

heart to heart

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF **CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT** ❤ FOR FAMILIES, BY FAMILIES



heart to heart



NEWSLETTER | CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT

PATRON

His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC,
Governor of Queensland

AMBASSADOR

Laura Geitz
Former Captain – Australian Netball Team 2016
Former Captain – Queensland Firebirds Netball Team

CORPORATE AMBASSADOR

Josie Thomson

FAMILY AMBASSADORS

Trevor & Tracey Rethamel	Townsville
Bert Pulman	Mackay
Casey Lindsay	Mackay
Tracey Single	Mackay
Anthony & Tamsyn Kiely	Rockhampton
Alan and Reniet Sanders	Stanthorpe
Nathan Hodge	Northern NSW
Sam Handley	Northern NSW

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Grant Hewitt	Treasurer
Leigh Eagle	Interim Secretary
Ryan Brough	Committee Member
Nick Dubravcic	Committee Member
Casey Lindsay	Committee Member
Bert Pulman	Committee Member
Michael Tizard	Committee Member
Amelia Wallwork	Committee Member

STAFF

Helen Crew	General Manager
Gina Garza	Administration Manager
Tamsyn Kiely	Family Support Officer
Jo Spencer	Finance Officer
Lucy-Kate Campbell	Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Matt Clacher	Maintenance Officer and Interim Transport Officer

CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT

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instagram.com/childhoodcancersupportaus

ABN: 45 914 790 985
Registered Charity Number: CH0767
Incorporated Association: IA08153
DGR: 900367082

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Our cover picture in this edition of our Heart to Heart newsletter celebrates our beautiful mothers at Childhood Cancer Support for Mother's Day 2017.

Childhood Cancer Support's Family Support Officer, Tamsyn Kiely, and I hosted our mothers for Mother's Day High Tea - an afternoon just for them. There was plenty of delicious food and exotic cups of tea had by all. It was a great time for our mums to simply relax in the company of women who are all on the same journey with their children, a time to reconnect and a time for some laughs with some interesting tales told.

Even though not all our mums could join us for this Mother's Day High Tea due to their children being in hospital, our thoughts were with you all.

Successful Grant

I am pleased to announce that we have been successful in securing a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to improve the grounds of one of our new accommodation facilities in South Brisbane. We have obtained just over \$20,000 to install a new retaining wall across the property for the safety of our families. This improvement to the grounds is the first step in our long-term plan to open up the Crown Street and Stephens Road, South Brisbane accommodation houses (which back on to each other) so we can create that unique community environment that Childhood Cancer Support is renowned for.

We are very excited to commence work on our grounds and extremely thankful to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for their support of Childhood Cancer Support. We will keep you posted with pictures of these improvements in future newsletters.

Talk Like a Pirate Day – REGISTER TODAY

Have you registered your school, child-care centre or workplace for Talk Like a Pirate Day? Registrations are now OPEN. You can register your school, child care centre or your workplace via our Childhood Cancer Support website. Just visit www.ccs.org.au to register. Our annual Talk Like a Pirate Day event aims to raise awareness of childhood cancer and also to raise much needed funds for Childhood Cancer Support so we can relocate our long-term accommodation facilities closer to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in South Brisbane.

Bridge to Brisbane

The team at Childhood Cancer Support have registered for the 2017 Bridge to Brisbane day on 27 August. We are putting on our runners, are in training for either the 5km or 10km run or walk (most of us will be walking) to raise funding for Childhood Cancer Support. We have set an ambitious target of raising \$20,000 with all monies going directly into providing accommodation, transport and support for regional and rural families. Will you join us for a fun day out and also make a difference to the lives of people requiring our services? Just visit b2b2017.everydayhero.com/au/childhood-cancer-support-2017

You can make up your own team under the Childhood Cancer Support banner or simply join Team Childhood Cancer Support (please see pg 10).

I trust you will enjoy this May edition of our Heart to Heart newsletter.

Until next time,

Helen Crew
General Manager



A MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER

Hello everyone,
I cannot believe another month has come and gone and we are already in the middle of the year. Hasn't the year gone so fast!!

Lucy and I attended the 'Here to help you day' at LCHC on the 5th May and what a great day it was. It was wonderful to connect with the other organisations set up at the hospital for the day and to talk to the families who came to see us. It was so great to see the kids smiling faces running around with their free goodies from all the tables. We are already planning and looking forward to the next day in October.

