



THE GIRLS & BOYS  
BRIGADE



YEARLY REVIEW 2020



THE GIRLS & BOYS  
BRIGADE

FOUNDED  
Sydney 1882

PRESIDENT  
John B Fairfax, AO

CHAIRMAN  
Cam Smith

TREASURER  
Mike Forsdick

COMPANY SECRETARY  
Henry Herron

EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Stefan Lamour-Jansson

DIRECTORS  
Ruth Armytage, AM  
Graham Bates  
Andy Fairfax  
Kylie Macdonald  
Paul Masi  
Fiona Ratcliffe  
Paul Strutt

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION OFFICER  
Andrea Molloy

PROGRAMS MANAGER  
Tracy Clifton

YOUTH SUPPORT OFFICER  
Bill Porter

PROGRAM COORDINATORS  
Andrew Harnett  
Salote Tamata

FUNDRAISING MANAGER  
Roslyn Miller

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR  
Emma Stublely

FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN  
Paul Masi

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## HISTORIC TIMELINE

- 1882 Sir James Reading Fairfax establishes The Boys Brigade as a safe place off the streets for newspaper boys.
- 1912 Land on the corner of Riley St and Arthur Street purchased to build for-purpose Brigade building.
- 1914-18 The Brigade remains open during WW1, providing a place for boys to play and learn, while many of their fathers serve and mothers help with the war-time effort.
- 1925 Foundation stone laid for a new Pymont branch.
- 1939-45 229,757 attendances made during WW2. Average of 620 boys enrolled each year.
- 1971 Pymont branch closed due to rezoning.
- 1972 Partnership with City of Sydney Council begins.
- 1982 100th anniversary. Close to two million visits made through the centenary.
- 1983 Dedicated girls space opened.
- 2003 Name changed to The Girls & Boys Brigade.
- 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic spreads across the Globe. In March, the Brigade closes its doors for the first time in history, reopening in June with social distancing in place.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Girls & Boys Brigade has faced many issues during its 139-Year history. We have contended with recessions, economic hardship, and many social changes. But 2020 tested our ability to provide certainty to those for whom we care.

As far as we can ascertain, it is the first time in all those years we had to close our doors to the membership who rely on us for support. We can all imagine the stress and emotion of physically shutting out those who love us and those whom we love.

We can also imagine the vigilance required to re-open our doors at a time when a virulent virus has not been contained. Full marks to our management and staff who negotiated these very treacherous waters with care and compassion and total professionalism.

As many people and businesses have shown over the past 12 months, innovative practices can result in sustaining worthwhile outcomes – changes that result in positive progress.

What has made our thinking and our actions satisfying is the support of so many who have diligently “stuck” with us, making contributions financially and in-kind to further the needs of this organisation situated among the high rise of a sometimes disadvantaged community.

This current year will continue to place demands on our resources, and so I not merely thank all for your contributions, but simply point out that our task is ongoing and we require whatever help is appropriate.

John B. Fairfax AO



***“Quarantine put us more in control of our day and lessened the stress of school and work. Video calling with friends every day made it enjoyable. The weekly dinner nights where we would all make the same dish and then call on zoom were fun and the challenges to win gift cards were exciting.”***

TRISHA, YOUTH, 18



## FROM THE **CHAIRMAN**

The year under review has been most unusual and challenging for our team with the arrival of the virus COVID-19, late January 2020. You are all well aware of the catastrophic havoc the virus has caused around the world thus far.

Stefan, our Executive Officer, and his terrific team of staff at The Girls & Boys Brigade have risen to these challenges with consistent dedication, enthusiasm and a good deal of success.

Stefan moved quickly to put into place policies following the best of Government and health agency advice. He then, with much help from Tracy Clifton, our Programs Manager, designed a series of flexible work stages and plans in order to minimise disruption to our normal programs and activities and to ensure the well-being and safety of our staff and all of the children, youth and family members who attend. As far as we are aware, we have not had one case of COVID-19 within our staff or members. Long may it last.

I congratulate and thank every member of our great team for their outstanding contribution.

