

## ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Mr Mark Bonfieni	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer – Marketing & Fundraising
Ms Lilia Darii	Ordinary Board Member & QLD Coordinator & Volunteer
Ms Paula Dibsdale	Ordinary Board Member & NSW Coordinator & Volunteer
Ms Jennifer Holman	Ordinary Board Member & QLD Coordinator & Volunteer
Mr Nick Hatzioannou	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer
Ms Julie McNally	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer – Event Management
Ms Elizabeth Serpell	Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary
Mr Gary Serpell	President
Mr Murray Stevenson	Ordinary Board Member & WA Coordinator & Volunteer
Ms Natalie Tisch	Ordinary Board Member & Volunteer
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>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>
Hand Difference	ACT	1	1	0
Financial Support	ACT	1	1	0
Hand Difference	NSW	21	21	7
Professional	NSW	2	2	1
Financial Support	NSW	1	1	
Affiliated	NSW	3		
Board Member(s)	NSW	1		
Hand Difference	NT	1	1	0
Hand Difference	QLD	7	10	9
Professional	QLD	1	1	1
Affiliated	QLD	7		
Board Members(s)	QLD	2		
Hand Difference	SA	4	4	3
Professional	SA	1		
Hand Difference	TAS	2	3	3
Affiliated	TAS	13	12	0
Hand Difference	VIC	39	54	46
Financial Support	VIC	15	22	3
Professional	VIC	12	14	3
Affiliated	VIC	30		
Board Member(s)	VIC	6		
Patron	VIC	1		
Hand Difference	WA	4	4	3
Financial Support	WA	1	1	0
Affiliated	WA	1		
Board Member(s)	WA	1		
		<b>178 (2013)</b>	<b>153 (2012)</b>	<b>95 (2011)</b>

## GRANTS & FUNDING

<i>Date</i>	<i>Funding Organisation</i>	<i>RESULT</i>	<i>Received \$\$</i>
18 Jun 2012	City of Melbourne Community Services Grant 2013 <i>Handwriting Workshop Project</i>	PENDING	*
27 Jun 2012	Commonwealth Bank- Karingal Branch VIC <i>Office Expansion</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$2,000
27 Jul 2012	Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs <i>IT Equipment</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$2,400
14 Dec 2012	Perpetual <i>Data Audit (Birth Registry VIC)</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
18 Jan 2013	Dept of Human Services <i>Website Development &amp; Maintenance</i>	PENDING	*
27 Feb 2013	OfficeMax & Barnardos <i>One-Hand Typing software inc. 'Typing Workshops'</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
7 Mar 2013	Telstra Foundation <i>Specialised handwriting tools including conducting a handwriting workshop</i>	PENDING	*
14 Mar 2013	Jack Brockhoff Foundation <i>Development, printing and distribution of Aussie Hands brochures in non-English languages for the CALD community (CALD Campaign)</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
15 Mar 2013	Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund <i>Funding requested for 'Raising Awareness' campaign – to set in place a sustainable campaign to ensure Aussie Hands continuing success</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
18 Mar 2013	Vodafone <i>1 Yr Salary for 1 professional</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
20 Mar 2013	Besen Family Foundation <i>Database Development for CALD Campaign</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
24 Mar 2013	NAB <i>Helping Hand Booklet/Online Resource with Royal Children's Hospital, Melb</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$2,000
29 Mar 2013	Equity Trustees (Eric Ormond Baker Charitable Trust) <i>'Helping Hands' Aussie Hands Guidebook</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
30 Mar 2013	Mercy Foundation <i>Office Equipment for NSW Coordinator to support commencement of 'School Awareness' campaign</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	

\*Successful grants received after 30 Jun 2013 (to be reported in 2013-2014 grant report)

