

ENDURANCE – Nicky Cobbold style!

March 2010 saw the start of our story about **Nicky Cobbold (1997)** #1079. He was 12 at the time and had Down Syndrome and Leukaemia. Having survived open heart surgery aged 2, he had already endured more trauma and ill health than any child should have to face.

Despite having been diagnosed with Grave's disease, our report on **Nicky** in October 2016 found him helping out at Camp Curumbene in Corop, Australia which provided out-of-school activities for 130 children. In addition to canoeing, dancing, and helping judge the 'Camp Curumbene's Got Talent' show **Nicky** loved just chatting with the children. What he probably didn't realise was that he was showing them that children with a disability are no different from themselves.

However much we may talk to our children about others with a disability, there is nothing like giving them the opportunity to find out for themselves. For many, **Nicky** was the first disabled child they had ever met, and in **Nicky** they found the warmest, kindest, friendliest and most affectionate person imaginable. They would discover that he does not have a mean bone in his body and that he bubbles with enthusiasm for life every day.

Now, would you believe we find **Nicky** featuring in "Making Waves" the journal of a body which provides sailing opportunities for people with a disability.

Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day with our Star Volunteer, Nicky

*Today, 21st March we are celebrating World Down Syndrome Day – a day to recognize and appreciate the incredible contributions of people with Down Syndrome all around the world. And what better way to celebrate than by giving a huge shoutout to one of our absolute legends, **Nicky**! If you have been around RGYC [Royal Geelong Yacht Club] on a Wednesday morning, you have probably met **Nicky**. He is a superstar volunteer, always bringing good vibes and showing our participants that having a disability doesn't define you. But Making Waves is just one of the many places he makes a difference – **Nicky** also helps out at The Yot (RGYS's café), works at a local real estate agency, takes part in Back to Back Theatre, plays footy and still finds time to hit the dance floor on Wednesday nights.*

Nicky, you are an inspiration to us all, and we are so lucky to have you as part of the team. Keep being awesome!

Anthony Cobbold