

CROMER

Thomas writes up to speed

HOMEWORK BATTLE OVER

Brenton Cherry

HOMEWORK had been a battle for Thomas Akhurst.

Thomas, 10, of Cromer, found handwriting difficult and slow, leading to frustration and unwillingness to hit the books.

Then in third term his mother Debbie took Thomas to Kids First Children Services at Brookvale where he began working with occupational therapists (OT).

Mrs Akhurst said it was not long before she noticed a significant improvement in his handwriting speed and concentration.

"OT has taught Thomas to write comfortably and quickly," she said. "He can now organise his ideas more efficiently and he is more willing to write than ever

WHAT IS OT

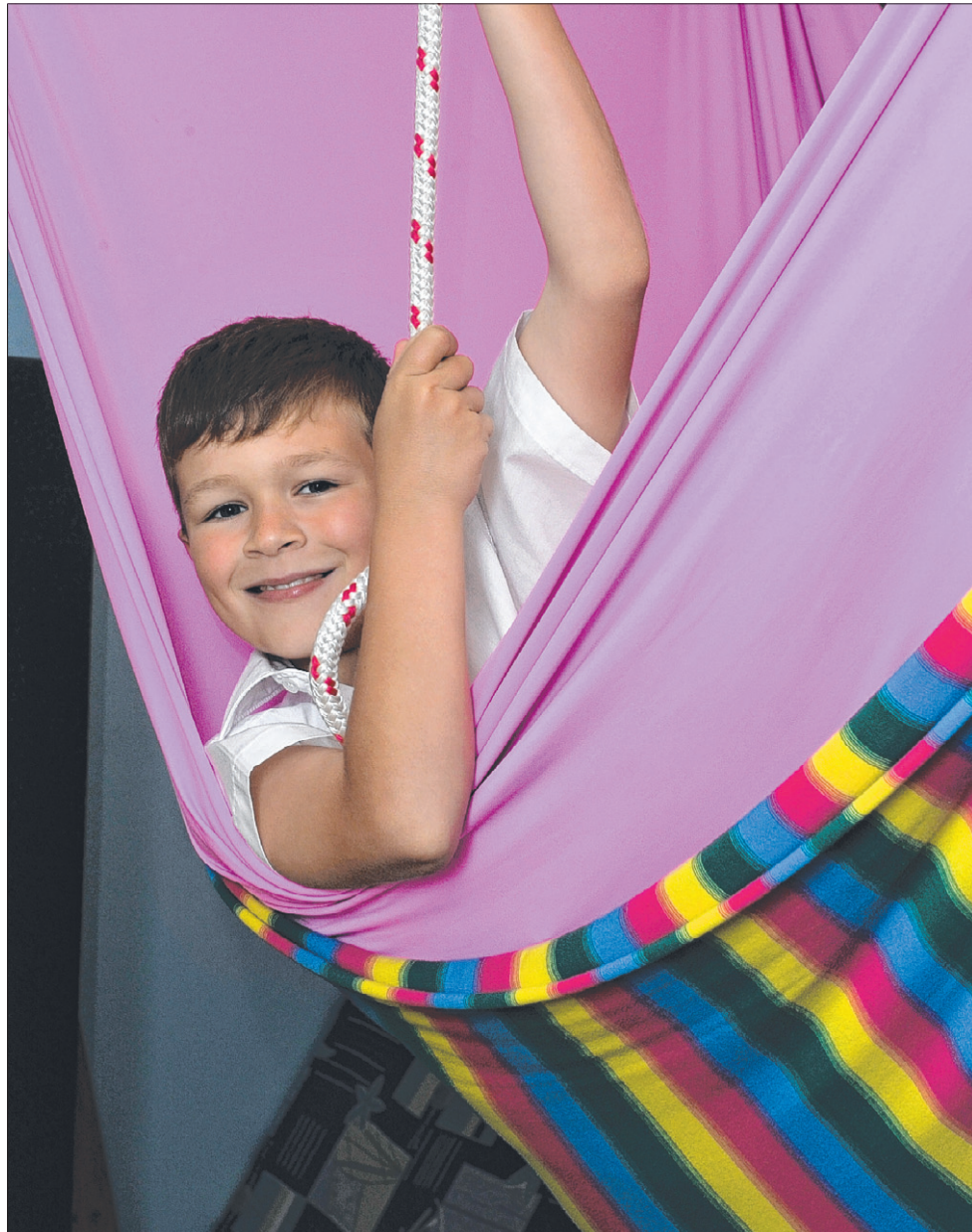
■ Health profession which works to aid people and communities gain or regain skills essential for a happy, safe and meaningful existence

■ Occupational therapists work with people with traumatic injury, illness, low self-esteem or reduced social skills, developmental delays or learning difficulties, neurological conditions and mental health conditions

before. Thomas is happy because he is now able to get his work done faster."

The theme for OT Week this week is Living Better.

Thomas' occupation therapist Morgan Webster said OT was more than showing kids how to hold a pencil correctly.



Thomas Akhurst is a success story for Occupational Therapy Week.

Picture: MARTIN LANGE

MANLY

Le Surf voted deputy mayor

MANLY councillor Alan Le Surf has been elected deputy mayor of the council for a one-year term.

Councillors last week voted for the role and Cr Le Surf beat out Cr Barbara Aird for the position by seven votes to five.

He replaces Cr Richard Morrison, whose term expired in September. Cr Adele Heasman was elected chair of the council's planning and strategy committee, again beating Cr Aird by a margin of two votes.

NORTH NARRABEEN

Field day for green thumbs

A COMMUNITY field day will be in the Nareen wetlands on Saturday to help restore the environment in the area.

Activities include replanting with local native plants and spreading mulch to inhibit further weed growth. Participants, who will be given a free native plant, are asked to meet at the corner of Venetian and Narroy roads at 9am.

For information call 9970 1365 or 9970 1367.

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