

Halloween fundraiser party to benefit children in need

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Friends Krystle Downs, Emma Taylor and Verity Bone. Picture: Peter Clark

HALLOWEEN has soared in popularity in recent years in Australia, and Emma Taylor is going all out for the spooky occasion.

The 24-year-old events management student has planned a party at her Chatswood home that will see guests swapping candy for gold coins – all in an effort to raise money for a good cause.

Inspired by a gap year spent living in the US, Ms Taylor is bringing the American tradition of Halloween fundraising to Sydney, with all donations going towards the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI).



Chatswood's Emma Taylor with her dog/lion Ripper. Picture: Peter Clark

"I love Halloween. I think it's something people can have a lot of fun with," she told the *North Shore Times*.

Ms Taylor said she had been involved in several fundraising events in the past such as Girls' Night In and Jeans for Genes day.

Dressed up as Wednesday Addams from the Addams Family, she revealed that she was hoping to collect a \$5 entry fee to her party – but not without the help of her fearsome pet lion, Ripper.

"Ripper loves his costume ... he gets to be king of the jungle," she said.



Krystle Downs, Barry Kenyon, Emma Taylor, Verity Bone and 'Ripper' have joined the Scare if You Care Trick or Treat campaign for the Children's Medical Research Institute. Picture: Peter Clark

Once inside the haunted house, party revellers can try their luck at Halloween-themed games including quizzes and “blood pong” ... if they dare.

CMRI national campaign manager Barry Kenyon encouraged all trick-or-treaters to join in the #scareifyoucare initiative by asking for gold coins this Halloween.

“The CMRI wants kids everywhere to be happy and healthy so they can partake in traditions like Halloween,” he said.

All donations collected during Trick Or Treat For CMRI will go directly to supporting the organisation’s world-leading researchers.

For more information and to donate, go to trickortreatforcmri.org.au