



ANNUAL REPORT

2012

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Mr Mark Bonfieni	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer – Marketing & Fundraising
Mr David Cook	Ordinary Board Member & NSW Representative
Ms Lilia Darii	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer – Event Management & Fundraising
Ms Paula Dibsedale	Ordinary Board Member & NSW Coordinator & Volunteer – Event Management & Fundraising
Mr Leo Driessen	Ordinary Board Member
Ms Charet Garcia	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer Coordinator / Executive Officer
Mr Vinicius de Castro Guerreiro	Ordinary Board Member
Ms Belinda Hayward	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer – Fundraising
Ms Caroline Hurley	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer
Ms Julie McNally	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer – Event Management
Mr Geoff Serpell	Ordinary Board Member & Chair
Ms Elizabeth Serpell	Vice President, Public Officer, Treasurer, Secretary
Mr Gary Serpell	President
Ms Olga Skalidis	Ordinary Board Member & TAS Representative
Ms Simone Sparkes	Ordinary Board Member & QLD Representative
Mr Murray Stevenson	Ordinary Board Member & WA Representative & Volunteer – Event Management
Ms Brooke Young	Ordinary Board Member

Occupational Therapists - Ms Kylie Chandler and Ms Tanya Cole have agreed to continue to be the Foundation's liaison contacts at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. The Board would like to thank Kylie & Tanya for their continued support.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

In February 2012, the Board of Management meeting decided (after 11 years) to increase the annual membership fee from \$10 to \$20 per annum/per household.

MEMBERSHIP

<i>Member Type</i>	<i>State / Territory</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2010</i>
Hand Difference	ACT	1	0	0
Financial Support	ACT	1	0	0
Hand Difference	NSW	21	7	6
Professional	NSW	2	1	0
Financial Support	NSW	1		
Hand Difference	NT	1	0	0
Hand Difference	QLD	10	9	8
Professional	QLD	1	1	1
Hand Difference	SA	4	3	3
Hand Difference	TAS	3	3	2
Financial support	TAS	12	0	0
Hand Difference	VIC	54	46	46
Financial Support	VIC	22	3	13
Professional	VIC	14	3	2
Hand Difference	WA	4	3	3
Financial Support	WA	1	0	0
		153 (2012)	95 (2011)	90 (2010)

GRANTS & FUNDING

<u>Date</u>	<u>Funding Organisation</u>	<u>RESULT</u>	<u>Received \$\$</u>
28 Jun 2011	Barnardos Australia & OfficeMax <i>Excursions</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
13 Jul 2011	Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund Community Grants 2011 <i>Research</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
9 Aug 2011	'yes' Optus Connecting Communities Grants 2011 <i>Raising Awareness Campaign</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
17 Aug 2011	Parks Victoria Discover Parks Program Small Grants 2011-12 <i>(i) 2012 Easter Egg Hunt</i> <i>(ii) Big Aussie Hands – River Cruise</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
25 Oct 2011	Department of Human Services Disability Self Help Grants 2011 <i>Website Development and Maintenance</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$3,500
11 Jan 2012	Perpetual 2012 Annual Funding Round <i>Data Audit</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
13 Mar 2012	Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation Direct Aid & Equipment Grant 2012 <i>Office Expansion Plan</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
21 May 2012	Sentinel Foundation <i>Raising Public Awareness</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$8,000
18 Jun 2012	City of Melbourne Community Services Grant 2013 <i>Handwriting Workshop Project</i>	PENDING	

FINANCE

Acknowledgement to Cecilia Cen (volunteer) who prepared the income/expenditure reports which were then audited by Craig Young (Chartered Accountant) for the Foundation's Taxation Statement for the year ending 30 June 2012.

NOMINATIONS

Nominated for the 2011 National Disability Awards.

RESEARCH

Aussie Hands approached VIC Hand Surgeons for an extensive research project which anticipates 10 years of research. The data audit project will require a recall of all Australians born with a hand defect from 1950. All subjects will be re-diagnosed to confirm their congenital hand anomaly to provide accurate data on the occurrences of Australians born with a hand difference. This data will identify resources that are required to support those with hand differences and their carers. Hand surgeons will find this data invaluable to solve the many questions unanswered by those affected. A pilot study will be conducted in Victoria (project aim to commence in 2013).

