

Ex Saturday School of Community Languages - Liverpool Boys' High School Centre student of Modern Greek makes it to the 2010 World Soccer Cup in South Africa!!



ARETI THEODOROU:

“I had an AMAZING South African experience!!”

Eighteen year old and ex Modern Greek student at the Saturday School of Community Languages-Liverpool Boys High School Centre (SSCL-LBHSC), Areti Theodorou, is a member of Football United, Cyprus-born and currently living in Sydney.

She has recently returned from South Africa where she represented Australia at the FIFA World Cup in the Football For Hope Festival where it took place on the final week of the 2010 World Soccer Cup!

She was one of only eight young Australians (four boys, four girls) to be chosen for the team to compete in the game of “Futsal”, at the “Football For Hope Festival”.

Football United is recognised as a leader in social development through football, both in Australia and internationally. Its impressive journey began in 2006, as a weekly football clinic run by volunteers at a local park in Blacktown in Sydney's Western Suburbs. Within the space of two

years the organisation had expanded dramatically, successfully becoming the first Australian member of the renowned “Streetfootball-world (SFW) Network.”

In April 2009, Football United was chosen to be Australia's representative team at the 2010 Football for Hope Festival, an official event of the 2010 World Cup. SFW noted that the invitation highlights the tireless efforts of Football United to improve the lives of young people through football. In addition, SFW commended Football United's innovative plan to involve its young participants in the preparation and selection process for the team to attend the Football for Hope Festival, as well as its ideas for



fundraising.

With more than 400 youth involved at the time, the selection process was challenging, and it was decided that squad members would be not only be selected based on their footballing ability, but also their



contribution to their communities, homes, schools and to the Football United program. In addition they would be pre-selected by their peers, thus their leadership qualities would prove to be crucial.

In August 2009 the application process closed with 45 applicants from across all of the Football United programs in Blacktown, Liverpool and Granville areas of Sydney. In December 2009 a selection squad of 16 players was nominated at the inaugural Football United Festival. Finally in March 2010 following weekly training and special camps a final squad of 8 players were selected.

This was an amazing experience for Areti Theodorou, as she exclaims herself!! They didn't only play the game they love but they also met lots of

people from all around the world and learnt lots about all the other cultures. They learned and understood a lot about South Africa and its history and also created memories that will stay with them forever.

As a proud ambassador, player and now coach of Football United, Areti Theodorou hopes that more people throughout Australia can follow the progress of Football United and get to experience what she's experienced in this past six months.

Her Modern Greek classmates at the Saturday School of Community Languages-Liverpool Boys' High School Centre, as well as her Modern Greek teacher Ms Irene Boukas and SSCL LBHSC Assistant Supervisor Mr Dimitrios Kametopoulos, all expressed their admiration for Areti and congratulated her upon her visit to the school to share those amazing moments!

From “Kosmos”, congratulations to Areti Theodorou and what a wonderful experience she indeed had. The next World Soccer Cup will be in 4 years time in Brazil. Who knows which other young Greek-Australian will be sharing a similar experience!!

Dimitrios Kametopoulos

