

## B.E.P.S- Collective Thoughts From A Junior's Perspective.

I just got home from school and mum said that there was a letter for me. Who would be sending me a letter? I didn't have a clue. I opened it and was I surprised that it was from the Boambee East Philatelic Society (the stamp and coin club I belong to). It had STOP PRESS as its heading. That meant it was really important. As I read it, I found out that an award had been earned and also a Green shirt had been won. Who earned them? To find out I had to go to the Christmas party. I showed mum and dad and they said that we could definitely go.

The big day soon came. Mum had been cooking goodies for the party. I wanted to taste some but she said not until the party. Dad came home from work early so we could get there in plenty of time. I helped pack the car with the goodies and my display for the night. We had to drive for 45 minutes to get to the party. It seemed much longer though. We arrived 20 minutes early. I think there were about 40 people there already. I knew some of the people but not all of them. They were putting their displays up and taking stuff out to the kitchen.



We had to have a meeting before the party. I really hate having to listen to all the official stuff. But the president starts and says "This will only be a short meeting. 5 to 10 minutes max because tonight we are here to have fun." He doesn't say anything about who got the award or the Green shirt. I wanted to know straight away. Mum whispered that we will find out after the games. Games? I began to get so excited that I could hardly sit still.



What a lot of fun we had playing the games. Tables were set up and we were told we were going to play soccer. Soccer! The hall is far too small for a good game of soccer. Then it became clear. The tables were the soccer fields and the balls were ping pong balls. We had to blow the ping pong balls into the goal areas. What a lot of huffing and puffing.



The next game was announced. It was called "The Mail Must Get Through". A big pile of envelopes was put in the middle of the hall. We went into teams and then we had to run to the pile and grab one envelope take it back to our team then race back and get another one. Six envelopes is what we had to get. Every team finally got six even after there was a bit of pinching of others envelopes. It was great.

Every envelope had a letter of the alphabet in it. We had to make up a country's name only using the letters we had. Gee it was hard. The winning team got Afghanistan because it was the longest. How did they do it? By this time even the oldies were getting worn out. I noticed that the junior president had his jacket off so there was something very important about to happen because he had his Green shirt on. We put the chairs back in order and sat down. Is it the presentation of the award and the Green shirt? Yes! At last.



There was some talking about how well all the B.E.P.S juniors had done during the year then Mouse, who is the youngest member of B.E.P.S, was called out. Boy was he startled. Mouse had put in some

## **B.E.P.S- Collective Thoughts From A Junior's Perspective.**

very good entries for the challenges. Animals, 2 X 2, mosaic, Mad Scientist, Cinderella design and NZ Christmas to mention a couple. He was presented with a Green shirt and a certificate by the Junior B.E.P.S president. He was stunned.

The junior president then looked around and called out another junior. Noah!! He went up and he also got a Green shirt for all the fantastic work he had done during the year. Mouse and Noah disappeared with Zara, our officer for juniors. They came back with big grins on as they had their new Green shirts on. Was that it? No. Mouse got called up again for the Encouragement award which was a Year Book. He couldn't believe it.



We now have 5 juniors with Green shirts. While all of this was going on, our media officer and some of the mums was taking heaps of photos. I bet there are some beauties. I thought that the presentations were over but the big guys in charge lined up out the front of everyone. Something important was about to happen. The B.E.P.S champion for the year was announced. This was the John Anderson Memorial Award. This is an annual award that rewards us juniors in our challenges and other events.

Who has won? I could hardly wait. It was very close but Angus won. Angus wasn't there at the party so it was going to be given to him at a later time. His great entries were Around the World, 2 Rich 4 me, the Easter challenge and his design for our Cinderella stamp. Wow!! That was a surprise. It was time for our group photo with everyone in it. There was a lot of laughing and shuffling around. It seemed everyone wanted to take a photo and be in it at the same time.



I guessed that, counting the members and their guests, there must have been around about 53 people there. I know we have members from as far away as Inverell, Glen Innes and Lismore. I'm not sure if any of those were there or not. Wow. I worked out that the juniors that were there travelled an average of 95ks to come to our party. There was no time to catch our breath. I got my B.E.P.S money out ready for the auction. I was lucky enough to beat a few people to get some really cool stuff. (Editor's note – B.E.P.S money is earned by the juniors by doing challenges)



The real party began. I never saw so much party food in one place as what was on the tables. Pies, pizzas, sandwiches, little savalloys, cakes, biscuits, dips and my favourite fruit salad with ice-cream. Mouse got a bit upset because he spilt some drink on his Green shirt. He asked his Ma if she could wash it when they got home so that he could wear it the next day to show it off. When we had finished eating there was only empty plates left and a few cake crumbs. I was

so full.

By about 9 o'clock I was getting very tired but I helped clean up the hall. Mum, Dad and me got in the car and drove home. I was so proud of my mum and dad – especially dad as he took us to the B.E.P.s Christmas party when he wasn't even a collector of stamps or coins. I am so glad to be part of B.E.P.s as we have fun all the time. There never is an uncool time in our club. Even though I didn't win anything I had the best time.