WEBSITE



The first week in March saw the launch of the new and improved Aussie Hands website. IT volunteers continue to make finer adjustments to ensure that all links and formatting is consistent throughout the site. In 2013, an updated online FORUM will allow members to network securely. Acknowledgement to dedicated volunteers: Charet Garcia, Myra Siason and Aida Viziru.

FACEBOOK

The Aussie Hands FACEBOOK group page and PUBLIC interface FACEBOOK pages recruited more friends throughout the course of the year. It is hoped that during 2013, membership will increase and members will utilise the networking opportunities wisely.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Aussie Hands aim is to affiliate itself with other groups and professional organisations to assist members. So far, formal affiliations have been made with two overseas organisations: ATLHA ONLUS in Milan, Italy and Reach UK. Aussie Hands and the Australian Hand Therapy Association (AHTA) agreed to collaborate with each other to allow Aussie Hands members & AHTA clients to receive additional professional support www.ahta.com.au Other links are with HELPING HAND and LIMBS4LIFE.

VALE

On 8 January 2012, Lino Brundu, President from ATLHA, Milan Italy passed away. Lino's contribution to Aussie Hands during 2007-2010 provided a link to other organisations within Melbourne (Interchange, Bayley House and City of Melbourne).



"Lino Brundu, the man with no time left us."
Milan, January 8, 2012

RAISING AWARENESS

Increasing knowledge and awareness of hand differences in Australia enhances a better understanding of the various congenital hand anomalies and, indeed highlights the importance of Aussie Hands in providing ongoing encouragement and support to all those concerned.

WA SCHOOL CAMPAIGN



Do you know what one thousand one hundred and twelve envelopes look like? Bridgetown WA 10 year old Matilda Stevenson now does. With the help of her family Matilda was busy stamping, stuffing and sealing 1112 envelopes, one for every school in Western Australia.

Matilda was born with a condition know as symbrachydactyly, which means she was born with small nubs, rather than fingers on her left hand. The envelopes Matilda sent contained an Aussie Hands Brochure and an invitation to a picnic at the Donnybrook Apple Fun Park on Saturday 7th January.

“Before I joined Aussie Hands there were times when I felt like I was the only person with a different hand,” said Matilda, “We had a picnic earlier this year and I met other kids with hands like mine, some from Manjimup and Perth and all over.” This got Matilda thinking and she wondered if there might be other children at other schools who felt isolated and she came up with the idea of posting an invitation to every school in WA.

The mass mail out was made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Bridgetown Apex Club, who offered to pay the cost of postage and the printing of the invitations. “At Bridgetown Apex Club we are happy to support local families with initiatives such as this.” said club president Chris Doherty.

Bridgetown Apex Club is a community group which provides service to the community as well as providing leadership and fellowship opportunities to its members. Apex meets at The Bridgetown Club every second Thursday and new members are always welcome.

SLOGAN

Members were asked to submit a ‘slogan’ for Aussie Hands ‘raising awareness campaign’. I WRITE THE FUTURE was awarded to a dedicated volunteer Tim Safiullin. The slogan will be enhanced by a video for a ‘national’ advertisement promoting handwriting and raising awareness of hand differences.

ROSS HOUSE

March – Ross House Window Display – Aussie Hands promotional material was on display in Flinders Lane
14 June - Volunteers set up a stall at the Ross Luncheon and raised \$52 selling Aussie Hands promotional material.

MEDIA RELEASES

7 Dec 2011 Manjimup-Bridgetown Times WA ‘Messages of Hope – A mighty task’
20 Dec 2011 Blacktown Sun NSW ‘Support welcome for unusual condition’
20 Feb 2012 Wangaratta Chronicle VIC ‘Monday’s People’ short summary with photos from ‘Fine with Five’ Fundraiser

FUNDRAISING

10 February 2012
Wangaratta, VIC
FINE WITH FIVE

The evening of Friday 10th February was a very special one for Aussie Hands. Organised completely by Belinda Hayward with her family and close friends, the 150 guests were treated to a sit down dinner followed by a fashion parade at the Oaks Conference and Function Centre in Wangaratta. Belinda, a hairdresser who runs a salon in the regional Victorian town of called Beautopia in the regional Victorian town of Wangaratta gave birth to Evangeline on 1st July 2011. Evie was born with symbrachydactyly which prompted Belinda and husband Paul to touch base with Aussie Hands. It became Belinda's mission to raise awareness about hand differences and indeed about the existence of our Foundation. Belinda, with the help of her parents who run a local mechanical business set about spreading the good word. As a result 150 tickets were sold to the fundraiser. Belinda was quoted as saying that 'it was a more daunting organisational task than her own wedding'!

