

Heart to Heart

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





heart to heart

NEWSLETTER | CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT

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Governor of Queensland

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Captain - Queensland Firebirds Netball Team

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Ray Garza	Transport Officer
Matt Clacher	Maintenance Officer

CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT

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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Happy New Year everyone. We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. Can you believe that January is nearly over?

2017 is shaping up to be a busy year with many activities starting to fill up our calendar.

Camp Crystal 2017

We can now confirm that Camp Crystal 2017 is being held on 7-9 April 2017 at beautiful Samford Valley (just a short 30 minute drive from Brisbane city). Preparations for Camp Crystal 2017 are well underway and is shaping up to be an outrageously fun and exciting weekend for families. Camp Crystal is a very special event for our oncology families and a time to be together to support one another in a relaxed and cathartic atmosphere and to help our families forget their cancer journey (if only for a short time). It's a time for kids to be kids, parents to reconnect, families to be together and friends to support one another. Our sincere thanks to Scouts Queensland for again collaborating with Childhood Cancer Support and providing their grounds to hold our annual camp. Expressions of Interest are now OPEN. Please see further details about Camp Crystal 2017 on Page 8.

New Family Support Officer

I am pleased to announce that Tamsyn Kiely has joined the staff at Childhood Cancer Support (CCS) as our Family Support Officer. Many of our CCS community know Tamsyn very well as her family are a CCS family and Tamsyn and her husband Anthony have supported and represented CCS as our Rockhampton Family Ambassadors. Tamsyn knows too well the paediatric oncology journey and is well placed and experienced to support our CCS families.

*An Eternal Memory...
...Until we meet again*

*Those special memories of you
will always bring a smile
if only I could have you back
for just a little while
Then we could sit and talk again
just like we use to do
you always meant so very much
and always will do too
The fact that you're no longer here
will always cause me pain
but you're forever in my heart
until we meet again*

- Unknown

We are delighted to have Tamsyn on board. I am sure you will all join with me in welcoming Tamsyn to her new role within Childhood Cancer Support.

Tribute

I would like to pay tribute to a special young lady, Bella Harry, who gained her angel wings on 10 January. Our love and support goes to Bella's family at this difficult time. Bella touched many people's lives with her radiant smile and positive attitude. A beautiful Celebration of Life service was held to remember a remarkable young lady who will stay in our hearts forever.

We will always remember all those we have lost.

Until next time,

Helen Crew
General Manager



In memory of Bella Harry

BUSY BUSINESS | YEAR 4 STUDENTS

Lucy Rethamel, family ambassador and past CCS family, alongside her year 4 cohort from Southern Cross Catholic College participated in a "Busy Business" venture in the final term of school last year.

Splitting into groups of 4-5, each team was given \$10 to pull together their creative minds and establish a business from scratch. In the final week of term, the year 4 students put on a 'business day' where each team officially opened their businesses and invited family and friends to purchase their products.

Lucy's business sold decorated pencils with pencil toppers. Some of the other clever businesses included:

- Raffle draw
- Ice Cup Stall
- Craft Stall
- Stress Balls
- Spiders (the delicious drink kind)
- Game of Basketball shots
- And more!

Childhood Cancer Support was fortunate enough to have been the recipients of the profits raised by the Year 4 businesses and we couldn't be more grateful and certainly impressed by the fantastic results from the day. Lucy Rethamel, who put in a request for the proceeds raised to go to CCS, was presented a cheque for \$381.40 to accept on behalf of the organisation.

A very VERY big thank you to the year 4 students and staff from Southern Cross Catholic College.



BOXING DAY LUNCH

Before the new year we celebrated Boxing Day with our Childhood Cancer Support (CCS) families by having a delicious lunch, paddle pops and then of course... opened PRESENTS! Big thank you to the families for joining in on the festivities. It's always lovely to see the smiles on your faces and to catch up with you all over the Christmas break.

Thank you to CCS committee members Nick and Bert, long term volunteer and friend Matt, and CCS General Manager Helen and the staff at CCS for organising this lovely day for our families.

Lastly, thank you to Gail Lansdell and Adrian Wan who rallied together, along with their friends and family and dropped off some amazing gifts to hand out to our wonderful families.



INTRODUCING | Family Support Officer - Tamsyn Kiely.

We are very excited to have Tamsyn on board, a fantastic asset to the team. Childhood Cancer Support looks forward to a wonderful year ahead collaborating and working closely together.



A MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER

Hi everyone,

Most of you already know me, however, I will introduce myself as if none of you know my family and I.

My name is Tamsyn and I'm so honoured to have started as the Family Support Officer at Childhood Cancer Support (CCS).

My family and I were introduced to CCS in Feb 2014 when our youngest, Anthony, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, which meant him and I relocating to Brisbane for 11 months while my husband, Anthony Snr, and daughter, Emily stayed in Central QLD. We stayed a total of 11 months in Brisbane for the intensive phase of his treatment, 10 of which were with CCS in one of the units at Herston. We were able to return home in Jan 2015 when Anthony started the maintenance phase of his treatment.

Emily has started high school this year and has grown up to be such an amazing and strong young lady. Anthony has started year 4 this year and is a typical boy who loves sport, cars and computer games, even though he is still on active treatment. My kids make myself and my husband extremely proud with how they have handled everything that has been thrown at us in our lives, especially the last few years.

