

ANNUAL REPORT
July 2014 – June 2015

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Ms Colleen Birtwistle	Ordinary Board Member
Mr Mark Bonfieni	Ordinary Board Member
Ms Lilia Darii	Ordinary Board Member & QLD Coordinator
Mr Stephen Gardner	Ordinary Board Member
Ms Cath Hovenbitzer	Ordinary Board Member
Ms Caroline Hurley	Ordinary Board Member, Treasurer
Mr Ian McNally	Ordinary Board Member
Ms Elizabeth Serpell	Vice President, Secretary
Mr Gary Serpell	President
Ms Olga Sklidis	Ordinary Board Member & TAS Coordinator
Mr Murray Stevenson	Ordinary Board Member & WA Coordinator
Ms Natalie Tisch	Ordinary Board Member
Ms Helen Thompson	Ordinary Board Member & NSW Coordinator
Ms Brooke Young	Chairperson

Occupational Therapist - Ms Josie Duncan has agreed to continue to be the Foundation's liaison contacts with Hand Surgeons, Hand/Occupational Therapists. The Board would like to thank Josie for her continued support.

MEMBERSHIP

<i>Member Type</i>	<i>State / Territory</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>
Hand Difference	ACT	1			
Hand Difference Affiliated	ACT	1	1	1	1
Financial Support	ACT	1	1	1	1
Hand Difference	NSW	22	20	21	21
Hand Difference Affiliated	NSW	3	3	3	
Professional	NSW	1	1	2	2
Financial Support	NSW	4	2	1	1
Donor Affiliated	NSW	1			
AH-Board Member	NSW	1	1	1	
Hand Difference	NT	1	1	1	1
Hand Difference	QLD	8	8	7	10
Hand Difference Affiliated	QLD	7	6	7	
Professional	QLD	3	3	1	1
AH-Board Members	QLD	1	1	2	
Hand Difference	SA	5	4	4	4
Professional	SA	1	1	1	
AH-Board Members	SA		1	2	
Hand Difference	TAS	1	2	2	3
Hand Difference Affiliated	TAS	2	2		
Financial Support Affiliated	TAS	10	12	13	12
Financial Support	TAS	2			
AH-Board Members	TAS	1			
Hand Difference	VIC	55	44	39	54
Hand Difference Affiliated	VIC	18	18		
Professional	VIC	14	12	12	14
Professional Affiliated	VIC	3	4		
Financial Support	VIC	17	16		
Financial Support Affiliated	VIC	8	9		
Donor	VIC	1	1		
Donor Affiliated	VIC	1	1		
Affiliated (various)	VIC			30	
AH-Board Member(s)	VIC	7	6	6	
FIN-Board Member	VIC	2	1		
Board Member (Vol)	VIC	1			
Sponsors	VIC	2	4		
Hand Difference	WA	5	4	4	4
Hand Difference Affiliated	WA	1	1	1	
Financial Support	WA	1	1	1	1
Professional	WA	4	4		
AH-Board Member	WA	1	1	1	
		218 (2015)	197 (2014)	178 (2013)	153 (2012)
Patron	VIC	1	1		
Volunteers	VIC	15	9		
Volunteers	QLD	1			

GRANTS & FUNDING

Date Submitted	Organisation	Outcome Received	Outcome	Amount
31 July 2014	Lord Mayors Fund – survive & thrive	22 December 201	Unsuccessful	
31 October 2014	Optus	12 December 2015	Unsuccessful	
4 December 2014	GNSV small grants	22 January 2015	Successful	\$100
5 December 2014	Perpetual	19 June 2015	Unsuccessful	
12 February 2015	Mazda	24 April 2015	Unsuccessful	
25 February 2015	Commonwealth Bank	10 June 2015	Unsuccessful	
26 February 2015	The Jack Brockhoff Foundation	27 May 2015	Successful	\$8,206
17 March 2015	The Sentinel Foundation	24 June 2015	Successful	\$5,000
30 April 2015	Community Sector Banking	11 June 2015	Unsuccessful	
21 May 2015	Australian Communities Foundation	11 June 2015	Successful	\$81,500
31 May 2015	Paul Newman	8 July 2015	Unsuccessful	
28 June 2015	Real Needs Insurance	13 July 2015	Unsuccessful	



FINANCE

Acknowledgement to volunteer Adrienne Long who prepared the income/expenditure reports on MYOB which were then audited by Mathew Simon for the Foundation's Taxation return for the year ending 30 June 2015.

