

Hungry Jed's exploits now a children's book

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A cheeky dog and the man whose food he stole for three days in a row is the star of a new children's book set to hit the shelves soon.

Sumner resident John Taylor went to his son Jimmy's Mt Pleasant home in October last year to repair a fence which needed straightening.

He brought a bag of dog treats for Jimmy's six-year-old labrador staffy cross, Jed, which he was going to progressively give him as he worked on the fence.

Taylor (right) gave Jed a treat or two, but made the mistake of leaving the bag in an open boot. Jed did not need a second invitation.

A sharp "get out of there" was enough to dissuade him from eating more. But when Taylor returned to his son's house the next day to continue repairing the fence, Jed was clearly on alert.

Taylor had left the boot open again and was focused on other work happening at his son's house, forgetting about Jed's appetite. "He (Jed) got into the chilly bin, he used his nose to pry it open, which had my lunch in it."

Jed got about halfway through the sandwich before another "get out of there" did the trick.

The following day, Taylor picked up a coffee and two muffins on the way to his son's place, which he put in the chilly bin. He did not eat the muffins and when he got home he told his wife Pip they were some in the chilly bin if she wanted one.

"She had a look, there was a brown paper bag there but there was no muffin inside. Jed had gotten into that as well. I couldn't believe this," he said.

Taylor was on a call with his brother-in-law, Pete Moffatt, the following day and told him about Jed stealing his food.

“He thought it was priceless. When he heard it he thought I might make a wee story,” said Taylor.

Moffatt put together a rhyming script based on Taylor’s story and called it Jed the Food Hunting Dog. He then approached The Copy Press in

Nelson to self publish it. The Copy Press recommended Mike Howell illustrate the book. Howell utilised his own art work and photography to give the pictures a real-life quality.

The book ends with Taylor teaching Jed treats are not for stealing but something he must earn.

As well as being a children’s book, he said the ending has a moral lesson – naughty dogs can be taught to be good.

Taylor said it has been wonderful to see the reactions of his grandkids, Blake, 6, and Mason, 4, to the book. Phrases from it have now become everyday sayings around the family dinner table. He has dropped copies of the book to The Paper Tree at Tower Junction and Telling Tales in the city centre. Both said they will be stocking it soon.

Moffatt has self printed 120 copies which are now available to purchase from Real NZ Books for \$28

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