

Primary entry #42: St Joseph's Primary East Maitland



Joey's Journal



Zac D'Angelo, Connor Butchard, Coby Walker and Josh Gorman.
Picture: Stuart Scott

Futsal stars heading to Hawaii soon

By CONNOR BUTCHARD and HARRISON JOHNSTONE

MAITLAND boys Connor Butchard, Koby Walker and Josh Gorman have been selected to attend the under 11s National Futsal Championships in November and December. Zach D'Angelo will go to Malaysia with the under 12s National team.

They were selected after impressing the judges in Sydney during the Futsal State Cup. All have only started playing recently with games at the Maitland Federation Centre. They also play outdoor for the rep side under 11s and 12s Hunter Hawks.

Futsal is a five-a-side game that is played extensively throughout the world. It was developed in the 1930s by Juan Carls Ceriani Gravier. Many top class footballers played futsal in their youth and credit it with supporting their football development. Australia is estimated to have 18,000 registered players and 12,000 social participants participating.

Josh Gorman said he was "very excited and felt great to hear the good news". He will travel to Hawaii with the assistance of donations from several fundraising events. Josh has previously played at state level and will now step up and represent Australia. "It is a challenge to cope with the high the standard of futsal," Josh said.

Zac D'Angelo said he felt: "stoked, excited and unbelievably happy". He will be saving and fundraising for the trip.

Camp builds teamwork

By ISABELLE PALA and JACINTA FITZGERALD

TEAMWORK is a vital skill for life that all children and adults use every day. Year 5 students at St Joseph's have recently refined their understanding of teamwork and challenged their fears after a visit to the Great Aussie Bush Camp located at Tea Gardens. Many Hunter primary and high schools use the Great Aussie Bush Camp facility as their school camp venue, specifically to build teamwork with their students.

Being away from home for three days and sleeping in tents when you're not used to it can be quite challenging, especially when it's your first time away from home. But the Great Aussie Bush Camp experience helps students develop courage in tough situations.

All Year 5 St Joseph's students enjoyed the challenges provided by the camp with each activity designed to challenge students in new ways. Team building activities included: archery, rock-climbing, high ropes, raft building, canoeing, giant swing, flying fox and Lost Island (or Mud World as some came to know it). Most of the Year 5 students overcame their fears by believing in themselves and trying new things with their friends.

"High ropes helped me to overcome my fear of heights," said



Year 5 students enjoying one of the many obstacles at the Great Aussie Bush Camp.

Caitlin Smith.

Then there was the small challenge of surviving a thunderstorm while camping in a tent. "Being in the dark tents with my friends helped me overcome my fear of the dark," said Isabelle Pala.

"Being in the tents, in a thunderstorm was scary but also challenging. I thought most people over-

came their fears in the storm," said Jacinta FitzGerald.

The NSW Sport and Recreation website states, "School camps can help students to overcome fears and limitations, help them to challenge themselves and grow in confidence and self-esteem".

Teachers at St Joseph East Maitland enjoy attending school camp

with their students. One teacher said, "We choose Great Aussie Bush Camp because of the great education experience it provides. It allows students to enhance their social skills and relationships whilst having fun."

All year 5 students agree that camp has been the best part of being in year 5 so far.



Owner and barista Leah Jaunalksnis.
Picture: Natalia Ryl and Sophie Hickling

Beards, cactuses and fresh coffee

By NATALIA RYL and SOPHIE HICKLING

IN a recent *Newcastle Herald* reader's survey the Bearded Cactus coffee stop at East Maitland was ranked equal first with One Penny Black Cafe for the best coffee in the Hunter.

The cafe first opened on January 5 this year and was an instant success. Owner and barista Leah Jaunalk-

snis had the idea of a house cafe, but her house was not zoned for commercial operations. So after buying a coffee van and applying to over 50 festivals to operate and being rejected by each one, she then asked the council if she could operate the coffee cart in her front yard. To Leah's surprise they council said yes and that is how the Bearded Cactus came to be. Leah came up with the

name as two of her favourite things are beards and cactuses and admitted she is a little bit kooky. "The decorations reflect my personality."

Leah said that in the beginning she was afraid and thought she wouldn't have many customers. But for now, "The best thing about running the business is that I get to meet the amazing community and they are all just lovely," Leah said.



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