



Cri Du Chat Support Group of Australia Inc.
Information. Friendship. Support.

October 31, 2017

Mr Steve Brogan
Cargo Club Of Australia
84-88 Coode Road
Melbourne 3003

Dear Steve,

Just writing to let you know that we held our 3rd biennial National Cri Du Chat Syndrome Conference and Family Weekend recently at Camp Campaspe Downs in Kyneton.

It was a fantastic event where 29 families from across Australia and from New Zealand attended. We had the camp to ourselves, so it really felt like our own little village community and it was wonderful to see everyone get on so well and enjoy each others company. We were also lucky that the weather was perfect for all the adventurous outdoor activities we arranged.

I enclose copies of our conference booklet for you to pass on to the business sponsors of the Golf Day. As you are aware, it is the Cargo Club of Australia's annual fundraising efforts at the Golf Day involving the generosity of the sponsors and all the players that enabled us to put on the conference and make it accessible to our families (see page 20 and back cover of the booklet). We are so grateful for your support.

We undertook strategic planning at the AGM we held at the conference and I look forward to sharing new developments with you in 2018. An information kit for medical and allied health professionals about Cri Du Chat Syndrome has just been finished and I am in the process of getting it printed to send to maternity hospitals and pediatricians across Australian and New Zealand. I will have copies of this available at the next Golf Day as it is a useful resource for everyone in learning more about Cri Du Chat Syndrome.

We greatly appreciate the ongoing relationship with the Cargo Club of Australia in offering friendship and support to all the families in our Association.

Best regards,

Sue Green
President
Cri Du Chat Support Group of Australia Inc.

WELCOME MESSAGE



Welcome Families!

Holy dooley! We have 26 Australian and New Zealand families coming together from Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and New Zealand. We welcome you all to Camp Campaspe Downs, Kyneton for the 3rd biennial Cri Du Chat Conference and Family Weekend.

The last two events at Seaworld on the Gold Coast have been great successes, but it was time for a change and for Hannah, our organiser extraordinaire, and the QLD team to pass on the baton. Rather than the 'Superhero' theme of 2015, this year the theme is Camping. I like to envisage all of us as being resilient, hardy 'Bushwhackers' and 'Jolly Swag People' who are Cri Du Chat syndrome trailblazers. All of us in our own ways have paved our ways through unknown territory and these National or more correctly International get togethers are a means of sharing and learning about our individual journeys.

Taking account of feedback from previous conferences, the program this time is less busy; there are fewer external speakers and more sharing of our own expertise in workshops; more time for informal interaction and the opportunity to do more as family groups. This in part, has been a necessity as we have been unable to secure the resource of a volunteer group which has provided so many extra helping hands at previous conferences whilst parents attended speakers' programs and so forth. So it is a case of more being free-wheeling and pitching in and saying "cooee" to support one another. And it is this beautiful and generous community of support that I, and trust you, find is so valuable.

Without all the creature comforts afforded by a more expensive resort, we will enjoy being in touch with nature. The animals will be free range this time and all the activities self propelled by our very own Bushwhackers, whether this be canoeing, possum gliding, or fox flying. So feel free to engage and play with your imagination as we will have the camp resources to explore. For example, we can collect wood and share toasted marshmallows or chocolate bananas by a camp fire.

This weekend also gives cause to celebrate our Cri Du Chat Association as we will be holding our 20th AGM at the event. The group has its roots in Victoria and is incorporated there, so it is fitting that we will be able to have so many interstate and New Zealand members at the meeting, and to be involved in our strategic planning. Many of us old hands have been at the helm for many years, so it is pleasing that so many members are attending.

Finally, this weekend's event has been made possible by the generosity and hard work of the Cargo Club of Australia and their Annual Golf Day which for the past two years has raised funds for our support group. We are extremely thankful to Team Kaylei and her parents Jason and Shae Duffy for consolidating our association with the Cargo Club and all the sponsors that contribute to the fundraising effort for our benefit.

So now, without further chinwagging or chewing of the fat, have fun, laugh, dance, and enjoy life at camp and with one another. Cheerio and hooroo for now.

Sue Green
President and Convenor of the Victorian Conference Team
(namely Wendy Craig, Jodi Lister, Shae Duffy, Natalie Elder and Roger Craig)

Extra special thanks to Hannah Gutke (QLD) for maintaining her role in co-ordinating the production of this wonderful booklet.

Thank you to our gorgeous cover models, Gemma and Jai.



The 2017 Annual General Meeting for the Cri Du Chat Support Group of Australia will be held on Sunday 24th September, 9am, at PGL Campaspe Downs. We welcome and encourage all members who are available to join us.