

Luke meets his “idol”

Luke Faint is in Primary 5 at Mater Dei. Luke has Autism and as a result of this has had many different obsessions over the years, including watching car blinkers and collecting anything with the word “Pepsi” on it. Here, Luke’s mum, Trish, tells us where his latest obsession led them!

I listen to Alan Jones on Sydney radio station 2GB in the morning, but I did not notice Luke did, until 6 months ago, when he started standing by the radio with me. Therefore, I thought I would let him listen to a radio through an earpiece while travelling to school on the bus.

This has now become an obsession with Luke. As soon as he enters the bus, he will say “Where is my radio?” and then we have to quickly get it ready for him so he can sit and listen to Alan on his journey to school. If his radio is not working, Luke will make the driver turn the bus radio on so all the other children travelling on his bus have to listen to Alan Jones as well! (I am not sure the other children are happy about this!)

I contacted Alan Jones to let him know about Luke and his obsession. Alan was delighted to hear about this and a week after our conversation he invited Luke and myself into the radio station to meet him.

Alan was wonderful with Luke. He took Luke by the hand and said “Come Luke, I will show you around the studio”. Although I had visuals of Alan, it took Luke a while to work out that he was the man behind the voice of Alan Jones. Two minutes later, Luke



looked up at him and in a big voice said “Hello Alan Jones”. Luke enjoyed being in the studio with headphones on and talking into the microphone. (Fortunately, Alan was off air at the time!).

One of Luke’s other obsessions is touching computers – so you can imagine my fears when I saw that the radio station was wall to wall computers! Fortunately, thanks to Mater Dei’s intervention program, Luke was telling himself “only at home”, and he left the computers untouched.

Alan introduced Luke to many people working at 2GB, and everyone there made Luke feel really special.

We took photographs of Luke with Alan. As you can see, Luke had a great time seeing his idol!