

Stories from the GBB

SPRING EDITION 2024

Together we help kids & families thrive Your kindness fuels our mission this busy season

As we approach one of the busiest seasons at The Girls & Boys Brigade, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support. Your dedication and generosity make each story in this newsletter possible.

While many of us look forward to sunny days, holiday celebrations, and time with loved ones in the coming months, this season can be particularly challenging for others—especially those facing financial difficulties. The cost of childcare during school breaks, holiday presents, meals, and school supplies can be overwhelming when budgets are stretched thin. That's why I am so proud to be part of The Girls & Boys Brigade – an organisation committed to making sure no child falls through the cracks. Thanks to your support, we can assist families in meaningful ways and create joyful memories for young people.

For instance, this last term our teens were able to participate in a nutritional cooking program. Not only was it enjoyable and educational, but earning a certificate brought a great sense of accomplishment. Meanwhile, our children were thrilled to take part in Olympic-themed activities in the basement, a special initiative led by City of Sydney Toyota.

As you read through the other stories in this letter, I hope you share the joy I feel, knowing that your kindness is making a real difference — one book, one pair of shoes at a time. I am excited to see what we can accomplish together this summer!

Stefan Lamour-Jansson
Executive Officer



Check out our GBB Olympics Champions with their prizes!



Cooking up a storm with the OzHarvest NEST program



Empowering youth to walk tall

The power of a few pairs of “fresh winter kicks”

Worn-out shoes. That was Mr. Curly’s clue that some youth needed help.

Anyone with growing children knows the struggle and expense of keeping up with their ever-changing sizes. School uniforms, sports gear, weekend clothes, and winter coats all add up — especially shoes, which can be hard to find second-hand.

Mr. Curly began paying attention to the teen’s footwear. He noticed that many wore the same pair of worn-out shoes, regardless of the occasion – coming from school, playing basketball, or going on excursions.

“

I started asking about their shoes and soon learned that many of them had only one pair. They were trying to make do with footwear that was holding them back from fully participating in their activities.

-Mr Curly

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Recognising the need, Mr. Curly contacted Thread Together, a charity that had supported



GBB families before. They generously provided each child with two new pairs of shoes — one pair of black school trainers and one pair for sports, as well as some new hats.

“We presented the shoes as a ‘Christmas in July’ gift. It was heartwarming to see their excitement over their fresh winter kicks.”

Removing barriers for young people can take many forms. Sometimes, it’s providing a new pair of shoes, allowing them to confidently and comfortably seize every opportunity.

A young author in the making

How Ella's creativity flourished in the Homework Room

Ella, a sociable and bubbly girl at The Girls & Boys Brigade, is known for her natural leadership and energetic spirit. Whether leading skipping and gymnastics challenges in the basement or managing her busy "job" at the play restaurant upstairs, she thrives on activity and typically avoids the homework room — until recently.

"One day, I asked if she wanted to read a book," recalls Miss Rebecca. "She replied, 'No, I want to write a book.' And that's what she did!"

Ella not only wrote a book but created a captivating tale with seven chapters. The story

follows a young zoo worker who encounters a troublesome sloth, leading her on a series of wacky adventures.

The educators were amazed by Ella's dedication and creativity. "She even asked her mum not to pick her up early so she could stay and work on her book," says Miss Rebecca.

As if that wasn't enough, Ella has developed a passion for reading, often keeping her sister up late with her newfound enthusiasm. We're thrilled to see Ella's passion for learning and creativity blossom in the Homework Room thanks to your support!

Community Heroes Inspiring Children

Photos from our October school holiday adventures

This year, the team at the GBB have made the school holidays extra special by planning activities around special weekly themes. Not only are they fun and festive, but they also provide additional educational opportunities around culture, nature, science, and other cool topics. Recently, the children spent a week learning all about rescue heroes within our community. Here are a few photos of their adventures!

Taking our knowledge to new heights with the mounted police



Patting the cutest police dogs



Learning from the lifeguards at Maroubra Beach



Making Strides and Changing Lives

City2Surf Team Raises Funds for The Girls & Boys Brigade

Just a few blocks from The Girls & Boys Brigade stands the historic Yirranma Place, a building rich in history much like our own centre. Since 2019, it has been transformed by the Paul Ramsay Foundation into a precinct for purpose focused on a shared mission: shifting conditions to stop disadvantage in Australia.

We are thrilled to announce that The Girls & Boys Brigade has been chosen by Yirranma Place as their charity partner for the 2024-2025 financial year. Building relationships can sometimes take time, but ours kicked off in an exhilarating way—literally, with a run!

This August, Yirranma Place was proudly represented by a team of twelve athletes who participated in the City2Surf, all fundraising for The Girls & Boys Brigade. Together, they collectively covered an impressive 168 kilometres, with each runner tackling 14 kilometres.

Their efforts raised a remarkable \$2,871 for the GBB which the Paul Ramsay Foundation generously matched dollar for dollar, bringing the total contribution to \$5,842.



Our team was privileged to celebrate this huge achievement with the Yirranma Place community at an amazing lunch at their building, put on by Two Good Co.

We are deeply moved by this incredible show of kindness and generosity. This support will significantly enhance our programs and serves as a powerful reminder of the impact communities can achieve when they unite for a common purpose.

Thank you for being part of our community and for all you do to help young people and families in need!



Follow our socials for more fun photos and feel-good stories about your impact!

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While the stories in this newsletter are true, names and identifying details have been altered to protect privacy.