



YEARLY REVIEW 2023



THE GIRLS & BOYS
BRIGADE



President Message

John B. Fairfax AO, President

Looking back on the past year is to see The Girls & Boys Brigade as a shining object in an often harsh and challenging world.

Domestically and internationally we are surrounded respectively by cost pressures and global conflict.

During the year the Brigade's members have been buoyed by the splendid rejuvenation of the Brigade's facilities. Despite many months of disruption, it concluded with a spirit of hope, appropriately reflected in colour schemes and enthusiastic staff.

Imagine if those under siege in Ukraine and Gaza, could go to a refuge where they felt secure and cared for? The Brigade provides such an umbrella of comfort for young people to advance their potential and find pathways for productive futures. They are protected from the social 'missiles' surrounding them. They are given guidance and security.

The Brigade will continue to face challenges and changes, but the building upgrades have provided both staff and membership with a launching pad of optimism for the times ahead.

Our Values

Courage, Empathy, Kindness, Respect, Responsibility

Our Mission

Our mission is to support children and youth in need by providing educational and recreational opportunities that build life skills as a foundation for a brighter future.

Our Beneficiaries

- 100% are from low-income families
- 85% live in social/community housing or are in housing stress
- 70% are from single-parent families
- 58% are from CALD backgrounds
- 25% are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 6% have diagnosed special needs such as autism or A1DHD

Our RAP

We continue to work toward the goals set out in our 2022 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This includes various initiatives to help promote inclusivity and cultural understanding.

School holiday programs are infused with activities to celebrate Indigenous history and culture. We embrace opportunities to listen to, learn from, and advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families at The Girls & Boys Brigade as we strive to create a space that is safe and supportive for all.

Sustainability Plan

We completed an Environment, Social and Governance materiality assessment to help inform a strategic roadmap for the next three years. Our vision is to be a leader in sustainability within the not-for-profit sector, with our top ten impacts aligned to the relevant UN Sustainable Development goals.



Chairman and Executive Officer Report

Paul Strutt, Chairman

2023 was a challenging, yet monumental year for The Girls & Boys Brigade. We returned to our building on Riley Street, which went through a major renovation that has transformed how we work and support our families. Equitable access, and the improvement of dedicated, bespoke program spaces have allowed us to deepen our impact more than ever before.

The economic challenges confronting all Australians have impacted The Girls & Boys Brigade, with increasing costs exceeding revenue. For a charity with over 141 years of operation, you could be excused for assuming we are set in our ways. To the contrary, we push hard to adapt and explore new ways to generate income, deliver our services, and grow our impact, leaving no stone unturned. This year, we saw an increase in the need to support families through food and housing insecurity, with families reaching out for support in these areas growing 245%. We have increased our work in these areas and will continue to refine our response to help families overcome these challenges.

This work would not have been possible without the support of many people. To the volunteers who quietly come in and do their magic, and to our loyal supporters who give both financially and in-kind,

a mighty thank you. We are very grateful for the tremendous community support we receive, and for the passion of our growing army of supporters.

The team has farewelled some outstanding staff members this year, and we are delighted to report the new team have not missed a beat. Their energy and enthusiasm are clear to see and sense. To them, and to our colleagues on the Board for volunteering their time, skills, passion, and resources in steering The Girls & Boys Brigade, a heartfelt thank you. You change lives.



Stefan Lamour-Jansson,
Executive Officer

“Amidst challenges, our unwavering focus is on the children, youth, and families who depend on us for support. Your generosity is the fuel that propels our efforts, turning empathy into action. Thank you!”



Children's Program

The Children's Program provided a range of support to children aged 5-12 this year.

Throughout the school term, the homework room offered a dedicated space equipped with computers, stationery, books, educational games, and one-on-one assistance from staff and volunteers. These resources empowered children to enhance their reading skills, work on school assignments, and explore their interests in a nurturing environment.

Families were reassured to know that their children could access all the support they would need to succeed at school. Each Wednesday, educational opportunities expanded to the great outdoors, where children learned bush skills like fishing and shelter building in Sydney's Centennial Parklands.

Care continued during school breaks, with the School Holiday Program offering a safe place for children

to come and spend the day. Each day featured an exciting in-centre activity or excursion, with a few favourites being a matinee showing of the Princess and the Pea Musical at the Bell Shakespeare, yoga classes in the basement, and a jewellery making workshop. Children were provided with opportunities to participate in diverse experiences that they couldn't otherwise afford, helping them to try new things, develop social skills, and learn more about themselves and the world.