This month we also had Mother's Day. The mothers we have met through Childhood Cancer Support are some of the strongest, resilient, courageous and loving people around and are there by their family's side through each step. The parents of oncology kids definitely deserve to be celebrated and we are so grateful we got to do something special for the mothers on Mother's Day.

As a special treat, we hosted a Mother's Day High Tea at Herston and are so thankful to the ladies that were able to join us. Thank you High Tea Hire Brisbane for the lovely settings and platters, they were beautiful and looked so wonderful setup. Thank you to my friends who were kind enough to lend me some table cloths and platters. The afternoon was wonderful and we all enjoyed the food, sweets, teas and of course conversation.

Thank you to our GM, Helen, for hosting the afternoon with me and thank you to all the ladies who attended. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did.

Well that wraps up another month for me, I'm looking forward to the Coffee, Cake & Chats and the Family BBQ. Remember to keep an eye out on the Facebook page for the dates and join us when you can. All oncology families are welcome.

Until next month....

Tamsyn Kiely
Family Support Officer



MOTHER'S DAY



Fundraising and events



On Friday May 15, General Manager Helen Crew and Marketing and Communications Coordinator Lucy Campbell had the pleasure of attending a Mother Daughter evening hosted by Pam Tamblyn, from Tamblyn Models, and Kenmore Village Shopping Centre. Childhood Cancer Support was fortunate enough to once again be the charity of the night and it was lovely to be a part of such a great event. Thank you Pam for your ongoing support. It was a wonderful evening of fashion, prizes, high tea and celebrating some pretty great ladies. Thank you!

Simply Little Auction Nights

On Sunday 30th April, facebook business, Simply Little, hosted an auction night to raise funds for Childhood Cancer Support in support of families currently staying with the organisation.

The night consisted of auctioning off beautiful candles where every dollar raised over the starting price is donated to Childhood Cancer Support. We are proud to say we received \$168 from Simply Little Auction Nights and we are so very grateful.

On behalf of the families, staff and Central Committee of Management, thank you to Simply Little for your kindness and generosity in supporting the organisation and families.

If you would like to check out Simply Little products and other auctioning nights coming up - 'simply' check out: www.facebook.com/SimplyLittleHandmade



ringing of the bell



TRAVIS

On the 8th May Travis rang the bell alongside his family and the nursing staff at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. Travis was sadly diagnosed with a brain tumour but on this day the smiles were beaming and he did it, he finished his treatment! Well done Travis and congratulations.

SOPHIA

Congratulations to beautiful Sophia who also rang the bell this month. On the 3rd of May little Sophia rang the bell to signify the end of her chemotherapy after being diagnosed with a Wilms Tumour. Congratulations to you sweet girl and we wish you all the best.



The 'Chemo Bell' at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital signifies the end of treatment for patients. Children, alongside their families, friends and staff of LCCH gather around and watch as they ring that bell with huge smiles on their faces. The kids are also presented with a certificate where they then sign their name on the bell board. When your child is first diagnosed, seeing yourself being in this particular moment seems so far, but when you get there, oh what a feeling. This past month we have been fortunate to have attended two bell ringings for CCS families.

Though there are the times we celebrate the end of treatment, we also take a moment to reflect and remember those who have fought and are still fighting the battle, the inspirational stories, the strength and resilience of children and families, and those we have lost. "There is no footprint too small to leave an imprint on this world" (Author unknown), and it is the moments and memories we as humans cherish, that will always last a lifetime.

*"There is no footprint
too small to leave an
imprint on this world."*

Author unknown

TRANSPORT SERVICE

Childhood Cancer Support offers a free pick up and drop off service from our multiple accommodation locations to the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and Brisbane Airport, as well as daily grocery and school runs. We operate two vans, one with wheelchair access, and offer our transport service for free to all oncology families.

TRANSPORT STATS | APRIL 2017

* Transport assistance figure considers the cost of fuel and travel, hospital parking, and out of hours transport for families.

65
VAN RUNS



\$1263
provided in
transport
assistance

172
passengers
transported



CAMP CRYSTAL

Family photos now available for those who attended Camp Crystal 2017. To receive yours, please contact Lucy at Childhood Cancer Support in order to arrange the best way to receive your photos e.g. via email etc. Alternatively, please watch this space as they will be arriving to your inbox over the next couple of weeks to the email you included on your application form.



