

Siblings Camp

On an early Saturday morning in December, thirty-nine excited youngsters assembled at the CFV offices for the annual Siblings' Camp at Phillip Island. This was to be the fourth 'Sibs Camp' organised by CFV and Purple Soup and promised to be a weekend of jam packed fun and activity. The annual event forms part of the Cystic Fibrosis Sibling Support Program - a program especially designed for brothers and sisters of children with CF. The first stop on the 2006 camp was Koo Wee Rup where the Victorian Masonic Motorcycle Association kindly provided a HUGE morning tea for all of the sibs. There was unlimited amounts of cakes, biscuits, sandwiches and we mustn't forget the jelly slice (which was a big hit with the staff)! The sibs were also given the opportunity to check out the motorbikes and even have their photos taken sitting on them.

Upon arrival at Phillip Island bags were quickly unpacked and everyone launched into various activities which included mask making, bike riding, team building, archery and everyone's favourite - surfing! The L.I.T's (Leaders in Training) even managed to spend some time writing the 'Siblings Code of Conduct'. If that wasn't enough for one day there was an evening full of activity with songs and sand sculpting on the beach followed by night games on the oval.

Day two saw some weary sibs begin another thrilling day of fun. As the weather warmed up (41 degrees!) surfing inevitably became the most popular activity. Jerry Singer (aka Tim) made his annual appearance and the sibs were once again given the opportunity to ask questions about various aspects of cystic fibrosis.

The day finished with a fabulous water fight that made sure there wasn't a dry camper in sight. The event sadly came to end with the traditional warm fuzzies and group circle and, as I am sure everyone would agree, the highlight of the camp when Purple Soup Directors, Mel and Tim got engaged (yes, he proposed with the help of the sibs)!

CFV would like to extend our thanks to the Purple Soup crew and volunteers who always provide an amazing weekend of fun and adventure. We would also like to thank the Victorian Masonic Motorcycle Club for their awesome morning tea that assisted in providing the energy to make it through the weekend!

Sib's Camp is always a fantastic way to finish the year for the Sibling Support Program. The program, which runs several activities during the year, focuses on giving children an opportunity to enhance self-esteem, make new relationships with others who may have similar experiences and develop life skills in a safe and fun environment.

For more information about upcoming siblings events, please contact Sarah or Martina at Cystic Fibrosis Victoria on 9686 1811 or sgliddon@cfv.org.au

