



Cottage by the Sea

QUEENSCLIFF

To Dr Tim,

I am following up potential sponsorship from Council for the Ararat Take a Break Program, there has been great interest from within the local community, and it would be great to have Council on Board as a sponsor.

Principal of Ararat Primary 800 Natalie Dowsett is very excited about the upcoming October camp, she has also taken on the responsibility of organising next year's program, one that will for the first time be offered to every year 5 student within the Ararat Rural Council. This is particularly exciting for Bob and myself as our primary mission now is to focus on fundraising.

The October camp costs \$27 790; progress and donors can be viewed on the CBTS website with any extra money raised going directly to next year's camp.

I look forward to working with Council as we deliver this program.

Kind regards

Richard de Fegely

richdefegely@gmail.com

0439 323 360



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To Whom It May Concern,

Cottage by the Sea is a not-for-profit Australian children's charity, helping children lead happy, healthy lives. Its mission is *to enhance the lives of more children by providing inspiration, fun and opportunity within a holiday environment*. The Cottage achieves its mission through diverse programs, which take the form of short-stay camps that are offered in a wide range of environments. During their camp experience, children are provided with opportunities to build positive relationships with peers and adult role models, which helps them learn and grow when they return to their school and community.

Following the success of Ararat North, Pomonal, Maroona and Buangor participating in the 'Take a Break' program we'd like to see the camp offered annually to all year 5 students within the Ararat Rural City Council. The program generates confident, happy and better-informed participants within our community, but also fosters healthy relationships, increased hope for the future and a sense of belonging.

The next school to attend is Ararat Primary with 60 Year 5/6 students enrolled in October. From 2026, all Year 5 students within the shire will have the opportunity to attend, due to the generosity of local businesses.

We would like to secure the future sustainability of this initiative, so if you are willing to donate, please follow the instructions attached. This ensures that all money generated goes straight to the Ararat Take a Break Fund and is not used to support schools outside our shire. To be transparent, the camp costs \$150/day per students, so any donation, big or small would be appreciated.

If you would like to become a sponsor, donate, organise fundraising or have an inquiry, please contact either Richard de Fegely, Bob Sanders or Melissa Hope.

Kind regards

Richard de Fegely
Ph: 0439323360

Bob Sanders
Ph: 0427 542 560

Melissa Hope
Ph: 0428 508 255



Take a Break

The Take a Break program covers our weekly programs for primary school-aged children.

Cottage by the Sea's Take a Break program gives children opportunities to experience fun and inspiration activities that challenge (ie, surfing), or encourage team building (ie, low-ropes course) or experiential learning (ie, rock-pooling). Children are usually aged 7-12 and stay at Cottage for 3-5 days.

We are very proud of Cottage's history and continued support in offering Take a Break programs to children and families affected by natural disasters, such as drought, floods or fires.

Outcomes

- Improved emotional wellbeing
- Better approach to healthy and diverse eating habits
- Increased sense of belonging
- Increased self-esteem and confidence
- Improved attitude to physical play and outdoor activities
- Greater respect for self and others
- Better engagement with school, family and the community

Feedback

- "This was one of the best camps in my life but I just wish I had a longer time here at Cottage."
– Program participant
- "My time at Cottage by the Sea made me feel adventurous. The boat ride was SUPER FUN and I loved all the other activities." – Program participant
- "This program provided activities for personal growth. Taking risks, resilience and an extremely high level of achievement and pushing boundaries. The program and staff were outstanding. The best camp I have been on in all my years in education. Students' experiences and their progress in overcoming obstacles and achieving goals will provide a springboard for further growth. Thank you. ☺" – Visiting teacher
- "This is the best camp I have ever taken students on. I have never seen so much personal growth across all children. The staff are amazing. The whole experience was incredible. I hope we are lucky enough to return one day." – Visiting teacher