Earlier in the evening the guests were inspired by a talk by Sydney-sider David Cook who spoke about what he and countless others with a hand difference were capable of. David fielded several questions by intrigued guests in the audience. The fundraising component of the evening was brilliantly conducted by two local auctioneers from Stockdale & Leggo (Stephen & Cameron) who managed to auction 50 items and raising a staggering \$10,000 and collecting over \$2,000 of anonymous donations.



In closing, young David Serpell gave a brief but inspiring speech finishing with his home-grown quote 'You don't need digits to be good at Maths'. Once the crowd re-settled, Aussie Hands President Gary Serpell thanked Belinda and her family and close friends for their amazing efforts. A huge cheer went up as it was pointed out that this was the very first regional Aussie Hands fundraiser ever held, as previous fundraisers had taken place in Melbourne. The pride of the Wangaratta community was certainly there for all to see.

The wonderful evening finished as quickly as it had begun and was without doubt one of the most significant events in Aussie Hands 11-year history.

FUNDRAISING (cont.)

25 May 2012

Chadstone, Melbourne

KIKKI.K FUNDRAISING EVENT



Between 6-9pm customers who shopped at Kikki.K were enlightened by the Aussie Hands Foundation from store Manager Kim Walker. Information brochures were distributed and promotional material displayed amongst the great Kikki.K products.

Approximately \$200 was raised during the 3-hour fundraiser. Proceeds for this fundraiser will be allocated towards 'marketing & promotional' material for Aussie Hands.

A BIG thanks to:

Aussie Hands member Mike Bromley and his family for organising the event

Aussie Hands volunteer Chloe Ong who coordinated this event along with many other dedicated volunteers in the Marketing Team.

Acknowledgement to Kim Walker and her team at Kikki.K

Great products can be purchased in store or online here: <http://www.kikki-k.com/>

FUNDRAISING

ONLINE or DIRECT CREDIT

Ritchies
Aussie Farmers
Give Now
Everyday Hero
Go Fundraise

RESTAURANT 'TIPS'

Grill'd, Degraives St, Melbourne

EVENTS

24 July 2011
Moreland, VIC
LUNCH WITH THE PATRON

Escaping the cold 'wintry' day, Aussie Hands members met at the Moreland Hotel in Brunswick VIC.



Aussie Hands members welcomed the 'Sarris' family from Ringwood East. All were happy to meet each other and share their inspirational stories. A lot of chatter around making decisions on future operations and progression in kindergarten or school was evident, particularly, with talking to Kate.

The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting Kate and playing in the 'indoor playground' with its great slides and colourful tunnels.

Victorian Families in attendance:

Brear Gardenvale | Howell Berwick | Ireland-Hay Reservoir | Kavanagh Richmond | Sarris Ringwood East | Serpell Coburg | Serpell Highett | Tisch Kilsyth

A BIG thank you to Aussie Hands Volunteer Coordinator/Project Manager - Vinicius who took some wonderful photos at the event.

Words: Elizabeth Serpell, Vice President

7 August 2011
Melbourne
CIRCUS QUIRKAS

Circus Quirkus lit up the stage at Festival Hall on Sunday 7 August. Delighted shrieks erupted from the crowd as acrobats walked the tightrope. The crowd favourite – the Zim Boys performed impossible stunts like balancing on multiple chairs. Some of the littlies couldn't sit still but still loved the excitement of it all. Circus Quirkus (a non animal Circus spectacular) guaranteed to amuse and enchant both young and old at Festival Hall.

Aussie Hands extends its gratitude to the Rotary Club of Preston VIC for providing free tickets to this event.

A special welcome to new members - Mollo family from Mooroolbark

Victorian Families in attendance:

Browne Pascoe Vale South | Ireland-Hay Reservoir | Kavanagh Richmond | Harris Jan Juc | Maloney St Kilda | Mollo Mooroolbark | Rhodes Sunbury | Stone Talbot

Words: Andrew Browne Member, Board of Management

EVENTS (cont.)