On behalf of all of my fellow Directors, together with Stefan Lamour-Jansson and his team, I offer very special thanks to the many individuals, volunteers, foundations, trusts and organisations who continue to work with us. Without your generous support, the work of the Brigade could not continue. We are profoundly grateful.

I would also like to thank each of my fellow Directors for their ongoing contribution through the year.

Cam Smith

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

There is not much more that can be said about 2020 that hasn't already been written about, reported on, and analysed countless over the past 12 months. However, throughout this year, we have seen an increased sense of care and hospitality for the vulnerable in our community.

This unselfish act of giving welfare to those in need was evident in the incredible amounts of support that The Girls & Boys Brigade received. From neighbours a few doors down, to donors who have supported us for over 40 years, and large international corporations, The Girls & Boys Brigade has been championed by a varied and selfless group who care deeply for the wellbeing of the children, youth and families we support. This gave us the energy to continue throughout 2020.

The pandemic has highlighted many inequalities in our society, none more than the rush to panic-buy food and essentials by those who could afford to buy in bulk. This in turn left many wanting and left behind, so sourcing and delivering food and essentials became our priority after we closed our doors for the first time. As food inequality increases around the world, we will continue to offer this service to families so that food stress is not another item to add to their growing list of challenges.

We returned to our building in the middle of the year and began operating our services in a very different way. All of a sudden, new ways of working included physical distancing, square meterage, hand sanitiser and masks, and all activities were confined to our building. The smiles and laughter of the children and youth returning made it all worthwhile.

2021 sees the opportunity for us to add some of the new initiatives we succeeded in delivering in 2020 as the needs of the vulnerable in our community continue to grow.

I'd like to join John and Cam and take this opportunity to thank my team, the Board of Directors and all our supporters for their love and support throughout a very different and difficult year.

It made all the difference to our core principle:

**To provide care and support to children and youth in need by providing recreation, education and activities that build life skills as a foundation for a brighter future.**

Stefan Lamour-Jansson

## ENROLMENTS

- 74 youth
- 93 children
- 2327 children's attendances
- 2260 youth attendances
- 4587 total centre visits

***"The Girls & Boys Brigade are a family for me, they are very supportive and they understand me. I've never had this before, it's everything to me."***

A GIRLS & BOYS BRIGADE MUM

# FAMILY SUPPORT

Our Family Support Program has a direct impact on the current and long-term wellbeing of our children, youth and their families by providing tailored one on one assistance in times of need.

**This year we supported over 170 families.**

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 and associated lockdowns have caused an **11% increase** in families accessing this service.

During the lockdown, we increased our phone calls with families, regularly checking-in to find out their needs and inform them on changing COVID restrictions.

One of our families was confined to a longer lockdown than others due to health complications and we delivered pantry bags, dinners, tech support by phone and Zoom, and one on one conversations with each family member regularly.

They told us that we were there when they needed us most, alleviating some of the sticky moments, so that they could navigate the rest themselves.



***“The strength of the existing relationships with our families meant we could communicate well, were better able to understand their needs, and most importantly they trusted us to be there for them and come through for them in some pretty dire times.”***

TRACY CLIFTON, PROGRAMS MANAGER

### FAMILY SUPPORT

- 170+ families supported
- 473 support occasions
- 200+ support phone calls made during lockdown
- Family support accessed 160 occasions during lockdown
- 800+ deliveries of food and essentials

*“A big thanks to the crew for the delivery today. We had a fever go through our household and I was worried about shopping, so this helps heaps.”*

A GIRLS & BOYS BRIGADE FAMILY

## FOOD SERVICE

- 367 essential pantry packs delivered during lockdown
- 13 Family dinner nights
- 455 freshly cooked meals delivered



# FOOD SERVICE

This year, we doubled the delivery of our Pantry and Family Dinner Programs. Families were able to pick up healthy grocery packs and fresh meals prepared by local restaurants on alternating Thursdays and Fridays.

These programs relieved food stress and also provided families with the opportunity to cook and eat together, helping them to develop stronger family relationships.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

During the lockdown, our staff delivered groceries and fresh meals **twice a week** to our families' homes.