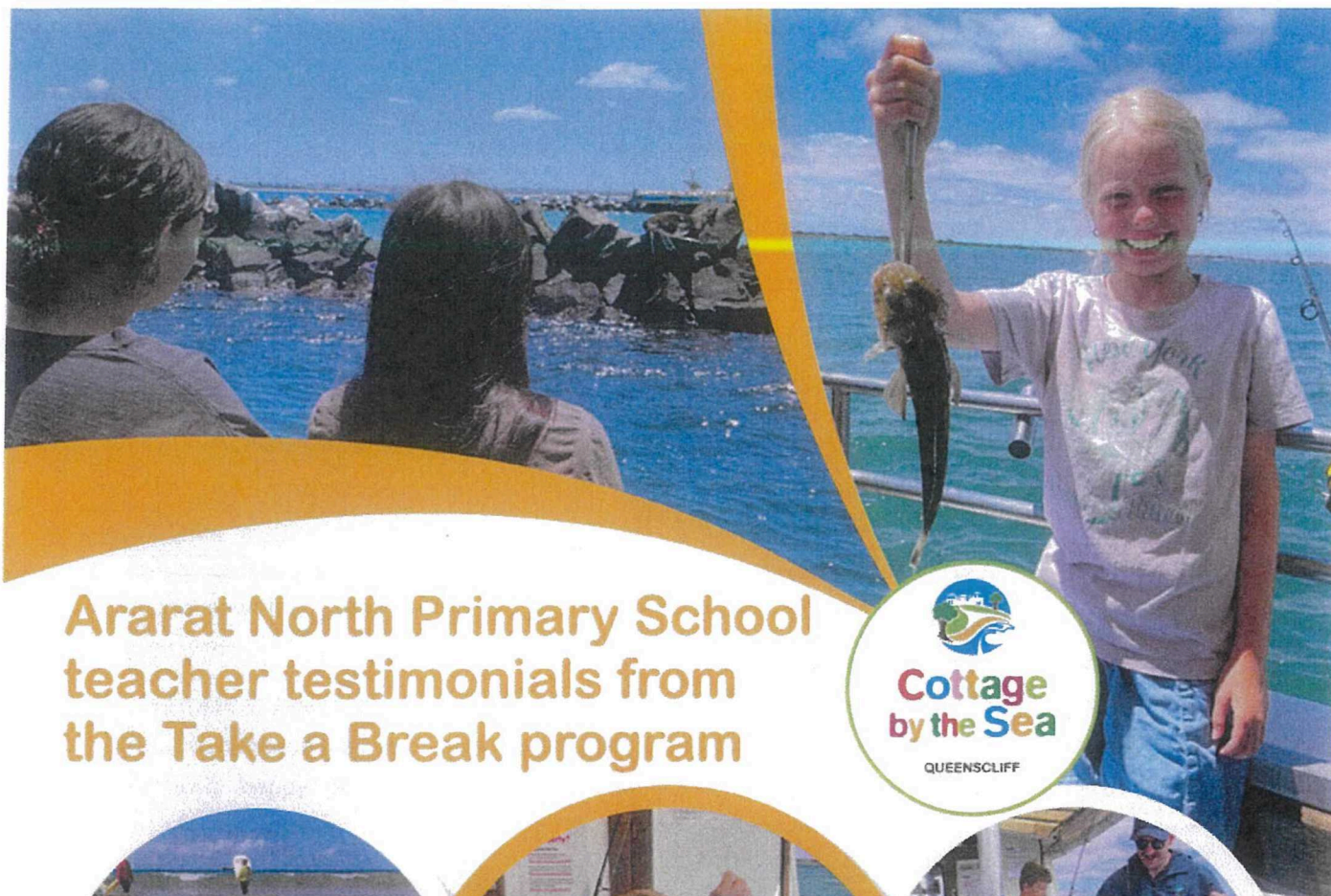
Respect

Adventure

Integrity

Belonging

Community



Ararat North Primary School teacher testimonials from the Take a Break program



"Kids were having a go at things they thought they couldn't do – boogie-boarding in the sea, going on a boat. They were doing things they haven't had an opportunity to do before – fishing, swimming in the sea, seeing sea creatures up close."

"We had students on this camp that have never been away from home or experienced the beach. It was great to see the students confident and willing to try new things."

"The environment and setting are beautiful. Giving some children from a low socio-economic background a great opportunity to experience a great camp and participate in activities they may never get to experience in life."

"A wonderful experience all around. The staff made us feel very welcome. Your programs definitely made a difference in the lives of our students."

"Thank you for allowing us to take part in this wonderful camp. We hope to be a part of it into the future. All staff have been welcoming and supportive. We have experienced so much in such a short amount of time."

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
READ MORE ABOUT THIS
TAKE A BREAK PROGRAM**



Respect

Adventure

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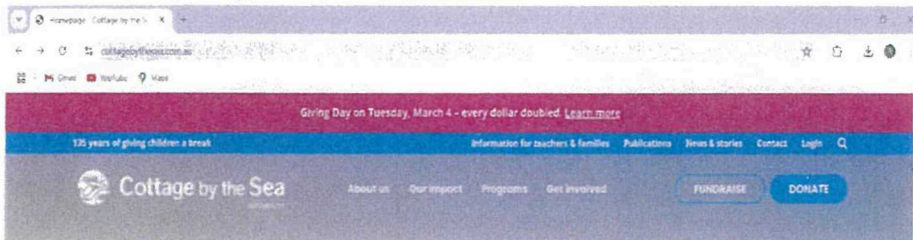
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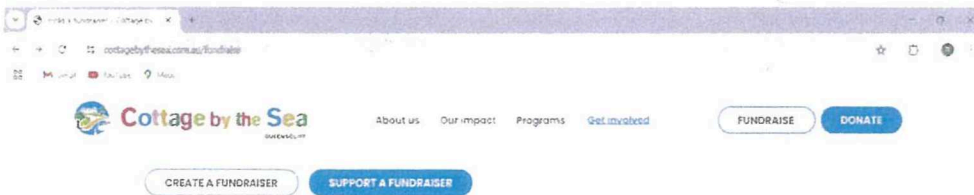
How to donate to this campaign please use the QR code or follow the below steps.



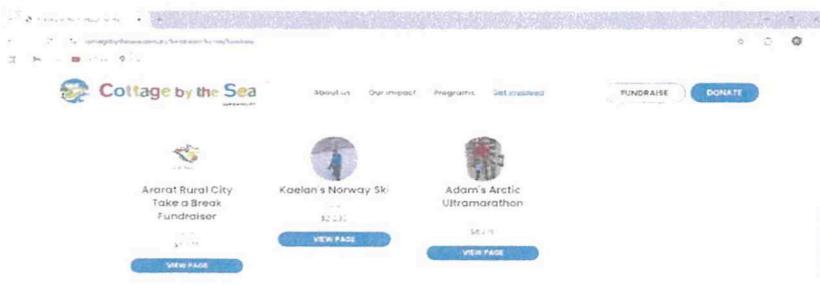
1. Visit <https://www.cottagebythesea.com.au/>
2. Click the "Fundraiser" button on Cottage by the Sea's homepage



3. Click the "Support a fundraiser" button on the "Hold a fundraiser" webpage



4. Click the "view page" button on the "Ararat Rural City Take a Break Fundraiser" icon



5. Follow the prompts to make a donation

Thank you for your support. Your donation will enable more children from the Ararat Rural City Council to experience Cottage by the Sea's Take a Break program.