



Heart to Heart

Monthly Newsletter



WELCOME LAURA GEITZ

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HAIL TO THE BUS DRIVERS

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10-WEEK PROGRAM

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CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT IS VISITING TOWNSVILLE

And we want to see you!
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COMING UP...

April

- 3 Good Friday
- 5 Easter Sunday
- 6 Easter Monday
- 10 –
- 12 Camp Crystal
- 15 Gong Meditation
- 28 Townsville Visit!

May

- 14 Day 1 of 10-Week Program
- 21 Day 2 of 10-Week Program
- 28 Day 3 of 10-Week Program

Ongoing

Wednesday: Coffee Cake & Chat



CHILDHOOD
CANCER SUPPORT

A word from the GM...

“CCS has some big news to share!

Since the opening of the Lady Cilento Children’s hospital at South Brisbane last November, CCS has been actively looking for a suitable site near the hospital to deliver additional accommodation services for regional oncology families.

Childhood Cancer Support is delighted to announce the opening of its new, short-term accommodation facility located less than 800m away from the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital in South Brisbane.

The short term accommodation at CCS South Brisbane will be ideal for regionally-based families who are required to return to Brisbane overnight or for short periods for post-treatment appointments and check-ups at the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital. The new site at 87 Annerley Road will also offer a *Recharge Room* to all oncology families who need a break from the hospital. Here, families will be able to utilise a fully equipped kitchen to prepare a meal, watch TV, relax on one of the comfortable lounges, take a nap, access the internet – in general, recharge their batteries!

These facilities will be available to oncology families from mid-2015 onwards. CCS Herston will continue to operate as usual, delivering medium to long term accommodation for regional families.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Central Committee of Management for their extraordinary efforts in helping to secure this new site and for their ongoing dedication to oncology families. Stay tuned for more information on the date of our Official Opening!

There’s also a lot of other exciting things happening every week. I hope you enjoy reading about it all in this month’s Heart to Heart newsletter.”



Lisa Godier,
General Manager



Welcoming

LAURA GEITZ

Childhood Cancer Support Ambassador

Childhood Cancer Support is excited, and very pleased to welcome Laura Geitz, Captain of the Australian Netball Team, into the CCS Family as our official Ambassador.

"I am delighted to be the official ambassador for Childhood Cancer Support," Laura posted on Facebook on her official page. "These children are some of the most inspiring and loving souls you could ever wish to meet!"

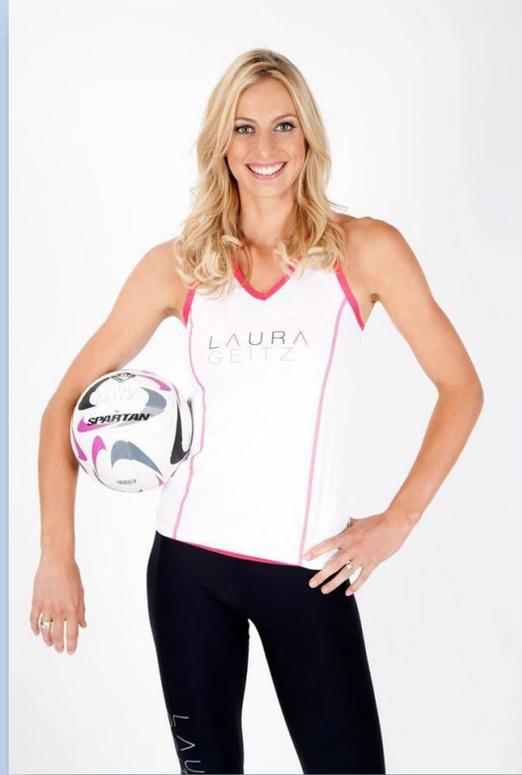
Laura is already well known to quite a few of our CCS Families, and we look forward to introducing her to many more!

She will also be our special guest speaker at our Ball in September this year.

Having grown up in country Queensland, Laura has a real understanding of the hardships that regional & rural families face when their lives are turned upside down.

Lookout for Laura when she travels through regional Queensland later in the year with her netball clinic, "Netspiration".

Welcome Laura!



www.ccs.org.au

Cancer never just affects the diagnosed. Carers and loved ones need support too.

Redkite offer extensive emotional support services to all oncology families throughout the entirety of their cancer journey. Redkite's services are available for children and young people (0-24 years) and those close to them with essential support, including:

- financial assistance to cover essential expenses, such as food, bills and fuel
- information, counselling and group support
- support to keep education and career goals on track
- support through grief and loss

Vanessa's Story



It was in January this year that 12-year-old Venessa from Windorah in outback Queensland, received the news that she had Ewing's sarcoma, a bone cancer known for affecting children and teenagers.

Vanessa says she felt disbelief and "fear of the unknown" upon hearing her diagnosis. Having just won the Tamblyn Models contest based in Brisbane, it was a difficult reality to digest.