Our pantry service became a vital service for those who could not access the local shops or even leave their house. Andy Harnett, Program Coordinator of the service said, "The socially distanced food delivery allowed families to see a friendly face. It was a highlight for both families and our delivery team."



*“I enjoy all the different personalities that come into the homework room. I love watching the development and confidence levels grow over the years. It’s a fun, safe and nurturing environment.”*

LILY BROWN, VOLUNTEER

## CHILDRENS HOMEWORK ROOM

- 15 volunteers
- 1171 visits
- 290 hours of homework support
- 20 remote homework sessions
- 30+ families received assistance with home internet and IT support

# HOMEWORK

Our Homework Program provides a relaxed, fun and inclusive space for the children to access help with homework from friendly staff and volunteers.

Over the year, we have seen so many children improve in their reading, maths and spelling, while also developing a love for learning that sees them staying in the room long after their schoolwork is done.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

We adjusted to the lockdown by taking the Homework program remote and online.

We continued to help **over 30 families** who had limited or no access to remote learning by distributing laptops and setting up internet at home. Our staff Zoomed and Facetimed children to help them with schoolwork virtually and to chat too.

Since reopening, we’ve had to limit the number of volunteers in the Homework room to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

# YOUTH PROGRAM

The youth program provides a relaxing, safe, youth-friendly space at our centre where youth can drop in to access computers for homework or relax and play video games.

Monday Sports Nights promote healthy lifestyles by exposing youth to a range of sports including swimming, rock climbing and Oztag.

Our weekly Youth Dinner Night is a favourite amongst youth who love the sense of family created as they share a meal.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

The lockdown saw the youth program taken online.

The majority of our youth engaged online in our Brigade-only Facebook and online groups where we posted activities for them to do and competitions that gave them a chance to win gift cards.

On Wednesdays, everyone cooked a meal with ingredients we provided and joined staff on zoom to eat together.

*“No one had ever experienced a lockdown before. With the centre being closed I had to think outside the box with how I could keep my connection to the youth and still have them engaged with the centre. I’m so proud of everyone coming together and keeping in touch online.”*

BILL PORTER, YOUTH SUPPORT OFFICER

### YOUTH PROGRAM

#### LOCKDOWN ONLINE GROUP

- Daily phone & zoom calls with youth
- Majority of 74 enrolled youth engaged in online groups
- Over 30 online competitions, cooking classes and PT sessions run

#### IN CENTRE

- 245 attendances to sports nights
- 282 attendances to dinners nights



# VACATION CARE

**CHILDREN'S VACATION CARE:** Our Vacation Care exposes children to new environments and ways of thinking through incursions and excursions. Our activities range from trips to the movies to Bollywood dance workshops, from turning the basement into a laser tag zone to learning to make slime in arts and craft.

These activities push the children outside their comfort zone and grow their confidence, giving them a chance to envisage a more fulfilling future for themselves.

**YOUTH VACATION CARE:** School holidays provide our youth with a chance to relax and find respite from the stresses of the school year as well as exposing them to exciting opportunities. Encouraging the Youth's artistic talents was a big focus this year with art competitions, visits from local DJs and songwriting workshops.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE:

During the April School Holidays, which fell during the lockdown, we delivered over **50 activity packs** full of art materials and STEM kits to our children. Youth received art materials as well as cooking ingredients which they used for online culinary challenges. We returned to the centre for the July school holidays, though regulations meant we only held incursions for the rest of 2020.

*“My favourite memory of 2020 was being able to offer an in centre school holiday program in July and welcome back all the children. Vacation Care was back, albeit different. Numbers were down, but this allowed all the staff to reconnect with the children and create new friendships with them all. It was even more special to then create a full vacation care program for the summer that included excursions, bringing a sense of excitement and familiarity to the children.”*

SALOTE TAMATA, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

## CHILDREN & YOUTH VACATION

- 424 hours provided
- 983 Child Attendances
- 360 Youth Attendances
- 38 incursions
- 27 excursions
- 50+ Vacation Care packs distributed
- 2 camps





*“I prefer The Girls & Boys Brigade camps to our school camps. We get to spend more time relaxing together. It’s like going on a family holiday but with my friends as well.”*

YEAR 12 YOUTH

# CAMPS

Twelve youth in Year 8 & 9 attended our camp to Umina Beach in March.

