



PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

2010

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Mr Mark Bonfieni	Parent Representative and volunteer in Fundraising
Ms Marie Brancatella	Ordinary Board Member
Mr Marco Bresciani	Ordinary Board Member and Multi-Media Consultant, Website Administrator and Maintainer
Mr Andrew Browne	Parent Representative and Assistant Treasurer
Ms Sonya Browne	Parent Representative
Mr Cameron Heath	Ordinary Board Member and volunteer in Fundraising & Events
Ms Melissa Campbell	Parent Representative and volunteer in Fundraising
Ms Elizabeth Serpell	Vice President, Public Officer, Treasurer, Secretary, and volunteer in Communications, Fundraising, Events, Marketing, Volunteer coordination & recruitment and applying regularly for grants
Mr Gary Serpell	President
Mr Geoff Serpell	Ordinary Board Member
Ms Fiona Ward	Ms Ward was nominated as Qld State Representative. Unfortunately, Ms Ward was not elected due to non-member status
Ms Maria Welsh	Ordinary Board Member and volunteer to distribute 'greeting cards'

From 2000 to 2010, Josie Duncan - Occupational Therapist (Royal Children's Hospital) was liaison contact person, offering advice on Occupational Therapy services and passed relevant Aussie Hands information/requests from Aussie Hands to Hand Surgeons and patients visiting the Hand Clinic at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Josie encouraged many patients to join Aussie Hands and has recently retired from the Hospital. Occupational Therapists - Ms Kylie Chandler and Ms Tanya Cole have agreed to be the Foundation's new liaison contacts at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. The Board would like to thank Josie for her continued ongoing support.



16 June 2010

Serpell family with Josie Duncan at RCH, Melbourne

MEMBERSHIP

<i>Member Type</i>	<i>State / Territory</i>	<i>Total (families)</i>	<i>2009</i>
-	ACT	0	0
Hand Difference	NSW	6	6
-	NT	0	0
Hand Difference	QLD	8	4
Professional	QLD	1	1
Hand Difference	SA	3	3
Hand Difference	TAS	2	1
Hand Difference	VIC	46	31
Board Member	VIC	6	3
Financial Support	VIC	13	1
Professional	VIC	2	1
Hand Difference	WA	3	3
Professional	WA	0	1
		90 (2010)	54 (2009)

MEMBER – INTERSTATE CONNECTIONS

10 February 2010 visit by Serpell family from VIC met with the Bowles family from QLD during their visit to Melbourne

2 April 2010 visit by Serpell family from VIC to the Sparkes family QLD

15 April 2010 visit by E Serpell to RCH, Melbourne to meet with Lawrence family NSW after operation

GRANTS

In June, Aussie Hands was approached by the Sentinel Foundation who expressed interest in the activities of Aussie Hands. A special project grant of \$10000 was received and will be allocated towards 'raising public awareness' of Aussie Hands via online marketing and social media with FACEBOOK. This amount will be included in the next financial year report 2010-2011. On behalf of the Board of Management and members, the Vice President wrote to the Sentinel Foundation to thank them for the marvellous gesture and will keep them informed regarding Aussie Hands future endeavours.

<i>Application Date</i>	<i>Funding Organisation</i>	<i>RESULT</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Received \$\$</i>
31 Mar 2009	Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund <i>Office furniture & Storage Units</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$2800	14 Oct 2009
12 Aug 2009	Office for Disability, Department of Planning and Community Development <i>12-month website maintenance and Development www.aussiehands.org</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$3500	28 Jan 2010
18 Dec 2009	Telstra's Kids Fund <i>Postage to circulate brochures to Radiologists and Occupational Therapists (nationally)</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$1200	2 Jun 2010
31 Mar 2010	Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund <i>To provide a one-off salary to the Vice President for 10-years service</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	\$5000	--
10 June 2010	Ross Divett Foundation <i>Promotional Material</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	\$5000	--

FINANCE

Acknowledgement to Nunzio Panella from the Oxford Accounting Group who prepared the Foundation's Taxation Statement for the year ending 30 June 2010. Income and Expenditure Reports provided at the AGM. The Foundation is very grateful to Nunzio who has once again donated his professional services to the Foundation.

RESEARCH

Hand surgeons at the Royal Children's Hospital received ethics approval in June 2010 for the APERT study which will be the longest follow-up of hand function in APERT's ever done which will be very important in the assessment of quality of life and functional outcomes.