7 August 2011 **Box Hill, VIC** **LASER TAG**

On Sunday 7th August, a small but very brave group of Aussie Hands members met at Dark Zone in Box Hill on a team mission. Being a first timer to laser tag, I can't say that I contributed all that much talent to the team! But lucky for myself, other members of the Aussie Hands Team were able to take to the task like a duck to water! Thanks for David, Leo and Mike for their spectacular efforts. Thanks also to Leo and Mike for helping to arrange the event.

After our mission was complete, we had a chance to catch up about future planning for the older Aussie Hand kids (12 years and up) and us "older kids" (add a few decades on to the 12 years...) with a hand difference to do some things together. The idea is for the group to choose an activity and meet up about every 2 or 3 months. The focus of the group is to have some fun! But we also very much want to give the older Aussie Hand kids an opportunity to have contact with other kids their own age who know a bit about what it is like to be them. And, with some adults with a hand difference thrown in to the mix, then hopefully this will support the older kids to gain confidence to negotiate some of many the trials and tribulations of adolescence. And speaking for myself, I would very much like to have been part of a group that I would have liked to exist when I was a kid.

Words: Julie McNally, Member, Aussie Hands

11 September 2011 **Moreland, VIC** **SPRING FAMILY EVENT**

Aussie Hands members met at the regular venue in Brunswick avoiding the unpredictable spring weather in Melbourne. The children thoroughly enjoyed the 'indoor playground' along with the 'live' music. A BIG welcome to the Stevens family (Port Melbourne) and the Wardley family (Avondale Heights) who embraced the many inspirational stories from other members.

A BIG thanks to Natalie Tisch (Board Member) who hosted the event.

In attendance:

Driessen Wonga Park | Serpell Coburg | Stevens Port Melbourne | Tisch Kilsyth | Wardley Avondale Heights

Words: Elizabeth Serpell, Vice President

13 November 2011 **Melbourne** **BAH – Big Aussie Hands – Picnic**

The 'Big Aussie Hands' group met on the banks of the Yarra River in Melbourne VIC on Sunday 13 November. By managing to avoid the rain and charming their way in to use a spare BBQ, all had a great day as it was nice and relaxing down by the Yarra.

The BAH group has met three times this year with the aim of establishing a mentoring platform for young members with a hand difference (age group 12 and up) to gather and have fun.

Words: Julie McNally, Member, Aussie Hands

EVENTS (cont.)

26 November 2011

Melbourne

WORLD FESTIVAL OF MAGIC

On Saturday November 26th, the Hay, Puscasu and Page families attended the World Festival of Magic Show at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.



The tickets were kindly provided by the Lions Club of Melbourne Markets and the show was one not to be missed.

Highlights (for the parents) included the Floating Assistant and Sliced Magician illusions, as well as the Grand Finale of the Dropping Blade Escape. While everyone also enjoyed the comic relief provided by Marty Patts, who entertained with some amusing audience interaction.

However the star of the show for all the children, Mia, Jessica, Rebecca, Charlie, Noah and Georgia was Thurston the Duck.

Thurston showed he was a mind reading duck and also somehow disappeared from the stage, only to appear in a bucket held by an audience member.

Michael Boyd is appearing again at the Athenaeum Theatre in January, with tickets available now.

In closing, the Hay, Puscasu and Page families would all like to formally thank the Melbourne Market Lions Club and Aussie Hands for making an enjoyable day possible.

Words: Stephen Page, Aussie Hands member – Morwell VIC

27 November 2011

Port Melbourne

CHRISTMAS PICNIC and AGM

The 2011 Aussie Hands Christmas picnic held at a now familiar venue in Edwards Park Port Melbourne was indeed a success. Heavy rain the day before had threatened the event, but, Sunday morning saw overcast skies turn to blue by early afternoon. Our gathering was well attended with three new families making an appearance. It was great to see our Western Australian family attend, kindly sponsored by Julie McNally (VIC member). Of course, they fell in love with Melbourne and want to visit again soon.

The AGM was held during the picnic, expertly chaired by the President's father Geoffrey Serpell. In summary, it was indicated that Aussie Hands had enjoyed a solid year financially and that it was steadily expanding with 114 families nationally. The need for support regarding the main fundraiser on 26 May 2012 was impressed upon after the disappointing cancellation this year.

The afternoon flew by as members caught up, children played, and of course, the group portrait was taken. Folks were still chewing the fat over an hour after the designated finishing time. Such is the genuine friendship that has built up among many members. As new office bearers join the Board and enthusiastic members hold functions from afar, 2012 looks to be an exciting year to look forward to in the life of Aussie Hands.

