

# Salvos winter appeal

With winter now upon us, The Salvation Army is appealing for urgent donations of warm winter clothes and blankets.

"We are appealing for urgent donations to meet the increased demand which occurs during the winter months," general manager of

Salvos Stores Neville Barrett said.

For further information and to obtain the special Salvos Winter Appeal clothing bags ring the donation hotline number 13 SALVOS (13 72 58).

To make a monetary donation ring number 13 SALVOS (13 72 58).

# Sky's the limit for new service

'Greased lightning' might be a particularly apt description

By NICOLE FUGE

Gone are the days when computer users passed time by making a cuppa while waiting for an internet page to load.

After three years in the making, a new multi-million dollar telecommunications network, providing unsurpassed wireless and broadband services for the Sunshine Coast was declared complete on Friday.

Matthew Flinders Anglican College hosted the launch as one of the first schools to use the new technology, which assistant director of curriculum Steve McLean said would allow more devices to be online simultaneously and being used more productively.

"All the way through the college, from our early learning centre through to Year 12, they'll all be able to be connected at the same time and therefore not have the functionality of the machine affected," Mr McLean said.

"What it comes down to is how it affects the entire teaching and learning environment.

"In a classroom you have to have reliable technology ... you've got to be able to walk into that room and you've got to know that when you turn that computer on, whether you're a student or a teacher, that the thing is going to work.

"What this does is it enables teachers to integrate the technology better than ever before, and it therefore means the students can take advantage of that integration and collaboration."

Mr McLean said the new technology would also enhance the one-to-one laptop program being rolled out next year which would see students in Years 7 to 12 with their own laptops.

"That's a lot of laptops to



Greta Rynne, Lotte Quinn and Vivienne Fitzpatrick at the Connecting the Coast launch at Matthew Flinders College.

PHOTO: JASON DOUGHERTY/191709

potentially have operating at the same time, so we need to ensure that we've got an environment that will support that number of devices," he said.

Sunshine Coast Council mayor Bob Abbot said the finalisation of the Connecting

*"In a classroom you have to have reliable technology – you've got to be able to walk into that room and you've got to know that .... the thing is going to work."*

the Coast project was an important step forward for local telecommunications and business.

"This is the culmination of a successful public/private partnership between the council, the University of the Sunshine Coast, Allegro Networks and the

Commonwealth," Cr Abbot said.

"It has been an outstanding effort from all involved."

About \$2.9 million in funding was raised by the three Sunshine Coast-based entities with the Federal Government also contributing \$2.9 million to the project. Matthew Flinders Anglican College and the Reed Property Group are in-kind project partners and have provided practical demonstration case sites for the technology.

The new 29.5km, optical fibre link and wireless base station network provides high quality, ultra high speed, business grade broadband access to more than 50% of Sunshine Coast businesses, educational facilities and health sector service providers.

The fibre optic cable extends from Palmwoods through Sippy Downs to Maroochydore and connects through to Brisbane via the rail corridor allowing the network to cover a connectivity area of 800km<sup>2</sup>.

The University of the Sunshine Coast's Innovation Centre is also a founding customer of the new technology.

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