Wheel education

Instead of reading about it in a book, these students have become as close as possible to experiencing what it is like to have a disability.

Chevalier College Year 10 students have been learning how sports need to be adapted for a variety of reasons, including pregnancy and having a disability.

PDHE teacher Kazandra Gorr said students had researched Paralympians to learn how a disability could be turned into a "source of power".

"By taking away something physical they have everyday, they have learned how people with disabilities need to adapt," she said.

"They've also learned how sports are modified for a variety of disabilities, such as blind soccer and wheelchair basketball."

Macarthur Disability Services support worker Ed Schlosser brought wheelchairs to the school so students could experience wheelchair basketball firsthand.

The students were taken through drills to test their new boundaries in the wheelchairs, before they were split into teams to play a full court game of basketball.

While the students had fun, they were also receiving an education in what it really means to have a disability and play sports.

Mr Schlosser said it was important for people to physically understand how they would have to adapt if they had a disability.

"This shows the difficulties of having a disability, but in a fun way for the students," he said.

"Even the children who are brilliant at sports, this brings everyone to a base level to develop an understanding."

Teamwork and communication were also factors brought into play during the lessons, as students discovered how to participate in sports with a disability.

Clear instructions were needed to play blind soccer, concentration for wheelchair basketball, and the ability to adapt was tested with one-armed Otago.

Year 10 student Molly said she found physically experiencing what it felt like for someone with a disability had given her a better understanding.

"We get to really feel what it's like for people who can't do what we take for granted," she said.

"I think it's changed us as a class. We can sit and hear about something, but doing it physically is a better way for us to learn about it."

The chance for students to learn about people with disabilities is part of the physical education and sport studies class at Chevalier.

While wheelchair basketball is one of the most well-known wheelchair sports, other sports for people in wheelchairs include archery, fencing, handcycling, bowls, powerlifting, agility, shooting and wheelchair track and road.

Meet Wayne Bell, driver for Southern Highlands Taxis.

Q: Do you like driving for Southern Highlands Taxis?

A: "I certainly do. My name is Wayne Bell & I have been driving full time for Southern Highlands Taxis for almost eight years. I used to work in hospitality & stumbled into this job. I really love it as you meet some wonderful people & travel all over the Highlands & some great long distance trips as well. I also enjoy the money, the good cars & the people I work with, it's a very good team!"

Call us on 4872 4800 to discuss joining our team.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS TAXIS, HIRE CARS & COACHES

The Shires only taxi service.