A BIG thanks to SOVEREIGN HILL for donating a family pass (received by the Browne Family, Pascoe Vale South VIC) www.sovereignhill.com.au

Attendance by:

VIC Members: Bonfieni – Glenroy | Bromley – Seaford | Browne – Pascoe Vale South | Clarke – Bendigo |

Driessen – Wonga Park | Eriksen - Mitcham | Howell – Berwick |

Hurley – Moorabbin | Johnston – Bentleigh | Katiforis – Sunbury | McNally – Carnegie | Serpell – Coburg |

Serpell – Highett | Stevens – Port Melbourne | Stone – Talbot | Venkatesh – Croydon | Wardley – Avondale Heights |

Young – Heidelberg

WA Members: Murray - Bridgetown

Volunteers: Cindy, Vini & Marcos

Aussie Hands Chartered Accountant - Craig Young

Words: Gary J Serpell, President

EVENTS (cont.)

7 January 2011 Donnybrook, WA FAMILY PICNIC

A beautiful, mild summer's day greeted all the West Australian members of Aussie Hands who made the trek to Donnybrook for the second WA family picnic. It was great to catch-up with some old faces and to meet some new. Families travelled from Perth, Bridgetown, Manjimup and as far as Jurien to make the event.

All the kids got on really well and took off from where they left off at the last picnic. They made the most of all the equipment at the amazing Donnybrook Apple Funpark - Australia's largest free entry playground. Hand differences didn't hold any of them back as they swung, slid, scaled, climbed and clambered on all of the equipment. These guys truly are an inspiration to us all. The tyranny of distance is always going to make it difficult to find the ideal location for getting together in such a big state.

Words: Murray Stevenson, Coordinator, WA

22 January 2012 Blacktown, NSW SYMBRACHY TEA

The gathering held in at Wren Picnic site at Nurragingy Reserve in Blacktown NSW was indeed a watershed for Aussie Hands. Due to the enormous passion, commitment and efforts of Paula Dibsdale in recent months the barbecue drew about a dozen families of children with a hand difference. Paula's daughter was born with symbrachydactyly.

The expression of joy, relief, curiosity and camaraderie by parents at the event was palpable. It was the first time that a sizeable gathering in NSW had occurred, following on from similar ones held in Melbourne.

Paula organised a donation of sausages for the event which her husband David so ably cooked. The local fire brigade and police also entertained children and adults alike during the afternoon. A magnificent 'Aussie Hands' 3 tiered cake was made for the event and eagerly devoured. After a brief welcome, Aussie Hands compatriot David Cook also reiterated his joy of being part of the event.

Group photos complete including a wave by the kids, people began to reluctantly head in various directions not before inspirational anecdotes had been shared by all and phone numbers exchanged.

The day, without question, was a huge success and much is due to Paula. It certainly paves the way for future gatherings and indeed the chance for more families to discover Aussie Hands.

NSW Families ('new' members) in attendance: *Aschcroft* Ingelburn | *Bampton* Glenmore Park | *Cook* Currans Hill | *D'Ambrosio* Belfield | *Darley* Kingsrove | *Dundas-De'Athe* Camden | *Dibsdale* Doonside | *McIlwhan* Riverview | *McIlwhan* Glenmore Park | *Scanlon* Winmalee | *Troy* Alexandria | *Watt* Oatley | *Melkie-Wilson* Leichardt. VIC members in attendance: *Serpell* Coburg

Words by Gary Serpell, President

EVENTS (cont.)

26 February 2012 Carlton, VIC FAMILY PICNIC

Our first Melbourne based Aussie Hands picnic for 2012 was held in a beautifully shaded park off Swanston Street in Carlton.

Several wonderful volunteers took snapshots of people together whilst Timur interviewed a couple of the children about their experiences regarding their hand differences. Timur is working on some special imagery involving the videoing of an array of hands to exemplify the role that Aussie Hands plays.

Following the picnic, the Board of Management members had a brief meeting at an office at the University of Melbourne. Regional and interstate members also hooked up by telephone to discuss current activities and strategic planning.

In all it was a successful and enjoyable gathering and already the excitement of many of our younger members was willing with mention of the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 1 April at 11am at Port Melbourne.

