



THE GIRLS & BOYS
BRIGADE




2025 Yearly Review

Message from the President



Writing this short piece in the Brigade's annual review is understandably an exercise in reflection. I am sure most of us contemplate how our children and grandchildren are going to handle the years ahead. In reading the Brigade's newsletters over the last year, I am inclined to feel we provide some answers.

There have been some wonderful and inspirational examples of how the Brigade has enhanced the lives of both individuals and families. Who would have thought one of our members would become a championship sumo wrestler? Who would have thought that the food pantry would be so meaningful?

Who would have thought that playground experience would help a child overcome the fear of simply playing or that a bicycle would be transformational? These are just a very few of the life changing experiences initiated by our dedicated staff and volunteers. Quite simply – it is uplifting.

In addition to our valuable donor base, there have been some very special corporate partners during the year who have helped us achieve our goals. My family has supported the Brigade since inception. For me it has been one of my most worthwhile endeavours. I cannot let it go. Neither should you.

John B. Fairfax AO

Message from the Chairman



In 2025, the Board focused on strengthening our Governance and Stewardship to meet modern expectations for the safety, well-being, and advancement of everyone at Riley Street.

When we first opened in 1882, 'Risk Management' wasn't a known term; focus was limited to fire insurance and fiduciary duty. Today, it is a vital pillar that goes beyond financial risk to rigorously prioritise a culture of child safety.

The GBB has built a platform where young people and their families feel safe, heard, and included. We believe this environment is only possible through transparency, a clear projection of our impact, and the maintenance of structured, dynamic operational controls.

My sincere thanks to my fellow Directors, the wonderful people who work and visit Riley Street, and the extraordinary people who support and generously give to The Girls & Boys Brigade.

Paul Strutt

Message from the Executive Officer



This year marks the halfway point of the Brigade's four-year strategic plan, Creating a Livelihood. It has been a year of thoughtful change, as we refined how we deliver our programs to strengthen connection, belonging, and opportunity for those we support.

At its core, this work is about building strong, inclusive communities — places where individuals feel seen, supported, and able to thrive. Achieving this takes more than any single program or organisation, it relies on the collective effort of many: staff, volunteers, partners, families, and supporters, all contributing their time, care, and expertise.

As we reviewed our progress, we were reminded that meaningful impact is only possible through this shared commitment. Supporting the most vulnerable is not the responsibility of one, but of many working together with purpose. This shared effort reflects the strength and resilience at the heart of our community.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who plays a role in this work. Your ongoing support helps create stronger, more connected communities and brighter futures for those who need it most.

Stefan Lamour-Jansson

About our Beneficiaries



Guided by our mission to support children, young people and their families to thrive, we continued to advance our Reconciliation Action Plan and embed sustainable practices across our centre in 2025, striving for excellence in inclusion, cultural respect and responsible operations.

100%

of young people come from a low-income household.

94%

live in social housing or are experiencing housing stress.

70%

of young people rely on a single parent or carer.

58%

are culturally and linguistically diverse.

20%

of young people are First Nations.

12%

of young people are neurodiverse.

What we did in 2025 in our Children's Program



Children got a taste of the big leagues with team-building drills at Sydney Swans HQ.



Camps allowed children to expand their worlds and make lifelong memories.



Vacation Care exposed children to fun, expressive, and skill-building activities.

Real World Educational Experiences

The Children's Program held a number of activities to build on outreach efforts and expose children to new experiences, such as:

- Learned about water safety, rips, and currents from coastal lifeguards
- Football Canterbury soccer workshops
- A tour of Nour restaurant through our partnership with ESCA Hospitality Group

Building Lifelong Memories at Camp

The GBB hosted 6 camps for young people in 2025, providing endlessly fun experiences while also encouraging children to practice life skills outside of their usual home environment:

- Preparing simple meals and helping with household chores like setting the table
- Showering, getting dressed, brushing teeth and caring for personal belongings

Enriching Vacation Care Programs

2025 programs focused on enriching activities in nature and expressive arts, while prioritising:

- Providing a supportive environment where children felt safe to express themselves
- Connection to one's own culture and exposure to other cultures from around the world
- Accessibility regardless of physical ability

A Lifelong Love of Learning

Children were encouraged to attend the Homework Program daily during school terms, helping them to:

- Build positive habits and persistence
- Work on schoolwork and educational goals
- Develop trust and receive support from educators and volunteers

What that meant for children 5-12 Years Old

Amber (8) hopes to become a chef.

