



PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT

2011

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Mr Andrew Browne	Ordinary Board Member & Parent Representative Volunteer - Assistant Treasurer
Ms Sonya Browne	Ordinary Board Member & Parent Representative
Mr David Cook	Ordinary Board Member & NSW Representative
Ms Nicole Harris	Ordinary Board Member & Parent Representative
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 Simone Sparkes	Ordinary Board Member & QLD Representative
Mr Murray Stevenson	Ordinary Board Member & WA Representative
Natalie Tisch	Ordinary Board Member & Parent Representative
John Yiu	Ordinary Board Member Volunteer – Grants Officer

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

<i>Member Type</i>	<i>State / Territory</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2009</i>
-	ACT	0	0	0
Hand Difference	NSW	7	6	6
Professional	NSW	1	0	0
-	NT	0	0	0
Hand Difference	QLD	9	8	4
Professional	QLD	1	1	1
Hand Difference	SA	3	3	3
Hand Difference	TAS	3	2	1
Hand Difference	VIC	46	46	31
Board Member	VIC	6	6	3
Financial Support	VIC	13	13	1
Professional	VIC	3	2	1
Hand Difference	WA	3	3	3
Professional	WA	0	0	1
		95 (2011)	90 (2010)	54 (2009)

NOTE: TOTAL 114 as at 27 November 2011

GRANTS & FUNDING

<i>Application Date</i>	<i>Funding Organisation</i>	<i>RESULT</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Received \$\$</i>
	Sentinel Foundation		\$10000	15 Jul 2010
	SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANT		\$5000	3 Jun 2011
5 Jul 2010	GSNV			
	Event Entertainment 15 Aug 2010	UNSUCCESSFUL		
30 Jul 2010	Office for Disability, Department of Planning and Community Development	SUCCESSFUL	\$3500	7 Dec 2010
	12-month website maintenance and Development www.aussiehands.org			
21 Feb 2011	Vodafone Foundation	UNSUCCESSFUL		
	1-yr salary			
30 Mar 2011	Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund	UNSUCCESSFUL		
	Raising Awareness Campaign			

FINANCE

Acknowledgement to Craig Young (Chartered Accountant) who prepared the Foundation's Taxation Statement for the year ending 30 June 2011. Income and Expenditure Reports provided at the AGM. The Foundation would like to acknowledge Nunzio Panella from Oxford Accounting Group who audited the Foundation's finances for 10 years probono.

RESEARCH

Aussie Hands plans to apply for research funding during the 2011-2016 period for an extensive research project which anticipates 10 years of research. The research project will require a recall of all Australians born with a hand defect from 1940. 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.

RAISING AWARENESS

Early 2011, Aussie Hands liaised with the Australian Medical Practitioner Company, Sydney and Advanced Mailing Solutions, Tullamarine VIC to arrange the second 'raising awareness' campaign for Aussie Hands. The first campaign done during Dec 2007-Jan 2008.

In May, over 35,000 Aussie Hands brochures/mini posters were distributed across Australia to Public/Public Private Hospitals specialising in Occupational Therapy, Maternity and Paediatrics, plus Gynaecologists & Obstetricians, Community Health Centres and Hand Surgeons.

Funding towards this 'raising awareness' campaign was provided by 2010 grants received from Telstra's Kids Fund and the Sentinel Foundation.

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.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

September 2010

INSIDE NEWS Vol 6 - The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
'Add' in Classifieds section

PROBONO Community Support Services Directory
Aussie Hands listed

EVENTS

15 August 2010

West Melbourne, VIC

FAMILY EVENT – Concert - Paul Jamieson

Paul Jamieson encouraged everyone to dance and play musical instruments. Songs 'Silver Balloon' and 'Reindeer on my Roof' were by far the favourite.

Parents mingled while their children enjoyed watching Paul Jamieson play his guitar.



Attendances from VIC members included:

Bicknell | Healesville; Bromley | Chelsea; Browne | Pascoe Vale; Cavell | Woori Yallock;
Clarke | Bendigo; Maloney | St Kilda; Rhodes | Sunbury; Serpell | Coburg & Highett and new members -
Ireland-Hay | Reservoir.

The Maritime Union of Australia kindly provided their auditorium to Aussie Hands for this event.

E Serpell

24 October 2010
Carlton, VIC
AUSSIE HANDS 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday 24 October, Aussie Hands celebrated a significant milestone - its 10th Anniversary.

The function was held in the stylish surrounds of the Alan Gilbert Building (University of Melbourne) with 95 people in attendance.

Speeches were made throughout the afternoon and an all important toast of champagne was made, reinforcing the many achievements of the last decade.

Reflected upon was the creation of our logo and our brochure, the launch of our website, all of which has led to membership of some 90 families. Mentioned also was money raised by the many Aussie Hands functions being put towards research into congenital hand anomalies through the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. A big thankyou was given to the many generous organisations who have given us grants over the years.

