

NORTHERN BEACHES GIRL INSPIRES FINANCIAL SECTOR TO DIG DEEP FOR RESEARCH

A 10 year old girl from Sydney's northern beaches who has cerebral palsy is inspiring the best minds in the financial sector to dig deep in support of research into the prevention and cure of the condition.

Natasha Garrity, who lives at Forestville, is the youngest Ambassador for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. She has endured five operations and years of therapy to enable her to walk.

Natasha's heart-warming story has inspired the 'big end' of business to rally behind the annual Bulls & Bears Trophy Charity Golf Day on 18 March to raise vital funds for research into the prevention and cure of cerebral palsy.

'Last year, the golfers were very moved when Natasha came to the golf club to meet them', said event Director, Mr John McCarroll from JBWere.

'Natasha is a wonderful little girl and an inspiration. She has been through numerous operations and has difficulty walking, sleeping, writing and eating. It's heartening to know that we are providing children like Natasha with hope for the future.

'Times have been tough lately in many industries. However, it's not until you meet a child like Natasha, who is always bright in the face of adversity, that you realise we should take time to smell the roses and get out and play some golf and raise money for this vital cause', he said.

'It doesn't matter if it takes 20 years to find the cure for cerebral palsy - we will find it', Natasha added.

In 2009, funds raised through the event were used to create the first Bulls & Bears Researcher – Dr Alicia Spittle from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Dr Spittle received a Post Doctoral Research Scholarship to assist her research looking at the brain development of premature babies and how early intervention can make a difference.

This year over 30 golf teams will take part in the Ambrose Event that tees off around midday and continues into the evening. The "Perpetual Trophy" will be awarded to the outright winning team on the day.

'We developed the day so players can go to work in the morning and play golf in the afternoon, which is a perfect mix and is why the event is so successful', Mr McCarroll said.

'The event has also attracted some terrific company and individual participation, and we thank them for the continued support', he said.

'We had no idea that cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability in childhood', said one of the golf team leaders. 'This is an important cause that could have an impact not only in Australia but also around the world, and we are happy to support it', he said.

Golf Team and Sponsorship Opportunities:

For further information on how to become involved contact Event Management:

John Craig - (02) 99070000 john@atozmarketingservices.com.au

MEDIA CONTACTS

Janine Jones – Marketing and Communications Manager - 9479 7245 / 0407 066 813

Jennifer Durante – Media Coordinator - 9479 7257 / 0419 802 602

The facts of cerebral palsy

- Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common, physical disability in childhood
- CP is a permanent disability that affects movement
- CP results from damage to the developing brain, usually before birth
- In Australia, 1 in 400 babies is diagnosed with CP
- There is no known cure and, for most, the cause is unknown
- People with CP may also have seizures, and sensory and intellectual impairments