



News Articles -Sport

Guitar goal on delay to help victim

JOSHUA BUTLER

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Jackson Paulic had his heart set on buying a guitar. He saved his money for months, and had \$180 ready to buy his first six-string. But one night, while surfing the web on his iPad, he heard about Joanna Christodoulou and her frightening bag snatch incident.

After shopping at Crinis Fruit earlier this month, Ms Christodoulou had her handbag - containing \$150 of her church's money for groceries - stolen from her moving car.

Wollongong Hawks player Rhys Martin was one of those who came to her assistance, comforting her until police arrived, and also slipping some money into her jacket.

Martin was so affected by the episode he offered a framed signed Hawks jersey for auction, to raise money for Ms Christodoulou and her church.



Piggy bank: Jackson Paulic, 8, with Hawks player Rhys Martin and the framed shirt that Jackson bought.

Jackson, a big Hawks fan, heard the story and wanted to help. His mum Sue said he came to her with an idea.

"He asked if we could bid for the jersey, with the money he was saving for a guitar."

"Mum and I look at the Hawks' Facebook every day to see the news, and we heard about the lady who got mugged," he said.

"It was sad so I really wanted to buy it to help her," Jackson said. Jackson won the auction, and

Martin praised the Horsley boy for his maturity and generosity. "He's a really good kid, it's nice that he wants to do that. He has a really good heart," he said.

And as for that guitar? Jackson has already started saving again.





Pictures: GREG TOTMAN

Success: No shortage of enthusiasm with Stuart Haack's Dapto Public School group at the Junior AFL day.

AFL junior gala day finds its mark

MIKE DRISCOLL

MORE than 300 children got to kick, handball and shoot for goal at a school AFL Gala Day at Figtree Oval earlier this month.

Kids in Year 3 and Year 4 from Dapto, Mt Ousley, Towradgi and Oak Flats primary schools took part.

The day was conducted by AFL NSW/ACT, with junior AFL in the Illawarra surging in recent years.

Many clubs have increased their player numbers and teams with the junior comp now played on a Sunday.

The best youngsters also have a pathway through various Illawarra representative teams leading to a chance to play for the Sydney Swans Academy junior teams.

With Gold Coast Suns joining the AFL last year and Greater Western Sydney Giants joining this season there has not been been a better time for youngsters to try to make the AFL.

Last season Figtree Kangaroos junior Aidan



Challenge on: Sierra Anastas, 9, of Mt Ousley Public School, gives it a big kick at the gala day.

Riley made his debut for the Adelaide Crows - the first Wollongong-based player to take part in the AFL in more than 25 years.

Junior AFL begins at Auskick for under 9s and goes right through to under 18s, with Illawarra also having a ground-breaking youth girls' competition.

The Figtree Oval Gala day allowed children of all levels to learn some of the basic skills in a fun, safe environment.

AFL is one of the fastest growing sports in the Illawarra region.

In five years the number of players in the Sydney-Illawarra region has grown by 75 per cent.



Snappy kick: Braiden Yann, 10, of Mt Ousley Public School tests her kicking skill with James Weavers.

20.12.07

mercury

Dapto PS duo awarded state honours

By MIKE DRISCOLL

DAPTO Public School is celebrating two talented Year 6 students making the NSW Primary Schools Sport Association cricket team for this season.

Twelve-year-old Stefanie Daffara has been named as co-captain of the girls' team, while Ben Chapman, also 12, is the vice-captain of the boys' team.

It is the first time Dapto Public have had two representatives in the PSSA cricket team, with an added bonus that both have a leadership role in the team.

The NSW PSSA team will take part in the interstate carnival in Victoria in the January school holiday.

"To have two students chosen in both state cricket teams is a unique honour for Dapto Public School," school spokesperson Justin Quinn said.

"They are terrific ambassadors for the school and mad keen on cricket."

Stefanie and Ben are Dapto cricket club juniors

and their potential has been recognised with selection in the North Illawarra Zone team.

Stefanie is also a talented football player

and a member of the 2007 South Coast Girls team.

Both youngsters want to play cricket for Australia and emulate the feats of fast bowler Brett

Lee and opening batsman Phil Jaques in making the national team after playing their formative cricket years in the region.

Heading south: Dapto's Stefanie Daffara and Ben Chapman have been named in the NSW PSSA team for carnivals in Victoria in January. Picture



Primary league carnival a success

By MIKE GANDON

DAPTO Public School took out the northern zone champion school rugby league title and St Michael's Nowra were accorded the southern zone award at the 62nd annual South Coast All Schools Primary Knockout Carnival last Wednesday.

The South Coast Schools Rugby League Council in conjunction with the ARL Foundation, Dragons Development and the Country Rugby League organised and ran the successful day.

