



Cottage by the Sea
inspiration · fun · opportunity Queenscliff

2022-2023 Summer Newsletter



Trip to Mt. Buller – Mentor Program

While winter is behind us, we wanted to share with you a trip to the snow in the July school holidays, with a group of Mentor participants to Mt. Buller.

A focus of our mentor programs is goal setting, working hard and overcoming obstacles, like fear, that may be standing in the way.

One participant had a fear of taking the chair lift and it took until the last day for her to make her first ride and face that fear. Her next challenge was to ski all the way down and on reaching the bottom, she turned around to the group and with the biggest smile on her face

yelled out, "I DID IT! I AM SO PROUD OF MYSELF!"

These moments are what our programs are all about. Offering special, life long memories and lessons our mentors will carry with them for life.



Moulamein – Mentor Program

The outdoor adventure based camp at Moulamein is a favourite off-site mentor program for mentors, staff and volunteers alike . Pre-COVID this program had become an annual part of the Cottage mentor program calendar and it was great to be back at Moulamein again in 2022.

The camp is situated in bushland by the banks of the Edwards River near Moulamein. Across the week, the outdoor education program is packed with fun filled activities including: fishing, captaining the tinny, yabbying, bonfires, telling stories around the camp fire and, a favourite of all, ferreting. All the kids had a wonderful

time and learnt skills they will take with them for life, especially persistence and willingness to try new things.

A special thanks must be extended to the APCO family for their continued support of the Cottage and for giving our mentors such amazing times at their family property in Moulamein.







David Wells – Take A Break Program

The program was memorable, life changing and amazing for all involved, welcoming students and teachers from Mildura Primary School to Cottage by the Sea for a week of sunshine. Our Mallee guests enjoyed a week full of beach & water activities including swimming, rock pooling, surfing, stingray watching, ocean sightseeing, shrimp hand cleansing, sponge dodgeball, visits to the Marine Discovery Centre and more. With the Mallee region so far away from the beach the children were SO EXCITED to visit the beach. We made sure that every activity planned involved the beach in some way.

The camp celebrated the diversity of our Australian culture with a mix of Indigenous, Malaysian, Tongan, African

and Anglo-Celtic children from grade 5. A teacher commented, "Coming to camp this week, we had just four kids that had been to the beach out of forty-eight."

The week held a special place in our hearts here at the Cottage as it paid tribute to the late, David Wells. David had a close connection to the Mallee region and was a long standing member of the Cottage Board. He served as President on the Board for several years. David lost his battle with MND and it was David's wish for a Cottage program to be conducted to help children in need from the Mallee. He believed they would benefit greatly from the amazing gift of the ocean and everything else the Cottage programs have to offer to positively impact young lives. His wish was granted and the

Western English Language Schools Take A Break Program

The Western English Language **Take A Break** program welcomed students from schools to the Cottage to experience the fun, inspiration and opportunity the Cottage provides.

The Western English Language students are new arrivals to Australia from all over the world. More than half the students had never swum at the beach! Originating from countries like Mongolia

and Afghanistan, the children had never even seen a beach until they arrived in Australia.

A truly special moment was when one of the boys yelled at the top of his voice, "I SEE DOLPHINS, THERE ARE DOLPHINS". Everyone watched in awe as the dolphins swam just 15 metres from the group.

camp for children from the Mallee is now an annual event planned on the Cottage program's calendar known as the "The David Wells Camp."

Some memorable quotes from the participants last week:

"You know how there's 5 stars well the food here is like 77 stars. Yep, 77 stars. The food is perfect. I've eaten more than 3 plates every time I've eaten. Except for one time when I only had 2 plates."

"My favorite I'd say it would be either spaghetti or shepherd's pie except without the pie it's more like shepherd's slop except it's delicious. "

"Everybody should come to Cottage by the Sea. Not just people at school but everyone in the entire known universe and beyond. More than just the known universe but the unknown parts too."



Staff Movements

In recent months we've had some changes to the makeup of the team. **Marc Dean (9)**, our wonderful long-standing chef, moved on to a new chapter in his life after being with the Cottage for over 10 years. We wish Marc all the best for the future. After an extensive search, we appointed full time chef **Kim Asmussen (7)**. We are fortunate to appoint another quality chef for this important role. As Kim said in his interview, "I believe in the science. A healthy gut leads to a healthy mind."

