

## The Story of a Brave Young Girl

**Rubie** is a courageous young 14-year old daughter of Selina, the Crèche Coordinator at **Plus Fitness Narellan**. **Rubie**, who has grown up in the Macarthur district of Sydney's South West, was born with Neurofibromatosis in her right leg and as a result will be having her leg amputated on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

### Rubie's Story

Since birth, **Rubie's** right leg has been affected by this disorder which has prevented her leg from growing at a normal rate. **Rubie's** right leg is now 5cm shorter, and right her foot much smaller than that of her left. **Rubie** has suffered constant breaks to her leg as a result of this disorder. As a result **Rubie** has had to constantly wear a leg brace and use crutches, occasional being restricted to a wheelchair to get around.

Over the years, **Rubie** has undergone many excruciating operations including, at one time, a battery being inserted within her leg in an attempt to stimulate bone growth. Another operation saw a metal structure fitted to the bones within **Rubie's** leg which had a number of screws that required turning each day. **Rubie** has endured these and many other painful operations however her leg has continued to suffer further breaks and injuries.



### Rubie has remarkable strength

Now 14-years old and dealing with this disorder since birth, **Rubie** has shown remarkable strength in the face of this ongoing and consistent excruciating pain. **Rubie** has spent months in hospital and missed much school. Despite this, **Rubie** is always cheerful with a smile on her face, a positive attitude and a strong intention of getting on with her life. **Rubie** has maturity well beyond her 14 years and is seen as an inspiration to her family and many friends.

### Rubie's decision to get on with life

After **Rubie's** last severe break her surgeon opened up the possibility of amputation. Despite the heartache and stress this has caused them, **Rubie's** parents left the decision to **Rubie**. This would not be an easy decision for anyone to make, whatever their age, let alone a 14 year old girl. After much thought **Rubie** has bravely chosen to have the operation that will see her leg amputated below the knee and this will happen on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

### Rubie's moving forward

**Rubie's** focus is now on the future and for her this is the only way to get on with life. **Rubie's** goals is now to walk without crutches, wear the same size shoes, stand up on a surfboard and most of all, live without constant pain, breaks and injuries to her leg.

It will take time, pain, courage and plenty of falls before she is successful however all of those around **Rubie** know that she will achieve all of her goals!

### Rubie needs our help!

**Plus Fitness Health Club** has set up **The Rubie Appeal** with a goal of raising \$25000 to assist in purchasing a prosthetic leg for **Rubie**, provide tutoring so that **Rubie** can catch up on her studies and also assist with alterations that her family home.

You can make donations to **The Rubie Appeal** directly at any **Plus Fitness Health Club** or by depositing money into **The Rubie Appeal** bank account (see details below). **Rubie** needs our help and assistance so please give generously as well as watch the local press for the any fundraising initiatives that **Plus Fitness** will be running over the coming weeks.

We thank you in anticipation of your support.

BSB: 082 918  
Account Number: 180 176 571

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