

Family of the Year hits the road again

A SPRINGFIELD family was announced last week as Anglicare Family of the Year.

The Coutis family, comprising John Coutis, who had both legs amputated, his wife Leanne, son Clayton with hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy and autism and Leanne's mother Dorothy Saras with fibromyalgia, received the award last Thursday.

John said he did not know why his family won the award, but he did know that they were "very honoured and proud".

He said the award was a family achievement and the whole family was pleased to have been recognised by Anglicare.

Ipswich Division 1 councillor David Morrison, who nominated the family for the award, had an idea of why they won.

John is a motivational speaker and last year the family held a

charity walk from Ipswich to the Gold Coast to raise money and awareness of hydrocephalus, amputees and fibromyalgia.

"I think they're an inspiration," David said.

"They deal with hardship in their own family every single day of their lives and in the midst of their hardships they reach out to others, they don't just keep their eyes on themselves."

The Coutis family left Springfield last Sunday for a speaking tour at schools along the east coast of Australia.

John said they would return in a few weeks, just in time to travel to America for another tour that may include appearances on American television shows such as *Oprah* and *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*.

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The Coutis family, John, Leanne and Clayton, is this year's Anglicare Family of the Year.

File photo