We also wish **Charlotte Furness** the best for the future as she begins a new adventure and welcome **Joyful Marketing & Events** now heading up the Cottage marketing, digital and communications. **Jade and Andrew Augustine (11)**, a wife and husband team run Joyful and both have ties to the Cottage, passionately sharing values and goals. Jade has been an Ambassador with Cottage by the Sea for many years and is a marketing/ events specialist. Andrew was a long serving Marketing Manager at **APCO Service Stations** and former Board member of the **APCO Foundation**, both big supporters of the Cottage's work.

Exciting news from our **program department, Christine Fagan (4)** (Chook) our REEF and Mentor Program Planner is currently on maternity leave after welcoming little guy **James (4)**. Chook is thoroughly enjoying motherhood and spending time with James.

With Chook on leave we welcome **Dave Geary (1)** to the team. He has taken up the reins and is doing a fantastic job with the REEF and Mentor programs. Dave also loves getting out and about with the participants pictured below playing basketball.

Due to the increase in demand for Take a Break programs and an increase in numbers, the following camp leaders have joined the team as casual staff members. We welcome **Sheree Van Doren (8)**, **Lisa Muntz (3)**, **Tristan Kimpton (12)** and **Nuala Cunningham (2)**. They all bring a wealth of experience and knowledge and we are excited they can share it with our participants.



Ambassadors

With the Cottage residing here on the Bellarine it is very much "Cat Country," and I speak of course of our great supporters, the **Geelong Football Club**. We were delighted to see our Ambassadors, **Patrick Dangerfield (6)** and **Joel Selwood (10)** taste victory for the Geelong Football Club in the 2022 Toyota AFL Grand Final. The Premiership capped off a remarkable year for both Patrick and Joel as they both played milestone games with Patrick playing his 300th and Joel his 350th game during their stellar 2022 season. There are many happy Cat supporters in the Cottage Community including our very own Patron, **Rebecca Maddern (5)**, who is the official Cats #1

ticket holder. The phenomenal success over the last 15 years is a legacy left by the former Cottage Patron and former Club President, the late **Frank Costa**.

Cottage by the Sea wish to acknowledge Joel's recognition at the Brownlow Medal Ceremony where he was awarded the **Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award**. Joel personifies the values of the late great **Jim Stynes** off the field with his "generosity, kindness, warmth and his genuine care for others." We are so grateful for the support he gives to us at the Cottage and are proud and privileged to have him as our Ambassador.



After 28 years of incredible service, commitment and contribution to the Cottage, Anne Catchpole recently announced her retirement.

Anne is a wonderful story teller and in this story of her journey she captures in her words so much of the rich history of Cottage by the Sea, and our solid foundations for the journey ahead.

Anne retires as the longest serving member of our staff which is just one of her lasting achievements at Cottage by the Sea.

Best wishes and love to you, David, and to your family from all of your Cottage family.

Anne will continue her work with the Cottage until the 28th February, 2023.



My Cottage Journey by Anne Catchpole

My journey with the Cottage commenced in early 1994 when, as a recently divorced single parent and mother of a little 6 year old girl (Georgie), I needed to return to the workforce and was seeking part time work.

I noticed a five line, single column advertisement in The Age for a Booking Secretary and applied for the position with The Ministering Children's League, Queenscliff Inc. (a name change to Cottage by the Sea took place in 1998) and following an interview with Board Member **Eril Deighton** and **Paulin Walter** and then by the Board, I was selected for the role.

My journey commenced the first week of March 1994 in a little room above a Pet Food Shop in Hawthorn – with only one computer used for donor data entry. I was handed a small exercise book with handwritten names and telephone numbers of schools and referring agencies who referred children annually for a three week holiday at Cottage by the Sea in Queenscliff. For the Booking Secretary role I completed Community Services & Health Management studies and undertook a Speaking with Impact course – all having held me in good stead.

Initially my role involved liaising with schools, agencies, parents etc. and

meeting them, and the children who I had selected to attend camp, at the Travellers' Aid Room at the then Spencer Street Station, on the forward and return journey. Staff would travel by train to meet and greet us, take the children via train to Geelong and then they would catch a bus to the Cottage at Queenscliff. A questionnaire was distributed to a cross section of participants (families, agencies, referrers etc.) to gain insight into the needs of the children and families regarding duration of camps etc. which ultimately produced shorter camps and more of them.

The purchase of the Cottage bus was a great initiative, broadening the activities we could offer, along with expanding the pickup/drop off points, particularly in regional Victoria. After fire, flood, drought etc. we were able to drive to regional areas, extending the reach to families in remote areas, previously not possible.

