



Good afternoon and welcome to our Beanie for Brain Cancer Day!!

I would like to invite Sonny Peade to come and do our Acknowledgement of Country.

This year, I decided to host a Beanie Day, to help raise money for the Mark Hughes Foundation. The Mark Hughes Foundation raises millions of dollars for brain cancer research and funds Brain Cancer Care nurses in regional Australia. "Beanie for Brain Cancer" was born in 2014 as a lot of brain cancer patients wear beanies to cover scars, bandages, loss of hair and just to keep warm and every year, The Mark Hughes Foundation releases and sells new beanies to help raise this much needed money.

Brain cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in children, and adults aged under 40 in Australia, yet alarmingly very little is known about brain cancer, its causes or how it is treated.

In 2009, my eldest brother Rick Keast died from Brain Cancer. Rick was a Dad of 4, with Jack his youngest son, not born until 6 weeks after he died. Jack was school captain at St. Joseph's in 2021 and our last Beanie Day was organised by Jack and I. Rick was very well known in the Junee and Wagga communities and not only played rugby league for Group 9 but he was also the head Development Officer for Country Rugby League, teaching children to love the game as much as he did.

Throughout the year, The Mark Hughes Foundation holds many events and one is a walk called The Big Three Trek. This year my other brother Jason Ferrario is joining in. Starting today, Jason along with approximately 70 other people, will walk 50 kilometres a day for

3 days from the Sydney Cricket Ground to McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle. He is hoping to raise as much money for the Mark Hughes Foundation as possible and we have helped him in that cause by donating a whopping \$750 to his event page.

When I went to Ange to ask if we could hold our Beanie Day, she was so excited to tell me that she knew someone who would want to help. Loli Flagg had been in contact with her only days earlier to tell her that our very own Hannah Flagg in Year 2, had an idea to cut her beautiful long hair to donate to be made into a wig. Hannah, at the very young age of 8, wanted her hair to be used to make a wig for children who had lost their hair due to cancer treatment. And whilst doing this, she wanted to raise money for a charity and we decided, The Mark Hughes Foundation was the perfect one. And Hannah's Big Chop - Courage for Cancer was born!! It is such an amazingly brave thing to do and I am so excited for her.

Before we get Hannah up here though, we have another incredibly brave young girl, Miss Molly Halliburton from Year 2 and Molly would like to share with you her own personal story.

Please welcome Molly (Please see above video of Molly's speech)

Incredible Molly. You are amazing and we are SO glad that you were able to share your story with us.

It has been a fantastic day here at St. Joseph's. The support for our Beanie Day has been incredible and everyone looks so good in their beanies!!

To finish, I would just like to say a massive Thank You to everyone who has helped me get this day organised. A special Thank You to Mrs Riley for her amazing posters, Mrs Maloney for her FB and Compass updates, Brad's Butchery, Bakers Delight Sturt Mall & the Junee IGA for supplying us with all our BBQ supplies, Miss Crane, Josh Flagg and Dakota Huard for their fabulous BBQ skills, our guest speaker Miss Molly Halliburton, Loli Flagg for all her organising and then there is Miss Hannah...WOW Hann! You are amazing! Your courage here today is something I admire so much! Well done.

Mrs Huard x