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By Chanel Zagon

Tom and Emma Hawkins supporting Koala Kids Foundation's Happy Day

Cats power couple Tom and Emma Hawkins have thrown their support behind the Koala Kids Foundation's Happy Day on Wednesday, speaking out on the charity's heartwarming aim to brighten the lives of sick children.



📷 Cats star Tom Hawkins with wife Emma and daughter Arabella. Picture: Alison Wynd

Cats power couple Tom and Emma Hawkins have thrown their support behind the Koala Kids Foundation's Happy Day on Wednesday, speaking out on the charity's heartwarming aim to brighten the lives of sick children.

The foundation aims to provide happiness to Victorian children, young people and their families during cancer treatment, by brightening their days with activities, gifts and experiences.

Ambassador Emma Hawkins, who has been involved with the foundation for 12 years, told the *Geelong Advertiser* the foundation worked so hard to filling the lives of sick children with joy, during such difficult times.

"I have got to see first-hand what they do — even through little things like toys, lucky dips and lollipops they try and make the lives of kids happier," she said.

"As a parent, you would do anything in your power to help support your kids.

"A parent never takes their kids' health for granted, you just want your kids to be healthy."

Emma and Tom Hawkins have a two-year-old daughter, Arabella, with the family due to have their second baby sometime this week.

Mrs Hawkins said Tom and other members of the Geelong Football Club actively made an effort to make children happy.

"Tom's amazing with kids — it's a credit to the club," she said.



📷 Emma and Tom Hawkins with their daughter Arabella supporting the Koala Kids Foundation.

"They dedicate so much of their time to doing those hospital visits and putting a smile on kids' faces when they can."

The Happy Day on Wednesday aims to get people on-board to show support for the foundation by wearing the colour orange and raising donations.

Drysdale mother Amanda Justice spoke to the *Geelong Advertiser* about the foundation brightening the world of her six year-old boy Riley.

Riley was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia in 2017, requiring numerous visits between the Royal Children's Hospital and Geelong Hospital for chemotherapy treatment.

He will undergo more chemotherapy treatment this Friday at Geelong Hospital.

Ms Justice said the foundation had added a bit of sunshine into their lives during a hard time.

"He got given matchbox cars, tattoos, colouring books and pencils in a pack which were donated from Koala Kids," she said.

"At the Royal Children's they do a school holiday program with arts and craft based activities.

"It's all of those little things that are something to look forward to — it brings a smile to their face in a hospital environment."

Koala Kids Foundation program director Amanda Mandie said the concept of the foundation was about happiness.

"Happiness can be contagious — the happier the children, the happier their parents and families and the happier the staff."

To donate, visit: koalakids.org.au