

On the ride to recovery

SMILE SAYS IT ALL AS LEG OP DEFIES ODDS



Kylie has returned to Australia, showing off her bike-riding skills after doctors rebuilt her leg in 2012; (inset) with mum Lissing before the surgery. Pictures: MANUELA CIFRA

FOUR years after Aussie doctors gave Kylie a chance to stand on her own two feet, the always smiling girl has returned to Australia and amazed all at how far she has come.

During a remarkable 2012 operation, Melbourne surgeons removed the deformed upper section of Kylie's left leg before turning the lower section of her leg backwards and re-attaching it to her hip, so that her foot faced backwards and her ankle joint could act as a knee.

Returning to Melbourne so doctors at Children First Foundation could check her progress, the now 13-year-old is taking all before her and working to become a leader of her people on a tiny Vanuatu island.

"I came back to fix my leg. They just needed to change my foot, because I had worn it out ... because I didn't wear shoes," Kylie joked.

GRANT McARTHUR

"I love to run and ride a bike."

When Kylie returned home to live in her unpowered jungle village it was feared the primitive conditions and lack of any medical

support would undermine the efforts undertaken to give her a life-changing new leg.

But, when she returned in May it was not only realised Kylie would not need more surgery, but that she was also excelling at school and hoping to become a teacher to share her gifts with the rest of her village.

Physiotherapists have made the most of having Kylie in Australia to teach her how to better run, jump, climb, in her rugged homeland without having to remove her leg, though she is expected to have to return in two years for further surgery.

Children First Foundation spokeswoman Julie Webber said the charity would help another 17 children receive complex life-changing surgery.

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To help more children, such as Kylie, donate to childrenfirstfoundation.org.au/donate

\$1m in ice a big call

POLICE who stopped a man for using his mobile phone while driving say they found 3kg of methamphetamine, worth \$1.2 million, in his 4WD.

Officers also say they found fraud and identity theft material when they searched the vehicle after stopping it in Haymarket in central Sydney on Friday, to speak to the 26-year-old driver about using his mobile phone.

The man was arrested and charged with commercial drug supply, dealing with proceeds of crime, and traffic-related offences. He was refused bail ahead of a court appearance yesterday.

END OF LINE FOR VIDEO

THE last video cassette recorder is set to roll off the production line — spelling the end for the machine that was found in almost every home for almost two decades.

Funai, a Japanese tech company, the last-known producer of video recorders, is switching off the assembly line at the end of this month.

It reported sales of just 750,000 last year, compared with 15 million at its peak about 15 years ago. Funai Electric began production of VCRs in 1983.

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David Bowie

BOWIE RARITY FOR RELEASE

THE latest boxed set of music from the David Bowie vaults will feature an unreleased album that was later revised and released as his 1975 classic *Young Americans*.

The original version was called *The Gouster* — named after a style of baggy fashion worn by Chicago teens in the early 1960s — and has been described by Bowie producer Tony Visconti as "40 minutes of glorious funk".

He added: "David had a

long infatuation with soul as did I. We wanted to make a killer soul album."

Bowie was famous for his Ziggy Stardust take on glam rock, when in 1974 he headed to Philadelphia to pursue his love of the city's soul scene.

All his Philadelphia recording sessions will be in the new collection, called *David Bowie — Who Can I Be Now? (1974-1976)* and out later this year. Bowie died of cancer in January, aged 69.