Aussie Hands is supporting the APERT study outlined below which is the first research project involvement for the Foundation. Finally, many years of fundraising and grants has given Aussie Hands the opportunity to provide financial assistance towards research. Total contribution by Aussie Hands for the APERT study is \$4435. It is anticipated in the future, Aussie Hands will embrace other valuable research projects.

LONG TERM REVIEW OF HAND SURGERY FOR APERT SYNDROME

Apert syndrome is a congenital syndrome with significant craniofacial & complex hand anomalies, both of which require surgical reconstruction. Surgery usually begins in infancy & for most children many procedures are required to achieve optimal function. Over the past 40 years approximately 20 patients with Apert syndrome have undergone surgery to their hands at Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Melbourne.

We are intending to conduct an audit into the long-term outcomes of this surgery. We wish to review the patients who have undergone this surgery over the past 40 years at the RCH. We feel that it is important to audit the outcomes of surgery in this group, as the surgical techniques have evolved throughout this period. Our aim is to formally re-assess as many of the patients as possible. To our knowledge from the literature a follow up of the long-term outcome of hand surgery in Apert patients has not been performed.

The patients will be identified by the hand fellow (principal investigator - Dr Kim Taylor) from the existing craniofacial database, theatre records and hospital coding numbers. Records will be reviewed by the principal investigator to obtain details of the surgical procedures. Patients will be invited to participate by a phone call from the hand fellow of the plastic surgical department. The assessment would involve an initial phone call questionnaire to the children or where appropriate, the parents by a hand therapist. This is a standardized assessment (the FIM or weeFIM assessment) and is of approximately 20 minutes duration. Then an outpatient appointment at the Royal Children's Hospital for approximately 1-2 hours will be scheduled at the patient or parent's convenience for further assessment by a hand therapist and the hand fellow. This will be similar in nature to the routine outpatient reviews that the patient will be familiar with. It will involve assessment of hand function including range of movement and strength measurement and assessment of dexterity and sensation. We will also ask to take photographs of patient's hands (after obtaining appropriate consent) – this is also done routinely in our clinical practice. This will involve 2D images of three views of each patient's hands and digital copies of previous photographs.

For any interstate or country patients we will co-ordinate their assessment with other appointments at RCH to avoid any extra travel. All information collected will be stored on a password protected RCH computer within the locked office of the plastic surgical department until the youngest child reaches 25 years of age. Stored data will be de-identified. We intend to publish the de-identified outcomes of this study in a peer reviewed hand surgery journal after appropriate consent from patients has been obtained.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

From 3 August to 13 October 2009, Oxfam Skills Share arranged for Mr Donald Holmes (volunteer) to consult Aussie Hands on Strategic Planning. A review of 'volunteer involvement' was the main focus with a result of recruiting two volunteers who were given the combined roles of Volunteer Coordinator and Project Managers.

From 6 August, the University of Melbourne, Graduate Consulting Group from the Faculty of Business & Economics liaised regularly with the Vice President and on the 5th of November arranged a presentation highlighting key areas for future planning including: volunteer management, establishing partnerships and seeking grants based on regular projects.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ATLHA ONLUS, Milan visit to Melbourne 25 Feb – 7 Mar 2010

Melbourne-Milan Youth Exchange Program

As a result of a signed agreement between Aussie Hands and ATLHA ONLUS, Milan, Italy in August 2008, this event launched the first Melbourne-Milan exchange program between the two sister cities.

From August 2009 to February 2010, the Vice President was involved in the coordination of MELMI (Melbourne & Milan) the first exchange of members from ATLHA ONLUS, Milan visiting Melbourne for a few days to meet other disability groups and join in many activities. The visit was the culmination of a close working relationship the City has developed over time with Atlha Onlus and was supported by their official partner, Aussie Hands Inc and project partners the City of Melbourne, Italian Chamber of Commerce, Italian Institute of Culture, Bayley House Brighton, Interchange (Outer East), Wesley Mission (Fire & Clay) Lilydale, Arts Project Northcote, Octagon, and sponsors: Housing Resource & Support Service Carlton, Etihad Stadium, Carlton Football Club, Koori Heritage Culture Centre, Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre, Friends of the Zoo, Blueprint Carlton, Veneto Club Bulleen, Reggio Calabria Club West Brunswick, the Serpell family and the Lazzari Family



ATLHA ONLUS Youth group at Melbourne Zoo

RAISING AWARENESS

Presentations

For the first time Aussie Hands was approached by several Rotary Clubs in Victoria to conduct Presentations on:

- 5 May 2010, Rotary Club of Strathmore VIC (\$200 donation received)
- 9 June 2010, Rotary Club of North Essendon VIC (\$100 donation received)
- 7 July 2010, Rotary Club of Moonee Valley VIC

The presentations to the Rotary Club members provided an insight on Aussie Hands background, activities and future aims and objectives. The Rotary clubs certainly took an interest in Aussie Hands and asked us many questions relating to congenital hand anomalies and fundraising.



