



Geelong Advertiser

Thursday 10/12/2009

Page: 17
Section: General News
Region: Geelong VIC, AU
Circulation: 26022
Type: Regional
Size: 57.43 sq.cms.



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Stars on board for charity

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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 next 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.

Cottage by the Sea president Michael Randall 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.