

St Mary's crosses school bridge first

On Monday, five primary schools competed for the Frank Power Memorial Shield at Bairnsdale Bridge Club.

The schools involved were St Mary's, West Bairnsdale, Paynesville, Swan Reach and Eagle Point with all baring one of the schools represented by two teams.

The Bridge in Schools program was introduced about six years ago by the late Frank Power, initially involving two schools. Today the program is being taught in five local primary schools.

The schools involved have given a one-hour session, one day a week as an extension to their maths program.

Bairnsdale Bridge Club has a dedicated group of bridge players who conduct the sessions.

The students would normally play about five to six boards during that period. On Monday those students played 27 boards over a three-and-a-half-hour period.

They are to be commended for their endurance and focus. It is not easy to maintain that focus and concentration for that period of time.

The successful team and winner of the shield was St Mary's No. 1 Team, with runners-up Eagle Point No. 2 Team.

"I would like to sincerely thank all the participating schools, their teachers and our very

own bridge players who have taught and tutored the students throughout the year. Your help and dedication to the program is ensuring its ongoing success," program coordinator, Bev Fisher, said.

"Bridge is a wonderful game for all ages. It's a great way to keep mentally fit, meet new friends and enjoy playing cards.

"It helps keep your memory active and brain alert. It requires you to use mathematics, strategy and concentration and most of all improves inferential reasoning."

Bridge lessons will be held in the Bairnsdale clubrooms in early 2016.



Bridge in Schools program presenters Lyn Wilkinson, Mary Turnbull, Carey Lang, Lou Pemberton, Ilsa Porritt, Jenny Coverdale, Sue Deed, Helen Leech, Bev Fisher (coordinator) and Brian Sampson.
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Bairnsdale West and St Mary's students competing in one of the 27 boards played for the day.
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Winner of the Frank Power Memorial Shield for the Bridge in Schools program on Monday was St Mary's No. 1 Team, pictured with coordinator, Bev Fisher. (PS)



Runners-up Eagle Point No. 2 Team. (PS)



The two Swan Reach teams came face-to-face. K1649-915