



THE GIRLS & BOYS  
BRIGADE

# Stories from the G&B

AUTUMN EDITION 2023



## Children are learning to look out for others, all because you have looked out for them.

Over the last quarter, I've witnessed countless acts of kindness towards the children and families at The Girls & Boys Brigade.

As Christmas approached, our community came together to provide presents and food hampers. When we needed space to continue to run our services during renovations, several local schools and businesses opened their doors to us. And when we needed help to run our School Holiday Program, YOU – our wonderful supporters – helped us raise additional funds so that more kids could attend.

I am deeply grateful for your support, and I know it has made such a difference to the families we help. Not only has it helped tremendously on a practical level, but it has also lifted their spirits.

The stories in this newsletter really show just how far your kindness reaches. On page 2, you can read about a very special children's excursion to the theatre, which couldn't have happened without your support of the School Holiday Program. Similarly, Khan wouldn't have been able to attend camp if it weren't for you. His story on page 3 really shows how meaningful camp can be. Not only did he discover a love of helping others, but he gained so much confidence and satisfaction along the way.

As the children begin a new school year, they will be well equipped with positive memories, a strong support network, and a happier outlook on life – all because of you.

Stefan Lamour-Jansson  
Executive Officer

**Thank you so much!**



# “What stood out to me was the awe on the children’s faces”

During school holidays, I accompanied 14 children from the GBB to see “The Insect Circus” at the Seymour Centre. The show featured insect marionettes who performed circus tricks. It was a truly delightful performance, but what stood out most to me that day was the awe on the children’s faces when they walked into the theatre for the very first time.

Most of the kids we help would never have the chance to see a live performance if it wasn’t for excursions like this one, which are only possible thanks to you, our generous supporters.

As usual, the excursion involved several trips to the toilets, which only added to the experience. The staff were all amused by the commentary from the kids about how the bathroom at the theatre was bigger than their whole houses!

This kind of raw, unfiltered feedback is often what I remember most about school holidays, and is the reason why I love working with the kids at the GBB so much. It’s remarkable to see their eyes light up as they experience something new - all because of you. Thank you!

-Mel Fletcher



Mel Fletcher,  
GBB Programs  
Coordinator

A day the  
kids will  
never  
forget!



## Homework Room Happenings

Thanks to you, children at the GBB can access the space, resources, and help they need to succeed at school. Over a typical month...

**210**

books are read to  
caring volunteers.

**14**

school projects are  
started...sometimes  
only 12 are completed!