Staying close to the beach, the youth enjoyed paddle boarding and kayaking and spent the evening playing board games and barbequing.

In November, we were able to take eleven Year 11 & 12 students on a camp to Pearl Beach where they enjoyed bushwalks and time by the beach.

It was a nice opportunity for respite after a challenging year of remote learning and the HSC.

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold either of our camps planned for children aged 9-12.



# OUR THANKS

## MAJOR DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you for your support, together we make a difference.

Elizabeth & Robert Albert AO

Antoinette Albert

Charles & Hannah Alexander

Allsopp Family Foundation

Kate & Bill Anderson

Ian Armstrong

Ruth Armytage AM

Margaret Arnott

Helen Ashdown

ATS Charitable Foundation

Bourke St P&C

Brendan Bovill

Hamish Bowman

Rona Bowrey

Andrew Buchanan

Cater Charitable Trust Fund

Judith Chapple

Ann Corlett AM

Count Charitable Foundation

Epoch Capital Pty Ltd

John Fairfax AO & Libby Fairfax

Susan Garvan

Daniel Gauchat

Philip Gosse

Deborah & Edward Griffin

Janet Grimsdale

Gina Grubb

HandsUp Foundation

Kate Hayward

William Hayward

F.S. Hespe

Jill Karhan

Sue Maple-Brown AM

Paul Masi

Ian McGaw

Ian & Trish Napier

Frances O'Riordan

Chiho Otani

Peak Investment Partners

Libby Plaskitt

Sandra Plowman

Providence Philanthropic Foundation

Michele Pursche

RAIZ Invest Limited

Fiona Ratcliffe

Rob Rich

Robert McCuaig Family Trust

John Robertson

Andrew Stevenson

Josephine Strutt

Jim Tait

Howard N Tanner AM

Rob Thomas

Jim Thompson

David Uther OAM & Mrs Uther

Vivienne Court Trading Pty Ltd

Wellington Management  
Australia Pty Ltd

Sarah White

James Williams

## COMMUNITY & CORPORATE PARTNERS

Alexandria Park  
Community School

ATYP

Bourke Street  
Public School

Barwon Investments

Callaway

Centuria

City of Sydney Council

City Tattersalls Club

CountPlus One

Crown St  
Public School

Darlo Darlings

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

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Foodbank

Gavin Coopey,  
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Christie's International  
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Sandersons Rushcutters Bay  
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Surry Hills Creative Precinct

