

Principal's Column

Brent Gray

Many of you may know that the arts, especially music and drama have been a big part of my life. So has sport. Driving to work this morning, going through the week for my own children and their sport, it made me think of what was done for me when I was growing up. People say to you 'where do you find the time to coach your kids?' For me, it's always been about being able to provide the opportunities for my children and others that were provided for me when I was growing up. It's about finding the time so that you can learn alongside your children. It's a great way of finding out your limits with your own child (and for those of you who coach your children, you know what I mean!!) and how far you can take another child in their pursuit of enjoyment and gaining not just sporting skills, but lifelong skills along the way.



Growing up in Methven, I always had people who were prepared to give up their time. Throughout my rugby playing I had Mr Don McKay, Mr Peter Campbell, Mr Don Cochrane, Mr Graham Jones, Mr Steve Shearer, Mr Philip Wareing and Mr Barry Molloy coach me and our teams (not to mention Wayne Timpson and Dad who were there to manage us and drive our bus!). In cricket I had Mr Peter Harper and Mr Neil Owen, Softball Mr Tony Wood, Swimming Mrs Debbie Harper (Lamont) and Mr Mark Gorman. These people, just like your children's coaches of today, had their own work and families and still found the time to help us to be sports people and good citizens of our town. They all wanted the best for us and all wanted to see us be successful. I have fond memories of my time growing up playing sport and I guess that is why I am involved in coaching as an adult, so that the next generation have the opportunity to have similar experiences and then go on to do what many of us are now doing – coaching others.

To the people listed above – thank you for what you did for me when I was growing up (I hope I thanked you at the time!) and for the experiences you provided. All of you had an influence on what makes me who I am today. And a big thanks to Mum and Dad for allowing me to be involved in all these things. It is appreciated.

To all the children who are out there being coached by an adult, probably a parent of one the children in your team, remember at the end of practice and at the end of a game to say 'thank you'. It's amazing just how much those two little words will mean.