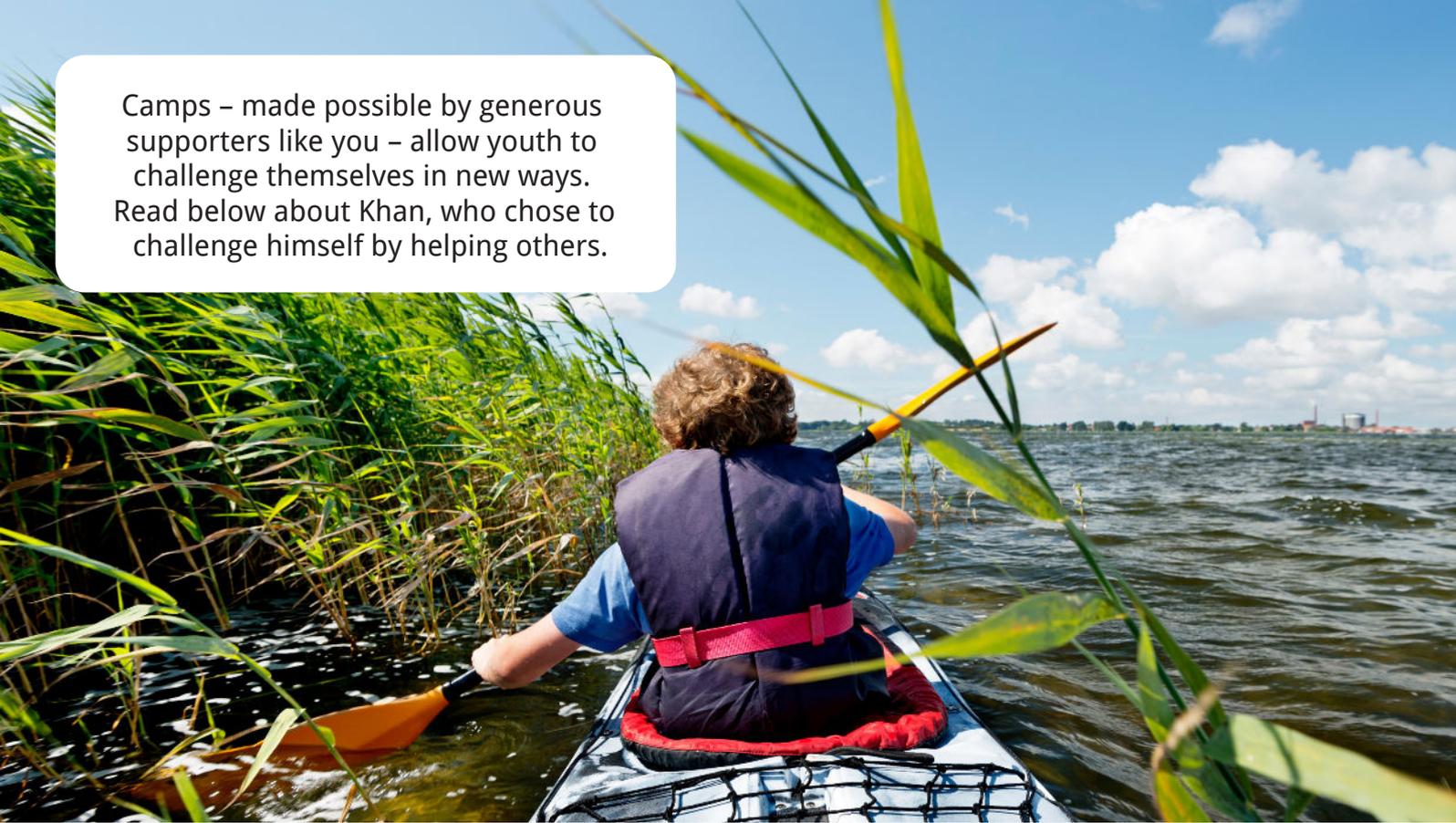
**231**

games of Wordle are  
played...with varying  
results.

**434**

single lollies are  
consumed, just one  
lolly per day for each  
child who does some  
awesome homework!

Camps – made possible by generous supporters like you – allow youth to challenge themselves in new ways. Read below about Khan, who chose to challenge himself by helping others.



## Everyone needs a helping hand sometimes

**Your generosity makes it possible for youth who are “stuck” to realise their full potential**

On a recent youth camp, youth had the opportunity to participate in water sports on Avoca Lake.

Everyone was thrilled to test their athleticism on the pedalboats, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards. This quickly proved more challenging than expected. Many of the youth found themselves continually getting stranded out in the lake, pushed by the wind and stuck in the reeds.

One of the youth, Khan, made it his mission to ensure that nobody was stuck for long. He spent most of the day kayaking back and forth between the reeds and the shore, towing each stranded youth – and even a couple of stranded staff – back with him.

Staff were really impressed to see Khan’s dedication to ensuring that everyone was able to fully participate and have fun. The satisfaction that he got from helping others was inspiring. Everyone called Khan their hero – a moment he will never forget.

Camp experiences like this one are only possible because of people like you, who see the tremendous value that these opportunities present young people.

**Because of you, Khan was able to attend camp and discover the joy that comes from helping others.**



# Each drop makes a difference

Just as one drop creates a ripple, one act of generosity can create a legacy of hope for future generations. Ken Averre is a great example of that – and so are you!

Ken was taught the value of giving when he was just a boy. His mother seemed to be constantly giving of her time, talents, and money to help those less fortunate. At the time, she couldn't have known the full impact of her generosity – not only through the causes she was supporting, but also through the example she set for her children.

By the time Ken became an adult, community involvement was second nature to him. As a young adult, he spent summers volunteering for a charity in Northern Ireland where his mother was from, where he studied law. This prepared him to work with a volunteer organisation in the Solomon Islands, where he provided legal advice for those impacted by ethnic conflict. This choice changed many lives, including Ken's own.

Upon moving to Sydney, Ken searched for opportunities to become involved in his new community. When a friend introduced him to The Girls & Boys Brigade, he was eager to help.

"I've been incredibly lucky in not having the disadvantage that many other people have had," said Ken. "I think it's important that everybody does what they can to bring about a fairer society."

Ken is a regular donor to The Girls & Boys Brigade, and also serves on the Trivia Night Committee. Not only is he helping kids and families in need, but he's setting an example for others to do the same.

**Thanks to people like you and Ken, our community has lots of reasons to hope for a brighter future for the next generation. Thank you!**



*Save the Date!*

**Trivia Night**

**23rd March 2023, 6:30 pm**

Will you be the trivia master? Get ready for a fun night of friendly competition, and an evening full of dinner, drinks, and divas!

Tickets are available at <https://girlsandboysbrigade.org.au>

While the stories in this newsletter are true, names and other identifying details of children mentioned have been altered to protect their privacy. Thanks for your kind understanding!

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