

Geelong

Advertiser

Tuesday 21 July 2009

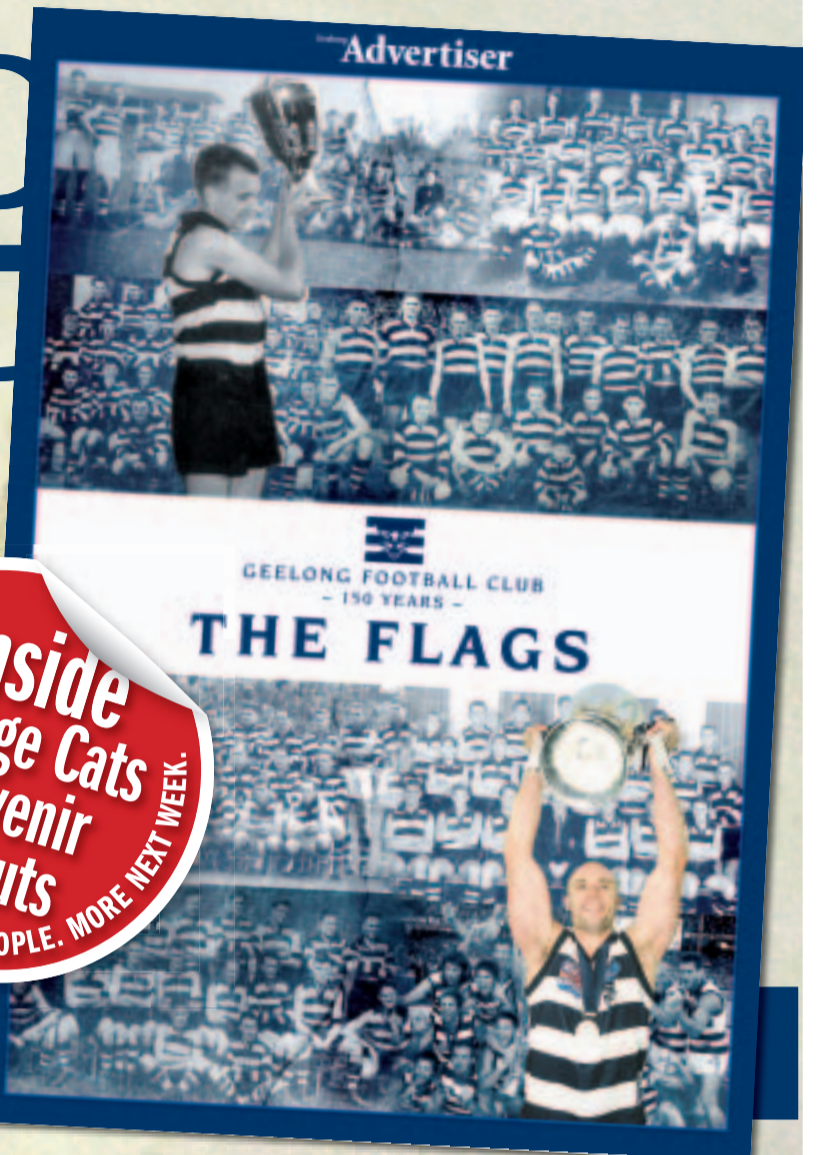
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

\$1.10 including GST



geelong CATS' 150TH

Today we present part one of our souvenir special, featuring rare photos and compelling stories, as we look back at the history of our great club



Don't miss the *Addy* on THURSDAY for the second of four collectable liftouts celebrating the Geelong Cats

SCHOOL SUICIDE TEARS

Community reels as fourth student takes own life

DANNY LANNEN

WESTERN Heights College is reeling after the death of 14-year-old Chanelle Rae, the fourth student in six months to take their own life.

Grief-stricken friends and family yesterday described a "happy, beautiful" girl quick to share her warm embrace.

They said Chanelle wrapped her arms around those close to her at every opportunity, sharing the gift of her bright, bubbly energy.

She did it at home, she did it at school, she did it on all of those game days with the Geelong Football Club cheer squad and then one night the hugs ran out.

Chanelle's tragic death leaves empty arms, cascades of tears and stunned disbelief.

"She was happy and beautiful, loved by everybody and she

loved everybody," her mother Karen said yesterday.

"And you can talk to anyone you want and I bet you will not get one person who expected it, ever."

Chanelle's death on Friday further rocked the Geelong school's community already mourning the loss of three existing and former students during the past six months.

It also devastated her Geelong cheer squad mates as president Norm Richardson rated the day the news broke as the saddest in the squad's history.

Chanelle, sister of Logan and Blain, was a Corey Enright devotee. She brandished a banner on game days with his name writ large in silver and counted him as a friend from first meeting the Cat when she was five.

CONTINUED, MORE REPORTS Page 5

MOON LANDING 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



INSIDE TODAY:
ORIGINAL ADDY FRONT PAGE
MOON LANDING POSTER
GEELONG REMEMBERS

YOUTH TRAGEDY

Jeff Kennett urges school community to discuss suicide

Talk to each other

JESSICA CRAVEN

JEFF Kennett has reached out to the Western Heights College school community, offering to speak to students about youth suicide.