The Serpell family with President and Chair of the Rotary Club of Strathmore, Victoria, 5 May 2010

Campaign to circulate 'brochures'

Due to lack of volunteers and funding during 2009, Aussie Hands was unable to circulate/distribute brochures. Due to recent volunteer recruitment and funding from the Telstra's Kids Fund, this task will now become a reality. Volunteers have expressed interest to assist with the database and collating for the distribution of brochures to ALL Australian Occupational Therapists and Radiologists.

RAISING AWARENESS (Cont.)

AFL – ETIHAD STADIUM

On 1 December, Board Member Geoff Serpell and Vice President Elizabeth Serpell met with Mr Ian Collins, CEO, Etihad Stadium, Melbourne. After an informal chat and brief outlining the aims and goals of Aussie Hands, Mr Collins advised that Etihad Stadium would be happy to support Aussie Hands members for future events and activities.



Elizabeth Serpell, Ian Collins and Geoff Serpell, ETIHAD STADIUM

Local School Project – Melbourne

Year 9 students (Nick Hurst and Josh Markar) from the Christian Brothers College (CBC) at St Kilda-Balaclava in Melbourne interviewed the Vice President during Semester 1. Students were required to find a charitable organisation, conduct an interview and put together a display highlighting the functions of the organisation and how it helps people. As a result of Nick & Josh's impressive project, the school community learnt more about 'Aussie Hands' at the College's Exhibition during June.



Nick Hurst & Josh Markar, CBC St Kilda- Balaclava Campus, 295 Carlisle Street, Balaclava

RAISING AWARENESS (Cont.)

RADIO

10 August 2009

101.9 Fox FM (Melbourne)

Matt & Jo interviewed Patron Kate Doughty about the upcoming Fox Fashion Face Off which is part of the 2009 Melbourne Spring Festival Week.

3 December 2009

3CR

Interview with Helen Gwilliam and Elizabeth Serpell Vice President (including telephone interview with Patron Kate Doughty in conjunction with 3CR's broadcast in celebration of International Day of People with Disability).

TV

26 July 2009

Channel 9 News

Website Re-Launch and interview with members and Patron Kate Doughty

25 September 2009

4 December 2009

Channel 31

NAT CHAT

Interview with David McLauchlan and young Aussie Hands member David Serpell along with Elizabeth Serpell Vice President on the background and activities of Aussie Hands

PRINTED MEDIA

3 August 2010

HERALD SUN

Page 17

'Taking in to the Max in fresh start' featuring young member Max Barnes (after website launch event at RCH)

9 November 2010

Moreland Leader Newspaper

'A Helping Hand' featuring young members Elouise Browne, Laura Campbell & David Serpell advertising the Aussie Hands Christmas family event on 15 November 2010, Edwards Park, Port Melbourne.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

1 August 2009

Nursing Australia's enews

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Aussie Hands has some marketing/promotional material including T-Shirts, USB's (1GB), Mugs, Key Rings, Pens and 'hand-shaped' cookie cutters. Aussie Hands will seek funding during 2011 to purchase more products to add to the range.

EVENTS

26 July 2009

Melbourne

NEW LOOK WEBSITE LAUNCH

Hand it to the Aussie Hands Heroes

The website launch presentation was held on Sunday 26 July 2009 from 11-2 pm in the Ella Latham Room at Royal Children's Hospital. It was the launch presentation of the new look website for Aussie Hands, as new members have joined and the profile of Aussie Hands is expanding.

Excitement was in the air with the media coverage by Channel 9 news and an article in the Herald Sun. In the Leader newspaper on 10 March 2003 the Serpell's hope was to have members Australia wide and a website and now their dreams are turning into reality.

The two speakers were **Kate Doughty** and **Leo Driessen** who both shared their inspiring personal story of what it is like to be born with a hand difference. They stand out from the crowd not because of their hand difference but because of their exceptional desire to achieve their potential and pursue their dreams.