In summary, for the year ended 30 June 2015:

Total income \$ 167,998.79

Total expenses \$ 87,148.85

Current Assets = \$ 173,555.75 + Non-current assets totalling \$ 2,893.43 = TOTAL ASSETS \$ 176,449.18

The audited report by Mathew Simon (registered CPA No. 9527342) is available on request prior to Board of Management approval.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Board of Management members (C Birtwistle, S Gardner, I McNally, E Serpell, B Young) had 3 meetings to discuss and update the Strategic Plan focussing on projects from 2016-2018 which resulted in the 'plan on a page' below.

AUSSIE HANDS FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2018						
Our Purpose	Support people with a hand difference	Networking & Information Sharing	Supporting research initiatives to identify how many people are affected with a hand difference and why	 The Aussie Hands Foundation Inc		
Our Priorities	Identify needs and target programs appropriate to our members	Share information and resources to support members	Fund RCH project aimed at identifying prevalence and type of hand differences in Victoria	Expand base of volunteers, donors and members		
Our Projects	15 year anniversary	Programs & Events -Mentoring Program -Activities/events targeted at segments -Fundraising events	Marketing & Communications	Target grants and funding	Commence Research Project with RCH	Build National Aussie Hands Foundation Membership and active state branches
Targets	Member recruitment and participation Increase #s	Positive impact and outcomes for individual members Conduct survey, obtain case studies, member retention	Awareness, media, recruitment, engagement, web analytics Foundation report and increased activity & engagement	Increase # of donors/sponsors/grants and revenue Increased # donors Increased revenue	Commence RCH research project and establish fact base	For each State branch, confirm: -Patron -State Coordinator -Annual Calendar
How to make it work	People (roles/responsibilities of Board, Staff, Volunteers, State Coordinators)	Fundraising & Sponsorship	Marketing & Communications	Planning & Project Management	Financial Management	

DATA AUDIT → RESEARCH



During mid-2015, Aussie Hands received funding from the Australian Communities Foundation to support a joint data audit project with leading Hand Surgeons at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. Discussions for this project commenced formally on 23 July 2015.

The aim of this data audit project is to establish a national registry of congenital hand anomalies from birth. Currently, Australian Birth Records do not document or categorise congenital hand anomalies. This is a problem because without the data we don't know the prevalence or reasons why hand differences occur. Other organisations have also called for the establishment of a registry. For example, the World Health Assembly has called on member nations to register such information in order to improve primary prevention and health of children.

Aussie Hands is keen for the registry to have a record of all conditions listed on the Aussie Hands brochure: Adactyly; Amniotic Band Syndrome (ABS) or Constriction Ring Syndrome; Aplasia; Arthrogyposis; Brachydactyly; Camptodactyly; Clinodactyly; Dysplasia; Ectrodactyly; Hypoplasia; Macrodactyly; Poland Syndrome; Polydactyly; Symbrachydactyly; Symphalangism; Syndactyly; Synostosis; Vacterl

The key objectives in establishing a registry is to answer the following questions:

- How many children are born with a hand difference?
- What is the cause of the hand difference?
- How prevalent is the condition?

Such a registry would also provide a basis for future research, such as exploring the outcomes and benefits that are achieved as a result of treatment. As members of Aussie Hands, I know you are interested in this as well, but the key focus at this stage would be knowledge of how many Australians are born with a hand difference, along with basic facts on prevalence and causes.

WEBSITE



The website continues to provide resources and links and 'news'. With the expertise from Aida Viziru, Founder of Pixel Salad based in Vancouver, Canada, Aussie Hands new look website on wordpress platform is underway to incorporate direct online functionalities including a sophisticated campaign monitor and more options for online tools which will generate numerous reports and assist in finance, fundraising and event management. A successful Website Workshop was held at the Aussie Hands office on Sunday 15 March via skype with Pixel Salad. We would like to express our thanks to Pixel Salad and Aussie Hands VIC members Colleen, Alice and Mike for attending the workshop. Pixel Salad coordinated the Website Workshop team over several months before launching Aussie Hands new look website in November 2015.

