

Prestons' Chris Pikis, pictured with owner Shaney Bouropoulos, as the celebrity guest at Prestons McDonald's this Saturday. Picture: ARMEN DELUSHIAN /FP343306



# A kick for charity

TORIN CHEN

KARATE Kid Chris Pikis will swap his bo and sai for hamburgers this Saturday. The 13-year-old from Prestons will serve Big Macs and collect donations at the Prestons McDonald's restaurant's McHappy Day. The annual fundraising event for Ronald McDonald House Charities will raise money for sick children and their families. "It's a good cause because anything you give to charity

is helping other people," Chris said. One dollar from every Big Mac sold and proceeds from Byron Bay cookie houses and McHappy Day crazy straws will go directly to funding programs supported by Ronald McDonald House Charities. The year 8 All Saints Catholic Boys College student said he's looking forward to getting behind the counter and serving as many people as possible. "I might get behind the

counter and do some serving and I might also be collecting money and holding a charity bucket," he said. Chris said he is more than happy to give other children advice about defending themselves against a stranger, just as he did last month. "They should just scream for help because someone nearby is bound to help," he said. Chris will be at the restaurant at noon.

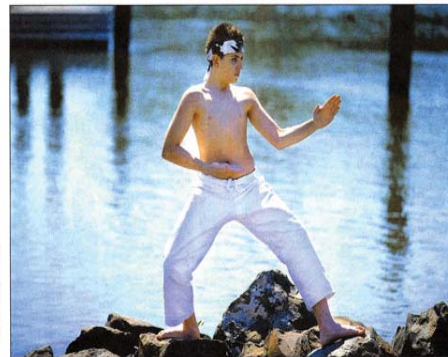


## Karate kid gets a break



TORIN CHEN

KARATE exponent Chris Pikis has been dubbed by a TV network as the new "karate kid". The 13-year-old from Prestons has become a media star since the *Leader* broke the story on October 7 about Chris using his karate skills to fend off an attempted assault. Chris featured in a story broadcast on Channel 9 news last Tuesday, and on Wednesday morning he was interviewed live in the studio by Today show host Lisa Wilkinson. Dubbed the "Aussie Karate Kid", in reference to the US cult movie series *Karate Kid*, starring Ralph Macchio as the karate kid Daniel LaRusso and Pat Morita as Mr Miyagi, Chris has become an instant celebrity. The year 8 All Saints Catholic



Prestons' Chris Pikis has been labelled the Australian 'Karate Kid' in the media after his story broke in the *Leader* (inset). Picture: ARMEN DELUSHIAN /FP343088

Boys College student admitted he never expected to attract so much media attention. "It's been overwhelming," Chris told the *Leader*. "I feel more comfortable defending myself in real life than doing a live TV interview." Chris will make the trip to Okinawa in May with sensei Bob Sadleir's Tactical Defence Studio. The teenager will attend karate classes where he will be trained in traditional karate weapons, the bo and sai. Chris said he doesn't see himself as the next karate kid but admitted he's watched the movie series plenty of times.



### Okinawa Trip

Chris will travel to Okinawa, Japan next year for special cultural and weapons training with traditional Okinawan karate masters. His trip mirrors the plot in *Karate Kid Part II* where Daniel travels to Okinawa for further karate training with Mr Myagi. Chris will make the trip to Okinawa in May with Sensei Robert Slywa -6th Dan Shihan from Sadleir's Tactical Defence Studio. The teenager will attend karate classes where he will be trained in traditional karate weapons, the bo and sai.



Chris is a member of Tokumura's Tomo No Kai, connecting his Kobudo directly to Okinawa. The foundation of the Association is moulded in the history and traditions of Okinawa martial arts wick, teach courtesy, respect and fighting spirit.

### 4th World Martial Arts Games

Sydney, Australia was the host city for the 2009 World Martial Arts Games. This year's Games took place at the Whitlam Leisure Centre, in the dynamic city of Sydney, September 11, 12 & 13, 2009. The 2009 WMAG hosting committee was headed by Alex Micakovski, National WMAG Director for Australia. Chris won four medals at the World Martial Arts Games in Liverpool. He picked up three silver medals in the 12-13 years kata, sparring and team sparring and a bronze in the weapons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SAFE TIPS GO TO [www.aussiekaratekid.com.au](http://www.aussiekaratekid.com.au)



Chris' aim is to create awareness and help other kids avoid the situation he faced when travelling home from school on the bus.



## Chris Pikis Everyday Hero

Aussie Karate Kid raising funds for Westmead Children's Hospital. The Children's Hospital at Westmead is the largest, highly respected paediatric centre in NSW, providing excellent care for children from NSW, Australia and across the Pacific Rim. Established in 1880, a stand alone public Hospital and registered charity, The Children's Hospital at Westmead serves over 50,000 admitted sick children and their families each year in a family-focused healing environment

I'm trying to raise as much money as I can for this great cause. Please visit my website [www.aussiekaratekid.com.au](http://www.aussiekaratekid.com.au) and click on link to visit my very own fundraising page to find out all about it. Spread the word and send to as many people as possible

### Stay Safe Tips

- Avoid walking alone whenever possible
- Avoid unlit areas after dark
- Avoid shortcuts after dark
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Be aware of potential hiding spots for attackers
- If followed by a car or another pedestrian be alert and go to a public place for help
- Avoid people and places which make you feel uneasy
- Do not be afraid to yell out for help if confronted
- Avoid wearing stereo headphones when walking around
- Do not assume that lit areas or daytime areas are safe or that it is less likely to be attacked.