In September 2007 Kate was appointed as the Foundation's Patron to represent Aussie Hands and be a mentor and inspiration to young members. Kate is a dressage champion and has been riding since the age of eight. Kate has completed Postgraduate studies in Psychology, is working at the Victorian Institute of Sport and is a scholarship holder for equestrian at the Victorian Institute of Sport and has her sights set on the Olympic Games 2012 in London.

Leo Driessen born with a hand difference has a positive attitude to life and he stated that "I don't think my hand has ever stopped me trying anything. It has never been a problem. I realise that it has been more of an issue for other people than for me". The words from his speech sum up his philosophy of life and "that his hand is not a particularly special part of who I am just one part". He is matter of fact and humour is a dose of the best medicine when Leo recounts his life story. When people asked him what happened to his hand he made up fictitious stories such as it was a 'shark attack or chainsaw accident'. Leo has a passion for sport and played the trumpet, was speed skating Australian champion, tried roller skating, dirt bike riding and raced club level Enduro from the age of 18 to 35. Leo even tried his hand at archery although even for him this proved rather challenging. Leo is an Engineer and has a Bachelor of Engineering degree and has a flair for inventing. He designed and built prototypes until he found a clutch mechanism that suited him for racing and built his first go cart at the age of 12. "This gives you a hint of what really defines me not my hand, but that I'm an engineer through and through".

What strikes me about Leo and Kate is their steely determination and burning desire to reach the pinnacles of their chosen career. As a mother and parents we have to put our faith and trust in the skilled hands of the plastic surgeons.

Other speakers were **Guy Dowling** and **Bruce Johnstone**.

Guy Dowling an honorary senior lecturer in the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine from Monash is a reconstructive plastic surgeon and has a special interest in reconstructive hand surgery and a specialist in paediatric hand surgery.

Bruce Johnstone from RCH is a Plastic and Maxillofacial surgeon who specialises in paediatric hand surgery. **Chris Coombs** a congenital hand and microvascular surgeon from RCH who has a special interest in paediatric hand surgery and paediatric microsurgery and **Josie Duncan** an occupational therapist also from RCH also attended the event.

Sandwich and fruit platters were kindly catered. Some so called 'normal people' may see a hand difference as an obstacle but for these exceptional role models it is an opportunity to succeed and triumph in every endeavour. Acknowledgement also to the tireless support of the founders of Aussie Hands - **Elizabeth and Gary Serpell**

Report written by Jacinta Kalra, member, Aussie Hands

EVENTS (Cont.)

15 November 2009
Port Melbourne
XMAS FAMILY EVENT

The Aussie Hands Family Event held on Sunday 15 November at Edwards Park in Port Melbourne was a huge success.

All those who attended had a wonderful time and enjoyed meeting new members from Heidelberg and Ballan.



EVENTS (Cont.)

20 March 2010
Port Melbourne
EASTER EGG HUNT



On Saturday 20 March 2010, Aussie Hands arranged an Easter Egg Hunt at Edwards Park, Port Melbourne.

Several new members came along to meet others who shared their inspirational stories and talked about their children's recent operations and progress at kindergarten and primary school.

Aussie Hands Patron - Kate Doughty enjoyed meeting everyone and was pleased to see the kids having fun in the sun, especially searching for Easter Eggs! (kindly donated by Ernest Hillier Chocolates).

After a couple rounds of 'odds & evens' 4 families received vouchers to the Melbourne Aquarium and Lazy Moe's Restaurant.

Families in attendance:

Clarke, Bendigo | Cross, Altona Meadows | Currie, Baranduda (Wodonga) | Darii, Heathmont | Harris, Jan Juc | Howell, Berwick | Kavanagh, South Yarra | Maloney, St Kilda | McGregor, Ballan | Page, Morwell | Rhodes, Sunbury | Serpell, Coburg & Highett

PATRON - Kate Doughty and her friend Adam

Special visit by the Bromley family from Seaford

Volunteers - Danielle (Monash Univ) and Jimmy (Univ of Melb) captured the day on film and video.

Members also purchased 'Aussie Hands' mugs, key rings, USB sticks, cookie cutters, pens and T-Shirts.

FUNDRAISING

24 October 2009

Melbourne

Music Trivia Fundraising Event, Maritime Union of Australia

This year's Aussie Hands Musical Trivia night was an immense success with 72 people gathering at the now familiar venue of the Maritime Union of Australia in West Melbourne.

Mal the 'music man' soon had us up dancing to an amazing array of hits that spanned the decades.

