

school talk

Kind gesture passed on to footy great



Rugby league star Petero Civoniceva cheers on Genesis Christian College student Bailey Garden playing a game at school last week.

How many Preppies does it take to tackle Australian rugby league international Petero Civoniceva? About 25.

After Mitchell Peatey appeared on *The Footy Show* during its visit to Pine Central Rugby League Club in June, he was presented with a signed jersey from his favourite team, the Brisbane Broncos.

During this school term Mitchell and his classmates at Genesis Christian College have been learning about gratitude, and being thankful for the gifts we receive.

So not only did Mitchell write a thank you letter to the Broncos club for the special jersey, so too did his 24 Prep classmates.

"Mitchell wasn't into reading and writing before that, and now he loves his writing

letters," his father Craig Peatey said.

The letters and accompanying illustrations reached former Broncos star and ex-Australian international Petero Civoniceva, who was smitten by the gesture.

"It was really cute some of the things that were written and the pictures, and you definitely could tell that it was something the kids were really proud of," said Civoniceva, who works as a community officer for the National Rugby League.

He showed his gratitude toward the children's efforts by visiting Mitchell and his classmates at their school last week.

He spent the morning playing football-based games with the children, as well as speaking to them about the importance of exercise and healthy eating.

Morcombes visit Dayboro

Bruce and Denise Morcombe from child protection organisation the Daniel Morcombe Foundation recently visited Dayboro State School to teach students about staying safe.

"We wanted to get them out to our school to talk to the students about safety as we are a fairly isolated area," Dayboro State School teacher Deidre Mathiesen said.

"With children often waiting for buses (or) parents (and) walking or riding to and from school alone, it is vital they understand various ways to keep safe and not find themselves in a situation like Daniel was."

Students were taught how to react to and report situations in which they feel unsafe. They were also encouraged to choose five adults in their lives they can confide in, in cases of harm or a safety issue.



Child safety advocates Bruce and Denise Morcombe with Dayboro State School students during their recent visit to the school.

body

Stroke and overdose prevention on agenda

The community is being urged to learn more about two potential killers.

Stroke is Australia's second biggest killer, and one in six Australians will suffer a stroke in their lifetime.

National Stroke Foundation Chief Executive Officer Dr Erin Lalor is calling on members of the community to join in the fight against stroke during National Stroke Week, from 9-15 September.

"Stroke touches all of our lives in some way, whether it is personally, through a family member, a friend or colleague," Dr Lalor said.

"Yet, only half of Australians know the signs of stroke and one in 10 couldn't spot a stroke if it happened right in front of them."

Of those who survive a stroke, 65 per cent are left with a disability that impedes their ability to carry out daily activities.

Drug overdose deaths in Australia have now exceeded the road toll, according to

figures released by Anex on Overdose Awareness Day (31 August).

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2011 road transport deaths were 1323, while 1383 people died of drug overdoses.

"This is the first time that drug overdoses have gone past the road toll since at least the mid-1990s," said Anex CEO John Ryan, whose non-profit organisation works to improve responses to the problems arising from the use of illicit drugs, pharmaceuticals and alcohol.

"Increasing overdose deaths are related to increased pharmaceutical drug misuse in particular. There needs to be a nationwide campaign to raise public awareness of overdose risk and how to respond.

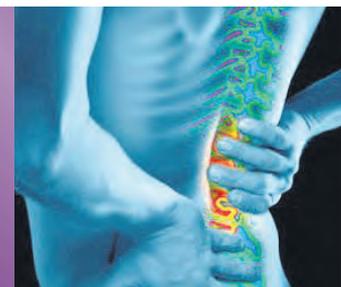
"Far too many people die or suffer brain damage because friends and loved ones did not recognise signs of overdose."

Visit www.strokefoundation.com.au and www.overdoseday.com

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