

Good sports: Focus on Taranaki secondary schools' young talent

Children her motivators

Murray Hills
murray.hills@dailynews.co.nz

Mention the name Josie Cleaver to anyone and the immediate response is netball or New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Cleaver lives and breathes sport. Her job – she is a PE teacher and director of sport at Girls' High – revolves around sport.

Outside those hours, she coaches both the New Plymouth Old Boys and Girls' High teams in the Taranaki premier one netball competition.

Working with her are sports co-ordinators Karen Gillum-Green and Tracey Murray.



Josie Cleaver

Cleaver is fulltime, with Gillum-Green working 30 hours a week and Murray 25 hours.

"I've been at the school since 1977 and been in this role for 18 years after taking over from Karen Baxter," Cleaver said yesterday.

She's seen a number of changes in the sports programme over the years. "It's developed a lot. There's way more resources now and more staff," she said. "And there's lots more sports. There's a

huge variety and a lot more time put into developing those sports."

Cleaver said Murray's key areas were netball, basketball and uniforms and Gillum-Green was general sports.

"The general dogbody," pipes up Gillum-Green.

Cleaver said that with 1200-plus students at the school, things were busy. "One year, we had 40 netball teams and 25 basketball teams. It was too much for one person and the school realised that," she said. "Now we have three people."

The motivation came from the children.

"There's always a turnover with kids, each year there's a new lot. You're always learning something new," she

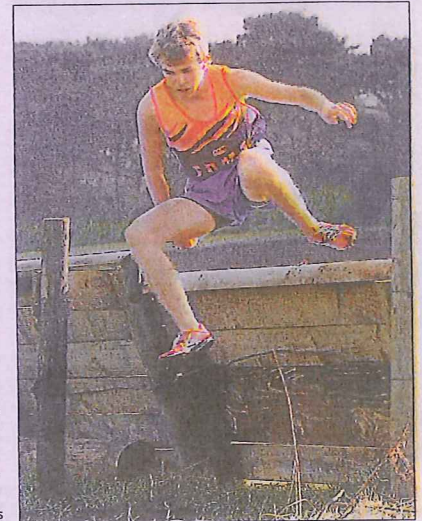
said. "We're lucky. The parents are great and so are the staff. It's great we have them contributing."

"We've got the full support of our management and the kids are enthusiastic. It's good to watch kids develop both as young sportspeople as well as young adults."

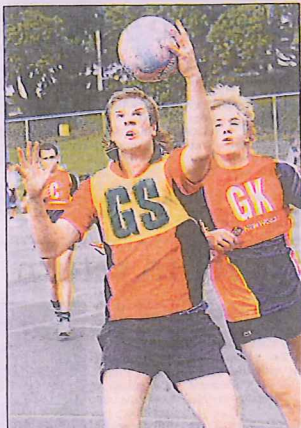
Cleaver said the rewards were seeing the results from individuals and teams. "Not just the elite players and teams, all the grades. It's a fun thing for them. They love the TSSA events, trying something different."

There were challenges, however.

"NCEA takes a huge amount of time these days and kids are working part-time," said Cleaver. "There's not the same time available for sport."



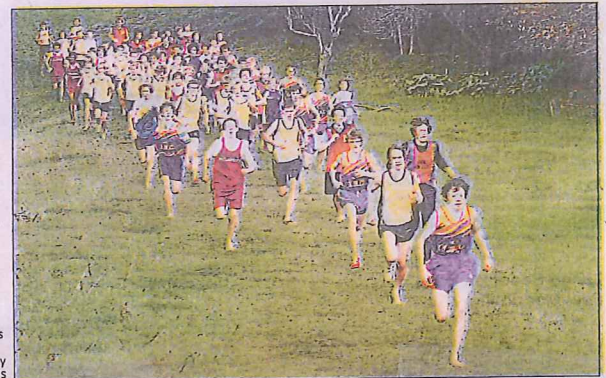
Clear air: Francis Douglas Memorial College's Luke McCallum clears a fence during the intermediate boys' race at the Taranaki secondary schools' cross-country championships in Hawera. Photo: ROBERT CHARLES