The former Victorian premier and beyondblue chairman said students were bound to be hurting but that it was important not to sweep the issue under the rug.

"It needs to be talked about openly within the school community and there needs to be a positive response to avoid it happening again," he said.

"The school community needs to be working together to come up with strategies to help people who are emotionally depressed or at risk.

"I hope they have a very heavy program for helping the students cope with these sad events and to help them develop mechanisms for coping with change"

Mr Kennett asked the *Geelong Advertiser* to pass on his number to the school and said he hoped he would be able to speak to the students.

"These deaths would be having an impact on every member of the school community," he said.

"It's very sad for those who are gone but it is even worse for those who are left. But they shouldn't be blaming themselves because there is only so much you can do.

"My message to those students and teachers would be don't forever be under the burden of guilt."



Jeff Kennett, of beyondblue, has asked the *Geelong Advertiser* to pass on his number so he can speak to Western Heights students.

'It's very sad for those who are gone but it is even worse for those who are left. But they shouldn't be blaming themselves because there is only so much you can do.'

— beyondblue's JEFF KENNETT

Cats fans' emotional tribute

DANNY LANNEN

GEELONG Football Club cheer squad president Norm Richardson made an impassioned plea for an end to cyber bullying as he paid emotional tribute to Chanelle Rae.

Mr Richardson said the Cat devotee and Corey Enright fanatic was the sweetest child anyone could meet.

He lamented her loss at 14, to suicide, and rated it the saddest event in the squad's history. Mr Richardson shared his heart through his weekly Monday Matters bulletin to members.

"At the age of only 14 she never got the chance to live life, to love life and be part of the big world out there," he said. "We, as part of her extended family, couldn't look after her. She had the most loving and caring immediate family, she had the love of every player and official of the club.

"None of us really know what goes on in teenage lives but what I do know is we have to put an end to cyber bullying. We are the ones who have to make a stand. We read of these situations and never take any notice until it hits one of our own.

"Just hug your child, listen ... listen and listen again."

He recalled cheer squad members having sung *Happy Birthday* for their effervescent mate at Etihad Stadium in May, the unforgettable look on her face the day she was mascot for a game in Perth and the way she lit up banner-making sessions.

"A Corey Enright milestone will never be the same again, as all our minds will automatically flood back to that adorable child in the 44 jumper, and the cheer squad photos with Chanelle and her Corey Enright banner in the middle of the third row," Mr Richardson said.

"Corey was a big part in her short life, even attending her 14th birthday party."

He urged members to spread word on suicide awareness.

Reeling over fourth student death

FROM Page 1

Family and friends came and went in ceaseless streams from the Rae's North Shore home yesterday as Chanelle's parents Karen and Ian spoke of their loss in the hope of intercepting others.

Mrs Rae blames no one but believes cyber bullying might have contributed to her daughter's action.

She was wrapped up in a

loving family and there were no warning signs.

"There was no difference to any other single day of her life," Mrs Rae said.

"One hour of unhappiness in her life was so bad from cyber bullying that she could not see past it.

"Yet she had so much to live for."

Mrs Rae urged parents to be aware of kids' use of the internet and messaging and

urged kids to be aware how others are feeling and to talk to adults if they have concerns.

"Don't leave people like us, don't leave this behind," Mrs Rae said.

Western Heights College principal Kris Rooney said the college community was deeply saddened.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with family members.

Our primary concern remains their welfare and privacy at a

time of tragedy," Ms Rooney said.

"One of the strengths of our college is our compassionate and caring pastoral structure and all students and their families have access to support and counselling from teachers, our chaplains and welfare coordinators and Education Department psychologists and social workers.

"Extensive counselling and support services have been

put in place for all students and their families, and access through the school to these counselling services will remain in place as long as necessary."

PEOPLE experiencing personal problems can call Lifeline on 13 11 14, SANE Helpline on 1800 187 263, Victorian SuicideLine on 1300 651 251 or visit www.suiceline.org.au or www.headspace.org.au.



JetSaver Light[^] direct to

SYDNEY

(departs Avalon)

\$59

from

...and MELBOURNE (Avalon) direct to: **Brisbane** from **\$119**

JETSAVER LIGHT[^] FARES – CARRY-ON BAGGAGE ONLY. JETSAVER FARES WITH 20KG CHECKED BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE CAN BE BOOKED FOR \$10 MORE. FARES MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE DURING SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, OR FOR BOOKINGS CLOSE TO DATE OF DEPARTURE. LOWER FARES MAY BE AVAILABLE.

jetstar.com AUSTRALIA'S LOW FARES AIRLINE

Jet 

For all payments by credit or charge card, an additional \$3 per passenger per flight will apply. \$15 extra for bookings through telephone 131 538. Flights depart Melbourne Avalon airport. Fares are one way, web only. Fares are non-refundable. Limited changes are permitted, charges apply. These fares are not available on all flights or days. [^]Carry-on baggage limits, including size restrictions, will be strictly applied. Passengers with more than the applicable carry-on baggage allowance will need to check in baggage, and charges will apply. See jetstar.com for more details. Jetstar Airways Pty Ltd ABN 33 069 720 243. JET3775/2107GA