

## School Holiday Program



A fantastic time was had by all at the holiday program held over four days during the Easter break. Both new and old leaders and kids had a blast. Activities included pillow fighting on a beam, pool, basketball, table tennis and strategic team computer games.



'Cooking with Kara' was a highlight as Kara Thorne taught us to make various kinds of cakes and goodies in creative ways without the traditional tools like an oven! A few new kids joined in the activities hesitantly at first but by the end of the day were keen to come back for more. Each day was a great time of relationship building and fun.

*Kat Blaze*



### A word from Paul

Breakaway Camps has become a name to be proud of and proud to be a part of. We were incorporated in 1989 so that makes this year our 18<sup>th</sup>. I personally believe that that is certainly worth being proud of. That's 18 years of supporting young people, 18 years of giving young people opportunities that were way out of reach, 18 years of providing respite to parents and family members and I could go on but I think you get the idea. By seeing other programs rise and fall around us I am often reminded that running and keeping support programs like ours afloat is not an easy task and requires sacrifice, commitment, generosity and a huge dose of persistence. I love it!

*Yummy desserts about to be devoured by the creators!!*



## Giant Sky Wheel

We recently had a fantastic night adventure on the famous Giant Sky Wheel. We would like to give a big thanks to The Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund for giving us free tickets. We don't often get out on night adventures like this so it came as a great surprise and a chance to get together between camps. Don't be fooled by the photo below; this is a lot higher than it looks and we had some very nervous kids each time we rolled up to the top. All up it was a great opportunity to get together and a good bonding session for those not too good with heights



## Volunteering in Breakaway

Do you read through this newsletter and think "this is great, wish there was something I could do, I'd love to be involved"?

Well there probably **is** a place for you. Volunteering in Breakaway can be done in so many different ways. There is a lot to do other than camps. Please give me a call and we can discuss all the different ways you can be involved.

Paul Coleman 0417 399 193

### Yes... I want to help Breakaway Camps!

I enclose...

- \$5
- \$10
- \$20

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on other ways I can help with the work of Breakaway Camps

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This is ...

- A single gift
- A regular gift, which I will make each:
  - Week
  - Month
  - Quarter
  - Year

Debit my  Bankcard  Visa  MasterCard Sign.....

Expiry Date.....

Please make cheques and money orders payable to Breakaway Camps Inc. Gifts of \$2 and over are tax deductible

POST THIS COUPON WITH YOUR DONATION, TO: BREAKAWAY CAMPS INC, PO BOX 46, PRESTON, VIC 3072

### Introducing Kara Thorne...

My name is Kara Thorne and it has been an absolute delight to come and be a part of the Breakaway Camps team. I began in January this year as an administrator and book-keeper. I used my time to get to know the accounts system and learn more about Breakaway Camps, its mission and practical running. Well it is now 8 months down the track and I still feel like I am getting the hang of things. The Breakaway Committee of Management, with encouragement from Paul, has now opened up my job description to encompass so much more.

#### ... Administrative Guru... Archives, Database, Grants... and more!

I still continue my original role as book-keeper but I now also coordinate office administration, grant writing and creating new organizational systems within Breakaway Camps. The administration involved the jobs of archiving, sorting of filing cabinets and the huge mail out to update the very old database records. Thank-you to those who sent back your response forms! Breakaway Camps has the capability and the vision to expand in number of young people in the program, the leaders recruited and also other locations to run from. Therefore two new software programs have been introduced – one to manage our support and financial records and the other for record keeping of details of young people and the leaders (this also keeps all duty of care issues up to date). The area that is stretching me the most is the writing of grant applications and getting to know who's who of the 'Grant' world!

It has been an amazing and challenging experience being a part of this outreach which encourages and helps young people in such a practical way. Working with the Breakaway Camps team has been a great opportunity to watch leaders who are passionate about helping struggling young people, especially those whose lives have dishd them out many hardships and difficult situations to deal with.

#### ... Cooking with the Kids...

The School Holiday Program is based at Breakaway Camps Headquarters; this has given me the opportunity to attend, contribute practically and have some very down-to-earth conversations with both leaders and young people. The young people are full of life, excitement, willingness to learn and grow but most of all show their general APPRECIATION. They are so thrilled to be surrounded by healthy and safe relationships and thrive being in such a stimulating and well thought-out program.



I was given the awesome opportunity to organize some cooked lunches on the school holiday program. I soon discovered I did not need cook for them– the young people were eager to help out and they did all the work (they even washed their own dishes). At one point there were about 15 of us in the small Breakaway kitchen; you could hear the knives chopping, the spoons mixing and the laughter growing louder and louder. Soon it could be heard, through the whole hall, the chant of "Salsa, salsa" in Mexican accents! We enjoyed an outdoor lunch, beautifully set-up by the young people, munching on homemade salsa and nachos.

Kara (2nd from left) sits down with the kids to enjoy the lunch they cooked during the School Holiday Program

#### ... Fundraising and Events...

Another great privilege for me as I work for BC is the generosity shown to Breakaway Camps in a multitude of ways. It is an amazing opportunity to witness the generosity of so many people – whether it be small gifts or large donations of money, organizing events (such as the Cake & Coffee night and the upcoming Auction), folding letters for mail outs, webpage advice and design tips - every act demonstrates such generosity and thoughtfulness towards Breakaway Camps – especially for the young people it seeks to engage and encourage.

#### ... And looking ahead to an exciting future with Breakaway!

As we come to the end of 2007 it is with great excitement that a new Camp Coordinator will come on board. This will add some financial strain to the Breakaway Camps accounts but it will add soooooo much support to the work and outreach of Breakaway as well as take considerable pressure off Paul and enable him to invest further in other key areas.

I look forward in 2008 to continue in getting to know all those who support Breakaway Camps, building up its profile in our community, raising funds to support the young people of Breakaway and to see the needs of Breakaway Camps being answered. Thank-you for your encouragement and patience with me as I settled into the job and I look forward to the challenges (especially of grant writing!). I look forward to seeing Breakaway Camps create opportunity for positive impact on the lives of young people of our local area.



THE VOICE OF



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Spring 2007

## Annual Fundraising Auction

October 6<sup>th</sup> - 7.00pm  
Ashton Manor - Georgian Room  
49-55 Main Street, Diamond Creek



Join us and spend an evening with family and friends while we raise much-needed funds for Breakaway Camps, who provide programs for kids that build self-esteem and give positive direction to their lives.

The evening will be packed full of fun and entertainment, with live music and the auction. Canapes, crudites and other tasty tidbits will be provided along with non-alcoholic drinks. Beer, wine and spirits available at bar prices.

**MAIN AUCTION - 50 items**      **SILENT AUCTION - 200 items**  
Auction items include sporting goods, restaurant vouchers, baby goods, plants, computer equipment, clothing, white goods, accommodation, shopping and travel vouchers.

Three booking options available:  
Group Table - 10 seats, finger food, refreshments and entertainment - \$250  
Couple - 2 seats, finger food, refreshments and entertainment - \$55  
Individual - 1 seat, finger food, refreshments and entertainment - \$30

For more information or to order tickets contact  
Natalie on 9438 4998 or Shey on 9432 1992