FACEBOOK

The Aussie Hands FACEBOOK group page and PUBLIC interface FACEBOOK pages recruited more friends throughout the course of the year. There are 390 friends on FACEBOOK and due to regular posts by Julie McNally, online engagement has provided members additional networking opportunities and share their inspirational stories.

RAISING AWARENESS (Brochure)

Increasing knowledge and awareness of hand differences in Australia enhances a better understanding of the various congenital hand anomalies and highlights the importance of Aussie Hands in providing ongoing encouragement and support to all those concerned. The current brochure was redeveloped and redesigned and printed prior to the Aussie Hands 15 Yr Anniversary Event held on 18 October 2015 (acknowledgement to Graphic Designer Sophie Campbell from SC Design, Printer Specialist Chris Wardley from Print Obsession and Editor & Marketing input from Brooke Young.

MEDIA

ONLINE

12 August 2014

AHF : Their story and challenges

<http://sgisolutionsaustralia.com/2014/08/12/ahf-their-story-and-challenges/>

3 October 2014

A Little Bit Different

vimeo.com

15 January 2015

Aussie Hands – Making Connections

<http://pip-uk.org/aussie-hands-making-connections>

28 May 2015

High Five to Aussie Hands

http://www.dysnet.org/high_five_to_aussie_hands

YOU TUBE

Four videos were produced and filmed sharing inspirational stories of Aussie Hands members, namely the Patron, 1 male teenager and 2 young females scheduled to be edited and uploaded on You Tube after July 2015.

FUNDRAISING

10 August 2014
Sydney, NSW
City 2 Surf



Josephine (Member NSW) raised \$754 by participating in the City 2 Surf as she believes it's her way of making a difference and giving back to Aussie Hands who have helped her family and many other families in so many ways. Josephine's daughter Kiera always looks forward to catching up with her Aussie Hands friends. It's Josephine's third year of completing the 14km race and she intends on doing the race every year, raising awareness of Aussie Hands to assist in funding future projects and programs.

21 February 2015
Wangaratta VIC
Fundraising Event – Commemorating Aussie Hands 15 Year Anniversary

On Saturday 21 February an Aussie Hands Fundraiser was held in Wangaratta VIC at the Watermarc Café & Restaurant backing onto the picturesque Ovens River.

Belinda & Paul Hayward along with Beck & Pete Joyce, for the second time in three years worked tirelessly to organise a highly successful evening that was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

Over 30 items from local businesses from beauty products to signed sports memorabilia were donated. In the capable hands of Pete (Auctioneer from Stockdale & Leggo Real Estate) just under \$10,000 was raised in the blink of an eye.

A highly successful cash raffle with the first prize being \$1000 ensured many tickets were sold in the local community.

With a great band 'Boweys Blues Revival' belting out memorable hits and scrumptious finger food laid on the 100 or so people had a most enjoyable evening.

The funds raised will go towards further mentoring programs and the ongoing 'raising awareness' campaign with the distribution of updated Aussie Hands brochures and launch of a new look website in conjunction with the Foundation's 15th year anniversary celebrations.

Belinda, Paul, Beck & Pete are to be praised for their magnificent efforts in making the night a success. The folk who attended are to be thanked for their generosity regarding their spirited bidding throughout the evening.

Last but not least, a huge thank you goes to the local businesses that generously donated so many quality items for the auction and Bendigo Bank for providing excellent financial services and facilities to accommodate online transactions.

Outside Melbourne, Wangaratta is the only town in Victoria where such major Aussie Hands functions have been held. Belinda Hayward and her amazing family are to thank for that (namely the Woodward family).



FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS

(including online and direct credit)



EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Aussie Hands aim continues 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 along with EDRIC Swedish based DysNet (online community for dysmelia) <http://www.dysnet.org/> and in Australia, the Australian Hand Therapy Association (AHTA); HELPING HAND, LIMBS4LIFE, the Federation of Victorian Counsellors. Aussie Hands liaises regularly with the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne), the Women's and Children's Hospital (Adelaide SA) and the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children (Perth WA), and Westmead Hospital (NSW).

ROTARY CLUB OF WANGARATTA

2 March 2015
Wangaratta VIC
Rotary Club Presentation



The Wangaratta Rotary Club enjoyed learning more about Aussie Hands and provided a \$380 cheque to the Foundation to support its activities, particularly with a view to initiate an ongoing Mentoring Program to support members in Wangaratta (northern Victoria). A BIG thanks to the Rotary Club for the opportunity to raise awareness of the Foundation at the Rotary Club.

