



CHILDHOOD  
CANCER SUPPORT

November  
2014

Heart to Heart



## A word from the GM

**"It's been an exciting month for all of us at Childhood Cancer Support with the launch of our NEW website..."**

A very big thank you to our very own staff member Sarah Amos who managed the project from its beginning and to Colin Brown from Supebbles (also a CCS board member) for his expertise and advice in this area. We are very proud of the new website 'look and feel', with its gorgeous images of many CCS families, the inspiring 'Meet our Community' stories and so much more. Our aim was to put CCS families front and centre and I think we've achieved that. I hope you like it!

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe, healthy and very Merry Christmas and New Year! In 2015 we look forward to celebrating a huge milestone with you - Childhood Cancer Supports' 40<sup>th</sup> year of service to regional families!

**- Lisa Godier, General Manager**

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Photography sessions with Andy Graves | Coffee, Cake & Chat every Wednesday at 2pm

# COMING UP...

## December

- 4 School Holidays Start
- 6 CCS Families Christmas Party
- 17 Free Photoshoot session with Andy Graves
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Boxing Day

## January

- 1 New Years Day
- 26 Australia Day
- 30 Friday Family BBQ

## Ongoing

**Wednesday:** Coffee Cake & Chat



# Childhood Cancer Support presents the new website, just in time for Christmas...



It's been a long time coming, but at the Childhood Cancer Support Staff and Supporter's Christmas Party earlier this month, we were proud to present our new-and-improved website.

and present residents of CCS.

Over the coming months, Childhood Cancer Support will be looking to re-work our Talk Like a Pirate Day website page to link succinctly with the



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The new website includes new pages of information for some of our more recent project endeavours such as our Creative Art for Wellbeing Program and Everyday Hero, and we now have specific panels for families, corporate partners, and individuals or groups who continue to contribute or support our organisation.

We have specific pages dedicated to introducing our staff and Board members, and a "Meet our Community" tool which allows users to read some stories from past

changes to our homepage. We are very excited for these new updates to our online platforms, particularly in light of 2015 marking Childhood Cancer Support's 2015 anniversary... so if you want to keep up to date with all the latest CCS changes and exciting events news, watch this space!

Special thanks to Board member Colin Brown and staff member Sarah Amos for getting the website up and running.

To check out our new website for yourself, go to [www.ccs.org.au](http://www.ccs.org.au) and have a browse.

# The Rethamel's Story...

The Rethamel family stayed with Childhood Cancer Support for almost 8 months in 2014. Before they left in November, the Rethamel's generously offered to share their story...

"On the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014, our youngest daughter Lucy (age 8 years), was diagnosed with A.L.L (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia). Within 24 hours, we found ourselves in Brisbane, some 1,350kms away from home in Townsville (Northern QLD).

## "Our world collapsed".

Our two eldest daughters remained in Townsville. At the time, we had no idea of what lay ahead for us, let alone where we were going to stay whilst in Brisbane. All that mattered at that desperate time, was that we were by Lucy's side. Thankfully, we had grandparents that were able to relocate to Townsville to care for our elder daughters.

We will be forever grateful when in the following days, Margi Ward (the Family Support Officer from CCS) approached us on word to make us aware of the support services that Childhood Cancer Support provided families like ours. We were fortunate enough to be offered a unit within weeks.

Our unit (TDH4) soon became our 2<sup>nd</sup> home over the course of the next 9 months. We decorated it with Lucy's artwork, filled it with special family photos and grew in love with everything about it. It became our sanctuary; our safe haven when Lucy's neutrophils were low and where we could escape the turmoil of chemotherapy.

Chloe and Sophie (Lucy's much loved elder sisters) visited us often during school term and stayed each holiday. The holiday programs offered by CCS were a welcome distraction for them and provided hours of entertainment.

Childhood Cancer Support became much more than an accommodation provider – lifelong friendships were formed with other residents and the staff.

