



The 10 finalists of the goa Billboard competition, including winner Justin Smareglia (fourth from right), are congratulated by Heather Ford (Channel Nine), Chris Tyquin (goa Billboards), Rod Welford (Education Minister) and Lord Mayor Campbell Newman representing the competition's sponsors.

# Student's environmental message to reach millions

ARTWORK created by Year 6 student Justin Smareglia, from Holland Park State School, will be on display for millions of commuters to see at Central Railway Station after winning Riverfestival's goa Billboard competition.

Ten finalists from primary schools across Brisbane waited in anticipation as Education Minister Rod Welford, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman and Chris Tyquin from goa Billboards unveiled the winning artwork at City Hall.

Students were asked to design a community message about keeping Brisbane waterways clean and finalists won the opportunity to have their artwork displayed on a giant 6 x 3 metre goa billboard at railway stations across Brisbane for all to see.

Riverfestival director Jonathon Parsons said it was a tough decision to pick a winner but Justin's "Save our

Rivers, Save the Earth" entry was definitely a standout.

"Justin's billboard communicated a clear message in such a colourful and eye-catching way," Mr Parsons said.

"The goa Billboard competition is a fun and rewarding way to educate students about the importance of looking after our waterways and protecting the environment – it is so exciting for them to have their own artwork displayed on a massive billboard for all their classmates and family to see," he said.

As part of the competition artists and local catchment coordinators visited participating schools to teach students about the importance of water and keeping our rivers clean and helped them design a billboard on the topic.

goa Billboards and Riverfestival won a prestigious Australia Business Arts Foundation Award for the innova-

tive and creative partnership.

Riverfestival ran from September 1 to 10 2006.

The 10 finalists were:

- Thomas Herbert – Year 7 (Upper Brookfield State School)
- Callum McDonald – Year 6 (Wilston State School)
- Jessica O'Donnell – Year 7 (Tingalpa State School)
- Elizabeth Lane – Year 5 (Bardon State School)
- Katelyn Hinton – Year 4 (Mansfield State School)
- Mackenzie Gieves – Year 4 (St Ambrose Primary)
- Justin Smareglia – Year 6 (Holland Park State School) WINNER
- Tyler Jones – Year 4 (Rocklea State School)
- Eric Deisel – Year 4 (Coopers Plains State School)
- Naomi Grant – Year 5 (Bald Hills State School)

# Mornington Island has good IDEAS

IDEAS (Innovative Designs for Enhancing Achievement in Schools) has been part of the life of the Mornington Island State School for the past three to four years.

During that time considerable work has been done in "visioning", developing the infrastructure of the school and identifying the school-wide pedagogies that underpin successful practices.

The community has been encouraged through the IDEAS School Management Team to become closely associated with the total development of the school and with maintenance and extension of the established school-community links.

Considerable effort has been devoted to outreach activities aimed at emphasising the importance of school attendance as a regular and consistent responsibility of all school-aged children.

The results of the efforts by school administration, school staff and community members have placed the school in a strong position this year where it is able to concentrate on actioning pedagogy with a realistic anticipation that improving results will be achieved.

The school is currently able to demonstrate that in the mandated testing processes, there are significant groups of children who are on



Mornington Island State School's Vision is included in a mural at the school.

the cusp of successfully meeting the benchmarks. This year the focus for each teacher is on moving those children towards meeting the benchmarks.

Mornington Island State School principal Jo Townsend said, "This is the year where we start to see outcomes from all the hard work that has been done over the past few years. Our expectations are that student performance will begin to demonstrate the effort and energy of the staff and the community."

"At this point in time, Mornington Island State School is in the best position that it has ever been in, to achieve the goals it has set itself this

year," Mrs Townsend said.

"This doesn't mean that the school has resolved all of the issues confronting it, however, through the adoption and maintenance of the IDEAS process a level of stability has been achieved that is essential to the realisation of sustainable and measurable improvements.