MENTORING PROGRAM

17 August, 24 August, 7 September 2014
Docklands Library VIC

Funded by a \$10,000 Community Grant from the City of Melbourne, the program's aim was designed to improve the connection and sense of belonging felt by children, their families and adults living with hand differences, also to promote positive mental health, increased self-esteem and confidence.

Session 1 – Peer Mentoring Training

Sunday 17th August from 10am-3pm

@ Docklands Library, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

This session brought together the adult peers to learn new skill and techniques that will support you in the mentoring role as well as having useful application in other areas of your lives.

Session 2- Peer Mentor and Child Group Session

Sunday 24th August from 10am-3pm

@ Docklands Library, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

The day included fun and therapeutic activities with the children.

Child Group Session

Session 3- Peer Mentor, Children and Parent Group Session

Sunday 7th September from 10am-3pm

@ Docklands Library, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands

The day included fun and therapeutic activities with the children.

Parents Group Session

Program Design

- Main program linked up 5 adult mentors with hand differences with 5 children also with hand differences. The children ranged in age from 5-10yrs.
- Adult mentors spend a day workshop being trained in their role.
- The adult mentors and the children spent time together in a group setting doing a range of play therapy activities which were fun but also designed to build relationships and self-esteem. This took place over 2 days.
- In addition, an information workshop for parents of children with hand differences took place on Sunday 24 August. Approximately 20 parents attended the session. The topics included bullying, self-esteem, how to talk to your child about their hand difference, ideas of how to transition your child to kindergarten or school.

Outcomes/Feedback

- Feedback from the mentoring program has been very positive. Elaborate with comments from feedback forms – parents/kids and adult mentors
- Several adult mentors are continuing to have contact with their child buddy.
- Case study of "Mark". Mark is 7 years old and prior to the program, his parents reported that he was having difficulty accepting his hand difference, displaying anxiety and hesitant to participate in activities outside the home. It was uncertain if he would be able to attend the program due to his anxiety. He did attend and from his initial quiet demeanour at the beginning, he became more comfortable and was the first one to put up his hand to tell the group what he had liked about coming along. His parents have reported that since the program "Mark has been on top of the world and full of confidence since the mentoring session, and is best summarised with Mark's comment during the week that he is 'lucky to be the only kid at school who has a special hand'. Mark and his mentor have continued to keep in touch which had been positive.

MENTORING PROGRAM

17 August, 24 August, 7 September 2014
Docklands Library VIC

Future Directions

- Several project ideas have come out of the program including a specific program designed for younger children and to put together a toolkit of resources for parents who have children commencing kindergarten and school.
- It is desirable to put together a program that meets the needs of young children (6 months-6 yrs old) and their parents. This group of people is the most prevalent in seeking support from Aussie Hands. A program which lends on the use of the play therapy model, group workshops and building relationships and confidence for both young children. This is something that several parents of the small children asked about during the mentoring program.
- Several events for the adults and children from the 2014 mentoring program graduates to catch up and maintain relationship/engagement.
- Interstate:- In 2015, it would be beneficial to develop a mentoring program for NSW. This is the state where Aussie Hands has a solid membership and foundation on which to build. The program could be adjusted to meet the needs of the NSW members but still maintains the successful events of the pilot 2014 program. The aim would be to roll out the program in 2016 in Queensland and WA.

EVENTS

17 August 2014
Strathfield NSW
Family Gathering

6 families attended and worked on various crafts and shared food. We also started making the Aussie Hands banner with all the children's handprints.

21 September 2014
Homebush NSW
Family Picnic

After a few hiccups with people getting lost, the picnic went quite well. It was more successful due to the quieter spot. 7 families were able to attend given that it was school holidays. Members also welcomed a couple of new faces as well.

16 November 2014
Strathfield NSW
Family Gathering

Strathfield Library. We had 3 families attend. We brought games and the kids played games such as Uno and Go Fish. We also shared tea.

29 November 2014
North Adelaide SA
XMAS Family Picnic



Four Aussie Hands families attended and some met for the first time. It was a thrill for Leonard, Amity and Charlie to meet as they all have symbrachydactyly. The parents chatted about school, especially other student's curiosity. Thanks to Heather for sharing a watermelon on the hot summery day at Helicopter Park in North Adelaide.

