

# It's time to balance the score in sport

## EDITORIAL

By **MIKAYLA NISBET-GORE, GEMMA TURNER-TURNBULL and LAUREN OLIVER**

THE rise and rise of talented women in cricket, rugby league and netball is encouraging. Unfortunately, these sportspeople who represent a large cross-section of our nation still struggle to be fully recognised for their deeds.

The female athletes who play for Australia don't receive payments anywhere near their male counterparts. The women who play at such high levels also have to be stay-at-home mums and work another job to provide money for their families.

An example of this are netballers. As they are only semi-professionals they don't receive anywhere near the money they should receive. That's why they have to work second jobs.

Another example is the women's rugby league team who have just become world champions. They only receive enough money to travel abroad and therefore also have to work second jobs to support themselves and their families. You rarely see male rugby league players working second jobs because they get paid the amount of money that their

hard work deserves.

A large reason for this is the amount of air time female sports receive. When you turn on the TV you will see men's sports like NRL, cricket, basketball and soccer but you rarely see talented females at the top of their sports.

Last year Channel 10 had the rights to show every game of netball each week. Even with this sport being the most popular for females they decided to drop this from their programming. An 11th hour solution was reached and SBS picked it up. This was great, however, they only showed one game a week with highlights of the others. So this leads to lack of sponsorship and then to less money for female athletes.

One sport where they are nearing gender equality is tennis. Not only do you see men on TV when a grand slam is on but you also see women shown in prime time.

Also in grand slams the prize money for males and females is almost the same and top female tennis players get almost as much sponsorship as their male counterparts. Tennis is just the beginning of how it should be with the female athletes.

If all the sports were the same as tennis, then gender equality in sports would be as it should and these female athletes would be able to properly provide for their families and be the well-known sports stars they are meant to be.



**HOPE IN HAND:** Mat Primmer with one of his remote controlled cars, ready for the world championship. *Picture: Cody Thomas*

# Race is on to San Francisco

By **KHOBI SMITH and BRAYDEN BICE**

SCHOOL teacher Mat Primmer is realising a childhood dream after qualifying for the world championships in remote control car racing.

The racing enthusiast who has been racing remote control cars since the age of 12 has put in countless hours on the local Maitland track to help him be where he is today.

His need for speed has taken him from go-karting with his dad as a youngster, to the popular remote control car racing. His talent has seen him compete in the World Championships in Italy in 2005 and Finland in 2011.

This year Mat hopes to finish in the top 40 in the world in San Francisco this month.

The three-time national titleholder puts his success down to "driving smooth but fast and in control". This style of driving has led Mat to a personal best of a top 58th position in the world championship in Finland.

Mat's pint-sized petrol powered machine, which runs on a mixture of methanol and oil, weighs in at approximately four kilograms and can reach speeds up to 80km/h.

Spending more than five hours per week maintaining his gear in preparation for competitions, Mat has had continued sponsorship from AKA to help keep him on track.



Cartoon: *Cody Thomas*

# Playground's upgrade earns thumbs up

By **MICHAEL QUAYLE and CONNOR GALLAGHER**

WORK has recently been completed on a community facility on the corner of McDonald and Brook streets, Telarah, to the delight of the local community.

The rusty, dilapidated playground equipment was replaced by the Maitland City Council to cater for the ever-increasing demand for quality recreational equipment.

Two weeks after opening, the park is proving a hit

with hundreds of children crawling over it all week.

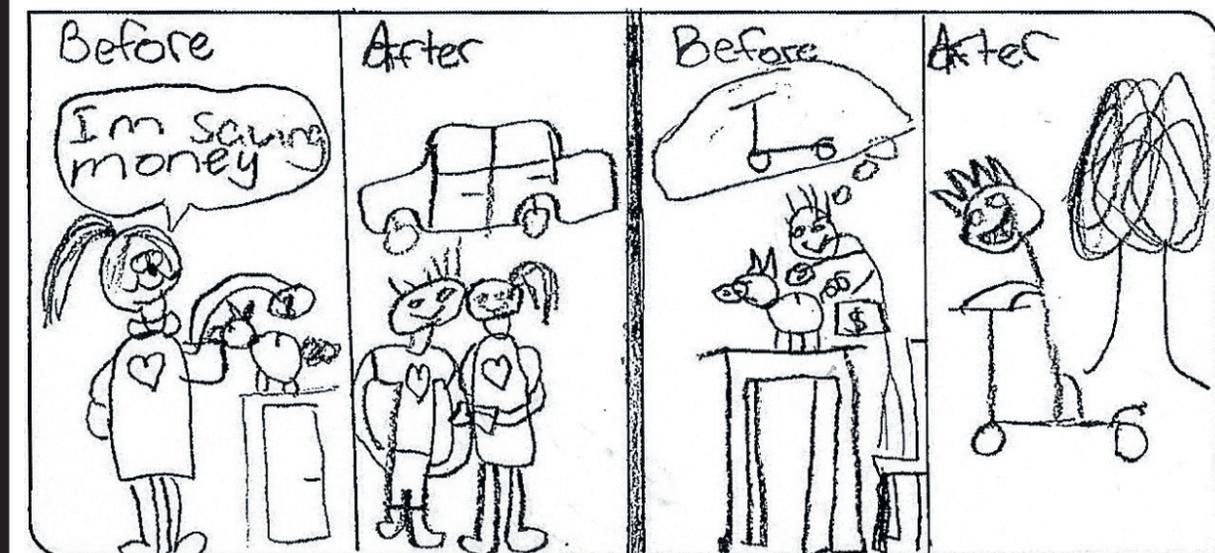
The upgrade started with a community petition that the Maitland council communications officer, Rachael Puddephatt, said played a key role in establishing the design for the project. The themes and elements were also identified through conversations with the council and the local stakeholders.

The costings for the play area were incorporated in the council's capital works program for the 2012-13 financial year.



**HAVING FUN:** Tallen Robinson and Brooke Siemsen make the most of the replaced equipment in the playground. *Picture: Connor Gallagher*

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