Two children's camps, held at Wiseman's Ferry and Kimbri Farm, yielded similar positive outcomes in 2023. These camps provided fun, skill-building opportunities, fostering confidence, resilience, and new friendships.

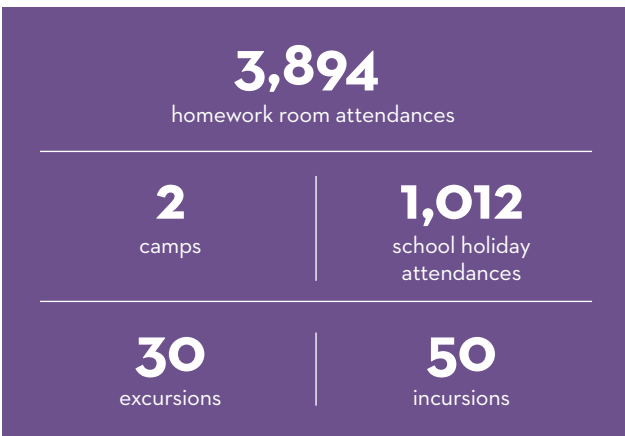
Importantly, the camps offered a respite from daily challenges, enabling many children to travel outside of Sydney for the very first time.

"I think a lot of our families are just trying to get through. They live in tiny apartments with brothers and sisters and no backyard, and a lot of them don't get to have play dates or sleepovers or go out and do things that other kids get to do. Then, they get to come to our centre and experience this amazing place to play, or go out and explore places that they've never been to before. On a number of occasions, kids have told me, "This is the greatest day of my life." It's why we do what we do."

Mel, Program Coordinator



Children expanding their horizons while on camp



“There was one little girl who was full of personality, but she couldn’t read. She clearly wanted to participate, but found great difficulty in it - especially in maths, because she couldn’t understand the maths problems. We persisted, and she struggled for a few weeks, but then she turned the corner and was suddenly able to read. Her self-confidence absolutely blossomed, the change was so enormous - it was one of the most special things in my life, actually.”

Judy, Homework Room Volunteer



Learning through play, everyday!



Building literacy one page at a time



Youth Program

The Youth Program continued to serve as a steadfast anchor for teens in 2023, expanding the ways it helped them navigate the challenges of high school and prepare for adulthood.

The youth room provided a relaxed space to unwind, tackle homework, play video games together, and explore the wealth of art supplies, books, and other activities in the youth room. Afternoon tea, often prepared by the youth themselves, became a cherished routine. Their cooking skills were further enhanced by weekly dinner nights, where they would prepare a meal at the centre or venture to a local restaurant. Everyone looked forward to the chance to try new types of food and appreciate the rich diversity of the city.

Weekly sports nights encouraged youth to embrace physical activities like boxing, paddle boarding, Oztag, and more. For youth who face financial barriers to participating in formal team sports, these evenings provided a meaningful opportunity for them

to play sports they love and try other sports for the first time. These activities supported youth in staying fit, coping with challenges in healthy ways, and strengthening their bonds with peers and staff.

During school holidays, the Youth Program provided more memorable experiences, including a Virtual Reality Escape Room, an Aboriginal Heritage Walk in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, and an exhilarating Thunder Jet Boat ride on Sydney Harbour. Camps to the Blue Mountains and Shellharbour were especially memorable for the teens, who loved the opportunity to spend a weekend outside of Sydney with their friends.

Beyond fostering social connections, the program provided teens with valuable educational workshops on healthy relationships, resume writing, skincare, and hygiene. These sessions offered a safe space for youth to ask questions and provided a comprehensive foundation for teens to confidently step into adulthood.

“I’m always amazed to see the youth transform as they go through the program. The sports, the dinners, the camps, they’re not just about having fun - although they are a lot of fun. They’re about providing youth with new opportunities that might be financially out of reach for them, that help them grow and mature.”

Bill, Youth Coordinator



School holiday excursions to Manly are a must!

“It’s been 14 years and counting since I’ve been attending The Girls & Boys Brigade programs. They are my second home. I’ve grown an undeniable connection with the staff, who have become more than just staff to me. They’re people I can confide in and trust in and go to in times of need. It’s an environment where I know I won’t be judged, I can be myself around them 100%.”

Nurjhan, GBB Alumna

2,430
total youth attendances

40
youth dinner nights

30
excursions

50
incursions

13
sports tried during weekly sports nights

6
skill-building workshops



Unleashing creativity through art



Taking in Empress Falls in the Blue Mountains

Family Support Program



In 2023, the Family Support Program responded to families' current needs in diverse ways. Given the escalating cost of living, the program became more crucial than ever. Various initiatives were introduced to offer financial relief and services that go beyond families' budgets.

