

PRIDE OF AUSTRALIA



Vanessa Robinson.

Courageous mum gets recognition for work

VANESSA Robinson wants people to know that a \$30 product that detects gas leaks can save lives.

She is certain it would have saved the lives of her two sons Tyler, 6, and Chase, 8, who were killed as they slept when carbon monoxide leaked from a gas heater at their rented home in Mooroopna, in Victoria, on May 30, 2010.

Ms Robinson herself still bears physical injuries from the carbon monoxide poisoning and the tragedy spurred her to establish The Chase and Tyler Foundation to raise awareness about the carbon monoxide alarms and the need to service gas appliances regularly.

The 31-year-old won the Victorian Pride of Australia Medal for Courage and is a finalist in the Pride of Australia National Medal which will be announced in Sydney today.

She said winning the Pride of Australia Medal was "really unexpected" but it had created a much greater awareness about the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning.

"It's been fabulous, a lot of people have become interested in the issue, and a lot of people have become aware of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning which has prompted them to go and get their heaters serviced," Ms Robinson said.

She said it was a lack of awareness that gas heaters can kill that prompted her to establish the foundation.

Win for nature boys

Wildlife warriors' inspiring fight to save world's orangutans



Daniel (left) and William Clarke have mounted an award-winning crusade to save endangered orang-utans. Picture: Justin Lloyd

ALICE COOTE

DANIEL and William Clarke have already raised \$650,000 to save the orang-utans and now they have the United Nations in their sights.

In five years Daniel, 16, and his brother William, 14, have raised the money to save the jungle habitat of orang-utans in Borneo and Sumatra — but they are not stopping there.

"We plan to raise \$1 million so we can save as much land in Borneo as we can," Daniel, who has cerebral palsy, said.

"We want to talk at the



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United Nations about the orang-utans' plight and inspire the youth of the world to do whatever they feel needs to be done to make a difference."

The brothers' amazing commitment won them the NSW Pride of Australia

Environment Medal, and they are nominated in the category for the Pride of Australia National Awards to be held in Sydney today.

They join nine other NSW medal winners in the running for national recognition from

categories including outstanding bravery, heroism, courage, inspiration, child of courage, care and compassion, community spirit, young leader and fair go. The NSW Pride of Australia Heroism Medal was awarded to SCAT paramedic Michael Wilson who died rescuing an injured canyoner.

Today's People's Choice Award winner will be selected from the 70 finalists and will receive \$10,000 and a further \$10,000 to their favourite charity or cause, in a category sponsored by Toyota Camry.

For Daniel winning the environment medal was "the

best feeling ever ... It was amazing. Words could not describe how good it felt".

His passion for saving orang-utans was inspired by the late wildlife warrior Steve Irwin, whose documentaries he watched regularly — including a trip Irwin took to Borneo. "When he died I felt I needed to do something to help the orang-utans," Daniel said.

The Pride of Australia National Awards will be screened on Channel 10's One HD at 9pm

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