EVENTS

29 November 2014 Maribyrnong VIC AGM & XMAS PARTY

On the last Sunday of November, members and friends of Aussie Hands gathered at Lazy Moe's in Maribyrnong for a light lunch.

Young members were encouraged to be 'creative' in making miniature Christmas Trees out of party hats! Thanks to Julie for organising the Art activity which was enjoyed by so many (including parents)!

Chairperson (Brooke Young) conducted the Aussie Hands Annual General Meeting where the Vice President (Elizabeth Serpell) gave a report of the last financial year 2013-2014 which included acknowledgement of the life of David Cook (affectionately known as 'Cookie' esteemed member from NSW who passed away in March 2014). Elizabeth also reported on the successful Mentoring Program held during Sept-Oct 2014 (coordinated and facilitated by Julie (Executive Officer). Members were advised to 'watch this space' for the upcoming new look website and brochures. It was noted that depending on funding Senior Management will liaise with surgeons at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne and the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in Perth to pursue a data audit project which will identify statistical data of Australians born with a hand difference from 1960. Board Members, Interstate Coordinators and Volunteers were acknowledged along with Sponsors and Donors, in particular Lazy Moe's and Ian McNally (Nuttlelex).

The highlight of the day was entertainment by 'Tricky Nick' who performed amazing MAGIC !

The President (Gary Serpell) thanked all who attended and encouraged everyone to SAVE THE DATE – Sunday 18 October 2015 to celebrate Aussie Hands 15th Anniversary!



Congratulations to the Hovenbitzer family (Yannathan) for receiving a gift voucher

Families in attendance:

VIC Members: Adcock *Hurstbridge* | Bell *Diamond Creek* | Cavell *Poowong* | Eriksen *Croydon* | Franklin *Broomfield* | Hovenbitzer *Yannathan* | Hurley *Moorabbin* | Ireland-Hay *Reservoir* | McGregor *Avondale Heights* | McGregor *Darley* | McNally *East Brighton* | McNally *Carnegie* | Page *Morwell* | Rhodes *Sunbury* | Serpell *Coburg* | Serpell *Highbett* | Tisch *Kilsyth* | Wardley *Avondale Heights* | Young *Heidelberg* | WA Member: Stevenson *Bridgetown*
Volunteer: Shoukat
Friends: Gallagher *Alphington* | Lampshire *Flemington*

This event was proudly sponsored by



EVENTS

8 February 2015
Windsor VIC
Summer Picnic

On a mild and overcast Sunday afternoon, Victorian members gathered at James Street Reserve in Windsor for the first Aussie Hands family event for 2015.

Aussie Hands PATRON Kate Doughty enjoyed catching-up with members and was impressed to hear that many had just started school for the first time. Members welcomed a new family from Eltham.



The children enjoyed the playground and had a go at croquet, tenpin bowling and Velcro Frisbee. On leaving, a few were given a tour of the new Aussie Hands office.



A BIG thanks to our wonderful volunteer Paul who took great photos at the event.

VIC Members in attendance :-

Adcock *Hurstbridge* | Bell *Diamond Creek* | Ireland-Hay *Reservoir* | Maloney *Ripponlea* |
McNally *East Brighton* | McNally *Carnegie* | Mollo *Mooroolbark* | Serpell *Coburg* | Tibbits *Eltham* |
Wardley *Avondale Heights* |

EVENTS

15 February 2015
Homebush NSW
Family Picnic

Aussie Hands families gathered at Olympic Park with the highlight being playing 'pin the tail on the donkey'



21 February 2015
Campbell Town TAS
Lunch

Tasmanian Aussie Hand members Olga Skolidis and Jessica and Belinda Lehner catch up for lunch in Campbell Town on a beautiful sunny afternoon!!



EVENTS

29 March 2015
Mandurah WA
Easter Egg Hunt

Thanks all the WA members and supporters that came to the Egg Hunt at the Quarry Adventure playground. Great location, great weather, great company.



29 March 2015
Homebush NSW
Easter Egg Hunt

Our First Easter Egg Hunt in NSW was a huge success! The weather was fantastic and a wonderful day was had by all. It was great to see some familiar faces and make new friends.

