ST JOEY'S embraces food revolution

STUDENTS at St Joseph's Primary School joined Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day on Friday, along with about one million other students from around the globe.

The initiative, spearheaded by the celebrity chef, is about teaching children from a young age about the benefits of good food and leading a healthy lifestyle. Food Revolution Day is all about getting children excited about food, helping them to be 'food smart' and setting them up for a long, healthy life.

Upon hearing statistics about the percentage of children who are now considered either overweight or obese, Oliver began re-searching the associated risks with this sort of unhealthy behaviour in children's lives and found that this may be the only generation to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents, largely due to poor eating habits.

"Every child should understand where food comes from, how to cook it and how it affects their body," said Jamie Oliver.

"My aim is to make that happen. We want as many schools as possible to join in on the 16th May, and to get every child cooking and learning about food. Children today are the first generation predicted to live shorter lives than their parents because of poor diet and inactivity: it's our responsibility to change that."

There were two year 2 classes that took part in a whole day of activities dedicated to food and healthy eating at St Joeys, with all subjects tailored to the theme of the day.

The main event was a cooking class, that saw the children sit and watch a video of Oliver preparing a 'Rainbow Wrap' using a range of nutritious ingredients, before they dispatched to their work stations in groups to make wraps of their own.

Class teacher Mel Hunt said the children had been excited about the day and some were using ingredients they had never seen before, including raw beetroot and olive oil.

The kids were especially looking forward to tasting their hard work at the end of the cooking lesson.

Chatham High School's agriculture team, back left to right – Brad Christensen, Peter Longworth, Lukis Tisdell, with Jack Laurie from the National Farmers Federation, Marcus McLeod-Hemsworth, TJ Benham and Jacob Fraser. Front left to right – Jane Walker, Steven Taylor, Emma MacFadden, Bella Clesson, Jessica Edwards and Zoe Cambridg.

Chatham ag team's Beef Week experience

CHATHAM High School Agriculture Show Team represent the school at Wingham Beef Week.

Throughout the four days the students displayed initiative and commitment and represented the school with pride while looking after the school's Limousins cross steers.

These steers were bought from Peter Longworth from "Kundle Park Limousins".

The heaviest steers, Bear, 620 kg live weight, and Dexter, 600 kg live weight, have been at Chatham for one year and the lightest, Patch, 311 kg, was at Chatham for six months.

The work provided many achievements for Chatham High School, Brodie Woolough from year nine, on Wednesday, achieved a first place in the 14 years parade. Bear, led by Lukis Tisdell, year nine, achieved a wonderful fourth place in the heavyweight (over 500 kg live weight) Hoof Section of the Led Steer.

The same steer managed a 12th place in the book competition.

Dexter, our largest steer, achieved an eighth place in the book competition.

The Paul Van Verdenburg Memorial Shield, for best performing Chatham Agricultural student, was awarded to Zoe Cambridg of Year 10 for her dedication and application to the care and preparation of the steers throughout the competition.

The students would like to show their appreciation to the Wingham Beef Week Show society for running the event and all sponsors involved.

We would also like to show our appreciation to Peter Longworth for his continued support of all things agricultural at Chatham High School.

Overall the students increased their knowledge of judging, leading, management and handling of cattle leading up to and at shows.

The show team are looking forward to the opportunity of representing the school at the next season of agricultural shows.