

Stars shine light on



NRMA NEWS

*from your
local Director*

Geoff Toovey

A STRONG YEAR FOR THE NRMA

Much has been said lately about the uncertainty of today's economic climate. In spite of these tough conditions I am pleased to report that the NRMA has delivered a \$27 million surplus recorded before tax for the year ending 30 June 2011.

The NRMA's membership base also grew for the fourth year in a row to almost 2.4 million Members. At a time when the pressures on the family budget are increasing, we appreciate the loyalty of our Members and will work even harder to ensure your loyalty is rewarded with the quality of service you and your family deserve.

The NRMA is also looking to make your membership even more valuable by offering new services and benefits. One such initiative Pet Plus takes the stress of looking after your pet in the event of a breakdown by providing transport and even overnight accommodation for your cat or dog.

Almost half of our Members own a pet and we know this service – a world first – will be of great value to many of our Members.

The NRMA's fantastic reputation in the community has always been built around the service we provide our Members. That's why I was so pleased that the NRMA won the Australian Business Award for Service Excellence for the third year in a row. This speaks volumes for the remarkable work of our patrols and call centre operators. Their legendary work makes being part of this great organisation such an honour.



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Above: Lucas Neill, centre, with Matildas' star Kyah Simon and children who attended the soccer day. Right: Children were able to brush up on their skills.

Pictures: DAVE SWIFT



EMMA PAGE

MOSMAN: Women love him, men want to be him and children idolise him.

Socceroo skipper Lucas Neill had hearts racing at Rawson Oval in Mosman on Monday when he hosted a special training session for budding young soccer champs.

He was joined by Matilda champion striker Kyah Simon, who was named under-20 Footballer of the Year in 2009.

While mums swooned on the sideline, youngsters warmed up with drills including dribbling, trapping and passing, shooting goals and headers before playing a mini-game.

"Oh he's handsome isn't he?", Camden mum Elinor Zagorac said.

"We feel so lucky our son Kobe has the chance to meet Lucas – he was so excited last night he wanted to sleep in his soccer uniform."

Kobe Zagorac, 6, played his

first season this year with the under-7 Bonnyrigg White Eagles and they were undefeated. Sporting a Maradona-style haircut, the youngster booted the ball into the net and proudly told his dad he wanted to play soccer at the Olympics.

Neill and Simon took time out of their busy schedules – Neill was en route from the Middle East to Canberra for Australia's friendly against Malaysia tomorrow – to mentor about 26 children aged between

six and 12 years. Junior teams from the Blue Mountains and Bonnyrigg and from as far afield as Tasmania, took part in the event.

It was sponsored by the Optus Small Sided Football program, which has more than 150,000 children playing nationally this year. Neill, who grew up on the northern beaches and is the father of three-year-old twins, said he loved inspiring children to one day represent Australia.

What do you love most about soccer?



Gemma Morgan, 8:

"I've been playing soccer for four years – I'm a midfielder. It's fun beating all the boys. My dream is to be a Matilda."



Kane Tam, 8:

"The best thing about soccer is winning. This season we only lost one game. It was a good feeling."



Alec Chapman, 12:

"I've been playing for six years. This year we were unbeaten. I met Tim Cahill at a clinic. My goal is to be a striker for the Socceroos."



Caleb Maynard, 7:

"It's a fun sport. My favourite team is the Socceroos. It's pretty exciting meeting one of them today."



Jarrod Player, 9:

"I've played soccer since I was five. My favourite positions are striker and in the backs. This year I scored a few goals for my team."