One of my first actions was to design an Intake Form along with a Medical Form covering each child. Any medication had to be in labeled containers and was instantly handed over to staff for safe keeping. When intake transferred to Queenscliff, my role was changed to producing, with the assistance of a graphic designer, the Annual Report, Annual Calendar and the 4 times a

year Newsletter, liaising with Melbourne groups, collecting donations and guest speaking.

This wonderful organisation, with a proven 132 year history of helping children and families in need has played an important role in my life. Whether that be organising fundraising via the Australian Open Garden Scheme (ably assisted by volunteers **Gwenda** and **Barbara**), arranging the 125 year celebratory Afternoon Tea at Government House, a special 125 year Australia Post stamp along with a fundraising commemorative paver initiative around the Cottage flagpole.

Charles Adams, who attended following the 1939 fires, stands beside the little Cottage car that proudly displays the Cottage logo – free advertising. It has over 100,000 km on the clock and has traveled widely throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria (even as far afield as Deniliquin) where I was invited to address a large group in the local hall.



My partner **David** has been involved with the Cottage, supporting me and using his electronic engineering skills and equipment at the Annual Fairs, spruiking all types of wares and encouraging people to give generously for such a great cause.



One highlight, after a personal visit to Uganda, was to provide the visiting **African Children's Choir** with untold firsts e.g. entering the ocean for the first time, plentiful food etc. I remember meeting their plane, with staff and the Cottage bus, at Tullamarine at 1 am.



Today our highly qualified Camp Leaders have the skills to deal with many situations, encourage and build up the confidence of the participants, extend their skill base and offer them memories to treasure. An A.G.M. speaker was a young qualified Doctor who spoke of his time as a child at the Cottage. I recently had the pleasure of meeting **Maree Duffy (Steel) (3)** and **Trish Duffy (Holmes) (4)** who remembered attending the Cottage in the early 1960's and enjoyed reminiscing, telling me about Fish Pie on a Friday. Sunday was always Party Night and to this day a particular soap smell brings back memories of their time there.

The Cottage has always been supported by its wonderful branches and volunteers and I have been supported personally in Melbourne by volunteers **Gwenda, Barbara** and **Jan** (now an Ambassador for the Cottage). I have had the privilege of working with three General Managers – **Paulin Walter, Tony Featherston** and now **Adam Wake**.

The Founders **Elizabeth Calder (1)** from Maldon and **Annie Hitchcock (2)** from Geelong, who formed the Cottage in 1890 and purchased the land on which we reside today, erected a timber building which opened in 1895 (costing 1,222 pounds) would be so proud to know the organisation has a secure future supporting children and their families through fun, inspiration and opportunity, thanks to the wonderful support from our donors.

In the mid 1930's the original old timber building needed to be replaced with the U shaped double storey brick building we have today which opened in 1938 (costing 10,000 pounds). With a recent grant, the old brick building has now become a fantastic renovated purpose built facility with wonderful playground equipment offering programs by highly qualified staff.

The Board were successful in purchasing the adjoining property – Riptide – which increased our capacity to offer more camps to both children and families and currently fundraising is underway to improve this facility.

Both David and I will continue to be involved with this great organisation and I can't express how proud I am to have had the privilege of working for it for 28 years and, although difficult, my decision to finally retire has not been an easy one, but it is the right one.

Anne Catchpole

Community Relations – Melbourne



Sandra Wins Geelong Volunteer of the Year Award!

We received the wonderful news that **Sandra Vizard**, one of our longest serving volunteers at Cottage by the Sea, was awarded the Geelong Volunteer of the Year in an award ceremony held on Wednesday 2nd November in Geelong.

Sandra has been an integral part of Cottage by the Sea. She commenced volunteer work in 2002 in an administration capacity. Over 20 years of volunteering! What an incredible achievement. When she commenced, she assisted the General Manager with a variety of administration and reception tasks on a weekly basis. She would organise all of the GM's work for the week and hold down the fort

when he was on the road. 20 years on and she still is an important part of the administration team and we are so appreciative of her service to the Cottage.

We are especially appreciative of the way she makes everyone from staff, volunteers and visitors feel so welcome with her positive and calm nature. Irrespective of the tasks at hand **Sandra** is more than willing to assist with day-to-day activities and she is always eager to help in any way she can whether on routine or new projects.