Key speakers including local Member of Parliament Kelvin Thomson and representative from the Paralympic Committee of Australia Mr Jacob Hardiman who spoke eloquently about the future prospects of aspiring members. Kelvin's poignant message was that as many members as possible were needed to shape the future direction of Aussie Hands and not leave too much to be done by too few.

Alex 'the Magician' wooed young and old alike throughout the afternoon and our magnificent volunteers, all students from the University of Melbourne worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the afternoon. Games were played, door prizes given, delectable food consumed and a real sense of satisfaction derived from the happenings of the last decade.

GJ Serpel

EVENTS (Cont.)

28 November 2010
Brunswick, VIC
FAMILY XMAS EVENT & AGM



Due to 'rain', the venue was changed at short notice from Edwards Park, Port Melbourne to the Moreland Hotel, Brunswick.

Aussie Hands members welcomed new members Olga from Elwood and also the Stone family from Talbot. All were happy to meet each other and share their inspirational stories and talk about recent operations and progress at kindergarten and school.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the 'indoor playground' whilst some members participated in the Foundations Annual General Meeting.

The Tisch Family from Kilsyth were thrilled to have won a family pass to the Melbourne Aquarium.

Santa kindly provided a large bag of small gifts for the children as they said 'good-bye'.

Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon at the Moreland Hotel.

Victorian Families in attendance:

*Bradtke Mitcham | Browne Pascoe Vale South | Bicknell-Harris Healesville |
Harris-Moore Jan Juc | Ireland-Hay Reservoir | Johnston Bentleigh | McGregor Ballan |
Rhodes Sunbury | Serpell Coburg | Serpell Highett | Skolidis Elwood | Stone Talbot | Tisch Kilsyth*

The Melbourne Aquarium donated a family voucher for this event.

E Serpell

6 February 2011
Brunswick, VIC
FAMILY EVENT

Due to 'rain', the venue was changed at short notice from Edwards Park at Port Melbourne to the Moreland Hotel in Brunswick.

Aussie Hands members welcomed new members the 'Mackenzie' family from Croydon South. All were happy to meet each other and share their inspirational stories and talk about making decisions on future operations and progression onto starting kindergarten and school in 2011.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the 'indoor playground' and 'claw' machine. Lots of 'winning' chocolates filled the table for all to share.

Everyone had an enjoyable afternoon at the Moreland Hotel.

Victorian Families in attendance:

*Bonfieni Kealba | Cavell Woori Yallock | Mackenzie Croydon Sth | Serpell Coburg |
Serpell Highett | Tisch Kilsyth*

E Serpell

EVENTS (Cont.)

20 March 2011

Balaclava, VIC

INAUGURAL YOUNG ADULT EVENT

Yes, Sunday 20th March was a great afternoon at Pause Café at the bayside location of Balaclava in Melbourne.

It was a hot sunny day and Elizabeth brought along four Bachelor of Commerce students from the Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Melbourne. As part of their business consulting project, the students were keen to find out how 'adult members' are involved in the Foundation and also explore further ideas from us to enhance the future of Aussie Hands.

Adult member's who turned up for the afternoon was Olga, Julie (organiser of the day) Gary, Leo and Mike along with his gorgeous son Cooper.

After sharing 'our stories' of growing up, we all agreed that future events for younger adult members should include more leisure activities, such as Laser squirmish, surfing lessons ...and possible trips interstate. Other points mentioned was raising more public awareness for Aussie Hands. Finding a larger umbrella organisation whom could possibly fund/support our Foundation further was also discussed.

Report written by Olga (Aussie Hands member, Tassie)

17 April 2011

Port Melbourne, VIC

EASTER EGG HUNT

'Beautiful' autumn weather enhanced the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Edwards Park, Port Melbourne.

All were happy to meet each other to share their inspirational stories and talk about making decisions on future operations and starting kindergarten or school in 2011.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the 'playground' and looking for Easter Eggs hidden amongst the fallen leaves on the grass.

Aussie Hands members also met also students from the Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Melbourne who are currently conducting a business consulting project for Aussie Hands.

For the first time in Aussie Hands history, members from WA and VIC celebrated Easter together with family events being held simultaneously on the east and west coast of Australia.

A BIG thanks to Ernest Hillier Chocolates for donating over 300 Easter Eggs for this event.

Victorian Families in attendance: *Bradtke* Mitcham | *Cavell* Wesburn | *Clarke* Bendigo | *Howell* Berwick | *Hurley* Brighton | *Ireland-Hay* Reservoir | *Johnston* East Bentleigh | *Kavanagh* Richmond | *Maloney* St Kilda | *McGregor* Avondale Heights | *McGregor* Ballan | *Puscasu* Croydon | *Stone* Talbot | *Serpell* Coburg

E Serpell

EVENTS (Cont.)