During their tour of Nour, Amber was exposed to both the front-of-house and back-of-house operations, where she:

- Spoke to real chefs about their job
- Broadened her culinary horizons trying new diverse foods and making mocktails
- Expressed aspirations to become a chef



Children broadened their worlds through play, collaboration, and trying new things.

Santi (8) got to camp for the first time.

Santi's dad was reluctant to send him to camp due to a significant language barrier and depression standing in the way. The GBB:

- Met with Santi's father each Monday to coordinate logistics, using online translation services and printed pictures
- Ultimately helped Santi overcome barriers and attend camp, which he loved



Many children enjoyed excursions that they otherwise could not afford, like the zoo.

While kids had fun, parents had respite.

Jinaye (mum) expressed gratitude for Vacation Care, stating, "The focus on creative arts was fabulous. Dancing, acting, and using their bodies to create art helps their emotional development and self expression. They came home with countless creations showcasing their brains at work. I'm so grateful."



The Homework Program empowered children to learn by removing barriers.

Emma (12) earned a full scholarship.

Emma has been attending the Homework Program for 4 years, working diligently and serving as a positive role model to her peers. In 2025, she was awarded a full scholarship covering her education through to Year 12. This is a testament to her hard work and the impact of the support of the Homework Program.

What we did in 2025 in our Youth Program



Swim-focused programs helped teens build skills, stay active, and have fun.



In partnership with ESCA Hospitality Group, teens earned experience and employment.



Teens loved activities involving food, especially going out to eat at restaurants.

School Holiday Programs That Matter

We delivered engaging, purpose-driven school holiday programs across the year, including “Into The Blue” in April, which:

- Built swimming skills through daily lessons at local swimming pools
- Strengthened emotional wellbeing through sessions with guest speakers

Pathways to Employment

Through our partnership with ESCA Hospitality Group, young people stepped into real-world hospitality placements across Sydney venues. They gained:

- Hands-on industry experiences
- Valuable professional references
- Pathways into apprenticeships and part-time work

Youth-Led Program Evolution

In response to feedback, we redesigned our youth program model — shifting from in-centre activities to age-specific, experience-based outings, including:

- Cultural immersion experiences
- Creative industry exposure (music, theatre, media)

Removing Barriers to Participation

We saw clear peaks in attendance when offering experiences that are often financially out of reach. As much as possible, we leveraged partnerships to offer activities like:

- Surfing
- Community and cultural events
- Shared meals and outings

What that meant for youth 12-18 Years Old

→ Isaiah (14) developed a new skill.

Isaiah began the April holidays unable to swim. By the end of “Into The Blue”:

- He could swim 25 metres of freestyle
- He expressed pride in his progress
- He was motivated to continue learning
- He built confidence by overcoming challenges and learning something new

→ Liam (15) jumpstarted his future.

Liam completed his hospitality placement, meeting all expectations set by ESCA Hospitality Group. This has led him to:

- Secure a hospitality apprenticeship
- Receive financial support for TAFE
- Open his first bank account with the help of the Youth Coordinators at The GBB

→ Sione (13) expanded his worldview.

Exposure to creative and cultural industries gave young people insight into careers they had never considered. Moments like these expand horizons and shape future aspirations.

“I didn’t even know that was a job.” - Sione

→ Mariam (15) discovered her passion.

Through beach-based wellbeing programs at The GBB, one young person discovered a deep connection to surfing. With support from The GBB and Waves of Wellness, they were gifted participation in an 8-week surf program, continuing to explore her newly discovered passion.



Many teens earned food preparation certificates while expanding their skills.



Teens were exposed to many careers and activities including music production.



Joint activities and camps with other services helped increase the impact and the fun.

What we did in 2025 in our Family Support Program



Women parents and carers were pampered on International Women's Day.



Families were supported practically and through shared recreational experiences.



Family dinners provided families with food support and community connection.

Support that Stretches Further

In 2025, we strengthened our support by partnering with a broad network of services, facilitating 5,652 instances of support, including:

- Food relief, clothing, toys, household items
- Education and employment support
- Support with housing and legal issues
- Health services and NDIS advocacy

Healthier Options for All

The Food Program was evaluated based on the key pillars of the GBB, with plans to improve:

- A movement away from processed food in our pantry, shifting toward fresher food
- More collaboration between staff and young people to build menus for vacation care and camps that are nutritious, appealing, and adequately meeting needs

Casework Meets Community

Recognising the positive impact of a strong support network when facing challenges, we provided individual support as well as community-building opportunities, including:

- Parent/carer meetups and family dinners
- Free family 'markets' at The GBB with opportunities for parents and carers to volunteer

Building the Family Support Team

Family Support has become one of the most essential and impactful services at The GBB. As demand for support with complex challenges has grown, so has our team.