Well done **Sandra** from everyone in the Cottage by the Sea community.



Sandra with award sponsor Angelo Kokouros (Standby Security), Cr Peter Murrihy and Christine Couzens MP

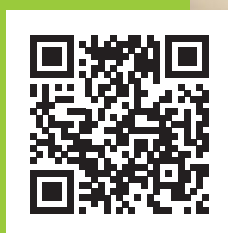
The Cottage a Finalist in the Geelong Business Excellence Awards

2022 saw Cottage by the Sea selected as a Finalist in the **2022 Geelong Business Excellence Awards**.

As part of the final judging process, we created a video featuring Patron, **Rebecca Maddern**, Cottage Alumni and Mentor Program Graduate, **Ebony Storrar**, and other members of the Cottage community including our wonderful staff, volunteers, ambassadors, teachers and students. The video can be found by Googling "Cottage by the Sea Geelong Business Excellence" or scanning the QR code on this page.

While we didn't take away an award, our finalist recognition will help build our brand and get our name out there in the Geelong and surrounding business community. We will be sure to enter the GBEA in 2023.

Scan the QR code to view the video!



Bill, Ebony, Adam, Moira and Jeanette

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was a huge success.

Joining CEO **Adam Wake** were the Cottage Board, Patron **Rebecca Maddern** on the big screen remotely, branch members, volunteers and supporters. **Don Rankin** our President reiterated the Cottage's vision to enhance the lives of more children attending the Cottage and to increase investment in more programs so we can continue to help even more children. Following the formalities a lovely lunch was provided by Chef **Kim**

Asmussen and our volunteers. Everyone enjoyed catching up face to face whilst enjoying the spectacular view.



Some of our amazing volunteers and supporters



Former Prue wi

Branch Lunches are Back!

It was great to welcome our Bellarine Branch and their guests for a magnificent lunch upstairs at the Cottage. On Chef Kim's menu was a chicken and leek pie with a garden salad and how's this for a dessert? A lemon curd with "Essence of Tahiti" berries. It was a great day of raising much needed funds for our Children's Programs and the whole group gaining a better understanding of the work we do.

Our Queenscliff Branch *sprung* back to life with their *Spring* Luncheon, their first in three years. It was great to have one hundred and eighteen ladies sitting in our dining room enjoying each other's company, some of Chef Marc's great food and a glass of wine from Oneday Estate Winery & Function Centre.

We also had Melinda from The Melbourne Map show us her wonderful representations of The Bellarine and Melbourne.

Overall it was a fantastic day!



Queenscliff Branch



Bellarine Branch



Michael Randall OAM, Adam Wake – CEO, Priscilla Seyfort, Dennis Smart, Don Rankin – President, Jerome Walsh – Treasurer, Liam Petrie-Allbutt
Absent: Natalie Hickey, Scott Chapman – Vice President



Presidents, Eril and Adam

Race Day

After a two year hiatus it was great to have the Cottage by the Sea Race Day back on the event calendar at the Geelong Racing Club.

It was a huge success with 220 people in attendance and an astounding \$75,000 was raised thanks to everyone's generosity.

The day was action packed with gin tastings, a caricature artist, raffles, punters club and of course our auctioneer, who keeps everyone on their toes. Never brush a fly away when

Phil is on the job or you just might buy something!

Special thanks to MC **Ian Cover OAM**, Auctioneer **Phil De Fegely**, special guest **Ben Hayes** and AFL legend **Doug Wade**. An amazing job by GRC, our volunteers, sponsors, including **Keith Roderick** and staff who made the day such a huge success.



Please sign up to donate and support Cottage by the Sea.

Our programs are completely non-government funded and so we need your support.



Please consider making a monetary donation, we are seeing an increase in demand for our programs.

All Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

DONATE



I would like to donate (please circle)

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$.....

Cheque payable to Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff Inc.

Direct debit (Please use your name as the reference)
BSB: 083-825 **Acc No:** 68 084 1769
Acc Name: Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff Inc.

Title: Name:

Address

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Phone

Email

Mastercard **Visa** **Amex**

Cardholder name:

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Please make this a regular donation.

Monthly

Quarterly

Annually



Cottage by the Sea
Queenscliff
Write your Will for free!

See our post card insert about our partnership with Gathered Here - a free will writing service. There is no obligation but, large or small, when you include a gift to Cottage by the Sea in your will, you are making a difference in the lives of more children.