



## Dig deep for Ollie

I am writing as a member of the **Pat Carroll Running Group (PCRG)** to invite you to sponsor my run in the **2008 Gold Coast Airport Marathon** on 6 July.

Each year PCRG members support a worthy cause by seeking sponsorship for their Gold Coast run. Last year we raised almost \$20,000 for Childhood Cancer Support. This year we are doing things a little differently by inviting you to **support Oliver Collins (Ollie)** – via PCRG's "**Dig deep for Ollie**" campaign.

Fibrodysplastic Ossificans Progressiva (**FOP**) is a disease that you have probably never heard of. Certainly it was a mystery to most of us until recently. It is an extremely rare yet shocking genetic condition that causes muscles, tendons, ligaments and other connective tissues to form into bone. This results in extra bone forming across existing bone which in effect imprisons the body in bone. Children are born with FOP and there is **no treatment and no cure**. Attempts to remove the extra bone surgically only cause this crippling condition to worsen. The outlook for FOP sufferers is extremely dire.

Ollie is a 14 year old Brisbane schoolboy who suffers from FOP. Ollie can walk only short distances and has limited movement in his elbows & wrists. Soon he will be unable to walk at all. Despite this he has a great attitude, a positive outlook on life, and is somehow philosophical about what the future holds for him.

**Here are a few words from Ollie:** *One of the important things for me in life is to give everything a go and not give up when the going gets tough. Instead of focusing on FOP as it progresses or when it causes me pain, I focus on having fun and enjoying my teenage years as much as possible. Nobody got anywhere worrying about something they couldn't change.*

Yes, Ollie is a brave young man and a more than worthy PCRG charity beneficiary. PCRG's aim is to provide Ollie with a **motorised beach wheelchair** and to cover the cost involved in **heating his family swimming pool** which will provide Ollie with daily hydrotherapy.

**NB:** Donations **are not** tax deductible.

1) **EFT**

"Oliver Collins Fundraiser A/C"

Suncorp

BSB: 484799

Account: 026630600

2) **CHEQUE**

payable to:

"Oliver Collins Fundraiser A/C"

Address:

Dig deep for Ollie

86 Bundah St

Camp Hill Qld 4152

3) **Credit Card**

Please phone Tammy Booth: 0412 678041

**NB:** Please email me and advise that you have forwarded a donation. I can arrange for a (**non tax deductible**) receipt to be forwarded to you.

Sponsoring me for my Gold Coast run will help make a brave young boy's life a more comfortable and enjoyable one.