- A new Family Support Coordinator was hired in 2025, helping share the load and further increase impact to our families

What that meant for families In Our Community

→ Zahra got a NSW Photo ID Card.

After fleeing her home country, Zahra has worked hard with The GBB and other agencies to get ahead in life for herself and her son. Getting a Photo ID Card allowed Zahra to:

- Complete an Aged Care Certificate at TAFE
- Find casual work at a nursing home
- Receive sponsorship to complete a nursing diploma

→ Keiji discovered new meal ideas.

As a newcomer to Australia, Keiji was familiar with the culture shock of going to the grocery store and seeing unfamiliar options. The Food Program at The GBB meant that:

- Keiji could try prepared meals from various cultures and make friends at family dinners
- Despite financial barriers, Keiji could access a variety of fresh, healthy options

→ Hannah and Lani found employment

For families experiencing complex challenges, overcoming barriers to employment (caregiving responsibilities, transportation, etc.) can seem impossible. Through The GBB:

- Two parents leaned on their volunteer experience at The GBB 'markets' and gained employment with other local community markets

→ Families could rely on The GBB.

Family support work is never finished at The GBB - challenges are ongoing. Unfortunately, our team sometimes experiences challenges of their own. The addition of a second Family Support Coordinator means that families can continue to rely on us even if one team member is unwell or away from work.



Serving food at family dinners allowed children to practice their restaurant skills.



Through partnership with Revolve reCYCLING, families received bicycles.



Intergenerational families made cherished memories at our Christmas celebration.

2025

Our Year in Pictures



Children build skills and teamwork during soccer drills led by Football Australia.



Teens swap scrolling for strolling through the Art Gallery of NSW, connecting with art and each other.



Homework room or comic studio? Sometimes, it's both!



Just "hanging around" at PCYC during school holidays.



Extra! Extra! Old paper gets recycled into new.



Outreach efforts help us spread our mission.



No dramas feeding the llamas! Even some children who are typically shy or scared gave it a try.



The GBB basement is the perfect place to play, connect, and release energy.



Photos of collage photos in a photo collage...crazy!



Taking in the view



Teens challenge themselves to conquer fears and learn new things.



Time spent in nature is time very well spent.



Children eagerly share their thoughts and ideas in an interactive tour at the Art Gallery of NSW.



Vacation care activities help build friendships, belonging, and community.



Children learn to care for nature through hands-on discovery.



There is never a dull moment at Inflatable World!



Teens work on their strokes during school holidays.



Budding artists get inspired at the Art Gallery of NSW.

Our Thanks













We're incredibly grateful to our generous supporters whose kindness has helped ensure families can access our services freely throughout the year.

Importantly, net of fundraising costs, 100% of every donation to The Girls & Boys Brigade goes directly to programs supporting children, young people, and their families. Our administrative costs are covered by The Girls & Boys Brigade Foundation, meaning your contribution has a direct and meaningful impact on those who need it most.



Program Funding

We are very grateful for the following funders who have supported the delivery of our programs in 2025.

		 \$25,000	 \$40,000
ATS Charitable Foundation	 \$31,794	Collier Charitable Fund \$25,000	 \$20,000
	Equity Trustees Charitable Foundation The Yeh Family Bequest \$3,746	The Glendonbrook Foundation \$50,000	 \$5,000
The Griffin Foundation \$20,000	 \$50,000	 \$15,000	 \$100,000
 \$40,000	Maple-Brown Family Foundation \$50,000	 \$57,000	 \$4,000
St George Foundation Limited \$50,000	 \$20,000	WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT® \$94,161	 Thank you so much!