VIC Families in attendance:

Bell Diamond Creek | Bonfieni Glenroy | Ireland-Hay Reservoir | Katiforis Sunbury |
McGregor Ballan | Mollo Mooroolbark | Puscasu Croydon | Rhodes Sunbury | Serpell Coburg | Tisch Kilsyth

Volunteers in attendance:

Alex | Charet | Chaturica | Kasun | Myra | Timur | Yvonne |
A BIG thanks to Jess Tisch for creating colourful face painting designs for the children!

Words: Elizabeth Serpell, Vice President

1 April 2012
Port Melbourne
EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter was definitely in the air for the Aussie Hands 'chocolate' Easter Egg Hunt.

Many families gathered at our regular Port Melbourne venue at Edwards Park and threw down their picnic blanket in the sublime early April sunshine.

Patron Kate Doughty visited with her two pet dogs that entertained several children whilst they took them for laps of the park.

The traditional group photo was taken after everyone had been formally welcomed by the President, and then it was time for what everyone came for..... the Easter Egg Hunt! Everyone was let loose and the supplied bags soon began to bulge! Soon every Easter Egg had been scooped up and the hunters and collectors went home contented.

It certainly was a day of excitement for the children and one of catch-up for the parents. The ongoing generosity of Ernest Hillier Chocolates for supplying 300 Easter Eggs was certainly acknowledged.

A BIG thank you to Kasun for his assistance on the day along with Caroline who took wonderful photos.

Members in attendance:

Bell Diamond Creek | Bradtke Mitcham | Bromley Seaford | Hurley Moorabbin | Ireland-Hay Reservoir | Johnston East
Bentleigh | Maloney St Kilda | McCluskey Coburg | McGregor Avondale Heights |
McGregor Ballan | McNally Carnegie | Mollo Mooroolbark | Puscasu Croydon | Serpell Coburg |
Tisch Kilsyth | Umer Elwood

Volunteer : Kasun

Words: Gary J Serpell, President

29 April 2012
Blacktown, NSW
COPING WITH THE INQUISITIVE

It was an absolutely wonderful day for the NSW Aussie Hands Family as we braved the freezing conditions for a chance to once again connect up with each other! Around eight Families came along and joined in the day where we took the opportunity whilst the kids played to share our individual journeys with one another. From the doctors we deal with, to difficulties we have faced, to the heart ache the children have felt at certain stages of their development, even transitions into acceptance the children have experienced, it certainly gave us mums a chance to share and gather support whilst the Dad's played with the kids in the playground.

The idea to setup a picnic for us came about when I found that a lot of us had very similar questions regarding how we as the parents of children with a hand difference, could deal with the natural inquisitiveness of others. And certainly how to equip the children with effective coping skills to be able to respond independently also. I did hear a few heartbreaking stories of children hating their "little" hand when they realised it was not ever going to grow. Having said

that, these sad stories were followed by heart warming smiles and stories of acceptance as a couple of mums I overheard talking were saying that before the Symbachy Tea their daughters hated their “little” hand and would try to hide it. Since both of the little girls have come along and met others like them, they now love their hand and call it their special hand!” I was lucky enough to see these two little girls playing together and when they stood still, they looked at each other and started to giggle... When I looked down, they had their “special” hands together and were just appreciating their uniqueness and beautiful friendship!

It is so very hard to put into words how deeply touched I have been by all of the wonderful families I have met. I am very thankful to have been given the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful group! NSW Aussie Hands is far more than a group of families, each one of us is now a part of a very special family.....The Aussie Hands Family.

Words: Paula Dibsdale, Coordinator - NSW

12 May 2012
Melbourne
RAZZA-MA-TAZZ

On Saturday 12th May, the Hay and Driessen families met up prior to the Razza-Ma-Tazz show at Festival Hall. The tickets were kindly provided by the Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia. It was lovely for the Hay family who has a two year old daughter (Jessie) to meet Leo, an adult with hand difference, and his daughter Laura, prior to the show to discuss how life has been for Leo and how he undertakes everyday tasks.

The Razz-Ma-Tazz show was pure entertainment for the kids. Michael Boyd, the magician, entertaining with numerous magical tricks including levitating his assistant and then putting swords through a snake basket with her inside. Justin Case showed off his bicycle acrobatic skills from riding a unicycle, to cycling through a ring of fire on his 15cm bike, to completing unbelievable feats of balance acrobats on a bike that seemed to transform from one type to another. Thurston the duck was the star of the show for Becca and Jessie, with his mindreading tricks and disappearing act from the stage to a bucket held by an audience member. The dancers were also a hit, with the two girls dancing and twirling around in front of the stage while watching them.

