



PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

2008

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Mr Marco Bresciani	Multi-Media Consultant, Website Administrator
Mr Andrew Browne	Parent Representative Acting Communications Officer and Treasurer (Dec 2007- Feb 2009)
Ms Sonia Browne	Parent Representative
Ms Melissa Campbell	Parent Representative, Fundraising Coordinator Acting Event Manager and Communications Officer (Dec 2007 – Feb 2009)
Ms Sue Mitchell	Parent Representative
Ms Elizabeth Serpell	Vice President, Public Officer, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Officer, Fundraising Coordinator, Events Manager, Marketing & Communications Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and Grants Officer
Mr Gary Serpell	President
Mr Geoff Serpell	Acting Vice President (Dec 2007 to Feb 2009)

J Duncan - Occupational Therapist (Royal Children's Hospital) has agreed to continue to remain liaison person, offering advice on Occupational Therapy services and pass relevant Aussie Hands information/requests from Aussie Hands to Hand Surgeons and patients visiting the Hand Clinic at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

MEMBERSHIP

As at 30 June 2007, the total membership for the Foundation is 48 family members (including interstate membership).

GRANTS

Aussie Hands successful grant income for 2007-2008 totalled \$8192.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Funding Organisation</u>	<u>RESULT</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Received</u>
26 Mar 2007	Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund	SUCCESSFUL	\$1692	Oct 07
22 Jun 2007	Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs <i>Small Equipment Grant Computer/Laptop (including operating software)</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$1500	Aug 07
16 Nov 2007	Department of Human Services <i>On-going Website maintenance, updates, reformatting and administration</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$5000	Jun 08
21 Mar 2008	Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund <i>Digital still/movie camera for Events/Fundraising activities for professional presentation on website and future publications</i>	PENDING		

FINANCE

Acknowledgement to Nunzio Panella from the Oxford Accounting Group who prepared the Foundation's Taxation Statement for the year ending 30 June 2008. Income and Expenditure Reports provided at the AGM. The Foundation is very grateful to Nunzio who has once again donated his services to the Foundation. The Financial Report is available at the Annual General Meeting TAHF 3/08.

Special thanks to Andrew Browne, Acting Treasurer for compiling the expenditure and income reports and maintaining an excellent record of financial matters for the Foundation.

WEBSITE

As a result of receiving a \$5,000 grant from DHS, from July 2008 the website will be redesigned and redeveloped by MegaMedia. To be launched in 2009 at a family event in Melbourne or interstate.

EVENTS

Family Event - 22 July 2007

HANDS of HOPE and HEALING

Writer Jacinta Kalra, Aussie Hands member and parent of a child with a hand difference

"Aussie Hands" provides support for people with a hand difference.

As a parent of a child with a hand difference it is comforting and supportive to know that a helping hand is not far away.

The Family Event on the 22nd July was an opportunity of forging friendships and sharing stories just as we all joined together in the congo-line which was a perfect ice breaker to unite us all as one.

On arrival, members were asked to 'trace their hands' on a large piece of brown paper which was later displayed as a 'back-drop' to the dance floor. The collage of hands expressed our differences as well as the common bond that we all share.

Entertainment was courtesy of Mobydisc and the 'Fleur Dance Ensemble' dancers. Mobydisc added a colourful collection of songs for young and old -The Wiggles, Hi 5, The Hooley Dooleys and Bob the Builder. The energetic dance group jived to a song with lyrics about "don't stop and never give up" which are important messages to hear about having a positive attitude.

David Cook from Sydney affectionately known as 'Cookie' gave an uplifting talk about his own personal experience. "Having only one hand doesn't mean that you cannot grab an opportunity." He doesn't see his hand difference as a disability but a vehicle to inspire others. His message is simple but profound and he embraces his difference with determination. Cookies talk was food for the soul.

