

MEDIA RELEASE

8 July, 2010

Volunteers touch local hearts

BIG-hearted Business people brought some cheer to the lives of children with disabilities with a bag-full of soccer balls and a BBQ for a bake-off. Volunteers of the Vodafone Hutchison Australia Foundation were in town to build on the success of a sports day for disabled children.

The Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC) Alice Betteridge School held a sports day at North Rocks on Tuesday, helped by volunteers from Vodafone.

The sports day, which was attended by 22 volunteers, featured soccer, cricket, surfing, an 'egg n spoon' race, relay races, and boccia, which is a game especially developed for children with disabilities.

Vodafone Hutchison Australia Organiser Nadine Kliskey said: "It was a brilliant afternoon enjoyed by children and volunteers alike. We are now looking for ways to get some sponsorship to help the kids sprout their first vegetable garden."

JUST IN TIME for back-to-school next week, School Principal Jacquie Cashmore said that the school has started collecting points and registered in the McCain School Veggie Patches program, designed to teach children to cook, eat healthier and make more nutritious food choices by planting and growing vegetables in their own schoolyard.

"Learning to make good food choices should be a part of every child's development and food education," Ms Cashmore said. "Having our own vegetable garden will be a fun and practical initiative that will give children with vision impairment a hands on experience in gardening and children with hearing impairment a chance to develop their language skills."

The RIDBC Alice Betteridge School has received an information pack about seeds, tools and equipment, wheelbarrows, water tanks and compost bins; and parents, businesses, and community members can donate points to the school by collecting the barcodes on all McCain frozen vegetable packs, and Purely Potato products.

RIDBC Alice Betteridge School provides individualised education, addressing both functional living skills and a broad general education, for kids from kindergarten to year 12 who have a significant vision and/or hearing impairment and a degree of intellectual impairment.



150 years of changing lives through education



RIDBC

Alice Betteridge
School

RIDBC is Australia's largest independent special educator, and assists more than 900 children and their families. Government provides approximately 25 per cent of funding, while RIDBC relies on the remaining 75 per cent from the generosity of supporters.

For more information about RIDBC services, contact (02) 9871 1233 or visit www.ridbc.org.au.

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Photo caption:

- (124) Vodafone volunteer Nadine Kliskey, instructs RIDBC Alice Betteridge School kids how to kick a ball at the Fun Sports Day, an annual charity program organized by Vodafone Foundation. On this occasion, about 30 kids with hearing and/or vision impairment, including kids challenged by additional needs, enjoyed fun running, cooking and playing soccer.

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