

Secondary entry #11: St Paul's High School Booragul



The Spinnaker



CHASING POINTS: Kaitlynd Reiher-Smith and Caitlin Pierson.

House Cup is increasing a team culture

By **LAUREN CAMERON**

A BIT of friendly competition is always healthy, and to promote this St Paul's has launched a House Cup.

Within the school's community there are four coloured teams, each named after a person significant to the Catholic Church.

Previously, the school encouraged the teams to compete by participating in swimming and athletics carnivals to earn points and be named the winning house. Now, with the help of teachers Felicity Foley and Sophie Stanley and the Student Representative Council, points may be earned in a greater variety of ways.

"In the past, only talented sports-people could earn points for their house, but we want to expand to those interested in the cultural side of school, as well as the sporting side, that's why we introduced the House Cup," said Ms Foley.

The students at St Paul's are all keen for their house to win, going so far as to dress themselves as a crayon or monkey at the school's carnivals, just to earn more points for their respective house.

Students can also earn points through debating, spelling bees, trivia competitions, talent shows and the "Archipaul", the school's own portraiture competition.

It all promotes healthy competition, school spirit and motivation to participate in what the school has to offer.

Roaring win for leaders

By **MOLLY BALKIN**

KAROLINA Leszczynski and Bridie O'Shea, year 12 students of St Paul's High School Booragul, have won the Lion and Lioness Youth of the Year Awards for 2013.

Bridie won the Lion's Youth of the Year award and Public Speaking award and Karolina gained the Lioness Youth of the Year award.

The Lion's Club Youth of the Year competition is aimed at young adolescents who aspire to leadership. The competition is a process involving interviews and public speaking with the members of the Lion's Club as the audience.

Karolina and Bridie represented the Toronto Lion's Club.

They were successful in proceeding through several stages of the competition, all held at Toronto over a few months, before taking out the awards.

At the first stage of the competition, the girls participated in an interview in front of a panel of judges. The second stage involved a presentation of a prepared speech and two impromptu speeches.

By winning the second round, both students proceeded to the zone level. Both girls again impressed the adjudicators and progressed to the regional level.

It was the winning of the competition at this level which awarded them the Youth of the Year awards.

Participation for Karolina began in year 11.

"I was offered the opportunity to become involved in the competition at the end of year 10 and I competed during year 11," she said.

"I enjoyed it so much I was inspired to do it again in year 12."

Bridie began her campaign in year 12.

"I wanted to prove that I had the skills which were needed to become a leader and the Lion's competition was the opportunity to show this," she said.

Both Bridie and Karolina, while in the junior school, were inspired by the qualities possessed by other school leaders and they wanted to "seek a similar path of being a leader".

When they were asked would they do it again, they both replied without hesitation.

"Definitely," Karolina said. "It makes you more socially aware. It brings new opportunities and opens new doors to the future".

Both encourage everyone to "take every opportunity you get because people don't regret what they have done, they only regret what they haven't done".



SUCCESS: Karolina Leszczynski and Bridie O'Shea holding their Youth of the Year awards. Picture: Sophie Scanlon and Natalie Winter



WELCOME ADDITION: Ethan Roach, Flynn Balin and Dylan Hogg enjoy the new turf.

Green oasis where dust once blew

By **DEAN BLUNDELL, CAMPBELL GUEST, ETHAN ROACH and ROBBIE TURTON**

IT is a difficult task to get grass to grow in school playgrounds when hundreds of students are crossing the quadrangles every day.

However, at St Paul's, a practical and popular solution has been found.

The laying of artificial turf

late last year, has beautified two dusty locations in the school grounds.

The first section was laid outside the new Trade Training Centre kitchen. It immediately transformed a dry dust bowl into a green oasis.

The synthetic turf was such a success with students that in the Christmas holidays, an additional area was resurfaced in the school quadrangle. The previous

areas created so much dust they were a safety hazard to asthma sufferers.

The idea to introduce synthetic turf as an additional feature to beautify the school came from school principal Anthony Stevens.

"It looks great and it's better than gravel. It adds colour and both students and guests to the school love it."

A Toronto company installed the turf for \$9000.



"his Vision is no real impairment"

In 10 years we've given over **\$10million** to fund more than **250** important community programs, like the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's video conferencing service that ensures hearing and vision impaired children like Cruz get the support they need in their own homes.

For more information on the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and to see more of Cruz's story, visit newcastlepermanent.com.au/foundation

Join us at [facebook.com/charitablefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/charitablefoundation)

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT
**CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**