Shortly after receiving the news, Vanessa and her family made to relocate to Brisbane in order to receive life-saving treatment. The unpleasant news, mingled with sadness of having to leave home for an unknown period of time, made the move even harder.

Vanessa and her mother, Karen Monaghan, stayed briefly at Ronald McDonald House before moving to Childhood Cancer Support.

They were stunned to discover that CCS was the charity supported by Tamblyn Models.

"This is where we've ended up coming to live and it's just a home away from home now, they support us with all kinds of things." Karen explains. "You get there and you meet other people like yourself and we have another little family now that is just cancer orientated."

"That's our other support group now, and we're all the same at Childhood Cancer Support... They provide accommodation for people who don't live in Brisbane so we can't cry and whinge about not being home because everyone's exactly the same, we all miss home."

Karen added that seeing other young cancer patients successfully getting through their treatment has been a big inspiration and comfort over the last few months.

No family should have to tackle the battle against childhood cancer alone. If you think we can help someone you know, or if you would like to help us make a difference for the families who need it most, visit www.ccs.org.au and contact us today.



All colours of the rainbow! Vanessa is one photogenic young lady.

Call out for research participants...

Dr Fiona Lewis is a Speech-Language Pathologist from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, The University of Queensland. She has been researching language development in children following treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) since 2008.

Fiona is keen to hear of the experiences and opinions of parents of children treated for ALL between the ages of 2-5 years. These children can now be aged up to 16 years.

Fiona would also like to hear from children and adolescents currently aged 12-16 years who were treated for ALL between the ages of 2-5 years.

The information Fiona is after will be gained through the completion of a brief questionnaire/survey (15 -20 minutes for a parent to complete; 10 minutes for an older child/adolescent aged 12-16 years to complete) which can be sent by email or by reply-paid post.

Parent questions relate to the development of speech, language and social/play activities before, during and after treatment. In the older child/adolescent, the questions relate to current speech, language and social/play activities.

Fiona has ethical approval from the Behavioural & Social Sciences Ethical Review Committee at The University of Queensland to undertake the study.

Please contact Fiona (f.lewis@uq.edu.au or phone 3365 6087) for further information on the research or how to be involved in completing the questionnaire/survey.



HAIL TO THE BUS DRIVERS...

In the last four months, the Childhood Cancer Support bus service has embedded itself as one of most important services, transporting more than 450 passengers each month around Brisbane, particularly to and from the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

During this time, CCS has been lucky enough to have the incredible assistance and support of two excellent Transport Officers, Ray Garza and Scott Prenzler.

Ray and Scott quickly became intrinsic members of the CCS family, and are well known amongst our passengers for their good sense of humour and enthusiasm.

This last month, however, we've had to say farewell to one of our much-loved bus drivers Scott, who has moved on to greener pastures. While we will miss Scott and his silly antics, we count our blessings - at least we've still got the awesome Ray!

On a more positive note, it gives the team at Childhood Cancer Support great pleasure to welcome on board Gerry Heneghan, who will be taking Scott's place as our second Transport Officer. Welcome to the team, Gerry!



Ray Garza & Scott Prenzler, also known as the "Candy Man" and the "tallest human on earth".



Scott is well-known for being a "giant" clown!



Despite having to farewell Scott, we are delighted to welcome the lovely Gerry to the team!



CHILDHOOD
CANCER SUPPORT



CHILDHOOD

CANCER SUPPORT



healing

HEARTS

10-week Program

Dates:

WEEK 1	Thursday 14 th May
WEEK 2	Thursday 21 st May
WEEK 3	Thursday 28 th May
WEEK 4	Wednesday 3 rd June
WEEK 5	Thursday 11 th June
WEEK 6	Thursday 18 th June
WEEK 7	Thursday 2 nd July
WEEK 8	Thursday 9 th July
WEEK 9	Thursday 16 th July
WEEK 10	Thursday 23 rd July

Location: 87 Annerley Road, South Brisbane

Time: 12:30pm – 3:30pm

Register ONLINE or obtain a registration form at the Childhood Cancer Support.

Limited spots available, so register TODAY to secure your spot!

<http://ccs.org.au/what-we-do/creative-health-services/>

The HEALING HEARTS 10 Week program is an ongoing creative health service provided by Childhood Cancer Support. Its purpose serves to provide families and friends, dealing with the impacts of childhood cancer, with a safe and welcoming group environment to express feeling and thought through art.

Art therapy is inclusive of all ages and backgrounds, taking on a holistic approach to childhood cancer support. It treats the whole person – body, mind and soul – not just the symptoms.

The 10 Week Program will feature a wide variety of themed activities from painting, drawing, and collaging, to mask-making, sculpture and visual journaling.

Funded solely by Childhood Cancer Support, this service is free and open to all oncology families.

