



Cartoon: Ashleigh Rosenkranz

Keep the focus on what matters most

EDITORIAL

By **ANGUS SAXTON, CHRISTIAN ENGELBRECHT** and **BENJAMIN STANWELL**

WHEN Adam Goodes spoke to the school community at the beginning of the year, he shared a story of hope and success, despite the adversity he faced along the way, including a childhood in which he and his mother escaped a violent situation.

The barriers Goodes faced were not only related to the racism he has experienced as an Indigenous man, but also the many moves from town to town as a young child, escaping a difficult family situation.

His affection for his mother, who he described as his role model, was evident in the warm anecdotes he shared of her strong will and courageous spirit, which he honours today as a key ingredient to his success.

But Goodes' story is shared by many in our local community.

Discussion around domestic violence ranges from the bare facts, to a deeper conversation regarding the emotional and societal cost of such a complex issue.

It is sometimes believed that

domestic violence is confined to physical harm towards a partner, when in reality it can directly affect anyone in the household.

Abuse is not exclusively physical and can involve not only verbal but also emotional torment.

In recent years the problem has become an increasingly discussed topic in the media, with new stories surfacing regularly.

However, it has been the harrowing story of Rosie Batty: Australian of the Year, mother of Luke, and victim of domestic violence that has sparked a deeper dialogue on the issue.

In retort, it was Mark Latham's scathing comments regarding Batty's advocacy of the issue that propelled the discussion to a more critical level.

What became clear from Latham's opinion about Batty's profiling of the issues, was that domestic violence is far more complex than physical violence against a woman in the household. While it is easy to focus on the misconceptions, that would be losing sight of a wider issue.

The conversation would be better focused on preventative campaigns, such as White Ribbon Day, as well as supporting local services, such as Carrie's Place in Maitland, who care for and support victims of domestic violence.

Talented footballer is now Kokoda-bound

By **HOLLIE ADAMSON** and **ASHLEIGH DAVIS**

FROM the moment he picked up a ball, St Joseph's student Jesse Cronin never had any doubts that rugby league was the sport for him.

Jesse, 16, a player for local club the Beresfield Bears, is already taking big steps towards his football career.

From the age of six, Jesse has shown immense talent on the footy field.

Early in 2014, Jesse captained the NSWCCC team, where he was scouted and subsequently signed a four-year contract with the Parramatta Eels as part of the Harold Matthews squad.

In May this year, Jesse was selected in the Australian Young Achievers Squad headed for Papua New Guinea.

Ready to take on the challenge, Jesse, who is leaving in September, will have his family and team mates supporting him.

He says this whole experience for him is "pretty surprising actually."

While in Papua New Guinea, Jesse will get the opportunity to walk the Kokoda Track, in honour of our brave World War Two Diggers.

Along the way, the squad will take part in coaching clinics, sharing their skills and expertise.

However, Jesse will tackle every opportunity he gets head on and is looking forward to building his future football career.



His determination is obviously paying off with massive steps in his football career. Jesse is surely on the rise to greater things.

Young footballing achiever Jesse Cronin.
Picture: Petra Greaves

Rotary deepens Trans-Tasman connection

By **CASSIDY GILES** and **RACHEL FOLPP**

ST Joseph's Lochinvar year 9 student, Bella Wightman and New Zealander Holly Mathis have embarked on a six-month exchange journey thanks to the Rotary Club.

The exchange involves the students visiting each other's countries to experience a different culture.

This trip had been planned last year when they both were assigned exchanges for the Rotary Youth.

The girls attend school, do the same afternoon activities and tour parts of each other's country.

Holly Mathis was first to fly to Australia and live with Bella and her family for three months.

Holly attended school with Bella, played netball for her team and also went on visits to Sydney and had trips to iconic Australian attractions. Holly made many lasting friendships and would love to return to Australia one day.

Holly then left Australia with Bella in tow on June



Holly Mathis and Isabella Wightman.

Picture: Emily Rose Steel

20 to make the Trans-Tasman journey. Bella has enjoyed activities with Holly and her local com-

munity. She will return in September, with many stories to share about her time in New Zealand.

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