

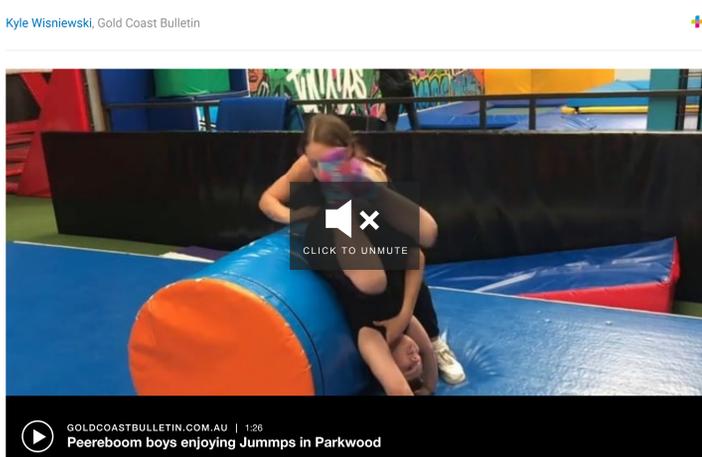
CORONAVIRUS

Jummps keeps business alive by support Gold Coast autism community

A Gold Coast business has survived the COVID-19 crisis by finding a new way to help children with autism.

Kyle Wisniewski, Gold Coast Bulletin

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WHEN COVID-19 hit the Gold Coast, forcing businesses across the city to close, Melissa Bauman made a life changing decision, not only for herself but for a whole community.

The owner of Parkwood's Jummps couldn't see an end date in sight when her trampoline park shut its doors on March 23 but a week later her initiative to turn the Parkwood gymnasium into an essential service, by providing one-on-one classes for children with disabilities, turned out to save her business.



Jummps Parkwood owner and coach Melissa Bauman gives some instruction to Carter Hanson, 13. Picture: Glenn Hampson.

CHILLING PREDICTION FOR ONE OF COAST'S LEADING INDUSTRIES

"We were able to provide the kids with autism classes for physical therapy and keep them healthy, also it helped them mentally not being stuck inside and not being able to comprehend why," Ms Bauman said.

"Our new business quadrupled in a month."

The new niche business kept Ms Bauman going until eased restrictions allowed Jummps to reopen at the start of June.



Tyler Peereboom at Jummps in Parkwood.

WHY TOURISTS ARE COMING BACK IN DROVES TO COAST TOURIST PARK

As more restrictions have eased, the facility has been going from strength to strength.

"We are at around 70 per cent expected revenue at the moment, we've lost a few interstate and international bookings we'd normally expect but we're doing okay," Ms Bauman said.

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"Now we've opened our park we're working on integrating the disability kids into the environment.

"It can be hard for them with a lot of noise and a heap going on around them.

"Some are able to cope but for those who aren't we're looking at ways to keep one-on-one sessions going while others our using the facility."

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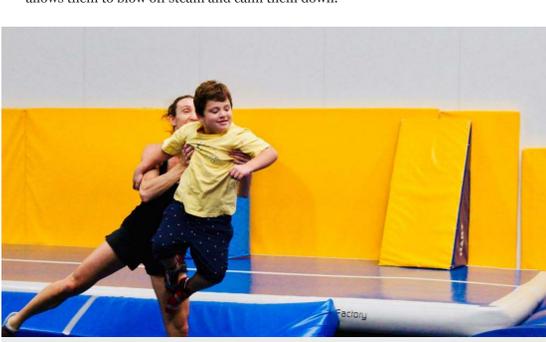
Gold Coast mother and winner of this year's Angels Among Us category in the Harvey Norman Gold Coast Women of the Year, Kathrine Peereboom, is very thankful for the service Ms Bauman provided during lockdown.

The founder and CEO of registered Australian charity Spectrum Support Ltd, still takes her three kids Oliver, 7, Josh, 6 and Tyler, 4, who all severely autistic, twice a week outside of normal trading hours and said Ms Bauman's facility was a "life saver".

GOLD COAST WOMAN OF THE YEAR'S INCREDIBLE TALE

"To have the boys at home for 11 weeks during lockdown, unable to do anything was going to be a difficult task," she said.

"The hour the boys would spend with their coach has helped them so much, it allows them to blow off steam and calm them down.



Oliver Peereboom with Jummps owner Melissa Bauman.

"I had a chat to Melissa about the service and a couple weeks later she gave me a call back and told me to bring the boys in, which was at the end of March.

"By April we had them there four or five times a week."

The Peereboom family of five are unable to go to a cafe or to the park with their three boys, so the outings to the trampoline park have been a welcome addition to their lives.



Josh Peereboom at Jummps in Parkwood.

"To start with the boys would go for five minutes and be sitting on the ground with the coaches trying to pick them up to keep going," Ms Peereboom said.

"Now they sprint inside, rip their shoes off and are on the trampolines before the coaches.

"What they have been able to learn, and their progression makes me teary.

The boys who are all non-verbal have not only benefited physically, especially eldest Oliver who's lost 7kg, but also mentally.



Tyler Peereboom at Jummps in Parkwood.

"They struggle to make friends and have social interactions, but all of the coaches have been so good with them, they are so patient and encouraging," Ms Peereboom said.

"Tyler is now having jokes with one of his coaches Jack, and Josh has his coach eating out the palm of his hand.

"She thinks he's the best thing and he absolutely loves and adores her.

"I never thought the boys would be able to do sport, we've tried a couple without success, but I think they'll be able to do this for life."

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