



Cartoon: Aidhan and Matthew

Devils unleashed on the sidelines

EDITORIAL

By RYAN and LENNOX

KIDS just want to be kids, right? But at the moment lots of parents aren't letting their children play and enjoy themselves; and it happens to be on the sporting field, when kids should enjoy themselves the most.

Lately, parents have been quite loud on the sideline, even abusive. They have been yelling out disgusting things, from swearing to telling people to punch and kill each other.

Adults are coaching their children from the sideline and us, as kids, know how annoying and frustrating this is.

Just imagine what these kids are hearing. They are hearing threats, constant loud voices and horrible words. Aren't the adults meant to be the role models? Aren't the adults meant to be teaching their children how to play sport with responsibility and sportsmanship? Those horrible, loud voices must rattle their brains. Loud demanding voices stick in the children's heads, and make it impossible to play and concentrate on the sport. Poor sportsmanship can lead to violence and anger on the field.

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Lots of people who coach children's sport teams have recognised patterns in children's gameplay. When there is a responsible crowd, the children playing are at the top of their game. When there is an abusive crowd, the children do not play as well as normal.

Sideline screaming lowers children's self-esteem putting the children down instead of supporting them. It makes the child lose their confidence and personality while playing sport. We don't want to turn children away from sport. If children stop playing sport they will lose friendship, skills and self-confidence and may also become overweight.

We spoke to Josh from Jewells and he agreed this needs to stop. "I have played and seen lots of abusive games, and they were all very physical and vocal. It just made children cry," he said. "It made me more determined to win but it was definitely taking a toll on the other team. It just made the other team play worse mentally and physically."

Children will think that sideline yelling is suitable, lose their sportsmanship qualities, which they need to use on the sporting field. Who wants their parents turning into monsters on the sideline?

Illegal dumping is litter-ally a disgrace

By JOSHUA, TIMOTHY and NOAH

IN Lake Macquarie illegal dumping is affecting our community's health and polluting our environment: from household rubbish to scrap metal.

It has been an ongoing issue in Lake Macquarie and this crime has caused the council to spend \$120,000 cleaning up the debris.

Illegal dumping is affecting the community by clogging up our footpaths and our citizens look at this mess every day. Our community is walking past the rubbish on a daily basis causing complaints from much of the community.

The RID (Regional Illegal Dumping) squad have been fighting this problem for six years and have had major progress stopping this crime.

RID Squad project co-ordinator Rob Robertson says "This is our problem and we have to come up with a smart solution".

Mr Robertson has dealt with a number of issues ranging from backyard rubbish dumps to companies dumping massive amounts of dangerous substances such as asbestos into the bush.

Groups like the RID Squad are charging the offenders and in some cases sending them to court. For illegal dumping fines start at \$2000 and this is one of the main reasons they have made positive progress. By making the dumpers pay, the RID Squad has saved the council \$150,000



RID advocates Josh, Tim and Noah with project co-ordinator Rob Robertson.

Picture: Elio

and have given out 110 tickets.

So far in 2015 the calls have increased from 600 to 1000 a year. The increase of calls is, according to Mr Robertson, simply an increase of concern from the community.

"This is just more concern from the community about illegal dumping," Mr Robertson said.

As we are generating more waste than ever the NSW state government have prioritised a solution to illegal dumping and have called it the 2020 Plan. It proposes to deal with the waste and makes people more aware of illegal dumping and the environment by showing the damage that this has caused to our community.

Upcycling rubbish is the way of the future

By CHLOE, HAYLEY, ANNABELLE and NICK

GLOBAL warming is a major issue that needs to be taken seriously, so kids at Jewells Primary School are aiming high to make a start by up recycling dental products using TerraCycle.

TerraCycle is an international organisation that collects everyday objects like toothbrushes and cigarettes and transforms them into park benches, handbags, garbage bins, etc.

Individuals carelessly drop waste, that goes into landfill, slowly contaminating the soil and waterways with deadly toxins that kill plants and animals. We rely on plants and animals to survive.

The Jewells organiser of TerraCycle, Samantha Burt, said "TerraCycle is helping the environment by upcycling hard to recycle products, therefore there is less rubbish going to dumps."

The stage 2 children didn't know how fun and easy saving the earth could be.



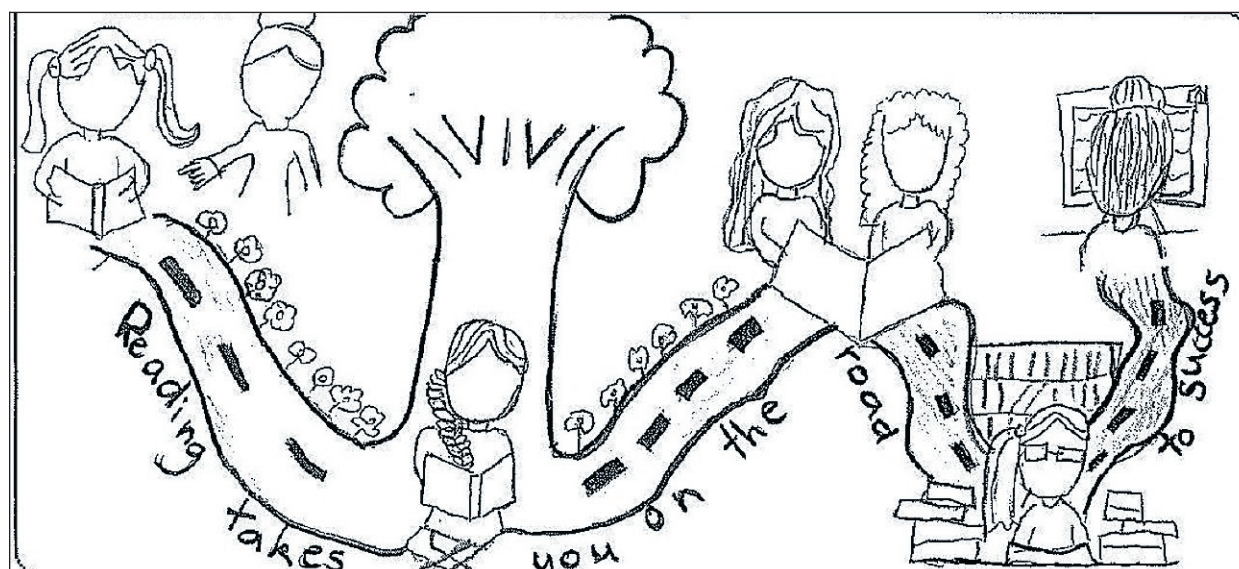
Sophie, Lucy, Hamish and Kaleb with items for the TerraCycle project.

Picture: Ally

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