

**Natarsha's advice: 'Passion, planning, potential, purpose and persistence'**

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"She said coming from a small town of just over 100 people herself showed you really can do anything and be anything."

Mrs Belling said although she was a bit of a "nerd" at school, it has its rewards.

"If it wasn't for teachers such as Mrs Dolanski at St Matts and Mrs Moore at Mudgee High I wouldn't be prepared for my job as a journalist," she said.

When quizzed about the daily tasks of being a newsreader, Mrs Belling said the hardest part was delivering a smooth bulletin.

"Literally 10 seconds before interviewing treasurer Wayne Swan on the morning after the budget, I lost all my audio and could not hear people speaking to me," she said.

"Whilst it all comes across as smooth, a lot goes on behind the scenes."

However there are some perks to the job.

"The easiest thing about my job is having all my make-up done for me and the magic the make-up artists work," she said.

The proud mother of two children also said she didn't have any great secrets to success, although she emphasised at least five points, including passion, potential, purpose, persistence and plan.

"Give 110 per cent in your chosen career and take every opportunity that comes to you," she said.



**MAXIMISERS:** Sally Mullinger and Ellie Hawkins are making the most of themselves with Max Potential.

# New group prepares to maximise

By SAM PAINE

A new group of local high school students are working to reach their maximum potentials by working with a mentor through Club Mudgee's Max Potential program.

The program pairs young people with experienced mentors, who help them to identify and change areas in their lives that are ripe for improvement.

In the final stage of the program, the young participants put their new confidence and skills to work to organise their own community projects.

Mudgee High School student Ellie Hawkins heard about Max Potential in the school announcements, and decided to sign up to "get out there and have a go."

She also hoped to improve her ability to set goals and meet them, and so far, she has improved her time management and become better at meeting homework deadlines.

Max Potential has partnered Ellie with Sally Mullinger, council's business manager of works and a first time Max Potential mentor.

"I had some good opportunities when I was younger, and it's a good way of giving it back," Ms Mullinger said.

She said she wanted to share skills and knowledge that young adults might not discover until later in life - if at all - but which would give them a distinct advantage if they encountered them early.

Ellie already has an idea of the community project she wants to complete by the program's end, with a plan to advertise the activities for youth available in Mudgee.

She believes there are plenty of opportunities available locally for young people, and if they were more widely known, they could help reduce boredom and crime.

Ellie is also working on a video to promote Max Potential, both online and for next year's participants.

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