

# 2009 LITTLE NATURALS WINNER

## RICHMOND PRIMARY AND MOOV IN THE COMMUNITY

The 2009 MOOV Little Naturals competition aimed to award little naturals in the community who were part of an amazing sports team, or a group of children that had excelled academically, or just kids who were doing great things. It was a very close race because there were many very creative and heart-felt entries that filled our inboxes! Richmond Primary School in Tasmania were the eventual winners who wrote in their grant submission how they intended the prize to be used towards the purchase of a new piano and employ a choir teacher one day a week for the remainder of the year, thus providing more opportunities for all the children to participate in music activities together regardless of ability or disability.

At Richmond Primary School, 5% of the children have severe disabilities. The school embraces the inclusion of these students and all classes now regularly include some Makaton sign language in their daily lessons. They had previously hosted a community forum and 33 children participated in singing and signing "Circle of Friends", the DVD of this performance forming part of their grant submission. The members of the Richmond Primary School Signing Choir were also featured in the Tasmanian Mercury because they won the MOOV Little Naturals competition. Simone Grice, parent of Dylan Grice 8, said Richmond Primary was the best school her son could be attending.

"The difference in him since his friends started to sign is amazing, he no longer faces the frustration every day to communicate," Mrs Grice said. "I can now drop him off at school and not worry. Being able to participate in the choir is not something he could do at other schools. It will improve his learning and confidence and that of all the students."