Collaborations with local partners also enhanced support. A nearby hair salon provided free haircuts at the centre during school holidays and donated styling services to Year 6 students to help them prepare for their year-end celebrations. A local vet offered free pet checkups and vaccinations to pets, also providing a valuable opportunity for children to spend time around animals and learn about the responsibilities of pet ownership.

Four family market days allowed families facing hardships to "shop" for free donated clothes, homewares, books, and toys. Recognising food expenses as a major financial challenge, the Food Program provided pantry essentials, takeaway meals,

emergency grocery vouchers, and family dinners at our centre. This practical support provided families with critical nutrition, respite, and connection during difficult times. Christmas initiatives included presents and holiday food hampers, supporting families through the festive season.

The Family Support Program extended beyond tangible needs in many ways. An eight-week parenting workshop, "Bringing Up Great Kids," offered solace and strategies to parents and carers. A cyber security workshop helped families improve their digital literacy and navigate the modern world.

These initiatives empowered families, fostering self-reliance and strengthening their support system. No matter what challenges a family encountered, the Family Support Program was ready to provide a listening ear, trauma-informed counselling, strategies, advice, advocacy, referrals, and a sense of belonging to all who needed it.

"It is truly amazing to have an organisation that is so caring and so supportive. The Girls & Boys Brigade has helped me through challenges that felt impossible to endure, and were there for me when I didn't have anyone else to turn to."

Parent at the GBB



Providing access to pantry essentials helps families address the challenge of food expenses



Vet day: supportive, informative, and so cute!

“The way that we have set this up within this building is a really respectful process. In other services that I’ve worked in, you have to fill out forms, show your Centrelink, all of that to be able to access food or support. Here, once a family has enrolled in our programs, that is the form, and then they step into a community. I’ve actually seen families hold back their tears, they cannot believe that this is what we offer.”

Stephanie, Family Support Officer

2,560

takeaway meals provided

900+

pantry packs provided

550

meals served at family dinners

407

contacts with families needing support

45

haircuts and styles provided to families at the GBB

20

dogs, cats, and birds who received vet care

12

parents who completed the “Bringing Up Great Kids” parenting workshop



2023 Year In Pictures



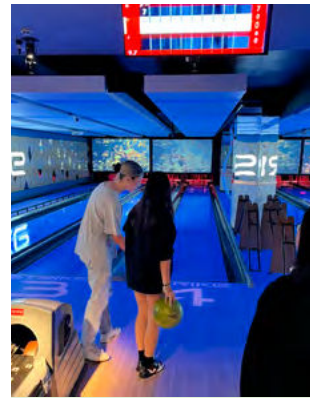
Building the foundation for a bright future



The early makings of a Michelin star establishment



Free haircut day



Strikes, spares, and smiles



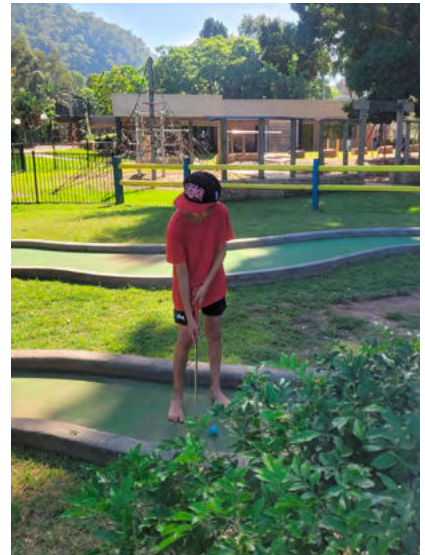
Collaboration "clicks" in the homework room!



The grocery haul that sustained 13 hungry campers



Sparking curiosity and lighting up young minds



Miniature golf madness



Reaching new heights



Non-stop lengthening and laughing during kids yoga



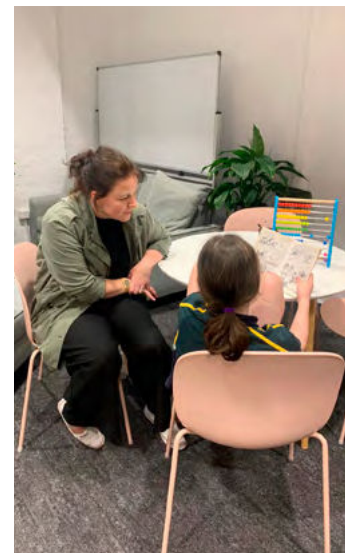
Practicing their driving skills



Optimistic views



GBB staff serving up support, care, and compassion



Learning and loving it!