HEALING HEARTS

Empowering hearts through creativity



Teen Visual Journaling

Thursday 26th March
Thursday 30th April

TEENS ONLY (age 12 – 17 years) - guys and girls are invited to join in a hands-on work shop offering you a taste of creative visual journaling!

Journaling is a fantastic non-verbal way of communicating in a fun and creative way, allowing you to express your own true feelings and thoughts however you see fit.

Our qualified art therapist Tania Budd will be facilitating these workshops, and guiding participants through cool, artistic journaling techniques.

Hang out with other participants and get connected with your creative and intuitive sides within a safe and non-judgmental space!

All participants will be supplied with their own new journal and pen set that they can take home.

WHERE:

Childhood Cancer Support Community Room
11 Bramston Tce, Herston.

WHEN:

Thursday 26th March, 1 – 4pm
Thursday 30th April, 1 – 4pm

If you'd like to join, please complete contact the Office on 07 3252 4719.



Childhood
CANCER SUPPORT



Want to make a real difference?

Become a Heartfelt Supporter for Childhood Cancer Support.

Heartfelt Supporters play a huge role in allowing Childhood Cancer Support to continue providing the facilities and services that families need. In the 2013-2014 annual year, our Heartfelt Supporters raised more than \$35,000, which has helped immensely in providing accommodation maintenance and improvements, implementing our Creative Art for Wellbeing program (art therapy), transport services and assisting campaign initiatives.

A Heartfelt Supporter of CCS agrees to make an ongoing monthly donation, starting at a minimum amount of \$10. Your monthly donation will commence on the 1st each month and continue until further notice from you. All donations are tax deductible.

Sign up today at
<http://ccs.org.au/how-you-can-help/join-the-heartfelt-supports-club/>

Childhood Cancer Support is visiting **TOWNSVILLE**

Lisa Godier, General Manager and Rona Claffey, Fundraising & Events Manager, will be in Townsville to meet with our Townsville based CCS families, and our valued sponsors and supporters.

As a token of our appreciation for all your hard work and the ongoing support you give to us, we would love you to join us for lunch on **Tuesday 28th April, 2015**.

Details are:

Cowboys Leagues Club
Flinders Street, Townsville
12:00pm

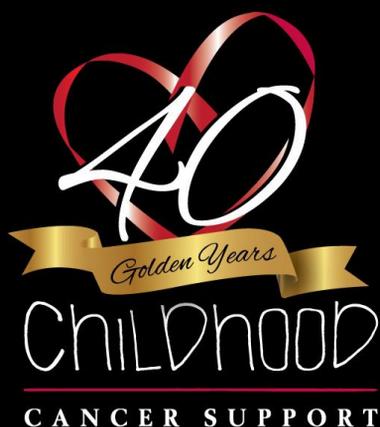
Please RSVP to Rona (rona@ccs.org.au) by **23/04/2015** for catering purposes.



www.ccs.org.au



Childhood
CANCER SUPPORT



*40 Golden Years
Gala Ball in aid of
Childhood Cancer Support*

Save the Date

Please keep Friday the 4th of September 2015 free for a Gala evening of dinner and dancing to raise funds for **Childhood Cancer Support**.

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and this year we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary.

Ticket Price \$175 per person - \$2100 per table of 12

Help celebrate Childhood Cancer Support's 40 years of service and raise awareness of the impact of childhood cancer.

For further info visit us at
www.ccs.org.au



ANDY GRAVES



ESSENCE OF TIME PHOTOGRAPHY FREE PHOTOSHOOTS



Living in an unfamiliar city for an uncertain period of time, when your child has 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.

"Andy's photos are just amazing. Our son looks like he is talking to you through the picture and it makes you want to know more about him – it was by far the best photo-shoot we have ever had. Andy was so good with the boys. He made them feel very relaxed around him and was thus able to get brilliant results." – The McKinnons



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. To see more work by the **Essence of Time Photography**, go to www.essenceoftime.com.au



Mackay Raft Race

Raising funds for Childhood Cancer Support
Saturday August 29th, 2015

Come and join us at Bluewater Quay on the beautiful Pioneer River for an afternoon of live music, entertainment and the highlight of the day – the Mackay Raft Race – as we celebrate Childhood Cancer Supports 40th Anniversary.

Get a team together to design, build and race your vessel to the finish line! The weirder, the wackier, the better!! You will be raising funds to help families of children with cancer, so get your crews together to participate in the fierce but friendly competition that is the Childhood Cancer Support's Mackay Raft Race!

Crews are: Maxi (10 – 12 people)
Squibs (4 - 6 people)
Rental Raft (6 people)

For further details or if you're interested in sponsoring this event, please contact us:

Childhood Cancer Support Office
Email: info@ccs.org.au
Tel: 07 3252 4719,

or phone our Mackay Childhood Cancer Support Ambassador, Bert Pulman on 0428 540 843





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**

**MAKE A DONATION
BECOME A VOLUNTEER**