Thread Together

Vision Building

Wombat Crossing Vineyard

Zack Smith  
Construction Pty Ltd

## VOLUNTEERS

Susan Bennett

Rona Bowrey

Lily Brown

Judy Chapple

Liz Clark

Andy Fairfax

Annabel Fendall

Richard Flood

Mike Forsdick

Vera Forsdick

Natalie Grech

Henry Herron

Jane Mander-Jones

George Karhan

Peta Landman

Carol Lane

Rob Lyneham

Kylie Macdonald

Vicki Mack

Lee Manfred

Susie Manfred

Virginia McGill

Hunter McPherson

Zak Morcillo

Sasha Murray

Shellee Parker

Andrew Ratcliffe

Dean Raynor

Jo Slater

Cam Smith

Michael Smyth

Linda Strutt

Paul Strutt

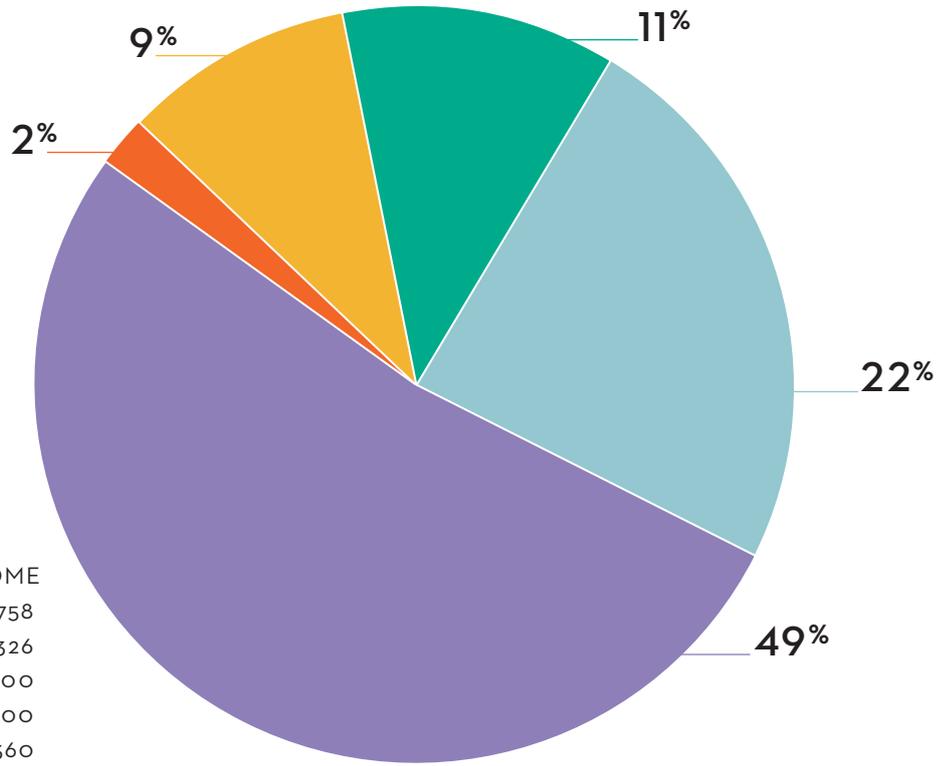
Sam Strutt

Robert Takala

Roger Tallboys

Nick Thane

# OUR FUNDRAISING INCOME



AREA	INCOME
Donations	\$324,758
Trusts & Foundations	\$551,326
Community Grants	\$16,000
Donations in Kind	\$98,500
Golf Day event	\$126,360
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,116,994</b>

## OUR FUNDING

We are very grateful for the significant support from the following trusts, foundations, clubs and organisations who have provided specific funding so we can deliver our range of programs.

 <p><b>Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation</b> \$162,000 Fundraising development</p>	 <p><b>THE FULLERTON HOTEL</b> \$100,000 Vacation Care and Camps</p>	 <p><b>JIBB FOUNDATION</b> \$50,000 Children and Youth Program Operational costs</p>	<p><b>The Maple-Brown Family Foundation</b> \$44,393 Program Support Officer</p>
 <p><b>Matana Foundation</b> for young people \$42,500 Youth Program</p>	 <p><b>st.george foundation</b> \$35,000 Vacation Care</p>	 <p><b>CITY OF SYDNEY</b> \$32,000 Website refresh project</p>	 <p><b>JAMES N. KIRBY FOUNDATION</b> \$15,000 Vacation Care</p>
 <p><b>CITY TATTERSALLS CLUB</b> <b>ClubGRANTS</b> \$10,000 Monday Sports Night</p>	 <p><b>Be Kind Sydney.</b> \$10,000 Pantry Program</p>	 <p><b>st.george foundation</b> \$5000 COVID Support</p>	<p><b>Property Industry Foundation, Taylor Constructions + Turner Architects</b> In-Kind Donation, Office Renovations</p>