My ball: Stratford High School's Sam Hinton grabs the ball ahead of Simon Momic for New Plymouth Boys' High School in a Taranaki secondary schools' match at the Waiwhakaho netball courts in New Plymouth. Photo: ROBERT CHARLES



Smooth stride: New Plymouth Boys' High School runner Josh Taylor on his way to victory in the senior boys' race at the Taranaki secondary schools' cross-country championships in Hawera. Photo: ROBERT CHARLES



Off and running: Francis Douglas Memorial College runner Sam Bunn-Powell leads the field in the intermediate boys' race at the cross-country champs. Photo: ROBERT CHARLES



Down time: Mitchell Owen from New Plymouth Boys' High School clears a fence during the senior boys' race at the schools' cross-country champs. Photo: ROBERT CHARLES



Lone star: New Plymouth Boys' High School runner Matt Baxter out on his own leading the intermediate boys' race at the secondary schools' cross-country champs in Hawera. Photo: ROBERT CHARLES



In front: Stratford's Kelly Bishop, left, defends against Hawera's Stephanie Rolfe in a Taranaki secondary schools' match at the Waiwhakaho netball courts in New Plymouth. Photo: ROBERT CHARLES

Coastal's Hayward a jack of all trades

Murray Hills
murray.hills@dailynews.co.nz

have to learn that it's OK to be successful."

And successful several are.

"We've got the seventh-ranked squash player in under-19 age group in New Zealand (Jordan Linn). And we've got a couple of golfers who play off two or three handicaps. Both are Taranaki age-group reps," he said. "We do quite well in a lot of the lesser sports. We set up a sports academy in term two last year and that's been a huge success."

Hayward said the academy recognised elite sportspeople at the school.

"Golf, squash, surfing, cricket, a couple of athletes... they get one-on-one coaching every Wednesday," he said. "We're trying to retain kids. A lot of our seniors head off to schools in New Plymouth. By having an academy, hopefully we can retain some of them."

Hayward said the school also had a year 4 boy who was a national champion at his age level in motorcross.

While Hayward doesn't coach any school teams, he organises coaches, managers, teams and uniforms.

"Sport is growing in the school. For the first time in many years, we have a senior netball team and senior girls' football team. And last summer, we had a first XI cricket side," he said. "Things are going very smoothly at the moment. There's a lot of talent out here."

Ray Hayward is like a one-man band.

He is the sports department at Coastal Taranaki School in Okato.

"I'm a part-time sports co-ordinator. I get paid for 20 hours but do about 45. That's the reality of it for all sports co-ordinators," he said.

"It doesn't bother me. I do the job because I love it."

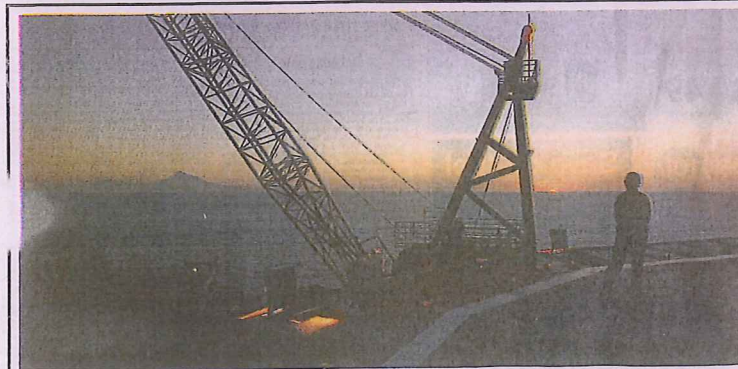
Hayward said he also did some teaching – he's a PE teacher.

"I take year 9 and 10 PE, four periods a week. My main job as sports co-ordinator is facilitating sport within the school. We're an area school and have new entrants up to year 13s."

That in itself makes Hayward's job even more difficult. "It's a challenge. We're not a big school, just over 300 children. The different levels certainly keep you busy."

Hayward has been at the school since July, 2008. "We've changed a few things. The school used to be tremendous participants. They would go to everything but have little success," he said. "Now, we still participate, but on a lesser scale with far more success."

Hayward said he had been working hard to change the way children were thinking. "I'm saying winning is OK. Kids



Shell Todd Oil Services

Proudly operating in Taranaki for more than 50 years and supporting a safe, healthy and vibrant community.

www.stos.co.nz

