



THROW: Casey Weyburg practices a throw during a wheelchair basketball clinic at Horsham North Primary School last week. Pictures: KATE HEALY



SKILLS: Horsham North Primary School student Tyson Mackley manoeuvres his wheelchair during the clinic.

Students in awareness workshops

STUDENTS from Horsham North Primary School and Horsham College participated in wheelchair basketball clinics last week.

The Wheel Talk Disability Awareness Program provides information to students about spinal cord injuries and prevention, as well as the range of sport and recreational opportunities available to people living in the community with a disability.

World water-skiing champion Jason Sleep led the clinics, where students could experience the challenges of living in a wheelchair through participating in a short game of wheelchair basketball.

Mr Sleep is a paraplegic after a quad-bike accident and competes as a water-skier and wheelchair racer.

He said the most important part of the program was warning young people against risky behaviour.

"It's about having a think about what you're about to do



FUN: Horsham North Primary School student Brandi Chilton.

— if you're a young person on a motorbike going at maximum speed, doing doughnuts, back flipping and doing things you shouldn't do," he said.

"I tell them all about me and how I had an accident.



CHALLENGE: Alex Marsh and Casey Weyburg go for the ball at the clinic.

"I tell them how my life has been full of risk, even to this day I take a lot of risks and there have been a lot of broken bones and so forth."

Mr Sleep said the students

reacted in a positive way and asked a lot of questions.

"Some of them were in shock that someone could do this to themselves," he said.

"They asked a lot of ques-

tions, ranging from my motorbike accident to sport and even marriage—I get a lot of personal questions."

Mr Sleep said students picked up wheelchair basketball skills quickly.

"We tell them we want them to have a lot of fun but while for them it is for an hour and half, for people like myself it's 24 hours, seven days a week," he said.

"We ask them to picture it from the other side."

Mr Sleep said it was important to make students realise people with disabilities were no different to them.

"We're not different and we're not to be looked down upon," he said.

"We're normal people who have feelings like everyone else and we like to participate in sport just like everyone else."

Adele Holland