IDEAS Support Team member John McMaster said his visit to the school again this year occurred during the pupil-free days, enabling him to work with both continuing and new staff.

"I believe this is an essential element in assisting the continued forward movement of schools through the IDEAS process," he said.



Tuckshop Convenor Diane West creates an Apple Slinky as Year 4 teacher Bryan Marshall and students Madison Matschoss, Sophie Booth and Abby Woolard watch on.

# New menu at Moura State School proves fresh is best

MOURA State School has taken to the new Smart Choices Healthy Food and Drink Strategy with gusto, introducing a new tuckshop menu.

The menu has been in place for around 12 months. The most popular item on the menu is the Apple Slinky which has attracted some attention across the state.

The tuckshop have been selling, on average, around 80 apples a day since the machine's inception, which is surprising as apples were never on the original tuckshop menu.

The school has since sold 36 slinky machines to families to further reinforce the initiative at home.

The school also has "Fresh Fruit Friday", a dedicated 15 minute break at 10am every Friday, which sees the entire school of 300 students, together with staff and visitors, stop for a fresh fruit break. This has also been a successful strategy that has become a part of the school's weekly routine.

Principal Lyle Walker said the P&C Association and community were to be congratulated for making the initiative work so well.

He said it really took no time for students to forget what was on the original menu.

Since the introduction of the new menu in January, tuckshop sales have been on the increase compared with the same time period last year.

# New providers available for government qualifications

A NEW panel of providers is now available for those public servants eligible under EB4 to undertake government qualifications.

"We now have a great choice of training providers that offer their services across Queensland for the Certificates III/IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma of Government," Professional Development Branch senior project officer Denise Baker said.

"Until now we have not had providers for the Advanced Diploma of Government, so this is particularly exciting for AO4/OO6 officers who wish to gain the qualification that will help them gain a pay increase under EB4 arrangements. Our staff will have to investigate which provider best meets their needs," Ms Baker said.

In choosing a provider, consideration will need to be given to a range of issues including:

- Your preferred learning style
- Range of electives offered
- Mode of delivery e.g. online, distance, face-to-face, blended delivery
- Cost of course – this will vary depending on the service provided
- How assessments are undertaken
- Services and support offered

"This is a wonderful opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification," Ms Baker said.

The EB4 training opportunity is open to AO2-AO4 and OO2-OO6 employees who do not possess a qualification at the level outlined below or higher:

- OO2 – Certificate III qualification
- OO3/AO2 – Certificate IV qualification
- OO4/OO5/AO3 – Diploma qualification
- OO6/AO4 – Diploma qualification

For more information on the panel of providers, check out the public service training website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/staff/development/employee/publicservice/enrolment.html> or inquiries can be made to Denise Baker, phone (07) 3237 0488 or email Denise.Baker@qed.qld.gov.au

# Down Syndrome Assoc. hosts presentation

THE Down Syndrome Association of Queensland is hosting a free education presentation "My Life: My Voice" celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness Week 2006.

The presentation is to be held on Monday October 16, from 3.30–6pm at Father Bernard O'Shea Centre, 19 Lovedale Street, Wilston.

There will be a presentation by a member of the DSAQ Young Ambassadors Program and an address by Speech Therapist Jane Remington-Gurney.

Jane Remington-Gurney has a Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics and more than 20 years experience as a speech therapist providing intervention for people with complex communication needs. She has successfully worked with many children with Down syndrome and their families.

Jane will be presenting ideas and strategies to assist students with Down syndrome to speak up for themselves and "have a voice" in their school. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain insight into some of the communication difficulties facing students with Down syndrome and discover practical ways in which teachers can be supportive.

Places are limited so RSVP early to ensure a place is reserved. For more information contact DSAQ office on (07) 3356 6655 or [dsa.qld@uq.net.au](mailto:dsa.qld@uq.net.au)