

Primary entry #21: Redhead Public School



THE REDHEAD WAVE



HERO: Nathan Visscher will be recognised for bravery.

Picture: Mikayla-Jayne Walmsley

Shark attack rescuer will be awarded

By **MATIAS FAITH, CHELSEA EGGINTON and MIKAYLA-JAYNE WALMSLEY**

ON January 19, 2011, 37-year-old Nathan Visscher saved the life of Glen "Lenny" Folkard, and will be presented a bravery award from the Governor-General next year.

The streak of blood in the water and the bull shark lurking in the depths did not deter Nathan from risking his life to save his friend.

Nathan heard screams for help and saw Lenny on his board surrounded by blood. He swam over to help. It was only when he got closer that he realised his life may be in danger. Nathan said he had a massive adrenaline rush and afterwards could not remember much of what happened.

He got to Lenny and calmed him down. Nathan saw a wave coming so he said "you have to catch this wave". Nathan gave him a big nudge and he caught it. This left Nathan sitting in a pool of blood with a shark beneath him.

Lenny underwent surgery and many long months of recovery. Nathan was excited to be there for Lenny's first surf after the attack.

He said that the reactions of Lenny's family and the sincere gratitude of his children are more reward than he would ever need.

The shark attack hasn't stopped Nathan going in the water but he is not as "carefree any more".

By **JAKOB CRESNAR, HOLLY NILON, MAGGIE MEISSNER and ALANA KIDDLE**

JACOB Cooper is one of the unfortunate children in Australia who has been diagnosed with leukaemia. Leukaemia is a type of cancer that runs through your blood and can be life-threatening.

Luckily Jacob Cooper's is treatable. He was diagnosed about one year ago and has battled through hard times.

Last September the Redhead community hosted a fund-raiser for Jacob called Shave for Coop. It was amazing how many people had their head shaved, including nearly all the boys from Jacob's class, and \$55,000 was raised to help the family.

Last year, Redhead Public School hosted a school mini-fete to raise money for Jacob. The school purchased a MacBook Pro and beats by Dr Dre headphones.

Jacob's class friends bought a one-metre-high leprechaun to put in Jacob's seat. This leprechaun reminds everyone of him while he is having treatment and it goes on all excursions.

Jacob has written a story about his battle through cancer to help other children with leukaemia like him. His story is very inspirational.

When Jacob was first diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, it was scary for him.



CHEERY: Jacob Cooper, pictured with his school friends, has faced tough times. Picture: Alana Kiddle

"I was afraid I would get sicker and sicker and maybe even die," he said.

"Being told you have cancer is bad, but then being sick and not knowing what's wrong is pretty bad too. When I found out what was making me sick I felt kind of better."

"I was worried about the treatment, but at least I now know what is wrong. I also felt better knowing

there was something the doctors could do to help me."

Having treatment has been tough and it has made him very sick.

"Sometimes I felt really sad and have no energy. There were times I was really bored, tired of lying around with no energy."

Jacob has created a list of things that may help others get through the hard times.

□ Keep believing you can beat it.

□ Remember everything you're going through is worth it.

□ Talk to someone else who has been through it.

□ The way you feel is only temporary and it won't last forever.

Jacob has shown determination and the Redhead community has shown how they can work together to support each other.



GREEN TEACHING: Students work on part of the learnscape garden. Picture: Bailey Strain

Walk through landscape to learn

By **BAILEY STRAIN, BRITTNEE LYNCH, GEORGIA FOX and OLIVIA SWEETING**

REDHEAD Public School are immersing themselves in the environment to celebrate links to natural heritage.

Mark Thomas designed a "learnscape" for the school, providing opportunities for outside learning areas and for students to appreciate

their environment.

Pupils help to care for the learnscape and keep it looking spectacular.

When visitors walk into the school they experience a garden for displaying art work. They can hear birds singing and the frogs croaking in the keokong (frog) pond. Many of the gardens have Awabakal names.

Next is the Munch and Crunch garden where pupils

plant vegetables and herbs. Around the corner is the community garden.

Head across the playground and discover the dunes - large mounds that were built to show the area's native plants.

The final garden is the historical garden with a lone pine from Gallipoli, rosemary for remembrance and sleepers from the old Redhead train line.

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