



NEWSLETTER

Homework is BACK!! and we have YOU to thank!

As we head into term two, I am excited to share that one of my favourite services we offer, The Homework Program, has started again.

It is one of our more popular activities and rightfully so because it can shape a child's future. The bonds they form with the volunteers is invaluable as some have been there helping the children for over 10 years!

Only a staggeringly low percentage of disadvantaged children will break out of the poverty cycle. Recent research* has found that only 14 per cent of girls and 22 per cent of boys will be able to break out of poverty in their lifetimes, but thanks to incredible supporters like you, we are helping change that.

The Homework program provides a space for our children and youth to be nurtured and encouraged. We aim to provide them with the tools to help them keep on top of their schoolwork and reach their potential. **Thanks to you, they can see a hopeful future!**

* Research conducted by The Melbourne Institute



Vacation Care in April:

The children:

 Consumed **231** pieces of fruit for afternoon tea

Coloured **121** colouring pages 

 Did **1** evacuation drill

Played with **4** kilos of kinetic sand

The youth:

Scored **9** 3-pointers in basketball

Consumed **43** cheese toasties



The staff:

Picked up **435** pieces of lego from the floor (approximately) 

Provided **thousands** of kind words and reassurances 

And a million **thank you's** for helping make Vacation Care a fun and supportive place for the children. We couldn't do it without you.

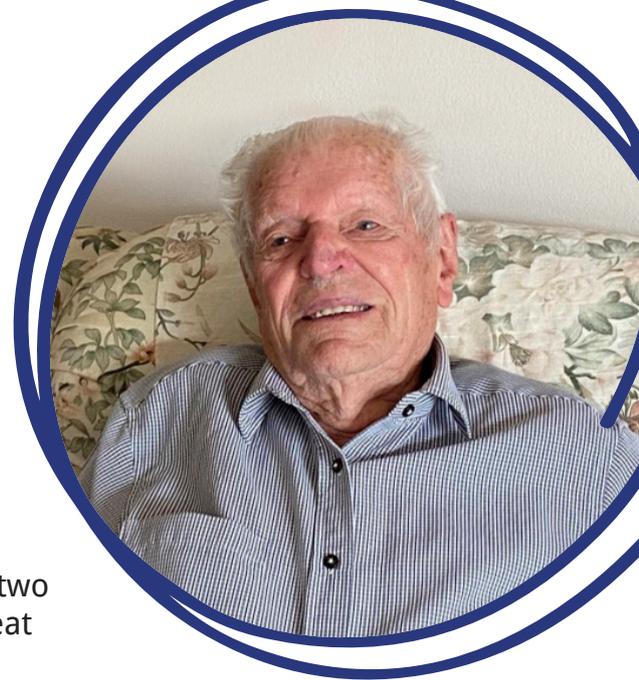
Dennis has given a lifetime of support

At over 100 years old, Dennis Davis is The Girls & Boys Brigade's oldest supporter.

He has been helping children and their families at The Girls & Boys Brigade since 1984. Dennis has an incredible history of fighting in World War 2 as a "Rat of Tobruk" and returning to marry the love of his life, Margaret. They had two daughters and he now has seven grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

"I have been blessed in life. I believe children should be given the chance to fulfil their potential," Dennis said.

We are incredibly thankful to Dennis and other life long supporters like him who care about the children and the families we help.



A trivia night success!

Over 200 guests joined our trivia night in March and helped raise more than \$87,000 for the children and youth who come through the doors at The Girls & Boys Brigade.



Patrons were entertained by host, drag queen, Hannah Conda while enjoying dinner and drinks at Darling Harbour.

The night included a silent auction with incredible prizes that included a Port Douglas escape, food and accommodation experiences and a limited-edition John Olsen print.

It was inspiring to hear from two students who have benefited from The Brigade's programs. Trisha and Nurjhan were kind enough to share their memories and experiences of their time at The Brigade and entertained patrons with their incredible musical talents.

Thank you to our incredible community of supporters and guests. Together we can continue providing programs for children and youth to help them build skills and nurture their talents.



Your help is a lifeline to families - Thank you!

Being connected to The Girls & Boys Brigade was Mongolian mother, Bolormaa's only hope during COVID-19.

Bolormaa's family moved to Australia in 2016 so her husband could study a Masters in Business. They both worked casual jobs but when lockdown hit in March 2020, Bolormaa was laid off from her job in a nail salon. Being on student visas, their family was ineligible for any government assistance.

With everyone at home, including their two children, life was put on hold but the bills did not stop. With the kids' school fees and her husbands' university fees they had to continue to pay for, and little income coming in, there wasn't much money left for anything else.

Thankfully Bolormaa was able to get weekly grocery packs through our pantry service which meant the family was able to put food on the table and it was one less thing to stress about.

Bolormaa said "During lockdown, we really appreciated having The Girls & Boys Brigade to help us. Our kids were able to learn English and they were able to connect through online groups. Staying in touch meant a lot to us."

Thanks to your support, families like Bolormaa are able to get help through our pantry services when they are struggling to make ends meet. Your support is a lifeline for many families within our community.



Get Ready to tee off!

**5th August 2021 - 8am Shot Gun start
The Lakes Golf Club**

Join us for the 8th Annual Charity Golf Day! This year we are partnering with The Lakes Golf Club who have generously nominated The Girls & Boys Brigade as their selected charity for their 2021 members' charity golf day initiative.

Tickets selling fast, email info@girlsandboysbrigade.com.au to reserve your spot.

Photography workshops capture our kids



Each week between February and April, ten children and youth were invited by local creative agency, Special Group, to take part in a photography workshop hosted by iconic photographers out of their converted art gallery on Devonshire street.

The children have embraced their creativity and taken photos of many different subjects, from drinking glasses and dogs to portraits of each other and The Girls & Boys Brigade staff.

“We have long believed that creativity is such a powerful and important way for children to both express themselves and build self-esteem,” says Dave Hartmann from Special Group. ***“Given that we’re in the creative industry, and we work out of an art gallery - it felt like a great opportunity to help the Brigade.”***

The children and youth have been learning to use quality cameras kindly supplied by Canon Australia. The theme of the project is called - ‘With New Eyes.’

At the end of the workshop, the children and youth will select their favourite photo to be exhibited in the gallery at Special Group. An exhibition will showcase their work to their families, friends and community.

It’s all thanks to supporters like you and partners in our community, that our children have new experiences like the photography workshops. Thank you for helping them develop new creative skills and interests.



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