr McMahon said the outdoor education program supported the idea that “if I do, I learn”.

“PLC’s outdoor education programs are like classrooms without walls,” he said. “Students learn by doing and by the mistakes they make.

“The camp was also a great way to practise the ethos of the PLC community – looking after each other and being gentle.”
Scientists get food for thought

Chocolate mealworms were on the menu at Pacific Lutheran College when students daringly sank their teeth into the crunchy critters in the name of science.

As part of National Science Week, the college hosted a science fair to inspire, spark curiosity and promote a love of science among Prep to Year 6 students.

And that it did.

With Food for the Future the theme of the day, a hive of activity and excitement was evident inside the college hall.

Stalls of all things food-related in science were on display. Budding scientists were keen to promote their ideas and findings on food for the future and how to live more sustainably.

Topics included reuse, recycle and reduce, natural filtration, food in space, the effect of plant growth using different types of soil, edible bugs, and food samples highlighting the effect of sugar and preservatives and how it prolongs mould growth.

Competitions tested students’ memories against that of a chimpanzee, and teamwork activities timed and compared students’ speed of opening something covered with plastic wrapping with that of a crow.

There were also solar car and boat displays, exploding volcanoes, movie screenings, exhibits from Foodies 4 Ingredients and Celebrate Just Because. Prizes from Amazon Puzzles and Games were up for grabs.

Event organiser Lou Pollard said the day had been a huge hit, with kids so enthralled that some were even brought to tears when told they had to return to class.

“You could feel the energy and excitement in the room – it was amazing,” she said.

“It was so great to see the kids’ passion for science.”

Mrs Pollard said the science fair was an important event for students to gain valuable hands-on experience and to apply the knowledge learnt in the classroom to real life.

“The kids were really engaged in everything – when asked what they loved most,” she said. “There was a whole range of answers. It was great to see that passion for learning.”
CHOCOLATE mealworms were on the menu at Pacific Lutheran College recently, with students daringly sinking their teeth into the crunchy critters in the name of science.

As part of National Science Week, held August 16–24, the college hosted its own science fair to inspire, spark curiosity and promote a love of science among Prep to Year 6 students.

With Food for the Future the theme of the day, stalls of all things food-related science were on display.

Budding scientists were keen to promote their ideas and findings on living more sustainably and food for the future.

Topics included: reuse, recycle and reduce; natural filtration; food in space; the effect of plant growth using different types of soil; edible bugs; and food samples highlighting the effect of sugar and preservatives and how it prolongs mould growth.

There were competitions that tested students’ memories against that of a chimpanzee, and teamwork activities that timed and compared students’ speed of opening something covered with plastic wrapping, to that of a crow.

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Focus on helping kids in Cambodia

POVERTY, contaminated water, inadequate food, schooling—an unaffordable luxury for most—and one in seven do not live past the age of 5. It’s the harsh reality for Cambodian children.

Pacific Lutheran College students are hoping to make a difference by gaining an understanding of the issues faced in the Third World country, raising awareness among their peers and digging deep.

Overseas Interest: Pacific Lutheran College students participated in Australian Lutheran World Service Awareness Day.

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Pacific Lutheran College students are hoping to make a difference by gaining an understanding of the issues faced in the Third World country, raising awareness among their peers and digging deep.

Australian Lutheran World Service Awareness Day saw PLC students join hands with like-minded Australian Lutheran College and Good Shepherd College students.

Village Life in Cambodia was the theme of the annual event, where students gathered for interactive workshops to devise ways in which villages could be improved and funds appropriately distributed, listen to guest speakers and sample Cambodian food.

Cambodia project co-ordinator Karen Schultz said it was important students were aware of the way people lived beyond the Coast.

Students were inspired to do something to help, rather than just hearing it from their teacher, and came up with fundraising ideas,” she said.

The event also nurtured a compassion for others who don’t have what we do.”

Visit shines light on needy

Pacific Lutheran College was visited by two Cambodian Pastors from Cambodia, Pastor Daniel Ons and Pastor Vannarith Chhun.