Acknowledgements

Donors Over \$1,000

Alan Cartwright	Frederick Stuart & Faye Hespe	John Kell	Providence Philanthropic Foundation
Allsop Family Foundation	Geoffrey Cottrell	John Roca	Rob Rich
Anabel Parbury	Gina Grubb	Josephine Strutt	Rob Thomas
Andrew & Prim Murray Family Foundation	Graham J O'Neill	Julia Tregoning	Robert Waterford
Andrew Buchanan	Hamish Bowman & Rob	Kate Hayward	Roger Tallboys
Andy Fairfax	Harcourts Foundation	Kenneth Averre MBE	Ruth Armytage, AM
Ann Corlett AM	Summers	Kenneth Reed, AM	Sally Gosselin
Annalise Thomas	Howard N Tanner AM	Kevin Medida	Sally White
Antoinette Albert	Ian Armstrong	Khalil Sader	Samantha Dunlop
Baillie Family Foundation	Ian Napier	Lorraine Tarabay	Susan Garvan
Ben Folkard	Ian Wenham	Madeleine Adams	Susie Manfred
Camilla Gray	Jackson Pierce	Margaret Sheehan	Tass Atgemis
Charles & Hannah Alexander	James Williams	Mark Chapple	The Griffin Foundation
Colleen Reid	Janet Grimsdale	Mike Forsdick	Timothy Smith
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Epoch Capital Pty Ltd	Jill Shapiro	Patricia Bergin	
Emily Simpson	Jim Tait	Philip Gosse	
Frances O'Riordan	John B. Fairfax AO	Philip Pierce	
	John Boden	Philippa Strutt	

Corporate & Community Partners

A & H Salon	Centennial Parklands	Inner Sydney High School	Story Factory
Adaptovate	ChildFund Australia	Monkey Baa Theatre	Surry Hills Youth Police Liaison Officer and DFV Officer
All About Salon	Kristian Molloy Design	Morgans Financial Limited	Sydney City Toyota
AltX Foundation	City of Sydney RSL Club	Morgans Foundation	Sydney Roosters
ASX Refinitiv Foundation	City Tattersalls Club	NEAMI Financial	Sydney Swans
ATYP	Crown Street Public School	Nexia Sydney	Taylor Construction
Barwon Investment Partners	Darlington Community Garden	Paul Ramsay Foundation	The Youth Block
Beaumont People	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations	Peak Investment Partners	Thread Together
Belgravia Lesuire	Dropbox Australia	Perseus Finance	Toyota Finance
Bell Shakespeare	Epoch Capital Pty Ltd	PMDL Architecture & Design	Turnkey Promotions
Blooms the Chemist Surry Hills	ESCA Hospitality Group	Pure Foundation - Symbols of Hope	Two Good Co
Bourke Street Public School	FBI Radio	Revolve ReCYCLING	Vidzero
Bridgestar Pty Ltd	Football Australia	Salvation Army	Wentworth Travel
Bunnings Rozelle	Heather Beeken Growth Yoga	Share the Dignity	Yirranma Place
Canva	Howatson & Co	Southern Cross Vet Clinic	

Volunteers

Ahmuda Smith	Diana Nguyen	Judith Chapple	Peta Toohey
Amelie Rabreaud	Helena Lehos	Kenni Okwu	Rob Summers
Amy Hernandez	Jane Palin	Liz Furby	Taylor Reid
Caitlin Muir	Jenna Raphaely	Lynette Votana	Tess Buckley
Carol Lane	Joshua Roesberg	Margaret Sheehan	

Gifts In-Kind

Aesop	Blackheath Golf Club	Mud Australia	Sydney Theatre Company
Abundant Byron Pty Limited	Body WRL	Pamela and Ian McGaw	Taronga Zoo
Alemais	Corduroy Wines	RCVRI Wellness Studio	The Lakes Golf Club
Ann Marshall, Glow it forward	Gewurtzhaus	Sarah Curtis Designs	Wombat Crossing Vineyard
Art Gallery of NSW	GolPhin	St Michael's Golf Club	
Baillie Family Foundation	Jane Pallin	Sydney Opera House	

Message from the Treasurer



The Girls & Boys Brigade recorded an overall deficit in 2025 of \$239,566. After excluding the net income of \$52,895 from investments, there was an operational loss for the year of \$292,451. Highlights for 2025 included:

- Fundraising increased by 31%, which was an excellent outcome, given the continuing tough environment. The strategy to diversify and build revenue streams, including a new focus on philanthropy, and the growth achieved as a result has more than covered the cost of the extra resources to drive this initiative.
- Income from The GBB Foundation of \$500,000 was \$240,000 less than in 2024, but this still covered virtually all the administration costs in 2025.
- There were external consulting fees of \$134,000, relating to specific projects which will support the future growth of The GBB. The demand for services continues unabated and there are plans in development to meet those increasing needs. Growth in the size of the team and inflation resulted in a 13% increase in the other expenses for the year.
- During the year, the GBB team increased by 2 permanent and 1 part time, with 15 employees by year end.

