Kicking goals in Indigenous communities

By Jock Manning

Two Year 7 students from the Star of the Sea School, who recently made local news headlines, have wrapped up their ‘Kick in my Boots’ campaign by personally delivering football boots to remote Indigenous communities. Jakob Vreis and Tom Nagel, both 12, visited Alice Springs last month and delivered boots to a number of local Indigenous schools.

Far surpassing their initial target of 100 boots, they delivered more than 500 pairs of new and used football boots, as well as socks.

The boys started their foundation ‘Kick in my Boots’ following their participation in a leadership conference through school in March this year.

The boys said they were “inspired to do something and make a change” after they attended the Youth Leaders’ Day at the Adelaide Convention Centre and “met some inspiring people.”

Kick in my Boots aims to provide new and used football boots to the less fortunate in remote South Australian communities.

The boys said that because children in remote communities didn’t always have access to things as simple as football boots, they wanted to see what they could do to help.

“They can’t access the same things as us and we thought we might help them and make a change by donating boots,” they explained.

What started as a simple idea to collect and donate used football boots from their friends and family rapidly grew and the boys collected hundreds of pairs, enticing the help of numerous companies and organisations such as the SANFL.

Kick in my Boots set up collection points for boots at local football clubs and the SANFL pitched in by organising drop-off points at each of its 10 clubs.

As well as appearing on Seven News Adelaide, Jakob and Tom were on the front page of their local Messenger, have appeared on SAA, been interviewed by Jane Ryley and gathered more than 1000 ‘likes’ on Facebook.

They also raised more than $6000 at a fundraiser and $2000 at a Star of the Sea fundraiser. The organisations purchased hundreds of pairs of brand new football socks to go with the boots.

Fighting injustices

JUSTICE CREW: Mercedes College social justice leaders, from left: Alexander Diamond, Sophie Smith, Evelyn Cacas, Gabrielle Capasso and Lucas Di Ubaldo.

Mercedes College social justice league leaders have joined forces with leaders from St Mary’s College, St Dominic’s Priory and Blackfriars Priory to raise social justice awareness between the four schools.

One of their first initiatives was to set up a car drive for the St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal. The four schools and Christian Brothers College “competed” against each other to see who could collect the most cans, resulting in nearly 6000 cans of food being donated to the appeal.

In another bid to raise awareness, the schools held a 1010-12 movie night on August 5. The 20-minute locally produced film, The Axolotl, explores the arrival of so-called “boat people” and refugees as well as the meaning of life itself.

Proceeds from the movie night went to the Welcome Australia Foundation.

On Saturday August 6 the schools provided volunteers to buddy families supported by Vinnies. The day included making pizzas and playing basketball, soccer and netball.

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