



ForCHILDREN (AUSTRALIA) Inc.

Newsletter

Volume 1

Spring 2008



creating chances for children



Naomi Tippett

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to this edition of the ForCHILDREN Newsletter. We are planning to produce the Newsletter four times a year (one in each season) and to keep you informed of our progress in assisting children in Australia and overseas.

ForCHILDREN is a volunteer organisation. We employ no staff so all funds that are raised are allocated to the programs that we support. For Children was established in 2000 to help agencies and individuals needing assistance to start innovative programs for children and families. All of the ForCHILDREN committee have worked in the child welfare or education field over the course of their working life. They are committed to giving children and young people a "CHANCE".

In this edition of the newsletter we inform you of the three main projects that we have determined we will support over the next twelve months.

Locally we are helping to raise awareness and funds for the three CHANCES programs operating in Victoria - Mallee Chances for Children, Western Chances and Southern Chances. ForCHILDREN in its own right conducts a small program for children and young people who are unable to be assisted by the other three programs.

CHANCES programs ensure that it is not money or lack of assistance that means a child is unable to proceed with their education or pursue their dream.

Nationally we are supporting the Yiyili Aboriginal Community School in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. We will assist with funding facilities and programs for the school when they are not available from other sources. We want to provide CHANCES for Aboriginal children.

Internationally we are supporting the Good Will Social Work Centre in Madurai Tamil Nadi in the south of India. We want to provide a CHANCES program for children served by the Goodwill Centre by assisting with educational sponsorship, and the development of an English Language and Book and Toy Library.

You will be able to discover more as you read the following pages and if you are interested in supporting ForCHILDREN you can contact the secretary Denis Oakley on 0419 341 996.

We believe that "Give them or take them, "CHANCES CHANGE the WORLD"."

Yours truly,

Naomi Tippett
President

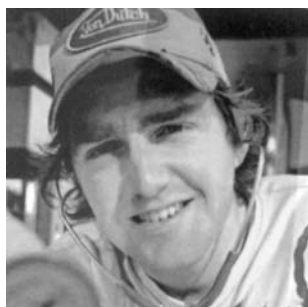
Inside

Chances for Children,
the local connection pg 2

The Motorcycle ride that
raised money,
and opened up an outback
connection pg 3

Building the International
Connection pg 4

CHANCES FOR CHILDREN the local connection.



Michael Kirk

Michael Kirk completed his VCE and was keen to do medicine. There wasn't much hope that he would be able to afford that. He lived in the country and with travel costs, accommodation and living expenses on top of the fees it didn't seem a possibility.

Out of nowhere came help from the CHANCES FOR CHILDREN program in the Mallee. Michael has completed his degree and says that without the support he received none of this would have been possible.

There are many children and young people who just don't get a fair go when it comes to realising their dreams. So often it is lack of money and sometimes lack of support that prevents them from fulfilling their ambition to achieve. Vern Knight, who is the Executive Director Mallee Family Care with its headquarters in Mildura, identified this problem back in 2000. He witnessed many talented young people around the Mallee forced to take jobs that didn't offer much of a future because they were often from low income families who were not in a position to support them to pursue further education. An added deterrent in rural areas is the accommodation costs involved when a young person has to move away from home to attend University or a TAFE College in one of the larger urban or regional centres. In a stroke of good timing the Boards involved in providing water for the region approached him about how they could be involved in improving the quality of life for children and families in the community.

Vern Knight explained his idea and they enthusiastically supported Mallee Family Care and their "CHANCES FOR CHILDREN" program. They invited customers to make a donation to the program at the time they paid their water bill. A staggering \$950,332 was raised from this source and from the local community and 53 children and young people in the region were given the opportunity to pursue their dreams in school, University or TAFE.

A diverse range of courses and studies that were undertaken. Medicine, law, photography, speech therapy, piano lessons, computer training to name a few.

A year or so later a CHANCES program started in the Western Suburbs. This has been very successful in assisting many young people from that region who were frustrated in pursuing their dreams. President of the Committee of Management, Terry Bracks, the wife of the former Premier, has been a great advocate for the concept and very supportive when ForCHILDREN (Australia) initiated the SOUTHERN CHANCES program in the southern suburbs of Melbourne extending down through the Mornington Peninsula.

ForCHILDREN's intention was to hand the program over to Connections, a program of UnitingCare the Uniting Church welfare arm. This was achieved in May 2007.

ForCHILDREN remains committed to this program. It continues to assist through fundraising and also through a small scholarship program. This program helps children and young people who for one reason or another are unable to be assisted by the other programs. At present there are about 1000 children and young people around Victoria being assisted by CHANCES programs.