All the kids had so much fun making their own Easter Egg Basket and when that wasn't enough to hold all the yummy eggs they found they then resorted to using their large plastic bag their kit came in or whatever they could find.

A Big Thank you to all who attended

Thanks to Josephine and Patrick for organising an Easter picnic today in Bicentennial Park! A lovely time was had by all! Aussie Hands



EVENTS

29 March 2015
St Lucia, Brisbane River QLD
Easter Egg Hunt

If you were wondering what 300 Ernest Hillier Chocolates Easter eggs looks like, well, at the Aussie Hands Easter Egg Hunt at Guyatt Park, the children when hunting after making their own paper Easter Egg baskets. All had a great time and lots of chocolate was devoured later on



29 March 2015
North Adelaide SA
Easter Egg Hunt

The South Australian Easter Egg Hunt catch up which was attended by three families. Amity, Annika and Leonard and their siblings had fun playing together and sharing a picnic. The children decorated Easter bags and then enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt (courtesy of Ernest Hillier Chocolates). They found an abundance of eggs throughout the park and their bags were overflowing!.



EVENTS

29 March 2015
Port Melbourne VIC
Easter Egg Hunt



A beautiful autumn day greeted our Aussie Hands members as they assembled at the picturesque Edwards Park in Port Melbourne for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

After a brief Board Meeting, families began to gather with many excited children quite noticeable.

Julie helped the youngsters make Easter decorations whilst Jess enjoyed face painting.

After some chatting and lunch and more chatting the BIG moment arrived where 300 scrumptious Ernest Hillier Easter Eggs were expertly hidden by the Easter Bunnies. It didn't take long for the 'eagle eyes' of the kids to round-up the hidden Easter Eggs and they walked away elated with bulging carry bags of chocolate.

Easter Egg Hunts were simultaneously carried out in South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland due to the generosity of the Lapetina family in Melbourne who kindly donated the five large boxes of Easter Eggs. They have been proud supporters of the Easter Egg Hunt for several years now.

It was a gathering enjoyed by all and yet another opportunity for the support and friendship of our Aussie Hands members towards each other to be further enhanced.

A BIG thanks to Volunteer Ornell for taking video and photographs at the event.

Families in attendance:

Bell *Diamond Creek* | Bonfieni *Sunbury* | Fenwick *Caulfield North* | Ireland-Hay *Reservoir* | Gallagher *Alphington* | Hatzioannou *Newport* | Lampshire *Ballarat* | Maloney *Ripponlea* | Macdonald *Thornbury* | McNally *East Brighton* | McNally *Carnegie* | Page *Morwell* | Serpell *Coburg* | Serpell *Highett* | Tisch *Kilsyth* | Wardley *Avondale Heights* | Young *Heidelberg*

Volunteers:

Alex | Ornell

Sponsors:

Lapetina Family, Ernest Hillier Chocolates <http://www.ernesthillier.com.au/>

26 April 2015
Strathfield NSW
Family Gathering

Two families gathered at the Strathfield Library where parents chatted while the children played card games. It was actually very good for the children to be in a smaller group and gain confidence holding cards and playing a game together. We had apologies from some of the other families who could not attend due to illness and conflicting events. They were sorry not to make it and planned to come to future events.

EVENTS

21 June 2015 Strathfield NSW Family Gathering

5 families came along with Alan Membry and his wife from the Amputee Society. The presentation by Northern Prosthetics was interesting and useful for the families. Sadly, we were so occupied by the presentation and meeting the new families.

It was great to have David Wiseman from Northern Prosthetics fly out from Byron Bay, where they are based, to Sydney and give a presentation to Aussie Hand members and families. He provided brochures on Northern Prosthetics and funding guidelines and criteria for Enable NSW. He walked us through the process and answered all our questions:

1. Complete application online via Enable NSW
2. Obtain a Script via the limb clinic (Randwick or Westmead) - can choose your prosthetist (get indefinite or ongoing referral from your GP for the limb clinic)
3. The application and script are required to be sent Enable NSW at the same time and takes two weeks to process.
4. Cast is made
5. Check socket - a check socket is a temporary socket used to determine the optimal fit and dynamic alignment for the definitive socket that will be used
6. Manufacture
7. Fit
8. Ongoing

Aussie Hands parent Josephine brought along her daughter's (Kiera) prosthetic glove which APC Prosthetics at Northmead had created for Kiera to use for skipping and holding her violin bow. Kiera was very happy to give a demonstration and show everyone how she skips with her prosthetic glove.