MACKAY NEWS - Family Ambassador Bert Pulman

Recently one of our families in Mackay, Pam and Chris Rose, attended on our behalf, a 'Childhood Cancer Awareness Ride' for charity. The ride organised by Breakaway Horse Riders Mackay is an annual charity event, this year focusing on childhood cancer. The ride covered 23kms over a 7hr period and was attended by 98 riders plus volunteers and families.

Their organisation has been going 31 years and has now been doing charity rides for 15 years. The last few years they have chosen a theme colour to wear to raise awareness for a particular cancer foundation and this has become popular. Everyone was touched with Pam's story and it was the quietest the organisers have seen everyone during a speech compared to their previous lunch time talks. The speech was recorded and played on local ABC radio (visit www.ccs.org.au to listen).



Breakaway Horse Riders Mackay are happy to advise that the club will be sending a cheque for \$500 to put towards whatever our organisation sees the need for. We thank Pam and Chris for attending this event on our behalf.

Mackay Ambassadors are holding a 'Coffee, Cake and Chat' at John Breen Park North Mackay on Sat 3rd June. Please contact Bert on 0428 540 843 if you are interested in attending.

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, BUCKLEY HOUSE

St Joseph's College, Buckley House students welcomed our General Manager Helen Crew and one of our beautiful families, Maralyn and her daughter Brooke, to their recent house assembly. Student leaders spoke with Brooke about her hobbies, the school she attends on the Gold Coast and her siblings – even the annoying siblings! Maralyn spoke to the assembly about the family's journey with Brooke's childhood cancer and how Childhood Cancer Support has been their life-line and stability, in a very distressing period of their life, by providing that sense of home in Brisbane whilst Brooke is receiving treatment.



Helen then updated the assembly on the work of Childhood Cancer Support and our future plans in continuing to provide paediatric oncology families with a 'place to call home' whilst living in Brisbane to receive life-saving treatment.

Thank you to Buckley House for their amazing hospitality to Maralyn, Brooke and Helen and for the lovely gift of flowers for Maralyn and art supplies to Brooke so she can continue her hobby in art.

Be part of the Story

3 bridges, 2 courses, 1 fun day!



To donate simply visit:

b2b2017.everydayhero.com/au/childhood-cancer-support-2017

Enter into either the **5 KM** or **10 KM** course.

To see the course maps visit

bridgetobrisbaneday.com.au



Join our team!

Team Name:

Childhood Cancer Support

Team PIN:

1485

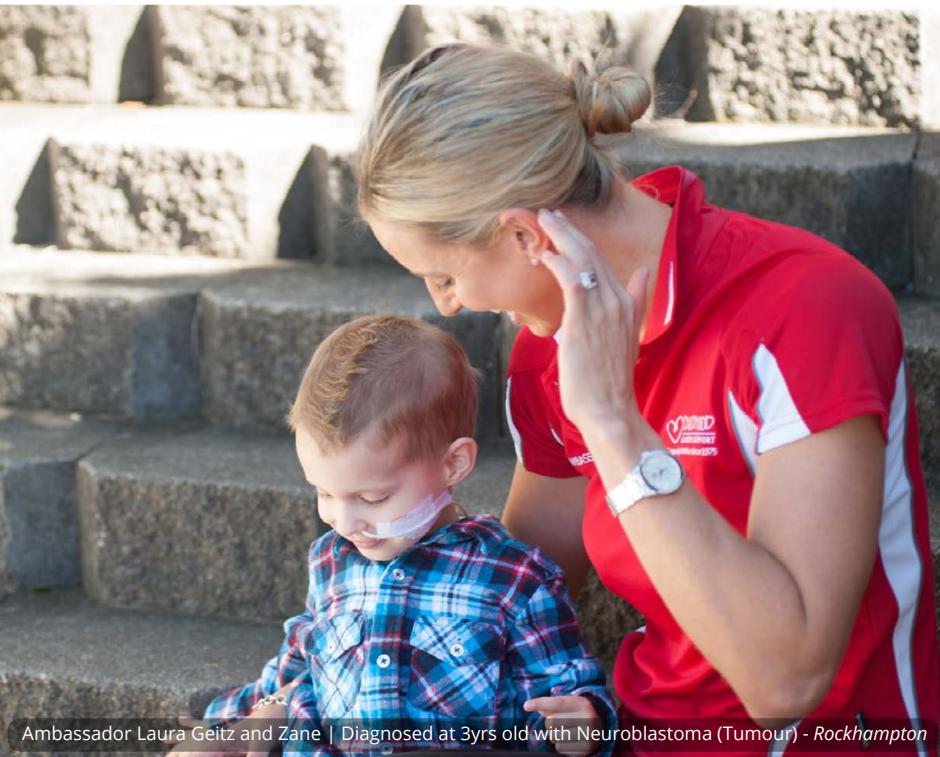
TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

