



## Reportback Camp Seaside 2002 Balnarring 8 -10 November

The latest Camp Seaside, held over the weekend of 8-10 November, was a bigger success than ever before. Some attributed this to the weather, with sun being seen every day – contrary to the Seaside tradition!

Friday saw 24 people assemble, including 11



children, and all infected/affected by HIV in their family. The adults included single parents, widows, widowers, couples and grandparents. As people gradually arrived during the day, there were some light activities, such as Tai Chi on the beach, to welcome campers and volunteers into the Seaside tradition.

The evening brought a change to this tradition, with volunteers preparing meals in the houses, as opposed to the community meals of previous years. Participants thought this provided a better meal (roast lamb and chicken) than previously, with smaller groups being catered for. In line with tradition, however, all the children hit it off. Nearly all this year were school age, mainly primary school, although veterans Tsari and Madeline were also there, and adopted a leadership role with the younger children. Friday night saw most in bed early, ready for a weekend of activities and fun.

Saturday morning arrived slowly, and grey,

with a sea mist. A hearty breakfast saw off the grey skies, as well as the arrival of Lila and Renee, regular massage therapists at Straight Arrows. They provided massage all day Saturday and Sunday, and all in a voluntary capacity. The major activity was also conducted on Saturday, this year again being the very popular horse riding. Straight Arrows Executive Officer Michael Rogerson felt unable to attend due to a lack of a steering wheel, but some 20 adults and children did so. Jenny McDonald, the Positive Edge treatments officer also arrived, and was available all day for discussions around treatments, diet and healthy lifestyle.



During the afternoon there was a very popular ceramics class with the children – including some adult sized ones! Tai Chi was also available as massage continued, and many went for a stroll along the beach. The evening



brought another delicious meal, and later the youngsters spent the night in "the shed", with games, videos and other activities.



Sunday brought a slow awakening, again to an eventually blue sky. It seemed as though eve-



ryone had a lazy breakfast until the children finally straggled in from their evening in the shed. Another walk on the beach for some, the Sunday paper and then some more fun!

Late morning brought the arrival of Sal and Em, and interactive circus skills! Tumbling and acrobatics were the order of the day, with



all the youngsters having a go, and a few of the adults chaffing at the bit for a turn!! Lunch saw the traditional BBQ for everyone, stretching out over a couple of hours, and allowing a comfortable wind down, as well as an opportunity to say good bye to Seaside for another year.



Thanks must go to Straight Arrows' staff Gayle Evans and Rebecca Matheson who organised the camp from go to whoa, and in particular Gayle, who was the on site manager. All who had previous experience of Seaside, particularly the volunteers, agreed that the organisa-



tion was the best ever. Thanks must also go to the volunteers, some old hands, some new, who gave freely of their time, energy and enthusiasm.

*This year's Camp Seaside was organised by Straight Arrows, with financial support from Rotary through AAFI, and contributions from Boehringer-Ingelheim and Abbott Pharmaceuticals. Thanks to the committee of AAFI, Lisa Parker Murphy and Karen Lowe of Boehringer-Ingelheim and Roger Phillips of Abbott.*