

In the Classroom

Hey, check this out

By Sarah Harman
sharman@sunraysiaadaily.com.au

WITH many captured queens and threatened kings, students from across Sunraysia put on their game faces yesterday for the interschool chess tournament.

More than 140 students from 10 schools crammed into Trinity Lutheran College's Sunset Hall to test their strategic thinking skills, all vying for a place at the national finals.

Chess Kids events manager Tim Broome travelled from Melbourne to oversee the day and said it was great to see a large turnout.

He said without realising it chess taught students a range of skills.

"In chess you can never play a perfect game, nobody in the world can play a perfect game," Mr Broome said.

"So at the end of every game, no matter whether you win or lose, you can always find things you could have improved on."

"You can always find a reason why you've lost your game in what you've done and it actually teaches them to take responsibility for their own outcomes."

He said the chess scene in the region was particularly strong compared to other regional centres and the love of the game was often passed down from generation to generation.

"The chess scene has been fantastic for 10 to 15 years and the local Sunraysia Chess Club, which is for both adults and juniors, is quite active," Mr Broome said.

"There are some very enthusiastic people here and the schools are very involved too."

The winning schools from the primary, open secondary and middle years divisions will go on to the national finals to be held in Melbourne in September and October.



ABOVE: Ruby Spratt, 10, and Harry Ough, 11, both from Mildura South Primary School, face off.
Pictures: Carmel Zaccare



Year 1 student Charlie Timmins, from Trinity Lutheran College, makes his move.

IN BRIEF

Kids walk for health

SUNRAYSIA students will ditch the bus in favour of a scooter, bike or skateboard on Friday in recognition of National Ride2School Day.

More than 350,000 students will take part in the day, which encourages children to embrace a healthier start to each day by riding or walking to school.

The Lake Primary School students will be joined by Rachael Longeri, from Healthy Together Mildura, on their walk from Regina Avenue.

Teachers put on ice

THREE lucky teachers from Lymple South Primary School will say an icy goodbye to Term 1 on March 31.

As part of their fundraising efforts to install a buddy bench at the school, students will be able to vote for which teacher they would like to see slide into a

freezing pool of ice.

Voting will be held from March 27 to 30 at a cost of \$1 a vote, with the top three teachers to take part in the end-of-term activity.

Buddy benches have been installed at several schools in Sunraysia and provide a place for students to go when they have no one to play with. Their peers are then encouraged to invite them to join in.

Serve of tennis fun

RANFURLY Primary School's Year 4 students hit the tennis courts last week and received some tips from the pros.

Students learnt basic tennis skills at the Mildura Lawn Tennis Club before watching top players on court as part of the Mildura Grand Tennis International.

The youngsters were thrilled to get an insight into the game and see some of the world's top players battle it out.

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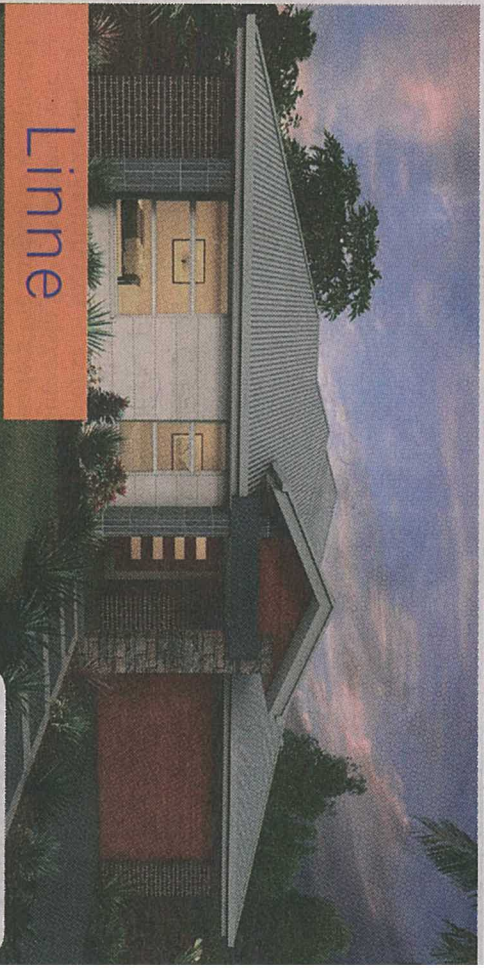


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