



Helping hand: Damion Treloar of Wedge Surf School with members of the Many Rivers 'Learn to Surf' program.

A skill for life

DAMION Treloar of Wedge Surf School is helping disadvantaged children in the Macleay come to terms with their own identity and enjoy what life has to offer.

The South West Rocks local is currently mid-way through his second program teaching young disadvantaged indigenous girls to surf.

Working with Michael Foxwell at the Many Rivers Violence Prevention Unit, Treloar conducts four-hour sessions, which cover everything from learning to surf to cooking classes and mountain biking.

"I started the program last year along with Dhurri (Medical Centre) and the PCYC. Before that I'd been

involved with the PCYC for five years," Treloar said.

"They passed it on to Many Rivers this year."

So successful has the initiative been that a similar program has just been kicked off in Scotts Head with Paul Evans.

Treloar is assisted by members of the local surf club and says the program not only gives the girls a fresh outlook on life, but helps improve self-confidence as well.

"They're all very capable," he said.

"And once we finish the program their motivation and self esteem is through the roof. They simply don't know that they're capable of doing these things."