

STAYING SAFE: Topsy Shew, 94, with Toby Hawker and Hamish McMillan and Seemor the mascot.

Picture: GLENN FERGUSON



Wisdom of age helps keeps kids safe

THE very young and young-at-heart have joined forces in a new 12-month program aimed at reducing avoidable injuries in young children and seniors.

This week the KIDS Foundation launched its Connecting Generations — Adopt a Grand-Buddy program, where the older generation shares its wisdom in avoiding injuries with kids.

“We’re not an organisation that’s about bubble-wrapping and helicopter parenting, we’re very much about ‘let’s get the kids out there doing activities, having experiences,’ so they can really make judgments themselves,” KIDS Foundation founder and director Dr Susie O’Neill said.

She’s found the youngsters look out for their older friends, too.

The program aims to teach the children about more than just safety.

“We thought why don’t we teach them how to have great relationships with — and respect — the elderly, their parents and other friends?” Dr O’Neill said.

OWEN HUCK