17 April 2011

Ivey Watson Playground, Kings Park, Perth, WA

INAUGURAL – EASTER FAMILY PICNIC – Western Australia

It was great to see so many people at the first ever get together for WA members (and potential members) of Aussie Hands. For the first time in Aussie Hands history, members from WA and VIC celebrated Easter together with family events being held simultaneously on the east and west coast of Australia.

Distance, difficult parking and locating each other in a crowded park, did not deter people from making the trek from as far away as Manjimup, Jurien, Bridgetown and Quairading for this auspicious event.

It was wonderful to meet many people for the first time and to share each others stories. But what was most amazing about the day was to see how happy, healthy and confident all of the kids are. Chenille wowed us with her confident, cheerful nature. The preschoolers, Bailey and Zayne were fearless in their approach to any challenges the playground gave them. Matilda and Nic, who have been penpals for two years, met for the first time. Lauren who is just finishing year twelve and is head girl at her school was an inspiration and we thank her for making the journey up. And of course Patrick with the speed of his "swim" crawl showed us all that these kids find their own way of doing things and they do it so well.

The day truly was a day of CELEBRATION, EDUCATION, UNITY and SUPPORT.

Murray Stevenson
WA Coordinator
Aussie Hands Board of Management

FUNDRAISING

13 July 2010
Pascoe Vale, VIC
RAY WHITE FUNDRAISING EVENT

On Tuesday 13 July, Ray White organised a successful fundraising event at their office on Bell Street, Pascoe Vale VIC

Around 30 people attended the event to participate in bidding for 'memorabilia' items to raise funds for Aussie Hands. \$820 was received for a signed (unframed) Manchester United Jersey.



Ray White VIC CEO Marcus Williams expressed his sincere support after the informative Aussie Hands power-point presentation.

Guests were honoured in welcoming a special appearance from AFL Football legend Ange Christou (Carlton Football Club) who provided generous support towards the auction items.

Aussie Hands expressed thanks for the generosity of Ray White staff and friends, particularly to Michael Chan, Director of Ray White in Coburg and Pascoe Vale along with Nida Bardan, Ray White.

Over \$2,600 was raised and will be allocated towards the lease for the Aussie Hands office located at Ross House in Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

E Serpell

PRINTED MEDIA

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists – Inside News, Vol 6 No 4 (Sept 2010) - Advertisement

NOMINATIONS

Aussie Hands was nominated for these awards during the 2010-2011 period

- Kookaburra Award
- Health & Well-Being Award

PENDING RESULTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Writing for the web and intro to Social Media
20 Oct 2010 (attended by the Vice President)
- Online Fundraising – Strategies, Best Practices & Case Studies
23 Nov 2010 (attended by the Vice President)

VOLUNTEERS

On Thursday 26th of May, the Vice President held a stall at the University of Melbourne's Volunteer Fair.

67 students signed up to volunteer for Aussie Hands.

Vinicius Guerreiro and Charet Garcia were appointed as Volunteer Coordinators and Project Managers. Since July, they have arranged for volunteers to assist with an array of administrative/operational tasks, accounting, marketing, events and social media. A strategic plan is being drafted for discussion to the Board of Management in 2012.



University of Melbourne – Volunteer Fair

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 competes at an elite level in the sport of dressage. She held the National Championship title for 4 consecutive years, leading to selection to compete for Australia at the World Equestrian Games, held in Kentucky, 2010.

Kate has been a scholarship holder at the Victorian Institute of Sport since 2007, and has completed University studies with a Post Graduate degree in Psychology. She currently works full time in Melbourne at 'Devlin Alliance', where she coordinates the recruitment team as well as working for 'Infront Sports' where she assists elite athletes in gaining work experience as well as career direction, during and after sport.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- WEBSITE - Fiona McClure and Marco Bresciani
- Venue for Events - MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA
- FINANCE - Nunzio Panella, Oxford Accounting Group
- BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
- VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS / PROJECT MANAGERS – Vinicius Guerreiro and Charet Garcia
- VOLUNTEERS
- University of Melbourne – Faculty of Business & Economics

STRATEGIC PLANNING

During February to June 2011, students from the University of Melbourne consulted Aussie Hands on the possible partnership/collaboration with other support groups and organisations. This data will be considered for the strategic plan.

GOALS 2012

RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Circulate more information brochures nationally before May 2012
Feature in at least 5 articles/stories for TV, RADIO, printed & social media

GRANTS

Regularly apply for grants to support projects (research, events, marketing)

VOLUNTEERS

Increase recruitment and regular involvement on current and future projects

RESEARCH

Investigate grant funding to support research

PARTNERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS / SPONSORSHIP

Attract/negotiate future partnerships/affiliations with Professional Australian Hand Associations/Organisations and sponsorship from the Corporate sector

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.

CONCLUSION

In 2011-2012, the Foundation will continue to 'raise awareness', submit grant applications and conduct regular family events. It is anticipated that research will commence for a 10-year project with specialist hand surgeons. 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.

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

Elizabeth Serpell, Public Officer, 27 November 2011