

## Award winning program supporting our kids

Our local state school communities are embracing the benefits of an award-winning early intervention program which aims to better connect students and their parents with a range of resources to help overcome social and emotional barriers to learning.

The Glasshouse Coalition of schools – which includes Beerwah State School, Beerburrum State School, Glasshouse Mountains State School, Peachester State School, Elimbah State School and Landsborough State School are only the second group of schools on the Sunshine Coast to have access to the Supporting Children in Primary Schools (SCIPS) program.

The program is an initiative of Sunny Kids, a local children's charity, and was recently awarded a \$100,000 prize at the inaugural School's First Awards.

Beerwah State School Deputy Principal Michelle McCabe said the SCIPS program had been running in hinterland schools since term two. She said the program, which has been positively embraced by both students, parents, teachers

and other members of the school community, provides a dedicated resource at the schools to help students who might be impacted by family and other issues, such as financial distress, separation or divorce, and their family, to access resources.

"This is a great initiative and we feel privileged to be able to roll the program out through our hinterland schools," Michelle said.

SCIPS project officer Becky Hyde, who works out of Beerwah State School between two and a half and three days a week, said research showed that when children disengage in primary school they experience increased negative life outcomes. "SCIPS aims to re-engage disengaged children by building a platform from which they can reach their full potential," Becky said.

SunnyKids CEO, Chris Turner, said SCIPS currently has a referral database of around 80 different community organisations, services and businesses and is garnering substantial attention from the Department of Child Safety and a wide range of paediatricians.

"Having witnessed the effectiveness of the program, we are actively seeking to secure fresh funds and develop a sustainable funding model which will support the high demand for SCIPS and expansion of the SCIPS program into schools around the country," said Mr Turner.

Next month, to coincide with Child Protection Week, the Glasshouse coalition of schools is planning a fundraising day to raise awareness of the program and funds to ensure the continuation of the program. Stay tuned for more details in coming weeks. Alternatively, if you are interested in getting involved or supporting the program, contact Michelle McCabe at Beerwah State School on 5436 5555.

Beerwah State School's P and C president Coralie Lillecrapp and Deputy Pincipal Michelle McCabe



## Soap star gets blood pumping

Sam Clark, who plays the role of Ringo on the popular soap Neighbours

When Neighbours star and musician Sam Clark, or Ringo as he is better known to his legion of Neighbours fans, made a special visit to Beerwah State High last week, he certainly got hearts racing.

A packed auditorium waited anxiously for a glimpse of the up and coming star, who is on a five week national tour as part of his role as an ambassador for the Red Cross Blood Service.

Sam told the students, who can donate blood from the age of 16, that every blood donation has the power to save three lives.

"One in three people will need blood in their lifetime, but right now one in 30 Australians donate," Sam said.

Sam also entertained the captive audience with his latest single 'Devastated'.

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