

Primary entry #34: St Philip's Christian College, Port Stephens



St Philip's @ The Bay



CARING: Eleanor Ward and some rubbish from the beach.

Picture: Lily MacIntosh and Gabrielle Neale

Dedicated to cleaning up our beaches

By LILY MACINTOSH and GABRIELLE NEALE

RUBBISH in the water is one of the biggest problems in Nelson Bay. It can cause animals to get sick or die, water to get dirty and beaches end up covered in rubbish.

The bay enjoys a beautiful environment with animals such as dolphins, whales, turtles and sharks, but when a rotten toothbrush and plastic toy dinosaurs are discovered, it doesn't seem as beautiful.

Eleanor Ward spends time after school to organise beach clean-ups and to spread the message.

"I decided to do it because I realised how much more rubbish there is in our waters now than when I was younger," she said. "I love swimming and snorkelling, but sometimes the water looks so uninviting that I don't feel like going in."

Every time she goes to the beach she picks up rubbish that has washed ashore, which includes Chinese herbal medicine bottles, doll parts, plastic bags and bottles, goggles, old shoes, cigarette butts, toothbrushes and plastic toy dinosaurs.

She volunteers with Port Stephens Council and the Ocean Coastal Care Initiative. Mrs Ward uses the least amount of plastic and encourages people to pick up three pieces of rubbish when they go to the beach.

Levi back on the track

By TIANNA GIBBONS and ELLE CLAYTON-BROWN

RUNNER Levi Gibbons is back on the track after being diagnosed with Sever's disease and taking six months off for rest and recovery.

"It feels great to be back on track and racing again," he said.

Nine-year old Levi has an amazing passion for running, proven by multiple ribbons, medals and awards that have literally filled his shelves.

Levi found his love for running at school athletics carnivals. He has won multiple ribbons over the past three years at the carnivals he's competed in.

St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens sports co-ordinator Ingrid Chadwick noticed his impressive skills at the age of seven. Realising Levi as a true runner, she started entering him into the Hunter Region Independent Schools races, where he competed in various events in his age group.

At the 2012 Combined Independent Schools carnival, Levi won every race that he competed in, receiving many gold medals. After these achievements it was confirmed that in the 100 metres event Levi was the fastest 8-year-old runner in NSW and earned the right to compete at nationals in Adelaide.

"I didn't think that I'd get this far



SPEEDY: Levi Gibbons with just a few of his trophies and medals. With luck there will be more to come.

Picture: Elle Clayton-Brown and Tianna Gibbons

or be this famous," he said.

Suddenly, without warning, Levi was diagnosed with Sever's disease. Levi learnt that this bone disorder had serious complications around the growth of his muscles and tendons. He was hugely disappointed when he was told that he

could no longer be able to compete.

"I was devastated that I injured my foot. I truly believe that I could have been the fastest 8-year-old in Australia, if I hadn't injured my tendons," he said.

Just recently, Levi has returned to the track and competed in many

activities and advanced to compete at the HRIS carnival.

Levi has changed his perspective and attitude for his future.

"I'm not just happy about winning, but also getting to know more people, finding out their backgrounds and having fun."



EXAMPLE: Students are reminded of the importance of helping others in need. Picture: Hannah Brake

Being the change you wish to see

By OLIVIA MARTIN, SARAH HODSON, RUBY BLACKMORE-SQUIRES, COOPER AMBROSE and REBECCA TURNER

THERE is a change occurring at St Philip's that hopes to have an impact on the wider world.

Be The Change is a program helping other people in need that live in different places. Each year, a group of year 7 and 8 students go to Vanuatu to live with and help students and small communities, so that they can have better lives.

Deputy principal Simon Herd, who found

ded Be The Change in 2012, said we can all be the change by thinking about others and doing what God wants us to do to make a difference.

He is of the opinion that missionary trips are a great experience for the children that go.

"It's a great way for the students to put their love of Jesus into action and meet other people from different places," he said.

Year 8 student Samuel Turner went on the mission trip this year.

"The children were all happy to have new friends," Samuel said.

Need funding for a Community Project?

Each year, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation provides approximately \$1.5 million in grants to eligible not-for-profit organisations in the regional areas in which we serve. To help community organisations gain an understanding of the easy application process, how funding applications are assessed and the types of community projects funded to date, the Foundation is holding a **free two hour workshop**. If you are a representative of a not-for-profit organisation, please register to attend our free workshop.

Venue: Raymond Terrace Bowling Club, 2 Jacaranda Ave

Time and date: 10am, Tuesday 17 September

RSVP: By Monday 9 September to Sue Jones (02) 4927 4435

or sue.jones@newcastlepermanent.com.au

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