

# Jacintha learns to look for positive side of life

By *LAUREN STANFORD*. May 31, 2014, 4 a.m



Max Potential young adult Jacintha Leatherby and her coach Judy Hitchcock are having a ball taking part in the leadership program.

Jacintha Leatherby didn't realise she was halfway through the Max Potential program until her coach - Judy Hitchcock - pointed it out to her at their fourth one-on-one meeting.

"It's been a really interesting experience so far. The young adult I coached before and Jacintha are two really different people so it's a good learning curve," Judy said.

There have been a few ups and downs for the duo already, with one of the major ones being Jacinta not believing in herself and what she was capable of as much as Judy did.

"Jacintha is a really creative person and she's got some really good ideas. She gets embarrassed really easy but she shouldn't because she's got so much to contribute," Judy said.

Jacintha became involved with Max Potential late last year after her careers adviser spoke about the program and its benefits in the school notices. She said it was the chance to take part in something different that had her signing up - although it has been slightly harder than she thought it was going to be. "Other than that it's been really fun because Judy is really nice. I've already gotten a lot out of the program when it comes to both the MAXIMISERS and the F Goals," she said.

Jacintha said as part of Max Potential she had been working towards spending more time with her family - one of the F goals - and had achieved that by making her mum breakfast for Mother's Day and holding several family movie nights. As for MAXIMISERS, Jacintha said her and Judy were working towards "x-ing out the negatives" and "making things happen" because they could be used together and Jacinta had a lot going on in her life that she needed to find the time to make happen.

"One of the things I've found is that Jacintha is a lot stronger than she thinks she is. She's a little bit outside the mould and I want her to understand that it's okay to be a little bit different and not conform for anyone but herself," Judy said.

For Jacintha, being part of Max Potential had helped her change her view of the world around her. "Max Potential has really helped me see the good in everything," she said.

Jacintha is currently working towards her community service project and said she was planning to educate the general public about the positives of desexing domestic animals. "I wanted to educate people on the costs of unwanted litters and what ex-domestic and domestic animals do to the wildlife because it's something I'm quite passionate about and it's something that I've had to deal with myself," she said.