

Brave boys rush to aid of burnt grandmother



EFFORTS DOUBLED: Athalie Seidel is grateful for the quick thinking of twin grandsons Michael and Harry Jamieson, 7.

Picture: GREGORY HIGGS

NADJA FLEET

ADELAIDE grandmother Athalie Seidel has at least two guardian angels: her seven-year-old twin grandsons Michael and Harry Jamieson.

Ms Seidel was admitted to hospital last month after she spilt a hot cup of coffee on her stomach.

The boys averted a disaster when they used skills freshly learned from a school BurnSafe program to deal with the injuries.

"They are my heroes," Ms Seidel, 67, said.

"I would've done the very wrong thing if the boys had not stopped me. I would have made it worse. They knew exactly what to do."

Ms Seidel spent four days in Royal Adelaide Hospital after the accident, which happened at her daughter Trudy's house

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at Valley View about 6.30am on June 15. A shaky right hand was all it took for the Littlehampton resident to spill the freshly brewed coffee over her upper body.

In agony, Ms Seidel ran to the freezer for ice but the boys stopped her, instead urging her to have a cold shower for 20 minutes and then rush to hospital because the injury was larger than a 20c piece.

She was even cling-wrapped by the time she arrived at the hospital.

Hospital burns unit medical director Associate Professor John Greenwood said the grandmother had escaped skin

grafts and scarring, thanks to the boys.

"There is no doubt, without education the twins would not have known what to do," he said.

"With the correct first aid, Athalie will now heal without cosmetic scarring or skin grafts."

Michael and Harry had only learned their first aid skills days earlier, when the Julian Burton Burns Trust's BurnSafe program visited their Modbury West School.

The program teaches students about burn safety, first aid and how to minimise harm to themselves and others.

The Julian Burton Burns Trust was established in 2003 to prevent, care for and research burn injury after the former Sturt footballer suffered severe burn injuries in the Bali bombings in 2002.