Our Thanks

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our generous supporters who, with their kindness, have empowered numerous families to freely access our services throughout the year. Net of fundraising expenses, donations made to The Girls & Boys Brigade go directly to supporting programs for children, youth, and their families. Administrative costs are funded by The Girls & Boys Brigade Foundation, allowing your support to directly impact those in need.

Program Funding

We are very grateful for the following funders who have supported the delivery of our programs in 2023.

		<p>City of Sydney RSL & Community Club</p> <p>\$4,000 Vacation Care Program</p>
 <p>\$10,000 Camps</p>	 <p>\$15,000 Homework Program</p>	 <p>\$50,000 Children and Youth Program</p>
<p>John B. Foundation</p> <p>Building Renovations</p>	<p>Maple-Brown Family Foundation</p> <p>\$30,000 Program Support</p>	 <p>\$75,000 Youth Program</p>
 <p>\$42,500 Expressive Arts Program</p>	 <p>Transport Support</p>	 <p>\$27,000 Family Food Support</p>
<p>The Glendonbrook Foundation</p> <p>\$35,000 Family Support Program</p>	 <p>\$40,000 Program Support</p>	<p>WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT®</p> <p>Youth Program</p>

Acknowledgement of donors over \$1,000

Alan Cartwright	Damien Cronin	James Williams	Marten Touw
Allsopp Family Foundation	Daniel Gauchat AM	Janet Grimsdale	Olivia Edwards
Anabel Parbury	David Smithers	Jim Tait	Paul Masi
Andrew Buchanan	David Rankin	John Boden	Paul Strutt
Andrew & Prim Murray Family Foundation	Department of Communities and Justice	John B. Fairfax AO	Philip Gosse
Andy & Stephanie Fairfax	F. S Hesper	Josephine Strutt	Philip Meagher
Ann Corlett AM	Fiona Ratcliffe	Judy Brogan	Rob Rich
Annalise Thomas	Frances O'Riordan	Julian and Prue Reynolds	Rob Thomas
Annie & Henry Herron	Geoffrey Cottrell	Kate Hayward	Ruth Armytage AM
ATS Charitable Foundation	Gina Grubb	Kenneth Averre MBE	Sally Gosselin
Baillie Family Foundation	Graham McConnochie	Kenneth Reed AM	Sarah White
Brendon Bovill	Hamish Bowman	Kylie Harding	Susan Garvan
Bridgestar Pty Ltd	Helen Ashdown	Liz & Alex Torday	Tass Atgemis
Bryan Duignan	Howard N Tanner AM	Lorraine Tarabay	The Griffin Foundation
Cater Charitable Trust Fund	Ian Armstrong	Lynne Downes	William Bennett
Charles & Hannah Alexander	Jade Coppleson	Malcolm Reid	
		Margaret Arnott	

Corporate & community partners

All About Salon	Centuria Capital Pty Ltd	Jazzy Café Bar	Pure Foundation
Arthouse Kitchen	ChildFund Australia	John Macri	PwC Australia
ATYP	City Tattersalls Group	Kevin Chiew	Redcape Hotel Group
Australian Chamber Orchestra	Concentrix Catalyst	King & Wood Mallesons	Sancta Sophia College
B. Braun Australia	Count Charitable Foundation	Kristian Molloy	Sandersons Mercedes Benz Rushcutters Bay
Bank of Queensland	Crown Street Public School	Lord Mayor Councillor Clover Moore AO	Seven Islands Skincare
Barwon Investment Partners	Darlo Darlings	Michael Bogle	Share the Dignity
Beaumont People	Dropbox	Mike Galvin	SJB
Bell Shakespeare	Dymocks Children's Charities	Monkey Baa Theatre	Southern Cross Vet
Bella Restaurant & Wine Bar	Elms	Montgomery Investment Management	Story Factory
Black Star Pastry	Epoch Capital Pty Ltd	Morgans Financial Limited	Surry Hills Police
Blackheath Golf Club	Foodbank	National Rugby League	Sydney Roosters
Bloody Mary's Gazebo	Football Australia	Nexia Sydney	Taylor Construction
Blooms the Chemist Surry Hills	Frank Burgo Guitarist	OzHarvest	The Char Rotisserie
Bourke Street Public School	Gavin Coopey, More Strategic	Peak Investment Partners	Unispace
Callaway	Grand Royal Barbers	Plate It Forward	Western Sydney University Tax Clinic
Canva	Grill'd	Property Industry Foundation	Wombat Crossing Vineyard