# FROM THE TREASURER

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Fundraising Income:	Donations	\$892,084	\$662,692
	Donation in kind for office refurbishment	\$98,500	-
	Charity Event – Haydn Ensemble	-	\$47,730
	Charity Event – Golf day	\$126,360	\$126,658
<b>Total Fundraising Income</b>		<b>\$1,116,944</b>	<b>\$837,080</b>
	Distribution from The Girls & Boys Brigade Foundation	\$192,500	\$270,738
	Revenue from Investments	\$28,469	\$110,212
	Federal Government COVID Support	\$100,000	-
	Other Income	\$975	\$5,927
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$1,438,888</b>	<b>\$1,223,957</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	Total Administration Expenses	\$188,421	\$200,636
Program Expenses:	Children’s Program	\$407,607	\$406,760
	Youth Program	\$204,213	\$209,571
	Family Support	\$97,437	\$87,055
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		<b>\$709,257</b>	<b>\$703,386</b>
Fundraising Expenses:	Charity Event – Haydn Ensemble	-	\$12,285
	Charity Event – Golf Day	\$36,378	\$47,232
	Other Fundraising Expenses including wages	\$350,611	\$281,692
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$1,284,667</b>	<b>\$1,245,231</b>
<b>NET OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<b>\$154,221</b>	<b>(\$21,274)</b>

This Statement is unaudited. The full audited 2020 Financial Report will be available on our website from June 2021.

The Girls & Boys Brigade recorded a surplus for the year of \$154,221.

An extraordinary year with two standout characteristics:

Firstly, our supporters, both new and long term, dug deep to help the Brigade work through this difficult period. As a result, fundraising income increased by 33% over the previous year. Along with the Government’s COVID support and Foundation distributions, total revenue increased by 18%. As the crisis continues and Government support declines, 2021 will also be a challenging year for families. We will strive hard to seek out the support that’s still needed to help them.

Secondly, the swift redesign of the way services were delivered to children, youth and families in the face of escalated need and restrictions on operations. This changed the mix on Program Services costs, with a dramatic increase in the time and effort put in by the team to make the new model work effectively.

Expenditure on Programs was similar to the previous year, but the headline numbers don’t tell the full story of all the extra work by the Programs Team. In particular, Family Support is now at a record level, and growing.

A sincere thank you to all supporters who make it possible for the Brigade to deliver these vital services to a community who felt the results of the pandemic especially hard.

The Girls & Boys Brigade is a Deductible Gift Recipient, so all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Mike Forsdick

# FROM THE FOUNDATION

The challenge that has been 2020 has reinforced the reason and purpose of The Girls & Boys Brigade Foundation. The original design of the Foundation was to create a corpus of funds that would generate returns, and income from those funds would be able to support the work of The Girls & Boys Brigade in perpetuity.

The key focus is for that financial support to meet the administration costs of the Brigade, which are continuously increasing due to higher regulatory and compliance requirements for organisations that support children and youth.

This means that the supporters of the Brigade, can be comfortable in the knowledge that **100 percent of their donation** will be used in supporting children, youth and their families.

For nearly 140 years, The Girls & Boys Brigade's dedicated Board, staff and supporters have tirelessly worked to play a significant role in encouraging thousands of disadvantaged children and youth realise their full potential and develop into resilient and capable adults. I am proud to be one of those children and welcome the opportunity to be a member of the Board.

You too can be integral to our mission by helping to build a strong capital base, which will be managed diligently to produce a valuable source of income to help support the Brigade's important work for many years to come.

I ask that you consider a donation or bequest to The Girls & Boys Foundation and consider it as an investment in the future of The Girls & Boys Brigade and the children and youth it supports.

Paul Masi

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways you can join us in making a significant difference to the lives of children and youth in our community.

- Donating
- Leaving a gift in your will
- Attending one of our events
- Volunteering
- Becoming a Corporate Partner

*One of the joys of working at the Brigade is the happy noise of the children in our building.*

*It is great to welcome new families to our organisation and see how the children and their parents start to relax and enjoy what we can offer.*

*Over my time at the Brigade, I've seen many children starting at 5 years old and leaving at 18 years old, we all shed tears; they are our family."*

ANDREA MOLLOY,  
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION OFFICER



THE GIRLS & BOYS  
BRIGADE

Thank you for supporting the Brigade in so many ways.  
Together we can help children and youth in need realise their full potential.

Call 02 9319 4509 [girlsandboysbrigade.org.au](http://girlsandboysbrigade.org.au)

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