Bakers Delight in Coburg kindly donated delicious buns and muffins for everyone to enjoy. <http://www.bakersdelight.com.au/index.php>

Sovereign Hill kindly donated a 'family voucher' to Sovereign Hill Ballarat. <http://www.sovereignhill.com.au/>

The Genetic Support Network of Victoria contributed \$60 towards this event. <http://www.gsnv.org.au>

EVENTS

Family Event - 11 November 2007

The Aussie Hands Christmas Family Event was held on Sunday 11 November at Edwards Park in Port Melbourne and was attended by 5 Victorian Aussie Hands families.

The event saw a special appearance by Kate Doughty, an Equestrian Paralympian who has a hand difference, and who was recently asked to be the Foundation's Patron. Kate has gladly accepted this position within the Foundation. She looks forward to being involved in the Foundation's future activities and events and would like to provide mentoring support to children and adults with a hand difference.

Aussie Hands members Jess and Kylie created some wonderful 'face painting' for the young children who enjoyed this and the day's activities, which included a lolly 'hunt' around Edwards Park.

The parents sat and enjoyed the sunshine and shared their 'special' stories.

Two activities - 'Heads & Tails' and 'Cricket Bat Flip' - provided three families with gift vouchers kindly donated by 'Lazy Moe's Restaurants' and the 'Melbourne Aquarium'.

The Foundation acknowledges the attendance of our Volunteer Coordinator Elsa who assisted with the event's activities and also took some great photos.

Aussie Hands is grateful for the donations provided by:

Lazy Moe's Restaurants <http://www.lazymoes.com.au/site.htm>

Melbourne Aquarium <http://www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/>

FUNDRAISING

13 October 2007

The 6th Annual Aussie Hands Trivia Night held at the Maritime Union of Australia in West Melbourne on the evening of Saturday 13 October 2007 was a resounding success.

For a second year in a row, the theme was musical trivia, and the night kicked off with songs incorporating colours. Those in the 160 strong audience wearing the colour mentioned in the song came onto the dance floor for a brief dance. It was certainly a great ice-breaker.

Prior to the dance activity, the evening was opened with a brief welcome from the President - Mr Gary Serpell. Guest speakers Michael Chan, Melissa Campbell and Ozzie Ozaydin reaffirmed what the foundation meant to them and the progress that was slowly being made.

Just over \$4,000 was raised, with several games and \$1 and \$5 raffles punctuating the evening. Many incredibly generous businesses and individuals had donated wonderful prizes and vouchers which ensured the success of the evening.

Many attendees provided their contact details on forms circulated to each table. This was a testament to the genuine interest shown in our cause.

Finally, a huge wrap must go to the team of volunteers who tirelessly helped collect money, sell raffle tickets and carry out many tasks throughout the evening.

A final 'thank you' is reserved for the members of the Maritime Union of Australia for the most generous use of the wonderful venue. Particular thanks go to Vicki Chapman and Kevin Bracken, for whom nothing was too much trouble.

The following donors were acknowledged :

Al Alamy, Coburg	Delve Deeper	Paul Sadler Swimland, Essendon
Abla's Lebanese Restaurant, Carlton	Elizabeth & Gary Serpell	Paula Harrison
Altay Gifts, Coburg	Ernest Hillier Chocolates	Renata Safar & Jason Pierce
Angel's Realm, Taylors Lakes	Farrage Curtains Decor, Coburg	Rosana Dias
Baker's Delight, Coburg	Faye & David Blackburn	Rosanna Golf Club
Better Living Interiors, Moonee Ponds	House of Gifts, Coburg	Rydges on Swanston
Betty Crocker	JB HI FI, DFO, Essendon	Scalpture for Hair, Strathmore
Coburg Food Wholesalers	Leuzzi Flowers	Tasty Rooster, Coburg
Coburg Market Fruit Supply	Lynette Williams	Torquay Books
Coburg Meat Supply	Maria Welsh	Trudy Schuringa (Photographer)
Continental Grocery Shop, Coburg	Melissa & Stephen Campbell	Sue Mitchell, Tupperware
Connex	Melville Timber, Brunswick West	Val & George, Pascoe Vale South
Cosmopolitan Shoes, Coburg	MHS Sunbury	Victory Blinds
Creative Memories, Torquay	Oakridge Winery	

FUNDRAISING

5 June 2008

The Aussie Hands Cocktail Evening was held in Melbourne and attended by 70 guests which included a mixture of friends, family, Foundation representatives and outside guests who had not previously heard of Aussie Hands. The event was successful, enjoyable, and financially viable due to the coordination of the Foundation's Fundraising Coordinator M Campbell together with the staff and students at William Angliss Institute in West Melbourne. Aussie Hands Patron Kate Doughty also attended the event.

