



NEWSLETTER

I was one of our families.

Thank you!

It's been a great start to 2020.

So many families have already been helped by your generosity. I have been moved by the level of commitment shown by people like you to the children and families that we support.

Because of you, this is a special and unique place that families can rely on to receive guidance, support and help when they need it. It's where they can come and feel safe and secure. A "home away from home" is what it is often referred to.

Our families come from all walks of life and all backgrounds. You wouldn't be able to tell them apart from anyone else in the street. Some may have fallen on hard times, others may be going through a period of instability, and some have been battling these problems for a long time.

I should know. I was one of those families once. For several years my family went through a period of instability. We did not know where to turn and struggled with housing and food stress. Schoolwork was definitely low on the priority list.

The Brigade was our lifesaver. It gave my brother and I somewhere safe to go after school and during holidays. This provided an opportunity for my mother to work to give us a better quality of life and pull us out of the cycle of disadvantage.

We were able to get our lives back on track with the help of the Brigade. I will always be thankful for our "home away from home".

Whilst that was over 20 years ago, things in the community have barely changed. There are families like mine, even more now, who need the Brigade to help them during tough times. Our local area may be changing, but families are still there, becoming more invisible and requiring more help.

Thank you for helping ensure our Vacation Care programs are fun, educating and entertaining for the children.

Without your help, we could not continue our services or offer the excursions and activities that our children receive.

Thank you!



Stefan Lamour-Jansson, Executive Officer

Our Graduates

Last year The Girls & Boys Brigade had...

6 of our teens complete their HSC.



They're currently studying at TAFE, Uni & online IT courses or have gained employment.

In 2020, we have

9 students in Year 12



We look forward to supporting them throughout the year.

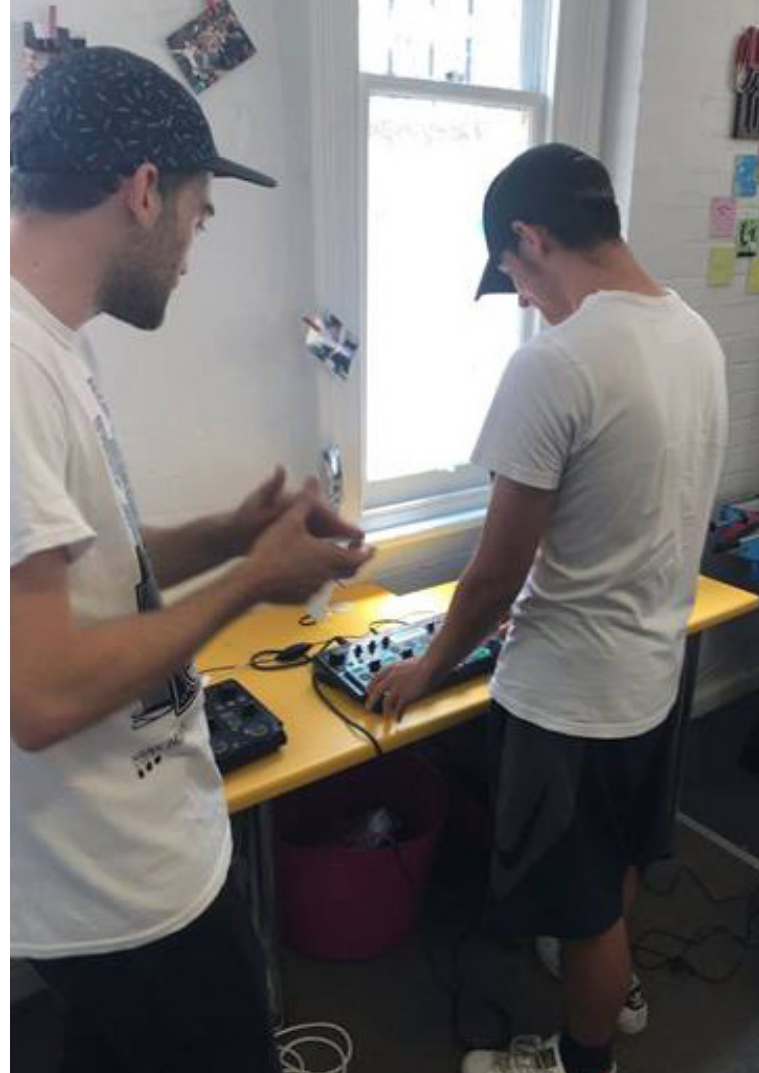
You've helped unearth our musical talents.

Recently, thanks to generous donors like you, we purchased a Loop Machine for our Youth Program.

The machine allows users to mix and incorporate different sounds, beats, tunes, and vocals together to create a unique sound.

The teens absolutely love it and during the school holidays, they were keen to improve their music skills. Special guest, "LC Beats" (AKA Luke) joined us and ran a workshop, guiding the youth through beatboxing and using the loop machine.

The calibre of musical talent in our program is mind-blowing and hearing what can be produced when they have guidance, encouragement, knowledge of the technology and are passionate about making music is phenomenal! Luke will be joining us during the term to further nurture the talents of our youth.



