

Change in their stars **Campbelltown Express** **April 2004**

Roma dickens

Tori Leigh Denning and Kristie Fuller live in a world where family problems, disadvantage and acute hardship are normal parts of life.

This week, though, is different. A hectic schedule of grooming sessions, meetings and lunches with a variety of celebrities has temporarily replaced the stress of living in troubled households.

During the next few days the girls will hang out with marathon swimmer Shelley Taylor Smith and TV host Kerri Anne Kennerly. There's also a lunch date with Home and Away stars and lessons with international catwalk model Kristen Lineham.

Torie Leigh, 15, and Kristie, 16, both from Campbelltown, are participants in the newly created Sister 2 sister project, a five day course designed to show young girls how to break the cycle of destitution and abuse.

Hand picking corporate mentors are spending the week showing selective girls how to turn their lives around.

Course founder and former school teacher Jessica Brown organises the intense five day program, which exposes and introduces participants to a vastly different world of opportunity, ambition and success.

"The girls need to know the past doesn't equal the future", Ms Brown said.

Much time was spent showing the girls how to overcome obstacles and live a happy life despite setbacks which occurred along the way.

Tori Leigh, a victim of physical and mental abuse, had promised her mum and herself that she would finish year 12.

The teen wanted to study nursing and Miss Brown has ensured one of the course mentors was a highly qualified nurse.

Life in Kristie's home was tough. Her father became ill several years ago and never fully recovered from a liver transplant.

Making ends meet was a constant battle. Last year Kristie became sick too and spent months recovering from glandular fever.

The girls' stories struck a chord with Ms Brown. "Both are strong girls with an equally strong desire to change their lives around", Ms Brown said. "They have a lot of potential and know what they want in life. They deserve a chance"