We had the following families in attendance:

L Blackford & D Eisenhauer (Baby daughter Rosie) | V Whitson & partner (baby daughter Juliet)
K Hutchings & partner (Charlotte & Erika) | H Thompson (Elise) | J D'Ambrosio (Kiera)
Alan Membry (Amputee Association of Sydney - President/Treasurer) and his wife
Apologies: Mariam and her daughter Zahra along with H Dundas and her son Toby

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The day to day operational tasks handled by the Victorian head office include:

EXECUTIVE OFFICER (Julie McNally)
Event Management (national coordination)
Programs (eg., Mentoring Program)
Social Media (Facebook, You-Tube)
Grant applications
Membership Engagement

FINANCE OFFICER (Adrienne Long)
Data entry and bookkeeping of all transactions (income/expenditure) and Payroll MYOB

GENERAL MANAGER (Elizabeth Serpell)
Governance (including Treasurer, Secretary)
Marketing & Communications (printed collateral, IT, Website, media, etc)
Membership Administration

CHAIRPERSON (Brooke Young)
Governance
Strategic Planning
Monitoring Performance

Strategic Planning & Consultant/Adviser
Stephen Gardner (SGI Solutions)

Professional Development

20 Feb 2015 Workshop: Writing Winning Grant Applications, Connecting Up (Julie McNally, Executive Officer VIC)

Nominations & Awards

Vice President Elizabeth Serpell was nominated for the 2015 HESTA Community Sector Award.

VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Management would like to thank the following volunteers for their enormous contributions between July 2014 – June 2015 :-

Interstate Coordinators

Lilia Darii QLD | Julie McNally VIC | Elizabeth Serpell SA | Olga Skalidis TAS | Murray Stevenson WA | Helen Thompson NSW (assisted by Josie D'Ambrosio NSW)

Accountant Assistant

Fiona McClure | Mike Collins

Database Consultant

Jen Port

IT

Naga Koswara | Timothy Uhen | Gina Barri-Rewell | Shoukat Shah | Ehsan Hesami

Graphic Design

Sophie Campbell | Ehsan Hesami

Administration

Azra Kucukalic

Website

Aida Viziru (Pixel Salad)

Photography

Paul Danyluk

Video Romy McCann | Ornell Thivanka Dias Amaratunga

GOALS 2016

EVENT MANAGEMENT

Celebrate Aussie Hands 15th Year Anniversary (scheduled for 18 Oct 2015)

RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Circulate updated brochures and flyers nationally from 2016 and establish in-house database system (stakeholders/membership)

MEMBERSHIP

Continue to expand and recruit membership nationally and enhance Mentoring Program

PATRON

Recruit a Patron for each state of Australia (other than Victoria)

MEDIA

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

DATA AUDIT & RESEARCH

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

VOLUNTEERS

Engage professionals who can provide expertise in areas of grants, events, marketing & communications

SPONSORSHIP

Attract Corporate Sponsorship

PARTNERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

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

GOALS 2016 (cont.)

WEBSITE

New look website launched in November 2015 to wordpress platform. 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. Engage members with up to 12 posts per month by Aussie Hands Senior Leadership Group.

LINKED-IN

Enhance the Aussie Hands LINKED-IN page to build and enhance professional relationships

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- DONORS AND FUNDING (IN-KIND) – Nuttalex, Pixel Salad, Sentinel Foundation, Design to Sign, Print Obsession, SC Design
- SPONSORS – Lazy Moe's, Ernest Hillier Chocolates
- WEBSITE - Aida Viziru (Pixel Salad)
- FINANCE – Mathew Simon
- CONSULTANT – Stephen Gardner
- BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (including Interstate Coordinators)
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST - Josie Duncan
- EXECUTIVE OFFICER – Julie McNally
- VOLUNTEERS
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CONCLUSION

In 2014-2015, the Foundation will continue to 'raise awareness', submit grant applications and conduct regular family events. A data-audit will commence in Melbourne with scope for a national investigation on the occurrences and causes of congenital hand anomalies. Exposure in the Media and distribution of brochures/flyers Australia-wide will further enhance the aims and objectives of Aussie Hands.

Elizabeth Serpell, Secretary, 2015

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