

Daniel finds confidence through Max Potential

By *SAM PAINE*. June 28, 2014, 4 a.m.



Max Potential participant Daniel Van Der Hoeven with coach Alan Talbot.

Along the way to achieving his goals in Club Mudgee's Max Potential program, Daniel Van Der Hoeven has improved his confidence and, as he puts it, come out of his shell. "He's a lot more outgoing and confident in himself than he was the first time we met," said Daniel's Max Potential coach," Alan Talbot.

"It's been good," said Daniel. "It's helped me see the light, come out of my shell."

Daniel moved to Mudgee from England at the start of last year, and joined Max Potential this year to help him find a job and get more involved at school. He has taken on a counter job at High Valley Wine and Cheese and said the program had helped his schooling a lot, but the most important change was his improved confidence and willingness to be outgoing. "You can't get a job or achieve much if you're just hiding," he said.

Partway through the program, his confidence had grown enough that he was ready to audition for the school production of Peter Pan, something he said he would never have attempted earlier. Since then, he has done so well in his pirate role that he has become an understudy for the lead roles of Peter Pan and Captain Hook.

He has also returned to his love of competitive motorbike riding, which in England had won him an extensive collection of trophies and the title of British grass track champion for five consecutive years.

Daniel has extended his motocross track at home and recently competed in Forbes, winning second place.

As part of the Max Potential program, Daniel has been inspired by his mother's work as a wildlife carer to promote the cause of wildlife aid and the work and expense that goes into work such as looking after kangaroo joeys that have lost their mothers.