

# Girl power helps others

IF YOU were asked to list the social activities of an average 11-year-old girl, many things may come to mind.

But raising thousands of dollars for a children's fund is not likely to be one of them.

Best friends Isabella Thomas and Lily Lindsay recently raised \$2600 towards the Cambodian Childrens Fund after deciding that people less fortunate than themselves deserved assistance.

Isabella said they were inspired to raise the money when they read about the fund's history.

"The guy who started it all up lived in America and went on a holiday in Cambodia, saw the poverty, quit his job and started the fund," she said.

"We thought it would be good and we felt happy that we could do something to help these kids."

The Daylesford girls sold T-shirts, worked as waitresses, held a



**FUNDRAISERS SUPREME:** Isabella Thomas, left, and Lily Lindsay.

garage sale and placed collection tins around town in a bid to raise as much money as they could.

They presented the final amount to the children at a ceremony in Phnom Penh last month, Cambodia alongside Isabella's parents.

Her father Gary Thomas said the girls were initially given a target of \$500 but

impressively quadrupled that amount.

"I think there's a definite sense of accomplishment there,"

Mr Thomas said. "It ended up being quite a lot of money they raised and when you're that old it's all the money in the world." Isabella said the experience was a real eye-opener.

"The children were so friendly and so welcoming and they'd gone through so much that



**EXTENDED FAMILY:** Lily Lindsay and Isabella Thomas huddle among village children during their recent visit to Cambodia. Gary Thomas and Trudi Blick are pictured at rear.

we could only imagine," she said. "If you set your mind to something you can achieve it if you really want it."