

What's been happening at Bear Cottage



Bear Cottage has been a hive of activity lately. No two days are ever the same at Bear Cottage, but the one thing that stays the same is our specialised care programs, delivered thanks to the incredible support from the community.

All guns blazing

Bear Cottage holds a number of specialised camps each year as part of our Play Therapy Program. The purpose is to connect children and family members with others travelling similar paths, and enable them to participate in activities they usually wouldn't be able to do.

Our recent camp for adolescent boys with Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) was a huge success with highlights like laser skirmish, Xbox tournaments and sci-fi excursions. And 'Fast Ed' from Better Homes & Gardens even made a special appearance to host a 'Chocolate Brownie Masterclass'. Hearing the boys enthusiastically recounting their experiences, it's easy to see just how beneficial these camps are.

What's more, last year we added parent support camps to our range of programs too. Many of our parents have commented how the camps have reduced their sense of isolation, which again reinforces their importance.



More than a lick of paint



Time certainly does fly. It's been almost ten years since Bear Cottage first opened its doors, and some areas were starting to look a bit tired. Naturally we want to provide the very best environment for families and ensure that our facilities meet the needs of all our children. Now, thanks to the incredible support of our donors, we can.

Our multi-media games room is now a retreat for our teenage children, featuring the latest computer equipment and flat screen TVs. Our wheelchair-accessible outdoor play equipment keeps the little ones entertained.

The lounge room and bedrooms have shiny new TVs, and our messy play area now has more appropriate furniture and storage, giving the kids a more functional space for play. We were even given an aerial train set, which sits at the perfect eye level for the many children who spend most of their time in wheelchairs and water chairs.

When it rains, it floods

Remember the heavy rains last May? We'll never forget them. At about 6.45am on Tuesday the 18th of May, a torrent of water came over our retaining wall flooding 80 percent of the house and forcing us to evacuate our families. It took ten days of hard work before we could reopen. During that time, we were reminded that without us, many families simply have nowhere else to go. The outpouring of donations and offers of support we received from the community was overwhelming and have greatly assisted us to get back on track. Mitigation works have started to prevent this happening ever again.



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