The 2025 results are still subject to audit by ECOVIS Clark Jacobs, our pro bono auditors. The full audited financial statements will become available on The GBB website in July.

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, enable The GBB to make such a difference to so many families. The Girls & Boys Brigade is a Deductible Gift Recipient, so all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Michael Forsdick



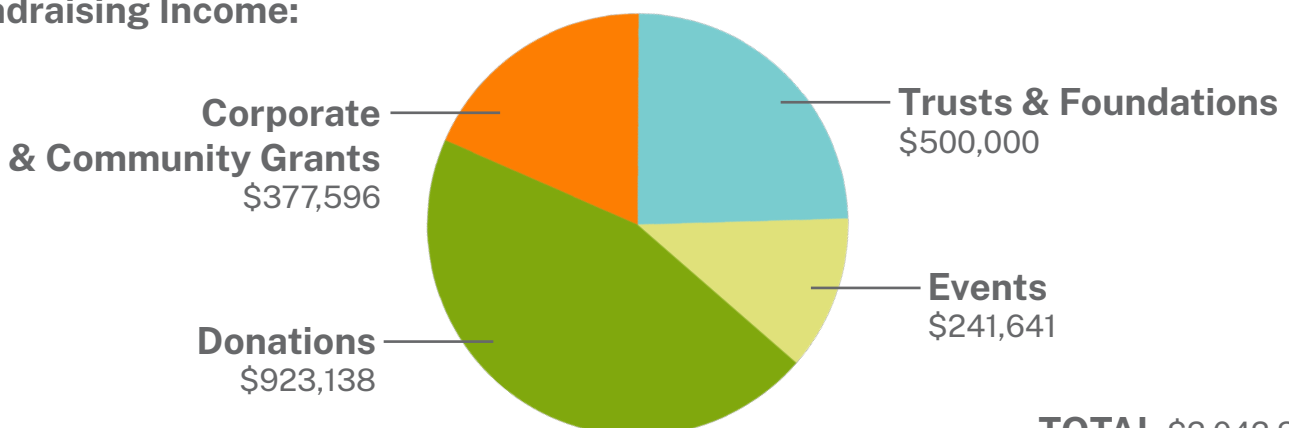
What that meant for families

Detailed Income

For the Financial Year to 31 December 2025

INCOME	2025	2024
• Fundraising Income	\$1,300,734	\$1,019,083
• Fundraising Event Income	\$241,642	\$161,260
Total Fundraising Income	\$1,542,376	\$1,180,343
• Distribution from GBB Foundation	\$500,000	\$740,000
• Net Income from Investments	\$52,895	\$105,532
• Other Income	\$9,995	\$5,347
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,105,266	\$2,031,222
EXPENSES	2025	2024
• Administration Expenses	\$376,667	\$262,809
• Consultancy Fees	\$133,699	\$19,635
• Depreciation and Asset Write Offs	\$90,890	\$86,064
• Fundraising Event Expenses	\$82,306	\$56,361
• Fundraising General Expenses	\$529,992	\$430,395
• Program Expenses: -Children's Program	\$586,349	\$606,909
-Youth Program	\$252,270	\$245,964
-Family Support Program	\$292,649	\$277,118
Total Program Expenses	\$1,131,268	\$1,129,991
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,344,822	\$1,985,255
NET SURPLUS/(DEFECIT)	(\$239,556)	\$45,967

Fundraising Income:



TOTAL \$2,042,375

Privacy Matters

To protect the privacy of the young people and families at The GBB, the images in this report are intended for viewing only by our trusted supporters. We kindly ask that they are not photographed, scanned, or shared beyond this printed document. A digital version with anonymised imagery will be available on our website for those who wish to share it more broadly. Thank you for helping us safeguard the privacy of children.

Board & Staff Information

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Melanie Fletcher (Family
Liason)

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Bill Porter (Outreach)

Curly Fernandez (Strategic
Partnerships)

Program Support Officers:

Camilla Fitzsimmons (Program
Support)

Rebecca Lamour (Children's
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Family Support**Coordinators:**

Stephanie Fett

Orla Ryan

Connect With Us

Join our community online and see the difference you're helping create. You can also show support by donating, leaving a gift in your Will, volunteering your time and skills, attending an event, becoming a corporate partner, or sharing our mission with others.



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