The Hay and Driessen families would all like to thank Immune Deficiencies Foundation Australia and Aussie Hands for making an enjoyable day possible.



Words: Toni Ireland-Hay, Member, Aussie Hands

VOLUNTEERS

With the excellent guidance and supervision of Volunteer Coordinator Charet Garcia, volunteers achieved the following tasks/projects:

Project Integration Management; Assigning and appointing the Executive Officer/Project Manager/Volunteer Coordinator); Strategic Plan; Organisational Chart; Project scope; Volunteers; Funding; IT; public awareness; work breakdown structure

PREPARATION FOR 2012

Writing the Strategic Plan; Moving all files to Dropbox; Giving all passwords to the Executive Office; Giving access to all files to the Executive Officer; SWOT analysis; Risk Analysis; Writing and Editing the Position Descriptions; Obtain passwords for several web placing ads and other significant sites; Placing ads on GoVolunteer/Seek and University of Melbourne; Meet with Volunteering Victoria for Funds and Grants advice; Creation of Templates

LAST QUARTER 2011

Design of enewsletter
Designing new website

FIRST QUARTER 2012

Proposal for new office to Board Members
Migration of Website and changing of Admin and Technical contacts with Webhost
Automatic payment for donators and members on web
Events
9 March 2012 Volunteer Expo, Boroondara

SECOND QUARTER 2012

Quotes for new IT equipment
Prepare for Bunnings and Aussie Hands Bazaar Fundraising events
Membership Fees (audit)

DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ACCOUNTING: Members auditing; Receipts consolidation
ADMINISTRATION: Members birthday cards; New members brochures and information kit; Dropbox cleanup; Inventory of office supplies
FUNDRAISING AND GRANTS: Database updates; Research of Grant
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS: Updating files on Dropbox; Saving files on Dropbox
Enewsletters: article writing and submitting to the VP.
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Updating Volunteer List and Master list; Placing of ads; Interviewing new candidates; Signing of volunteer agreements and filing the forms; Quarterly reporting to Executive Officer
EVENTS: Members yearly events planning and sending invitation to members; Community Fair; Volunteers for University of Melbourne; Community Fair Volunteers Boroondara
IT: Website updates; New emails to new volunteers; Deleting old emails; Updating passwords every 6 months; Daily backup; Sharing dropbox files; Removing old volunteers from dropbox share; Website check-up for bugs; Spam filters; Publication of enewsletter per quarter liaising with M& C

Professional Development

18 Aug 2011 'Strategies for Sustainable Funding' Seminar (V Guerreiro, volunteer)
30 Aug 2011 'IT Planning, cloud computing, social media & more' (V Guerreiro, volunteer)

MAIL - POST

On 1 April, Aussie Hands ceased PO Box services to PO Box 8 Coburg Vic 3058.
All future mail/correspondence to be received at 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

GOALS 2013

RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Circulate updated brochures and flyers nationally during 2013-2014

MEDIA

Feature in at least 5 articles/stories for TV, RADIO, printed & social media

RESEARCH

Initiate proposed 10-year 'data audit' project to investigate the occurrences of congenital hand anomalies across Australia.

VOLUNTEERS

Increase recruitment and regular involvement on current and future projects

SPONSORSHIP

Attract Corporate Sponsorship

PARTNERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

Attract/negotiate future partnerships/affiliations 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 with links to the website to raise awareness and increase membership.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- WEBSITE - Marco Bresciani, Myra Siason, Charet Garcia, Aida Viziru
- Venue for Events - MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA
- FINANCE – Craig Young
- BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
- UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, Faculty of Business & Economics
- VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR – Charet Garcia
- Josie Duncan – OT Consultant
- VOLUNTEERS

CONCLUSION

In 2012-2013, the Foundation will continue to 'raise awareness', submit grant applications and conduct regular family events. It is anticipated that a data-audit will commence for a 10-year research project on the occurrences of congenital hand anomalies. 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, Secretary, 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

The Aussie Hands Foundation Inc

- supports children and adults born with a hand difference and to those who have an acquired hand injury;
- provides opportunities for networking and exchange of information; and
- supports research initiatives focussing on congenital hand anomalies