We are going to miss these friends when we are home. We would suggest to join in the CCS

family and take part in the many extra services that they offer – take some time out and book in a massage, join in and go to the monthly BBQ's when you can – and say hi to Lois and Brian for us! The weekly Coffee, Cake & Chat on Wednesdays are also an opportunity to meet others and just take some time out.

We will miss the afternoons when all you could hear were the giggles from the kids playing in the playground, the impromptu chats with other parents – who we realised were a great comfort to us in times of need and a support that we appreciated. Lucy will miss her "day job" in the office. She became "Chief Shredder" and Gina welcomed her each day and genuinely took the time to make her feel special.

Cancer sucks, without a doubt. But when it is your child suffering, it is the most insidious disease there is. We will be forever grateful to CCS for providing our family with a home for our stay in Brisbane."



To read more stories like the Rethamels', go to our website: [www.ccs.org.au/meet-our-community/](http://www.ccs.org.au/meet-our-community/)

# The Good Guys – the name speaks for itself!

Childhood Cancer Support is excited to announce the The Good Guys at Mt Gravatt have generously donated a brand new entertainment system to be fitted in our on-site Community Room!

The entertainment package includes a 58inch flat screen TV, sound bar, DVD player and a stack of Dvd's.

A representative from the Good Guys will be visiting Childhood Cancer Support in the coming weeks to present and install

## THE GOOD GUYS

their generous donation, just in time for the school holidays!

A special thankyou to everyone at the Mt Gravatt store for their continued support and generosity! Our families are going to love relaxing in the air-con and watching movies on the brand new big-screen!

## Talk Like a Pirate Day: This just in...

Even three months on, can you believe that funds raised for Talk Like a Pirate Day are STILL trickling in?! We have to admit we are pretty impressed!

We are also extremely proud to announce that Childhood Cancer Support has officially had more than \$30,000 raised by some truly generous and dedicated supporters!

We are so grateful to everyone who played a part in Talk Like a Pirate Day this year, and we sincerely hope it was an enjoyable event for you all. We're looking forward to next year already, and hope to see everyone again soon!



## TO ALL ONCOLOGY FAMILIES: IMPORTANT TRANSPORT INFORMATION

In light of the opening of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, Childhood Cancer Support is offering **free Monday to Friday transport services for all oncology families**, no matter where they're staying. **Bookings are essential.**

To check out the timetable and fill out a registration form to utilise this services, please contact the CCS Office on (07) 3252 4719 or email [info@ccs.org.au](mailto:info@ccs.org.au) today.

# The generosity of our supporters: Recruit Restore donate \$10K to Childhood Cancer Support...

*This month, Childhood Cancer Support was humbled to receive an incredible donation of \$10,000, fundraised by Stacey Cowan and Virginia Williams from Recruit Restore.*

In January 2011, Virginia's son Charlie was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer at just 4 years of age. The family were given the prognosis and told Charlie would have to undergo 9 months of treatment involving radiation and chemotherapy.

While Virginia is happy to report that Charlie is doing well, the Williams family now know all too well some of the hardships you have to overcome when faced with childhood cancer.

As a result, Virginia is dedicated to supporting several organisations devoted to helping families and children affected by cancer in whatever way she can.

Stacey and Virginia got involved with Childhood Cancer Support earlier in the year, and have since established themselves within the organisation as extremely kind-hearted and genuine people.

"We have witnessed that with just a little bit of help, hope and support the human spirit can lift to tremendous proportions", the Recruit Restore team explain. "We want to do what we love i.e. recruit for our clients with the best candidates we can source whilst at the same time give something back".

Stacey and Virginia presented the \$10,000 cheque at the Childhood Cancer Support Staff and Supporters Christmas party, which was gratefully and proudly received by CCS General Manager, Lisa Godier.



"Recruit Restore's generous donation will be put towards a new smaller transport vehicle for Childhood Cancer Support families", Lisa says. "With the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital now open in South Brisbane, we need more resources for transportation from Herston more than ever."

"While Childhood Cancer Support does intend to move to the south side of Brisbane within the next 12 - 18 months, it is important that during the transition, we are able to accommodate and cater to the needs of our families in getting them to and from the hospital, the airport, and general shopping ventures."