The night ran beautifully due mainly to the fine efforts of a crack team of students 'Final Step Productions' studying 'event management' at William Angliss Institute. Part of their course requirement was to plan and run a major event with the trivia night being their 'baby'. The theme of the evening was 'board games' and 'numbers'. Each table was allocated a board game name, eg., Monopoly, Chess, Scrabble, etc.

Planning began in August and judging by the reactions of delight when people saw how intricately their tables were decorated, it's easy to see how much effort went into the event.

Fundraising activities during the night included 'Odds & Evens' with the prize being a night for 2 on the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant. A similar activity using a deck of cards saw a quality dozen bottles of wine from Oakridge Winery as the prize. A silent auction of a HD flat screen TV raised \$550 (kindly donated by Faye and David Blackburn) and the raffle saw many tickets sold. Great prizes like a night for two at the Langham Hotel and outdoor entertaining package went to lucky ticket holders. When the three energetic and at times rowdy music trivia rounds were completed and the winners had been announced (Scattergories), it was time for a final burst of moving and grooving on the dance floor.

Again, with the ever-helpful 'Final Step Productions' to oversee the clean-up and pack-up of the venue, the night finished at a respectable midnight.

We cannot thank the 'Final Step Productions' enough for their terrific planning and vigilance in the successful running of the night. A huge thank you is also reserved for the many generous donors of cash and prizes to assist with the Foundation's raising awareness campaign. A total of \$3,526.90 was raised at the event.

The generous Donors acknowledged at this event were: Baker's Delight Coburg, Coles Preston, Christine Scates, David Bicknell & Nicole Harris, Elizabeth & Gary Serpell, Family One Medical Centre Cranbourne, Faye & David Blackburn, Genevieve & Lucas Bunyan, Hazel Kay, Ian Lamb, Kingston Arts Centre, Maritime Union of Australia, Melbourne Observation Deck Rialto, Melissa & Stephen Campbell, Nikoletta Bakacs, Officeworks, PL Plumbing, Rachael Boyd, Rosanna Golf Club, Safeway, The Comic's Lounge, The Good Guys Airport West, William Angliss Institute, Williamstown Bay & River Cruises.



Music & Dancing is enjoyed by all at the Music Trivia Fundraising Event

FUNDRAISING (Cont.)

21 May 2010

Melbourne

U2 Fundraising Event

On Friday 21 May 2010, Aussie Hands held its first major fundraiser for the year. 75 guests attended the Angliss Restaurant in Melbourne. Gary Morris played 'Bono' very convincingly with all of the U2's hit songs wonderfully performed in three (30-minute) brackets.

The guests enjoyed a broad range of delicious canapés and various drinks as they danced or clapped to the music.

Old fundraising favourites like 'odds & evens' and a thumb-print game were enjoyed by many.

Michael Chan from Ray White Real Estate (Pascoe Vale/Coburg) conducted an auction of a framed U2 poster and a couple of wonderfully U2 'busts' handcrafted by Gary Morris himself.

A successful raffle was also conducted with 10 winners receiving prizes ranging from stylish women's clothing to a digital photo frame.

Kate Doughty, Aussie Hands Patron spoke about her busy studies and her exciting quest to represent Australia at the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky USA in October. Her pervading message was that her hand difference has never held her back in her amazing pursuits.

The evening wound up at about 11pm with the dulcet tones of 'Bono' aka Gary Morris still ringing in our ears.

Aussie Hands acknowledged generous donations/sponsorship from the following: Ashwood Meat Supply, Jodie Bridge, Civic Video Heidelberg, Crown, Fiona Marconi, Gary Morris, JB HI FI Heidelberg, Joe Leuzzi Flowers Victoria Market, Ma family, Amelia Oakley, Ray White Real Estate Pascoe Vale & Coburg, Stuart Staton, The Australian U2 Show, The Comic's Lounge, Victorian Tavern Gisborne.

Students training in 'event management' from the William Angliss Institute assisted the Vice President in coordinating another successful event.

\$911.70 was raised toward the Aussie Hands 'raising awareness' campaign.



