

Walkin' Tall

AUSTRALIAN LIONS CHILDREN'S MOBILITY FOUNDATION

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History in the making



Meet a young man who's about to take his first steps ... on national TV!

Creating television history, Mitchell will walk for the first time on Channel Seven morning TV program "Sunrise".

Born 13 weeks premature and weighing just 1000 grams, Mitchell Raimund wasn't given much chance of surviving past a few weeks. Doctors told his parents that if he did survive they should not expect him to hear, see, speak or walk. They were also told that he would spend his life curled up in the foetal position.

Life has been a struggle for Mitchell; he has undergone surgery on more than 30 occasions and has cerebral palsy which affects his ability to walk.

Yet today the bright seven-and-half-year-old is full of life and looking forward to new challenges.

He attends the Smythesdale campus of the Woody Yaloak Primary School, where his favourite subjects are science, computers, art and recess. He also attends the Ballarat Specialist School for two days a week where he can hone in on his swimming and musical skills.

Mitchell's favourite television shows are *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, *Guinness Book of Records* and *Deal Or No Deal*.

When he grows up, he wants to become a chef and "cook like Jamie Oliver".

Mitchell has defied everything that his initial doctors had told his parents except one thing – he wants to walk so much that he asked his parents on his seventh birthday, "now that I'm seven, will I walk?" Well, yes Mitchell, you shall walk. With sponsorship from the Lions Club of Ballarat, Mitchell will soon achieve his ambition to walk in quite a spectacular way.

On February 20, 2006, Mitchell will create history and become the first person ever to take his first steps on live television. Channel Seven's *Sunrise* show will feature Mitchell receiving his David Hart Walker and taking his very first independent steps – and it will be seen live around the country.

This special moment is not to be missed, and Lions from around Australia are urged to set your alarm clocks for an early wake-up (tell the boss you will be late for work,

grab a box of tissues and watch the program).

We also have an opportunity to influence the television stations by writing to the *Sunrise* producers and passing on our comments about the segment. The best way to contact them is via email on sunrise@seven.com.au.

Agfest project funds Luca's first steps

The Lions Club of Launceston Windmill Hill had great pleasure in accepting sponsorship of five-year-old Luca of Poatina in Tasmania to fund his Hart Walker.

Luca is a client at St Giles Therapy Services where he is lovingly cared for by dedicated people. His parents and friends continue this care at home.

Funds were made available from profits from the club's catering projects at the local Agfest Rural Field Days.

ALCMF CREW'S FUN DAY AT SEA – INSIDE