I am extremely grateful to have been a part of the CCS Family for the last few years and am so excited to have taken on this incredible role within the organisation.

I bring with me a level of understanding not only of the unique needs of an oncology family but also of how much of a difference the support offered by CCS makes to the family. I also bring with me my passion for everything CCS does for oncology families as well as everything they stand for.

It's going to be an amazing year!! I'm so excited to be further a part of the organisation and look forward to meeting you all.

Tamsyn Kiely
Family Support Officer



RINGING OF THE BELL



ALEXIS

The beautiful Ali, someone very close to our Childhood Cancer Support (CCS) family, was diagnosed with a Wilms Tumour in 2016. It was here she became a part of the CCS family for a whole other reason. On the 30th December, after a very tough few months, Ali's strength, resilience and perseverance was met with the day she could ring that bell! Congratulations to you sweet girl and we wish you all the best for 2017 starting back at school.



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 LCCCH 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 three 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 | JANUARY - DECEMBER 2016

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

1455
VAN RUNS



\$30,653
provided in
transport
assistance

4177
passengers
transported



MESSAGES FROM OUR FAMILIES

In 2014 Koby was diagnosed with cancer (Ganglioneuroblastoma) less than a month after his first birthday. We were flown 1000km away from home in central Queensland to Brisbane for Koby to begin treatment.

Once in Brisbane we were lucky to meet with Gina from Childhood Cancer Support who offered us long-term accommodation at the Herston units. Through Koby's chemotherapy and major operation we were blessed to have our home away from home at the units to maintain, as normal as possible, a family routine and environment.

For the three months we called the Herston Childhood Cancer Support (CCS) units home, which was also an appreciated financial relief. Today, CCS continues to support us through their short-term accommodation at South Brisbane for Koby's check-ups and transport to and from the airport.

We are eternally grateful for everything CCS has done and continue to do for our family.



Kylie & Koby in 2014 at the Childhood Cancer Support units.

Kylie | **Dysart**

UPCOMING EVENTS

CCS FAMILY AUSTRALIA DAY BBQ

*RSVP's are required for catering

When: 27th January from 5.30pm
Where: Community Room, Herston

COFFEE CAKE & CHAT

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

When: 31st January 11-12pm
3rd February 3.30pm-4.30pm
Where: Community Room, Herston

INTERNATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER DAY

When: 15th February
www.internationalchildhoodcancerday.org



CCS FAMILY MONTHLY BBQ from 5.30pm

*RSVP's are required for catering

When: 24th February
31st March
28th April
26th May
30th June
28th July
25th August
29th September
27th October (Halloween)
Where: Community Room, Herston

TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

SAVE THE DATE *Registrations of interest opening soon

When: 19th September
Where: Nationwide - Schools, Childcare Centres, Corporates, Businesses and individuals



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

CAMP CRYSTAL | Cancer Related Youth Support Time Allocated to Laughter

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN!!

When: 7th-9th April
Where: Scouts QLD, Samford
(30mins from Brisbane City)

What now: To express an interest in Camp Crystal 2017, please visit www.ccs.org.au, or simply contact the Childhood Cancer Support office on 3844 5000 or email admin@ccs.org.au with the following details:

- Family Name
- Number of people
- Have you attended a Camp Crystal before
- Contact number
- Email

From here your details will go on file for Camp Crystal 2017. In early February, you will be provided with an application form and details surrounding camp. Please note that interest levels are extremely high and spaces are limited therefore a place cannot always be guaranteed. All applicants are highly considered and will then be notified if successful in securing a spot at Camp Crystal 2017. First in best dressed does not necessarily mean you will secure a spot. Families who have not yet had the chance to attend a camp will be considered first. Childhood Cancer Support aims to make camp a stress free weekend for you and your family and each year we love to see everyone have the opportunity to attend a camp.





CHILDHOOD
CANCER SUPPORT
FOR FAMILIES. BY FAMILIES



As one of Australia's leading childhood cancer support organisations, Childhood Cancer Support is a family focused charity offering regional families a place to call home while their child undergoes life-saving cancer treatment.

When your child is diagnosed with cancer, everything else in life takes a backseat. Childhood Cancer Support is your helping hand at a time when you need it most. **That's why we're here.**

For more information on how we can help you
Visit www.ccs.org.au • Phone 07 3844 5000

CHILDHOOD CANCER SUPPORT BROCHURE

The Childhood Cancer Support brochures are flying out the door! The brochures have been updated, reprinted and are now available at the Annerley Road Office. If you would like to secure some today, please contact the office of (07) 3844 5000 or simply email admin@ccs.org.au. Alternatively you can download the brochure online by visiting www.ccs.org.au and clicking on the 'About Us' page.

HEART TO HEART WORKPLACE GIVING PROGRAM

Re-launching in 2017, the Heart to Heart workplace giving program will open up opportunities for Childhood Cancer Support (CCS) to partner with businesses and individuals who are looking for a way to support CCS and regional paediatric oncology families. Details available soon.

Want to make a real difference?



CHILDHOOD
CANCER SUPPORT

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. Our Heartfelt Supporters help us immensely in providing accommodation, maintenance and improvements, transport services and assisting campaign initiatives.

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/