

NEWS
EDWARDS FOR GREENS



P5

WEEKENDER
GAINING INSIGHT



P28-29

SPORT
STONE SET FOR FINAL



P64

COVERING WEST & NORTH-WEST TASMANIA SINCE 1890

\$2.00
INC GST



The Advocate

Reece High School



Picture: MATT POWELL

FUTURE ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

A Coaster who made his mark on and off the field in football hopes to see the KIDS Foundation expand its role in Tasmania and help more kids like burns survivors Fletcher and Spencer Connelly. Athol Hodgetts will soon be inducted into the AFL Hall of Fame, but took time out yesterday to catch up with the two boys and hear how their journey to recovery continues. **LUCY SLADE reports, Page 3.**

Hodgetts wants KIDS Foundation safety program in Tas schools

FORMER AFL player Athol Hodgetts is back on the Coast to help expand the KIDS (Kids In Dangerous Situations) foundation role in Tasmania.

Mr Hodgetts met with Spencer and Fletcher Connelly as both of the boys benefited from the charity after they suffered severe burns from a deliberately lit car fire almost five years ago.

At the time Fletcher and Spencer were eight and five and have since required a number of surgeries.

Mother of the boys Allison McGee said Spencer would have more surgery sometime in the new year because he was still growing and skin grafts do not grow with the body.

In August the family are travelling up to Noosa for a camp run by the KIDS Foundation which Ms McGee said they were really looking forward to.

Mr Hodgetts said the camps really help children with their self esteem.

He said the foundation did two main things, assist children who had been badly injured and educate four to six-year-olds on safe-



FOOTY FANS: Athol Hodgetts with Fletcher, grade 8, who is a Sydney Swans fan but Spencer, grade 5, prefers to play soccer. **Picture: Matt Powell.**

ty issues.

"Our aim is to educate children on all sorts of issues whether is it crossing the road or not pulling a

kettle off the sink. We cover any safety issue that a child may confront," he said.

He said he would like to see the program set up in

Tasmania and aims to have it reach every Australian aged from four to six by the end of 2019.

He said the KIDS Founda-

tion had been funded to run in all Victorian schools and the results from the program had been quite spectacular.

Mr Hodgetts said he was

going to approach businesses and had approached the government for funding assistance in hope of getting the program rolled out.

NEWS



FOOTY FANS: Athol Hodgetts with Fletcher, grade 8, who is a Sydney Swans fan but Spencer, grade 5, prefers to play soccer. **Picture:** Matt Powell.

Goal for Tassie kids program

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