Volunteers

Alyssa Warren	Helena Lehos	Margaret Sheehan	Rory Gunning
Amelie Rabreaud	James Gregory	Marta Marcos	Ryan Klaassen
Andy Fairfax	James Sutherland	Matt Clarke	Sam Gibbs
Blake Klaassen	Jean Findlay Gray	Mike Forsdick	Samantha Dunlop
Bryce Reedman	Judith Chapple	Nicholas Franzoi	Sarah Hunt
Caitlin Muir	Kate Mackay	Nicky Batt	Sarah Plaskitt
Carla Gina	Kathryn Salt	Nurjhan Toi-Konur	Sharon Dewera
Carol Lane	Katrina Holmes	Paul Strutt	Shurui Yi
Cheryl Chin	Kenneth Averre MBE	Phillip Burfurd	Trisha Williams
Craig Marshall	Laura Blanchard	Richard Flood	Vanessa Mitchell
Cristy Bhandary	Linda Strutt	Richard Locke	Zak Morcillo
Drew Sturgiss	Liz Stuart	Rita Mu	
Elanur Aslan	Lynette Votano	Rob Summers	
Harley Trickett	Maggie Grady	Robyn Dorey	



Treasurer's Report

Mike Forsdick, Treasurer

The Girls & Boys Brigade recorded an overall surplus in 2023 of \$391,705. This result includes one-off funding received to finish the renovation of the building, totaling \$573,696. After excluding this and the gain of \$87,124 on the investment portfolio, there was an operational loss for the year of \$269,115. These results are still subject to audit.

Across the board, the not-for-profit sector found 2023 to be a very challenging year for fundraising, particularly compared to 2022. The GBB was not immune from this, with a 14% decline in income raised to fund its operations.

The team still worked very hard, with limited resources, and managed to raise a comparable amount to 2021. Fundraising costs were down by 9% on the prior year.

The GBB Foundation provided \$260,000, which covered 94% of the GBB's administration expenses for the year.

Costs for the children, youth and family support programs increased by 9%. Inflationary pressure was a big part of this, but Stefan and the team continue to watch all costs carefully to ensure every dollar spent will help achieve the GBB's program objectives.

The GBB receives no direct support from the Government, so we are extremely grateful to all those individuals, family foundations and businesses that, year after year, make it all possible. Our gratitude also to PwC for the annual audit and advice over the year, all on an honorary basis. The Girls & Boys Brigade is a Deductible Gift Recipient, so all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

INCOME	2023	2022
Fundraising Income	\$894,399	\$1,151,550
Fundraising Event Income	\$312,909	\$250,958
Specific Funding for Building Works	\$573,696	\$1,443,895
Total Fundraising Income	\$1,781,004	\$2,846,403
Distribution from GBB Foundation	\$260,000	\$320,000
Net Income from Investments	\$87,124	-\$15,058
Other Income	\$4,831	\$4,642
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,132,959	\$3,155,987
EXPENSES		
Administration Expenses	\$277,180	\$272,004
Depreciation and asset write offs	\$61,727	\$101,379
Fundraising Event Expenses	\$76,291	\$63,612
Fundraising General Expenses	\$362,516	\$418,483
Program Expenses: Children's Program	\$468,694	\$427,163
Youth Program	\$287,454	\$266,130
Family Support	\$207,393	\$188,152
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$963,540	\$881,445
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,741,254	\$1,736,923
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	\$391,705	\$1,419,064



How you can help

There are many ways you can join us in helping kids in our community.

- Donating
- Leaving a gift in your Will
- Attending one of our events
- Volunteering
- Becoming a corporate partner

Board & Staff Information

President:

John B Fairfax AO

Chairman:

Paul Strutt

Treasurer:

Mike Forsdick

Directors:

Ruth Armytage AM

Samantha Dunlop

Andy Fairfax

Paul Masi

Joshua O'Rourke

Fiona Ratcliffe

Executive Officer:

Stefan Lamour-Jansson

Company Secretary

& Finance Officer:

Andrea Molloy

Office Manager:

Tory Leary

Programs Manager:

Tracy Clifton

Diane Crawford

Program Coordinators:

Stuart Wright

Melanie Fletcher

Youth Coordinator:

Bill Porter

Youth Support Officer:

Ashley Goren

Family Support Coordinator:

Stephanie Fett

Fundraising Manager:

Donna Taanman

Fundraising Communications

Coordinator:

Isabelle Bennett

Foundation Chairman:

Paul Masi

Founded:

Sydney 1882

ABN:

40 409 258 077

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Thank you for being a supporter and friend of The Girls & Boys Brigade.

Together, we can build capable young adults and thriving families.

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