Arrr me hearties! Ye **registrations are now open** for schools, childcare centres, businesses and individuals to take part in Childhood Cancer Support's biggest and best fundraiser of the year. So polish ya hooks and grab your eye patches and head over to www.ccs.org.au to register today!

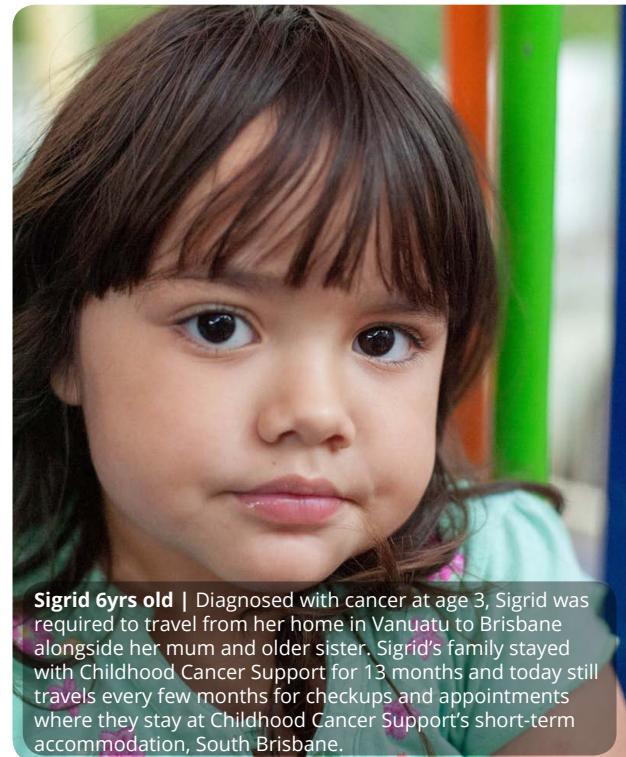


Get on board with pirates alike and raise much needed loot for Childhood Cancer Support.

Talk Like A Pirate Day™ is a chance to polish yer hook, say 'Ahoy me hearties' to yer shipmates, dress up, have fun and talk like a Pirate.



Ambassador Laura Geitz and Zane | Diagnosed at 3yrs old with Neuroblastoma (Tumour) - Rockhampton



Sigrid 6yrs old | Diagnosed with cancer at age 3, Sigrid was required to travel from her home in Vanuatu to Brisbane alongside her mum and older sister. Sigrid's family stayed with Childhood Cancer Support for 13 months and today still travels every few months for checkups and appointments where they stay at Childhood Cancer Support's short-term accommodation, South Brisbane.

HELP FROM THE HEART WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAM

It feels good knowing that you have been a part of something bigger.
Contact your employer today to participate in the 'Help from the Heart Workplace Giving Program'

\$5 Can you spare the cost of a coffee per week to help regional children with cancer have a place to call home whilst in Brisbane? Sign up today.

WHAT IS WORKPLACE GIVING?

The process of making regular automatic donations to Childhood Cancer Support through your payroll system pre-tax. Workplace Giving is one of the most cost effective ways to donate and is also a highly visible way of showing your support.

WHAT MAKES CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT SO UNIQUE?

Childhood Cancer Support is the only accommodation provider in Queensland that specialises in accommodation specifically supporting paediatric oncology children (0-18yrs) and their families. The organisation provides families with a community that cares, because it is recognised that this is a battle that cannot be fought alone.

WHY SUPPORT?

By sticking to a no-cost policy, Childhood Cancer Support seeks to remove the emotional and financial stress of living away from home. The main focus is to provide stability to the lives of children and their families through the provision of not only accommodation but also transport and other social activities for the whole family. Most families are flown in from various regional locations therefore are in a totally new environment without a home, any mode of transport and no family support network. The **average** stay for our families is approximately a demanding and challenging 6-10 months.