Keeping Ron out of trouble

Ron Young remembers the Surry Hills area, where he grew up.

"It was not very safe back then, there were quite a few infamous characters about," Ron shared.

Almost 90 years ago, around 1930, Ron joined the Boys Brigade at the age of seven. In those days they only accepted boys.

"The windows of the Brigade were at street level, and the boys used to play games in the basement. My friends and I used to get down and jeer the other boys on through the windows from outside. Eventually, the lot of us joined, it was quite nice and not too far from home" said Ron.

Ron would visit the Brigade every night for about five years with his neighbourhood friends. He remembers they were never short of physical activities and ball games. He joked, **"There was always a lot of games going on, it kept me out of trouble"**.

After Ron finished school he got a job at the Daily News and then served in the Australian Navy during the war for six years. He finally made it home safely and married his sweetheart Lois and they had five children. Ron went on to work at the Daily Telegraph Newspaper before he eventually retired in 1982.

Ron has very fond memories of the Boys Brigade (as it was known back then). It gave him a safe place to go during his young schooling days and taught him values that he still holds strong today. **Thanks for helping kids like him today.**





Thanks to you a great day at Gunnamatta Bay

The kids recently spent an incredible adventure filled day at Gunnamatta Bay, Cronulla. They enjoyed wading through the water looking for crabs and other sea life and they created their very own Ninja Warrior course at the playground.

All that vitamin D and fresh air made for a successful, fun-filled day. Our children are only able to enjoy excursions and make cherished memories to beautiful places like Gunnamatta Bay because of generous donors like you.

Do you fancy some sushi?

Local Japanese restaurant Toko, recently created and hosted a sushi-making workshop specifically for our children. The Toko team shared their sushi master skills giving the children an amazing, fun learning experience.

The dedicated support we receive from the local business plus the delicious sushi makes the excursion a very popular one with the children, plus they learn some great skills.



The Fullerton Hotel Sydney shines a light on our youth

Bringing hope and excitement for the future to the youth at The Girls & Boys Brigade.



The hotel has pledged a generous \$200,000 to The Girls & Boys Brigade to support several projects including outdoor adventure camps.

The Fullerton Hotel Sydney will provide hospitality training workshops for our youth, conducted by their staff, leading to future internship and employment opportunities.

Our youth were invited to the popular inaugural Christmas Light Up Celebration. The spectacular event included an enormous Christmas tree decorated with Fullerton bears taking centre stage, magic carol presentations, delicious buffet dinner and an amazing custom-made Girls & Boys Brigade gingerbread house which the children took delight in eating.

Partial proceeds from the sale of bears and tickets to the dinner went to providing future care and activities to children at The Girls & Boys Brigade.

Thank you to The Fullerton Hotel Sydney for helping provide our children and youth with unique opportunities that they may not have experienced without such generous support.

Thank you!

The Girls & Boys Brigade Director, Paul Strutt



From left - Andrew Sparke, Chris Macdonald, Michael Bailey and Ian McGaw.

Helping them soar

Jane Mander-Jones has been a volunteer with The Girls & Boys Brigade since 2014. Every Thursday, she helps the children with their homework.

Jane has formed a wonderful bond with the children and enjoys seeing them develop a love of learning.



“I am most proud of helping the children form a belief in themselves that they can learn and tackle problems. They are constantly growing in confidence and becoming more persistent,” Jane shared.

“I have had a very fortunate life and wanted to give back to my community, particularly with children and their education. I have got back much more with the children at The Girls & Boys Brigade than I have given”.

As a mother and grandmother, Jane enjoys many hobbies from playing golf to pilates and is also an avid reader. But volunteering with The Girls & Boys Brigade is one of her favourite things. “It is a wonderful experience. If you have an opportunity to volunteer here, you definitely should,” Jane said.

Jane is also a valuable member of the annual Golf Day committee and works hard to make the day a huge success each year.

Volunteers at The Girls & Boys Brigade play a valuable role in the children’s lives and in their learning and we couldn’t do it without them.

Teeing off for our kids

Thanks to an enthusiastic group of golfers and big supporters of The Girls & Boys Brigade, who came together last October for The Girls & Boys Brigade 6th Annual Golf day.

Together, they raised close to \$80,000 for the children.

With 128 motivated golfers, the day was full of strong competition and a lot of hopeful winners. Each one vying to claim the “Directors Cup” and taking up the challenge of a Hole-in-One on the 5th, which would see them drive away in a brand-new Mercedes A250, thanks to Sandersons Mercedes-Benz.

Over the past six years, the golf day has evolved into a fantastic event that is only made possible by the generous and loyal sponsors, donors, players and volunteers, all of who make the event a huge success.

Thank you for being part of it.



Did you know?

Every dollar you give is directly supporting programs here at the Brigade.

A generous gift from two people in their Will means all administration costs are covered.

If you want more information about leaving a gift in your Will, please call us directly on (02) 9319 4509 or email: info@girlsandboysbrigade.com.au. For other ways to support the Girls & Boys Brigade, visit: www.girlsandboysbrigade.org.au