If you are interested, information is available on the three programs' websites; www.chancesforchildren.com.au, www.westernchances.org.au and www.connections.org.au and click on the Southern Chances logo.

A donation to ForCHILDREN TRUST FUND can be earmarked for any of the programs and a tax deductible receipt will be promptly forwarded.



THE MOTOR CYCLE RIDE THAT RAISED MONEY, AND OPENED UP AN OUTBACK CONNECTION

Lyndon Hayward works in an office where creative ideas, innovation and challenges are the necessary features of the trade. He is an architect and he and his partners and staff total more than 100 people. That is a lot of creativity in one place and many of the changes to the city skyline that we have noticed in the past few years have originated in the offices of NHArchitecture at the top end of Flinders Lane.

Now, when you combine all that nervous activity and stress with a nagging disquiet about what you are really doing with your life (the mid life crisis), it's not that too hard to imagine how one of them would come up with the idea of a team of them riding across the outback from Melbourne to Broome on motorcycles.

Well, for some of us it might be hard to imagine, but that's what they did.

Six of them planned to go, one fell off his bike injuring himself during training and then there were five.

With two four wheel drive vehicles as back up vehicles they set out from the Osso Café in Hawthorn to make it to Broome in eighteen days. That's how it came to be called "O to B"- Osso to Broome.

Lyndon Hayward had heard about the CHANCES programs through one of his consultants, Meg Bartel, a member of the ForCHILDREN committee and he decided that the "O to B" ride should help children who had a desire to "O to B " something in their lives.



With his partners they invited their clients and friends to sponsor the team on the ride and then donate the funds to the three CHANCES programs, Mallee Chances for Children, Western Chances and Southern Chances.

Letters were sent and generous donations were received from firms and individuals. This amounted to over \$70,000. This enabled \$20,000 to be presented to each of the CHANCES programs.

\$2000 was also given to Yiyili Aboriginal

Community School 170 kms south east of Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. The team were very impressed with this program and staff when they visited there on their way across Australia.

ForCHILDREN has now decided to support the school with some fundraising activities and if it is possible to support individual children from the school with their further studies, that will also be considered.

All those who did the ride confirmed that they had a most interesting and exciting adventure and that it was awe inspiring to consider how many children and young people have been helped through the generosity of their colleagues and friends.

It is amazing where an odd idea in an architect's office took us. It ended up being an exciting trip for us all.



BUILDING THE INTERNATIONAL CONNECTION



Members of the ForCHILDREN(Australia) Committee have been involved in supporting programs in Asia for the past twenty and more years.

Dr George Tippett, AM (pictured) a member of the ForCHILDREN committee is well known for his medical work with children and families in Indonesia, Thailand, India and Vietnam. Dr Tippett has led dental teams to Vietnam and the Tibetan community in India and has been involved in Indonesia establishing an educational program called "Posyandu" which seeks to provide families with important preventative health information in the school setting.

Dr Tippett and other ForCHILDREN committee members have also been involved in the support of the Goodwill Social Work Centre in Madurai, Tamil Nadu in the south of India. The centre which was established by Dr Christopher Daniels promotes the overall development of children, youth and women who are socially and economically deprived. It is a massive task.

Madurai covers an area of 22 square miles with a total population of 1.2 million. 19% (approx.176,000) of the people in Madurai live in slum conditions and work opportunities are limited. Many thousands of children are homeless and many do not attend school. These children



and young people are a primary focus of Dr Daniel's efforts.

Dr Daniels is the Professor of Social Work at the Madurai University and has, since the 1970's, been a tireless worker for those families who see little hope of moving beyond their poverty without some outside assistance. He has established a wide range of programs that provide finance for small business enterprises and educational and accommodation programs for homeless children.

ForCHILDREN is committed in conjunction with The Good Will Social Work Centre "CHANCES FOR CHILDREN" to provide a program to help some of the thousands of homeless children in Madurai with accommodation and educational opportunities. It is planned to build some accommodation for children and young people.

A group of young married couples in the southern suburbs of Melbourne has encouraged their schools to donate their old children's books. These are forwarded to Madurai. It is vital that children and young people learn to read and speak English and it is desirable that they start as soon as is practicable. The current literacy rate is quoted at 53.8% in the Madurai area.



ForCHILDREN also has an educational sponsorship program to assist children in low income families. Information is available from the ForCHILDREN office.

ALL ENQUIRIES TO:



ForCHILDREN Inc (Australia)

272 Charman Road, Cheltenham VIC 3191
PO Box 2626, Cheltenham VIC 3191

Phone 9584 6863 Fax 9584 7901 Mobile 0419 341 996

www.forchildren.org.au