On behalf of the staff and all the families here at Childhood Cancer Support, we offer our most heartfelt thanks to Recruit Restore's continuous support and humbling generosity.

To find out more about Recruit Restore, go to [www.recruitrestore.com.au](http://www.recruitrestore.com.au)

Or to find out how you can become a supporter of Childhood Cancer Support like Stacey and Virginia, check out our website at [www.ccs.org.au](http://www.ccs.org.au)

**Recruit Restore**  
Towards something better

# Brisbane Girls Grammar Visit CCS

Some of the girls from Brisbane Girls Grammar visited us for Coffee Cake and Chat one Wednesday afternoon this month, bringing with them a \$600 cheque donation!

Several of our families and the kids enjoyed some yummy snacks and story-swapping... our kids were especially delighted when we were presented with "Big Bear" at the end of the day! Thankyou ladies, it was lovely having you, and your contribution is very much appreciated!



BRISBANE GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# The Childhood Cancer Support Christmas Appeal

Each year, CCS holds a special Christmas party for past and present residents and other oncology families in December. For most, Christmas is a time of year to get excited about, to spend time with the people we love, and enjoy the gift of giving. For many oncology families, however, Christmas can be a struggle. Cancer has a tendency to keep families apart, and take its toll on financial stability, regardless of the time of year.

It is for this reason that CCS is passionate about ensuring that every child dealing with cancer doesn't forget there is a life to be lived and enjoyed. This year, CCS is advertising to supporters the opportunity to donate to our Christmas Appeal.

By donating just \$25, you ensure that an oncology family's child gets a special Christmas present from Santa himself. Please help us put some smiles on little faces – it makes a world of difference.

Donate today by following the link: <https://www.goodcompany.com.au/charity/Childhood-Cancer-Support/Christmas-Gift-from-Santa>



# FREE PHOTOGRAPHY SESSIONS FOR CCS FAMILIES

Living in an unfamiliar city for an uncertain period of time, when your child's recently been diagnosed with cancer, is not an ideal situation for anyone. It can be hard to find a "home away from home", and building close support networks within your immediate vicinity can take time.

That's why CCS has teamed up with generous supporter Andy Graves from Essence of Time Photography, who has put together a photography program for both CCS families and non-families who have children with cancer.

Professional photography can be beneficial in numerous ways, from allowing families to decorate their temporary lodgings with some beautiful family shots, to enjoying the therapeutic process of photography itself. Andy himself will be coming in to CCS to take relaxed, natural family photos as a free service to families once a month.



**This month, Andy will be visiting on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 3 – 5pm.**

If you're interested in utilising Andy's services, please contact the CCS reception and secure a spot on 07 3252 4719 or email [info@ccs.org.au](mailto:info@ccs.org.au).

To see more work by the **Essence of Time Photography**, go to [www.essenceoftime.com.au](http://www.essenceoftime.com.au)

## Childhood Cancer Support wins Grill'd Local Matters major cash donation!

This November, Childhood Cancer Support had the privilege to participate in the Grill'd Local Matters ongoing charity initiative at the South Bank restaurant.

Thanks to the generosity of burger buyers all over Brisbane, Childhood Cancer Support will be presented with the \$300 donation from Grill'd in a few weeks time.

A big thankyou to Grill'd South Bank for letting us participate in Local Matters, and to all generous supporters who helped us fill our jar!





# CHILDHOOD

CANCER SUPPORT

When your child is diagnosed with cancer, everything else in life takes a backseat.

Childhood Cancer Support provides something that every family needs in a crisis – a home away from home for the whole family; a place where the whole family can be together during a very challenging time.

Childhood Cancer Support is one of a kind – a family focused charity offering regional families a place to call home while their child is undergoing life-saving treatment.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT, GO TO  
[WWW.CCS.ORG.AU](http://WWW.CCS.ORG.AU)

MAKE A DONATION  
BECOME A VOLUNTEER

