

# Young drowning victims remembered at service

Emotional event raises awareness of pool dangers

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THE first Saturday in October is a sorrowful day for Andrew and Katherine Plint, but also a day on which they hope to build a message of national importance.

The weekend's National Drowning and Awareness Day service at Sacred Heart Catholic Church paid tribute to those who have lost their lives to drowning.

It coincides with the death of Mr and Mrs Plint's daughter Hannah, who fell into a backyard swimming pool in 2007, aged two.

On the second anniversary of his daughter's passing, Mr Plint said he and his wife battled with all the emotion involved in organising such an event because they knew they could make a difference.

"It's a very hard day to come out in public, at a memorial service like this, and I admire all the families who were able to make it here," Mr Plint said.

"We've certainly got a lot more work to do with the prevention and awareness aspects but we're expanding and just doing as much as we can."

Hannah's Foundation, which was created by the Plints, offers support to other drowning awareness groups in Australian states and territories. Toddler drowning victims' parents

travelled from as far away as Western Australia and Victoria to attend Saturday's memorial service.

"They are able to come together now with other families and share their stories and know they are not alone on the journey," Mr Plint said.

Federal Member for Blair Shayne Neumann said he had called for a national approach to drowning awareness.

"There has been a significant surge in the number of drownings - particularly amongst young people," Mr Neumann said.

"I commend Andrew and Katherine for showing a lot of fortitude, courage and commitment to turn their sadness and grief into positive action to help our community."

The ceremony also featured a timely and touching tribute to the victims of last week's Samoan tsunami, with Samoan community members Tagi and Emma Faanana lighting a memorial candle.

Mr Faanana said Ipswich's response to the tsunami tragedy was something he would never forget.

"I'm travelling overseas on Tuesday and I will relay Ipswich's messages of support to the people of Samoa," Mr Faanana said.



**HONOURING LOST:** Katherine Plint, with husband Andrew, read poems in honour of late daughter Hannah at the memorial service on National Drowning Prevention and Awareness Day. Photo: Sarah Harvey OC0309HQ

## Festival fun for families

MARBURG'S annual festival will have plenty to entertain music lovers and fun seekers with this weekend.

The fourth Black Snake Creek Festival includes a poets' breakfast, street parade, an art and quilt show, market and food stalls and community group displays.

With the festival, Marburg and District Residents' Association raises funds for community activities.

Association president Barry Gratton said many of the family activities were free.

"We've got more stalls than we've had the last two years," he said.

"The music program, we've expanded that to include people outside the area, and there'll be a bigger street parade than we've had before."

The fun begins this Friday night with the art show awards opening at 6.30pm.

Live music, food markets and craft displays are on the program.

## Top efforts recognised

THIRTY-SIX of the Ipswich seniors who contribute countless hours to various organisations were recognised with certificates at a ceremony in Queens Park last Thursday.

The "recognition awards" were presented by Member for Blair Shayne Neumann.

Harry Barker, honoured recently with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM), has been a member of the RSL since 1946.

The almost 90-year-old is most proud of his contribution to Legacy.

"I go and interview widows and see if they need assistance," he said.

Sixty-year-old Lorraine Lobegeiger acts as voluntary secretary to the Ipswich branch of the Leukaemia Foundation.

She does the work, she says, to "give back to people".

"They're people in need," she said.

Mr Neumann said the awards marked the International Day of Older Persons.

# New laws to increase asbestos payouts

NEW laws increasing payouts, protecting asbestos victims and recognising loss of wages for de facto partners will be introduced to the Queensland Parliament this week.

Attorney General Cameron Dick will introduce the Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment

Bill, which increases the maximum caps on damages for personal injuries from \$250,000 to \$294,500.

"These amendments ensure Queenslanders continue to receive compensation that is fair and which reflects current standards of living," he said.

"The increase in the amount of general damages is a recognition of the pain and suffering an individual can experience as a result of a devastating personal injury."

The changes will also abolish the statutory limitation period for dust-related disease claims,

including asbestosis, mesothelioma and silicosis, a significant benefit for sufferers.

The new caps on general damages will apply to injuries arising from July 1, 2010, and will be annually indexed to average weekly earnings.

- AAP



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