

Primary entry #38: Telarah Public School



The Telarah Telegraph



READY TO RUMBLE: Telarah Public School Girls Rugby League team.
Picture: Blake Idstein

Champions of the future get top help

By **BLAYD DUNCAN** and **THOMAS BAINGAN-CRUISE**

IT seems that it's not just the boys who are keen to tackle, scrum and play-the-ball. The female interest in rugby league is increasing in the Hunter.

Newcastle Knights community liaison officer, Kacey Drummond said that there is now a growing trend towards female only competitions as evidenced by the number of inquiries fielded by the NRL Development Team.

There were initially six female teams in 2012 and this year it has doubled to 12 sides. The interest is also there among school teams.

The Legends Girl Gala Day is an event in Sydney allowing winners of each gala match to progress to the statewide finals which are held at venues across Sydney.

The winners of the 2013 Rebecca Young Cup, Telarah Public School, will progress to compete in the Legends Gala Day finals.

Rebecca Young is the captain of the Maitland Pickers woman's rugby league team and is also part of the Australian Jillaroos – the national women's rugby league team.

"Rebecca is always available and willing to assist in getting women and girls rugby league events running in the Hunter so it is fitting that we name a girls tackle gala day after her," Ms Drummond said.

By **CHARLOTTE POKE** and **MONTANNA SUMNER**

MANY students need after-school care and the federal government's Active After-school Communities program is keeping those kids active and healthy in the process.

The Active After-school Communities (AASC) program is managed by the Australian Sports Commission. Its aim is to engage primary school children in physical activity and provides students with the opportunities for ongoing participation in organised sport. This includes school sport as well as club sport.

The AASC program is operated by participating Australian primary schools and childcare benefit approved Out of School Hour (OOSH) services.

Telarah Public School has successfully participated in the program since 2009. Teachers provide after-school supervision, and afternoon tea, such as fresh fruit and sandwiches, are prepared and supplied by the school's canteen.

The AASC programs are managed nationally through a network of locally-based AASC regional co-ordinators, across four zones. Active After-school co-ordinators assist schools and after-school care centres to facilitate the program.

Eddie Figueroa is the co-ordinator of Maitland's AASC pro-



HAVING FUN: Students enjoy games with hockey coach Ros Sherlock as part of the Active After-school Communities program, which is managed by the Australian Sports Commission. Picture: Sienna Hunter

gram. His role is to assist and organise the running of the activities within each participating facility in the Maitland area.

The program activities are centred on the "Playing for Life" philosophy and based on the game sense approach to coaching, which uses games, rather than drills. Studies have found that small field-modified activities based on repeti-

tion and fun are beneficial during the building block stages of skill development. Coaches are taught how to continuously modify games to suit the skill level and abilities of the children involved.

The AASC program was introduced in 2005 with 900 primary schools and OOSH care services participating around Australia.

Eight years later, the program is

run at more than 3270 sites and almost 190,000 primary school children attend regularly.

Within the 2013-14 federal budget, the AASC program received \$39.4 million in funding. The program will continue until December 31, 2014, as per the funding agreement, giving children the chance to engage in sport and other structured physical activity.

TOON TIME: Shakira Exposito-Bishell and Emily Meehan with some of their work.

Picture: Kayla McGee



Building strength from cartoons

By **BRIAN GOULD** and **NATHANIEL HINDS**

FROM the desolate dusty mines of Kalgoorlie to the tranquil towns of Tasmania, Jeff "Joffa" Taylor has seen it all.

Joffa is a professional author-illustrator, motivational speaker and cartoonist. He began his career by drawing toons, but was advised by his parents to publish cartoon books.

His inspiration to write stories came about through helping children to be resilient in dealing with negative situations.

He visits schools to share his message, portraying scenarios that allow students to build resilience to situations. The children can represent their feelings through the cartoon characters.

"Every child can succeed with this type of activity, from the very timid child to the very vocal child," Joffa said.

At 17, Joffa left a secure job to travel and follow his dream of being a cartoonist. He has only looked back once – to "see if anyone was brave enough to do likewise".

Fortunately not too many have filled the same niche, he said.



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