Sponsorship from....

- Signed framed Collingwood football jumper from Collingwood Football Club
- Champagne glasses by Beautiful Vending
- Complete Food Services food hamper
- Thomas Cook clothing
- 2 x slabs of Red Bull
- 2 x Priceline hampers
- 2 x AMF family bowling vouchers
- 4 x Angus and Robertson books
- 6 x Bottles of wine from Oak Ridge Winery
- \$50 voucher from Pumpkin Patch
- Wine and Chocolate hamper
- Wine Box Hamper

Profit \$2,430.

Financial records for this event will be audited in the 2008-2009 Financial Report.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

1 July 2007

Genetic Support Network of Victoria (GSNV)



The President of Aussie Hands and his family attended the GSNV Family Day & Midwinter Feast at the Maribyrnong Community Centre, Melbourne on Sunday 1 July 2007. The day involved giant board games, story telling, craft activities and a baked potato feast. Attendees to the event were able to hear about other support groups and their activities.

6 July 2007

Genetic Support Network of Victoria (GSNV)

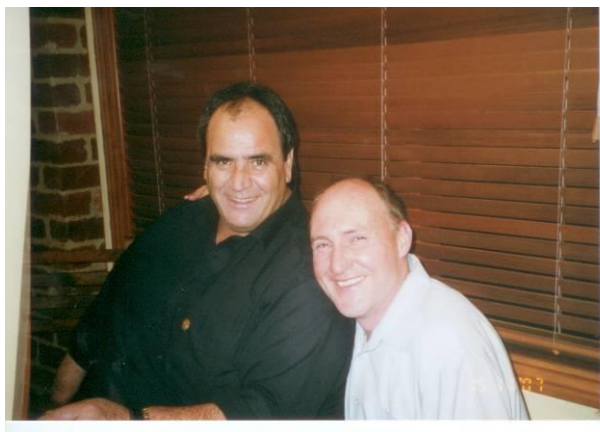
E Serpell also attended a 'Coffee Morning' at Glen Waverly Neighbourhood House, Melbourne on Friday 6 July 2007 which was hosted by the GSNV. Elizabeth conducted a presentation on Aussie Hands to raise awareness.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

15 November 2007

ATLHA ONLUS - Milan, Italy

Mr Lino Brundu, President of the ATLHA ONLUS, Milan, Italy met with the President and his family on 15 November 2007 in Coburg, Melbourne to discuss the future affiliation of the two foundations through the association of the two sister city councils of Melbourne-Australia and Milan-Italy. Two young Melbourne Aussie Hands members were honoured to meet with Lino Brundu also.



VOLUNTEERS

In November 2006, Elizabeth submitted a project application form to Oxfam Skills Share to seek a volunteer who could assist with some short term planning support for the management of the Foundation. In December 2007, David Dee a volunteer from Oxfam Skills Share assisted the Foundation in achieving the following:

- Arrange Insurance - Public Liability and Voluntary Workers
- Formulate a 'Strategic Plan' 1-5 year plan
- Create Volunteer Position Descriptions
- Recruit volunteers - register with ProBono, Volunteering Australia, Boroondara Council
- Re-design of the original brochure to a new 'information brochure' and create a poster for the 'raising awareness' campaign
- Seek a patron for Aussie Hands

Volunteers recruited from ProBono, Volunteering Australia, University of Melbourne - Leadership, Involvement and Volunteer Program (LIVE) Unit, and Boroondara Council assisted with the Foundation's activities, eg., fundraising events, family events and marketing campaign.



RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

With many years of fundraising, generous donations and grants received, the Foundation embarked on its 'raising awareness' campaign where over 60,000 brochures and 12,000 posters were circulated Australia-wide to Private/Public Hospitals, Paediatricians, Obstetricians, Gynaecologists, Ultrasonographers, and Occupational Therapists. (Cost: \$14,800).

From July 2007, membership has increased from 27 families to 48 families (including interstate), this is indicative of the impressive result of a successful 'raising awareness' campaign. From December 2007 to March 2008, membership increased in a 3-month period from 35 families to 48 families (including interstate membership).

From 2009, the campaign will continue by distributing more brochures and posters to Midwives, Maternal Health Child Care Centres, Community Health Centres, Child Care Centres, pre-schools & Kindergartens, Private/Public Schools, WorkCare Offices, Hand Surgeons and Hand Therapy Centres.

MEDIA

July 2007

Brisbane's Child
Adelaide's Child
Canberra's Child
Perth's Child

September 2007

Giving a Helping Hand, Manningham Leader, Victoria, 19 Sept 2007

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Vice President attended the following courses:

- 23 July 2007 Leadership Journey for Women, Graduate House, University of Melbourne
- 26 July 2007 Business Builders Session 2 - Make Networking Work for You (RMIT)
- 27 July 2007 Working together for successful Self-Help Groups (COSHG)
- 6 September 2007 Leadership Tool Kit, Graduate House, University of Melbourne
- 14 September 2007 'Our Community' Fundraising Workshop, William Angliss, Melbourne
- 1 October 2007 'Volunteering Victoria' Workshop - Assuring that Volunteer contributions are valued and supported, Melbourne

ACHIEVEMENTS

- From July 2007, membership increased from 27 families to 48 families (including interstate)

- All grant applications submitted were successful
- Increased MEDIA exposure Australia-wide via 'Child' publications in each state of Australia
- Public Liability and Voluntary Workers Insurance arranged
- 'Strategic Plan' 1-5 year plan formulated
- Volunteer Position Descriptions created and advertised
- Volunteers recruited via ProBono, Volunteering Australia, University of Melbourne SALP Program and Boroondara Council
- Brochure and poster redesigned and circulated for the 'raising awareness' campaign
- Patron for Aussie Hands nominated/elected - Ms Kate Doughty
- \$5,000 grant received to update and improve the current website

GOALS 2009

RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Mar 2009 → Dec 2009

MARKETING

Aussie Hands Day (Annual Event)

Launch Winter 2010

MEDIA

1→ 5 publications during 2009

- TV
- Magazines
- Radio

VOLUNTEERS

Recruitment via ProBono for Victorian and prospective 'interstate' volunteers to include 'state representatives who will liaise with the Victorian based Communications Officer.

SPONSORSHIP

Attract Corporate Sponsorship

WEBSITE

Continue to maintain and provide additional information on

- Medical Technology
- Books/resources/special equipment
- LINKS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- WEBSITE - Noel Pricor - HOTKEY Monash
- WEBSITE ADMINISTRATION - Fiona McClure and Marco Bresciani
- EDITOR - Mick Kannegiesser - Digital Environs
- MARKETING - Mery-Anne Winter, Angela Paladino, Danielle Chmielewski
- FUNDRAISING - Melissa Campbell, Carol Edwards, Maria Lee, William Angliss Institute
- FINANCE - Nunzio Panella - Oxford Accounting Group
- BOARD OF MANAGEMENT and VOLUNTEERS

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide support for children and adults with hand differences by giving advice on appropriate education programs, special equipment, medical and community resources.

CONCLUSION

In 2009-2010, the Foundation intends to work towards launching the AUSSIE HANDS day during winter 2010 and recruit interstate volunteers to assist in raising awareness. Exposure in the Media and distribution of the brochure Australia-wide will further enhance the aims and objectives of Aussie Hands.

Elizabeth Serpell
Public Officer
10 November 2008