The visit was part of the Pacific’s Cambodia Project, a service-learning undertaking where students learn about the country and raise funds for development projects in the region.

Both Pastors provided an insight into student education in the region and shared their visions for the future of Cambodia.

Pastor Daniel Ons explained that it was a priority to provide vocational skills at school, it was required if they wished to gain employment or a sense of status.

Pastor Vannarith Chhun, who runs Pacific’s Cambodia Project, and said their fundraising this year would go towards purchasing laptops.

“The laptops will be used in computer skills programs. Cambodian Pastors Pastors have been invited to teach English and provide computer training for children.”

CREATING LINKS: Pacific Lutheran College was visited by two Cambodian Pastors as part of the service learning initiatives undertaken by students.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN COLLEGE | IN THE PRESS 2014
Marvellous music

STUDENTS from Pacific Lutheran College have received one of the great joys – the gift of music. The school was successful in raising the money through fundraising and Government grants, for a $3.5 million Music Centre. Opened last week, the music centre already has students playing their favourite music. The design, influenced by feedback from past students, also created a school “arts precinct”.

GREAT GIFT: Tom Robertson, Sophie Le Neve, Angus Frazer, Livvy Fransis and Mitchell Goatardini.

PHOTO: PATRICK MOOD

News

Artistic precinct opened

BUDDING musicians from Pacific Lutheran College can now enjoy the benefits of a $3.5 million music centre.

Officially opened last week, the music centre features a Prep to Year 5 music classroom, a Year 6-12 music classroom, seven music practise rooms and a dance room, with the project also including storage facilities, site works, furniture and equipment.

Principal Bronwyn Dolling said she hoped the design, which connects the project to the art gallery, would allow the students to enjoy an “arts precinct”.

“The design was heavily influenced by senior student input at the 2010 strategic planning day,” she said.

“There was a request from the students to have the arts much more visible and integrated into the daily life of students at the college. The arts play an important part in enriching each of our lives and we are delighted to now have a specialist space that supports students’ passion for music and dance and will further enhance the strong and vibrant music program we have at the college.”

The school community raised a staggering $61,000 toward the project, while the State Government and the Australian Government each contributed $330,000.

Kawana MP Jarrod Bleijie said he recognised music education was an important part of the school curriculum.

“I’m delighted the Government has been able to contribute to this project, which will enrich the schooling of hundreds of current students, and many more in years to come,” Mr Bleijie said.

“I salute college principal Dr Bronwyn Dolling and the school community for their dedication in seeing this project through.”
Light offshore winds and two to three foot waves greeted students participating in this year’s annual Pacific Pulse Surfing Contest, held at Kings Beach, Caloundra in the wrap-up of the 2014 season.

Tatara Primary College, Backino State School, Goomboorian State School and Our Lady of the Rosary joined Pacific Lutheran College, who each sent a team of ten surfers. Each student surfed two heats during the day and surfers were not only surfing for their school but were also surfing as individuals for highest wave scores.

Buddina State School took the school honours for the year, with Our Lady of the Rosary coming in second. Tatara was in third place, and Goomboorian fourth. With a young team of surfers and the solid surf on the day, host school Pacific finished fifth, however highlights from them were winning the Tag Team surfing event at the end of the contest with a display of some creative surfing, as well as Year 3 student Haylie Powell taking the title of Under 10 Girls Champion in her first year of competing.

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School’s out for a summery day of surfing

IT SURE beats a day in the classroom!

Young surfers from five Coast primary schools swapped the schoolyard for the surf when they took part in the annual Pacific Pulse Surfing Competition at Kings Beach yesterday.

Text books were forgotten and homework was a distant memory as the grommets, aged eight to 13, carved up the waves during an event which has grown in popularity since it began eight years ago.

Event host Darren Hooper, of Pacific Lutheran College, said one of the main aims of the competition was to encourage beginner surfers to get out and “have a go” as well as providing up-and-coming surfers the chance to compete against surfers of similar ability.

Event Management students from TAFE Queensland East Coast helped coordinate the event.