Aussie Hands Patron - Kate Doughty with the Australian U2 Show

DONATIONS

- Online Donations established with Our Community - GIVE NOW and also Humane Charities List
- Ritchie's Supermarkets link established so customers can use their Ritchie's supermarket card so they can choose Aussie Hands so Aussie Hands can receive a small donation
- PL Plumbing \$500
- Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation \$1000

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Basic Media Training (15 July 2009) attended by E Serpell, Univ of Melb
- Planning your Organisations Future (10 August 2009) attended by E Serpell
- Media Secrets for Community Groups (8 September 2009) attended by E Serpell
- Weaving your Web (8 September 2009) attended by E Serpell
- Managing your Volunteers more Effectively (25 September 2009) attend by Volunteer Coordinators: O Lenoir & M Raju
- Cvent's Lunch Seminar on 'online event management software' (5 March 2010) attended by E Serpell & O Lenoir

VOLUNTEERS

On 18 August 2009 and 13 May 2010 Aussie Hands attracted over 100 University students at the Volunteer Fair held at the University of Melbourne. Oceane Lenoir and Marilyn Raju established a file management system and coordinated volunteers for several months to undertake a few tasks. Samantha Fu is currently the new volunteer/project manager coordinator and has involved many volunteers to participate in Aussie Hands activities, events and day-to-day operational tasks.



Oceane Lenoir & Samantha Fu showcasing Aussie Hands at the Volunteer Fair, 18 August 2010

OFFICE LOCATION

In November 2009, new office furniture (funded by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund) was assembled and installed. Three (3) filing cabinets were purchased for \$20 each from the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Business & Economics.

Volunteers have been doing several tasks in the office utilising the facilities of Ross House.

MACADVICE allow Volunteers to access the internet through their internet network whilst in the office. MACADVICE's office is opposite the Aussie Hands office on the ground floor. Aussie Hands is very grateful for the 'free' internet access.



The cost for rent is approximately \$280 per month.
Ross House is located at 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

ACHIEVEMENTS

- From July 2008, membership increased from 54 to 90 (including interstate)
- Most grant applications submitted were successful
- Successful establishment of external relations with Milan, Italy and the United Kingdom
- Volunteers utilising new office located in Flinders Lane, Melbourne
- Increased Media

GREETING CARDS

Maria Welsh (member) has sent lovely Birthday Cards and Christmas cards over the last year. Unfortunately, Maria withdrew her services from this task in August 2010. The Vice President will continue to send greeting cards until an appropriate replacement volunteer/member is appointed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- WEBSITE - Fiona McClure and Marco Bresciani
- Venue for Events - MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA
- EVENT MANAGEMENT – William Angliss Institute
- FINANCE - Nunzio Panella, Oxford Accounting Group
- GREETING CARDS – Maria Welsh
- BOARD OF MANAGEMENT and VOLUNTEERS

GOALS 2011

RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Circulate more information brochures nationally before March 2011

MEDIA

Feature in at least 5 articles/stories for TV, RADIO, Newspapers & Magazines

VOLUNTEERS

Increase recruitment and regular involvement on current and future projects

SPONSORSHIP

Attract Corporate Sponsorship

PARTNERSHIPS

Attract/negotiate future partnerships with Professional Australian Hand Associations/Organisations

WEBSITE

Continue to maintain and provide additional information on Books/resources/special equipment; Medical Technology and LINKS

FACEBOOK

Enhance the Aussie Hands FACEBOOK page to link with website to raise awareness and increase membership.

PATRON – KATE DOUGHTY

Since September 2007, Kate Doughty (who has a hand difference) has been the Foundation's Patron.

Kate attends most Aussie Hands events and is a great mentor and inspiration, particularly to young members.

Kate has completed Postgraduate Studies in Psychology at Deakin University and is a scholarship holder for Equestrian at the Victorian Institute of Sport. Kate is a full time dressage rider and trainer and was on the National Squad for dressage at the 2010 National Championships held in Toowoomba during June. She did extremely well at the selection trials and was shortlisted for the World Equestrian Games (October 2010, Kentucky USA).



Apart from aiming to maintain her status in the Dressage ring, Kate is busy completing her thesis and works at the Victorian Institute of Sport, assisting elite athletes with career and educational guidance outside their sporting endeavors.

Kate always enjoys Aussie Hands events and is keen to meet members and hear their inspirational stories too.



Promotional Material – hand 'cookie cutters'
Biscuits baked and decorated by members from Reservoir, Melbourne

CONCLUSION

In 2009-2010, the Foundation will continue to 'raise awareness', submit grant applications and conduct regular family events. It is hoped that recruitment of interstate volunteers will assist in raising awareness nationally. Exposure in the Media and distribution of the information brochure Australia-wide will further enhance the aims and objectives of Aussie Hands.

Elizabeth Serpell, Public Officer, 28 November 2010



MISSION STATEMENT

The Aussie Hands Foundation Inc offers support for children and adults with hand differences by providing opportunities for networking and exchange of information, and support research initiatives by specialist surgeons.

