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PORT HACKING LITTLE ATHLETES TO RECEIVE GRANT FOR NEW SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Port Hacking Little Athletics Centre has received a \$5000 grant from Coles to buy brand new sports gear thanks to funds raised through the sale of Coles' Community Chiller Bags.

The Little Athletics centre in Sylvania Waters is one of over 160 centres across Australia to receive funding from Coles to replace or expand its sports equipment.

Funds for the grants are raised through the sale of specially-marked chiller bags designed by eight-year-old Lachie Macdonald from Victoria and 11 year-old Charlie De Bruyn from Western Australia. For every bag sold, 25 cents is directed to the Coles Little Athletics Community Fund to provide sport equipment grants.

Coles State General Manager Emma Bridges said Coles was delighted to provide grants to help the Little Athletics centres in locations such as Port Hacking.

"Thanks to our customers who have bought our range of chiller bags at Coles stores, we are able to provide around \$565,000 in grants for Little Athletics centres around Australia to help them purchase equipment to support activities such as High Jump, Discus, Hurdles and the various running events.

"The Port Hacking Little Athletics Centre told us they would like to receive a grant to buy timing gates and we were delighted to help because we know these are an essential part of Little Athletics to support young budding athletes and parent volunteers," she said.

Port Hacking Little Athletics' Equipment Manager Darren Bauer said the grant was important to their centre which needed new equipment to continually provide a high quality and safe weekly experience.

"This purchase of electronic timing gates will have a significant impact on the ability for the committee members and parent helpers to set up and pack up the equipment in a timely and safe manner. The current starting gate equipment is quite heavy and complex to assemble so we rely on a handful of parent volunteers to do this each week. The new gates purchased through the Coles grant will allow anyone to be able to assist in setting up and significantly reduce the amount of time needed to pack down each week," he said.

In addition to the chiller bags, Coles sells Community Bags which help to raise funds for SecondBite, Guide Dogs Australia and Clean Up Australia. All Community Bags were designed by school children as part of a bag design competition.



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For further information, please contact

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