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# Charity event at Lonsdale

JANE HARPER

DISADVANTAGED youngsters will hit the surf and brush shoulders with some of the biggest names in sport.

Children's charity Cottage by the Sea hosts its Celebrity Surf Day in Point Lonsdale next week, giving dozens of children a chance to grow, learn and play in a stress-free environment.

Celebrities surfing with the children on Thursday will include Olympic gold medallist Cathy Freeman, Geelong AFL footballers and Quiksilver pro surfers Martin Potter and Carly Smith.

Cottage by the Sea was set up in 1890 to provide relief care in a holiday environment, for children from all over Victoria.

Each year the charity hosts about 900 children, and over the years has supported tens of thousands of youngsters.

Michael Randall, President of Cottage by the Sea, said community support and sponsors including Bennelong Foundation and Quiksilver were vital to the ongoing success of the charity.

"The demand for assistance has increased dramatically over the last few

years and the Cottage simply cannot provide a holiday and accommodation for every child in need without community support," he said.

"I am thrilled that celebrities, surfers and organisations are donating resources to make the day a success."



Cathy Freeman



Carly Smith