

Big Freeze a big success

Louis Harrison

STAFF and students from Tyrrell College braved the icy challenge in their Big Freeze fundraising event.

A handful of volunteers leapt into an ice filled pool and took on the ice bucket challenge, raising money for the late Neale Danaher's FightMND foundation.

The event was organised by staff and members of the school's SRC committee with members of the school community taking part and cheering participants on.

SRC president Jada Symes said principal Sally Naylor also got involved in the event.

"We inducted Sally into our hall of past principals who have braved the freezing challenge before her, although we might have to do something about this raincoat business," she said.

Volunteers taking on the cold plunge, and those looking on were able to support the cause in other ways too.

"Students and staff dressed in blue in support of the day which was great to see, students came with donations for Neale Daniher's FightMND foundation," Jada said.

Those funds go directly to research to improve the quality of life for people living with motor neurone disease and to projects seeking treatments and a cure.



Jada Symes got an icy dunk from brother Cooper Symes.

Miss Symes said the school community was able to honour Daniher's life and legacy through the event.

"We would like to take a moment to honour the passing of a truly extraordinary man - Neil Daniher, she said.

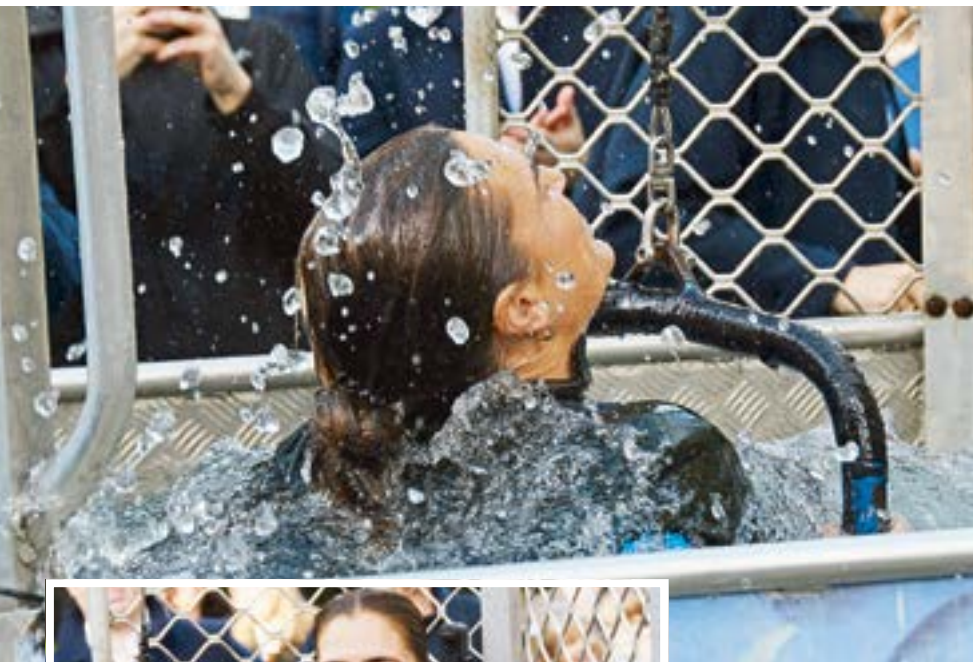
“Neil faced one of life’s cruellest challenges with grace, courage, and selflessness that moved an entire nation.”



Staff member Melanie Kelly braved the ice bucket challenge.



Tom McClelland dived into the ice filled pool.
Pictures: Supplied.



Ms Benham emerges
from the icy depths.
Pictures: Stewart
Chambers (559563_42)



LEFT: The freezing cold sets in. (559563_43)

MP takes FightMND plunge

MEMBER for Mildura Jade Benham braved the icy water at Parliament House as part of the annual FightMND Freeze Parliament fundraiser, dressing as a fighter pilot in keeping with the event's theme of what you wanted to be when you grew up.

Freeze Parliament, organised by fellow Victorian MP Emma Vulin, saw parliamentarians take the plunge to raise money for FightMND and support research into motor neurone disease.

The fundraiser holds special significance for Members of Parliament following Ms Vulin's diagnosis with MND in 2024.

Ms Benham said she was proud to support a cause that raises awareness and funding for people living with MND and their families.

"MND is a devastating disease that affects not only those diagnosed, but also the people who love and care for them," Ms Benham said.

"It was a privilege to be part of an event that helps raise awareness, supports important research and gives people hope that one day we will find a cure."

More than \$35,000 has already been raised through this year's event, with donations continuing to support research and care for people living with MND.

Ms Benham encouraged the community to get behind the fundraiser.

"Every donation helps, and every conversation about MND helps raise awareness. Together we can support the work being done to improve the lives of those affected by this disease," she said.



Member for Mildura Jade Benham prepares to take the plunge. (559563)



Pakenham MP Emma Vulin was diagnosed with MND in 2024. (559563_33)



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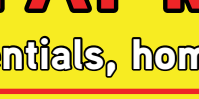
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