Childhood
CANCER SUPPORT

'Words can't describe the help and support the Childhood Cancer Support team have given to us and our family. They have been with us through it all. We are forever thankful for such an organisation. We thank them with all of our hearts.'
- Yanam | Townsville

Yanam's son Daniel was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma (bone cancer) in 2015. Daniel and Yanam stayed with Childhood Cancer Support for 12 months.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COFFEE CAKE & CHAT

*RSVP's are required for catering (further dates TBC)

When: Tuesday 23rd May 11am-12pm
Tuesday 30th May 11am-12pm
Tuesday 6th June 3.30pm-4.30pm
Friday 9th June 3.30pm-4.30pm

Where: 11 Bramston Tce, Herston
Tuesday's - Community Room
Friday's - Playground
(if weather permits)

COFFEE CAKE & CHAT - MACKAY

*RSVP's are required for catering

When: Saturday 3rd June

Where: John Breen Park, North Mackay

*Please contact Bert on 0428 540 843 if you are interested in attending and for further details.

PATRICIA FECHNER MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

When: Sunday 13th August

Where: Rosewood

*More details to come

RIDE FOR CANCER - 'Gold Coast Harley Owners Group & the Emma Love Childhood Cancer Charity

When: Saturday 19th August

Where: Gold Coast to Brisbane

*More details to come

FAMILY MONTHLY BBQs from 5.30pm

*RSVP's are required for catering

When: 26th May
30th June
28th July
25th August
29th September
27th October (Halloween)

TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

*Registrations now open!
Visit www.ccs.org.au to register today!

When: Month of September

Where: Nationwide - Schools, Childcare Centres, Corporate, Businesses and individuals

TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY EVENT

When: 19th September
*School holidays

Where: Queensland Maritime Museum
*Open to all paediatric oncology families

*For more details on these events please contact the office on (07) 3844 5000 or email lucy@ccs.org.au

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA

BRIDGE TO BRISBANE

When: Sunday 27th August

Where: Brisbane Show Grounds

Gold Coast:

GOLD COAST AIRPORT MARATHON

When: Saturday 1st July

Where: Coolangatta, Gold Coast

Rockhampton:

7 ROCKY RIVER RUN

When: Sunday 28th May

Where: Victoria Park Rockhampton

Sunshine Coast:

SUNSHINE COAST MARATHON

When: 18th - 20th August

Where: Sunshine Coast

NOOSA TRIATHLON

When: 1st - 5th November

Where: Noosa

Simply jump online to register to participate in any of the above events. If you would like to raise funds through your participation, you can register as a fundraising individual or team by visiting www.everydayhero.com/au/ and head to the events page.

Childhood Cancer Support is a registered charity with Everyday Hero and it's so simple and easy to set up! For assistance, please contact lucy@ccs.org.au.

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 Childhood Cancer Support has teamed up with generous supporter Andy Graves from Essence of Time Photography, who has put together a photography program for both Childhood Cancer Support (CCS) families and non CCS 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.



If you're interested in utilising Andy's services,
please contact the Childhood Cancer Support office.
Phone 07 3844 5000 or email admin@ccs.org.au.

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

Want to make a real difference?

There are many other ways you can be a part of making a difference at Childhood Cancer Support.

Become a Heartfelt Supporter:

Heartfelt Supporters play a huge role in allowing Childhood Cancer Support to continue providing the facilities and services that families need. Our Heartfelt Supporters help us immensely in providing accommodation, maintenance and improvements, transport services and assisting campaign initiatives.

Separate to workplace giving, a Heartfelt Supporter of Childhood Cancer Support 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:

www.ccs.org.au/howcanyouhelp/heartfelt-supporter/

Become a Fundraiser:

Fundraising can be as simple or as little or big as you'd like. From a simple sausage sizzle, right through to a golf day, fundraising is a fun way to get family and friends together, all whilst raising funds for a good cause.

Other ideas can include:

- Free dress day
- Host a breakfast, lunch or dinner
- 'Talk Like a Pirate Day' BBQ (everyone can dress up for a donation)
- Coffee Challenge (give up a coffee a specified time period - set the challenge)

There are many ideas, none short of creativity! If you would like more information we can help.

Simply contact the office and chat to one of our friendly staff, or simply visit:
www.ccs.org.au/howcanyouhelp/fundraise-for-ccs