Radio quiz lands young locals presenting gig

Radio volunteers Barney and Charlie Mort in the studio with 2WEB breakfast announcer Dave Sharp

When Outback Radio 2WEB's latest young volunteers, Barney and Charlie Mort, walked into the station they were simply looking to collect a prize, but breakfast announcer Dave Sharp saw they had potential and put them behind the microphone.

Barney, 11, and Charlie, 10, had won a free car wash in the station's "Prize Pig" promotion, but Dave said he saw they had an interest in what went on in the studio.

"When they came in to claim their prize, they came in before I finished my breakfast shift and they obviously were interested and wanted to come in and have a look, said Dave. "They don't have the TV on in the morning, these fellas have grown up listening to me so they already felt like they knew who I was... They seemed really interested, so I put it to their mum, I said look, if they want to have a go, let me know and that's how it all started - because of a competition."

Barney now has a regular show on Monday afternoons and while Charlie is still learning his way around the studio, Dave said it won't be long before he too joins the station's half a dozen young volunteers.

Ever since the early days at Bourke High School, 2WEB has had a long history of training young locals, many of whom have gone on to have great careers in the industry.

Anyone who thinks they would like to have a go at presenting is welcome to get in touch with Dave at the radio station.

It is much easier than people think, said Dave, and builds confidence and other useful skills.

"There are certain obstacles they have to overcome, even if it is the initial fear of doing a show. For some kids it is learning to read better and this helps. For other people it is mastering the software or when they look at the equipment it is quite daunting, but when you tell them you really don't have to worry about most of the stuff, you make it simple, and once they get over these obstacles it is easy."