In all 93 teams from 45 schools entered the carnival. "Especially pleasing was the emergence of schools who have not played before

or have not entered for over a decade," Dragons development officer, Paul Everill, said yesterday.

The carnival was run across four age divisions with two categories for the 10s and open primary.

The A category schools are the bigger schools (more than 200 students) while the B category schools are the small schools (less than 200 students).

In the finals for the northern zone, in the nine years age group St John's Dapto defeated Dapto 40-3; 10 years A Dapto def St

John's Dapto 20-11, 10 years B Koonawarra def Stanwell Park 32-7; 11 years Mt Brown def Minnamurra 49-0; open A Minnamurra def Shellharbour 21-7; open B Waniora def Stanwell Park 40-0.

In the southern zone, in the nine years age group St Michael's Nowra won round robin competition as did Nowra in 10 years A, North Nowra in 10 years B and Berry in 11 years.

Milton defeated Sanctuary Point 39-14 in open A and North Nowra edged out Culburra 12-10 in open B.

Nick of time: A Waniora player passes the football before being tackled by a Stanwell Park player in the rugby league South Coast All Schools Primary Knockout Carnival open B final at Parrish Park last Wednesday.

Picture: ROBERT PEET



Dapto champion league school

DAPTO Public was crowned champion school at this year's South Coast all school's knock-out carnival.

Ninety-three teams competed at the carnival on Wednesday with Dapto Public claiming the 10A title with a 20-11 win over fellow Dapto

school St Johns.

The carnival was run across four age divisions (Under 9s-Opens) and two categories catering for larger and smaller schools (less than 200).

The Open A division was won by Minnamurra, who defeated Shellharbour 21-7.

In other results:

Open B: Waniora 40 d Stanwell Park 0;
11 years - Mt Brown 49 d Minnamurra 0;
10 years B Koonawarra 32 d Stanwell Park 7;
9 years - St John 40 d Dapto 3.



SWANNIES RULE THE ROOST AT DAPTO PS

Swans stars Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin were the kings of the kids yesterday when they took the Australian Football League message to Dapto Public School as part of Sydney's community camp. The pair held a question-and-answer session before signing autographs. Swans players visited more than 50 schools in the region yesterday spreading the Aussie Rules gospel. Sydney will finish their four-day Illawarra camp with a final training run at the University of Wollongong this morning. **STORY P58**

Picture: ADAM McLEAN

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4.2.05

Dapto gets a double dose



Justin Potter and Tara Edney played important roles in Dapto Public School's double success this year.

Picture: HANK van STUIVENBERG

School's soccer, netball teams grab victory

By PAUL ZALUNARDO

Dapto Public School showed its sporting versatility by winning two Illawarra Zone primary schools championships in 1999.

The boys provided a win in the soccer while the girls gave the school a victory on the netball court.

With captain Tara Edney leading the way on the netball court, the school was too good for Culburra, scoring a 19-4 victory in the final.

Earlier in the event they disposed of Sussex Inlet 15-7, Minnamurra 10-6 and Berkeley South 16-4 to book a spot in the final.

The team consisted of: Edney, Rachel Mastroianni, Chelsea King, Ruby Darragh, Amanda Mastroianni, Ashleigh Judd, Alana Morris, Melodie Willis, Chanel Relf, Emily Parker and Melanie Skeggs.

NSW PSSA representative Justin Potter was the star of the victorious boys soccer team. The

tournament was played in a round robin format.

Potter had plenty of help as his team scored wins over Balarang (2-1), St George's Basin (3-0) and Nowra (2-1) to take the title.

The team was: Potter, Andrew Ucles, Jamie Madigan, Luke Hill, Dragan Balaban, Andrew Troman, Brendan Jones, Robert Josevski, Cameron Last, Andrew Reid, Alex Boardman, Nicholas Hardy, Alex Katopidis and Mitchell O'Donnell.

Soccer stars' state selection



The South Coast Primary Schools soccer team finished sixth at the state championships last week. Photo by KIRK GILMOUR

Justin Potter from Dapto Primary School and Breagan O'Connor from Balarang Primary School were chosen to represent SW in the Australian Primary Schools Soccer Championships in Adelaide at the end of the month.

The boys were selected after their outstanding performances for the South

Coast Primary Schools team at the State Championships at Macquarie University last week.

The South Coast team - with representatives from Coledale, south to the Victorian border - won four of its six matches, losing one and drawing the other.

Team manager Wayne Thomas said

the team was unlucky not to make the finals.

"The boys played some excellent soccer and were great ambassadors for the South Coast region," Mr Thomas said.

The South Coast team finished sixth in the state.