



media release

Camp Smokey celebrates 20 years

Thursday, 2 September 2010

Camp Smokey, a South Australian camp for child burns survivors, is about to mark its 20th Birthday - and is **seeking help to find past campers to attend the celebrations.**

Every year since 1990, past and present burns patients from the Women's and Children's Hospital have found fun and friendship at Camp Smokey.

The hospital's Burns Advanced Clinical Practice Consultant, Linda Quinn says the camp is organised by volunteer nurses and firefighters, and provides children with an opportunity to share their experiences with other burns survivors.

"Burns are very traumatic. Not only do burns affect the skin's surface with scarring and the pain that growing brings, but they can also have an emotional effect.

"Camp Smokey shows these children and teenagers that they're not alone, and helps to build confidence and self esteem," Linda says.

Camp organisers are asking for help to track down past campers who'd like to attend 20th Birthday celebrations on Sunday, 26 September 2010.

Interested past campers should email Linda Quinn at Linda.quinn@health.sa.gov.au to enquire about attending the celebrations.

The Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) has been a strong supporter of the camp since 1999, with many firefighters and nurses volunteering their time as camp leaders.

In its early years, Camp Smokey was held due to the fundraising of nurses at the Women's and Children's Hospital. Nowadays, the APFF holds a gala ball to help raise the necessary money, assisted by other generous donators.

Camp Smokey attracts dozens of attendees each year and involves activities such as dancing competitions, swimming, mountain biking, canoeing, movie nights and bushwalking.

APFF President, Greg Crossman says firefighters, nurses and past and present camp attendees are looking forward to celebrating Camp Smokey's 20th Birthday.

"We'd like to welcome all past camp attendees along to the celebrations, and encourage them to contact Linda Quinn to ensure they're able to catch up with old friends," Mr Crossman says.

The APFF and camp volunteers say the anniversary is a big milestone, especially because the camp is largely organised and held through the strength of volunteers.

For further information, photo opportunities or interviews:

Call 8204 3770

www.apff.org.au