## GRANTS & FUNDING (cont)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Funding Organisation</u>	<u>RESULT</u>	<u>Received \$\$</u>
16 Apr 2013	SBS Foundation <i>Airtime on SBS TV</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
24 Apr 2013	Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) <i>IT Equipment for QLD and WA Coordinators</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
26 Apr 2013	Aurizon Community Giving Fund <i>Peer Support/Mentor Program</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
29 Apr 2013	CBB Community Consulting <i>Data StartUp Grant for CRM Data System</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
31 May 2013	Australia Post <i>National Community Partner Grant</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
7 June 2013	Andrews Foundation <i>'Helping Hands' - Aussie Hands Guidebook</i>	UNSUCCESSFUL	
18 June 2013	Sentinel Foundation <i>Special 'raising awareness' Database Project</i>	SUCCESSFUL	\$8,000

## FINANCE

Acknowledgement to Thanh Dang (volunteer) who prepared the income/expenditure reports which were then checked and balanced by Sonia Yanjing Ke and Alexandra Ershova. The final statements were checked by Jatin Dave and audited by Mathew Simon for the Foundation's Taxation return for the year ending 30 June 2013.

Craig Young (Chartered Accountant) resigned in April 2013 due to relocation to Qld. Craig Young provided auditing to the Foundation over a 2-year period. The Board of Management acknowledged the excellent services provided by Craig Young by sending him a formal 'thank you' letter.

## RESEARCH

Aussie Hands with 3 highly regarded VIC Hand Surgeons are keen to undertake an extensive project which anticipates 10 years of data collection for future 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 (particularly the causes). A pilot study will be conducted in Victoria (project aim to commence in 2014 depending on grant funding).

## WEBSITE



The website continues to provide resources and links and 'news'. Acknowledgement to dedicated volunteers: Charet, Aida, Padma and Maryam.

## 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 2014, membership will increase and members will utilise the networking opportunities wisely.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Aussie Hands aim is to continue 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, and, in Australia the Australian Hand Therapy Association (AHTA); HELPING HAND, LIMBS4LIFE, and recently, the Federation of Victorian Counsellors.



### **FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN COUNSELLORS** **Saturday 9 February 2013**



On Saturday 9 February, the Vice President (Elizabeth Serpell) presented to the Federation of Victorian Counsellors enlightening them on the Aussie Hands story.

Counsellors were intrigued to learn of the array of 'congenital hand anomalies' and how hand differences impact on those affected.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Counsellors registered their interest to be involved in providing counselling support to those who are struggling to accept a hand difference (either at birth or an acquired hand injury).

<http://www.fvc.asn.au/>

Words : Gary Serpell, President

## VALE

### Sue Stokes, President, UK REACH

Sue was patient and generous with her time, especially with new families. Her knowledge and experience was vast and there was little that she didn't know something about. She was happy to share what she knew to help parents through the difficult first weeks after finding out about their child's deficiency. So many parents have commented that they could ring her any time and she was there to listen. She has been described as a lifeline, a great friend, a rock. She also got to know many health professionals - everyone from midwives to prosthetics fitters and providers. She was able to draw on these contacts to give parents information and support.

Sue took on the organisation of the family weekend when the AGM was extended from an afternoon in a Town Hall to whole weekend, to make it a more sociable event and a chance for parents to meet. It was a great feat to pull it all together, more so in recent years as the numbers of people attending grew. She was also the much loved and respected "Boss lady" of the Reach Activity week. Sue nurtured the children helping them to grow in confidence.

Many of us have things to be thankful to Sue for, from setting up the Reach office, through managing the charity day today, to just being there when she was needed most. Sue is a huge loss to us all and will be missed by the whole Reach family. May she rest in peace.

Words: Jane Tarrant, REACH UK

## 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. The current brochure will be redesigned and printed for a large distribution during 2014-2015.

## SLOGAN

During 2012, a 'slogan' I WRITE MY FUTURE for Aussie Hands 'raising awareness campaign' was chosen and will be enhanced by a video for a 'national' advertisement promoting handwriting and raising awareness of hand differences. A grant to SBS is pending for funding to support this initiative coinciding with the new brochure distribution.

## ROSS HOUSE

On 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2012, Aussie Hands relocated from ground floor office room G.12 to level 3, room 3.16, a larger office at Ross House which now accommodates several volunteers who work in the office regularly on Aussie Hands projects.



## MEDIA

RADIO 17 August 2012 SynFM  
24 August 2012 JoyFM

## FUNDRAISING

**6 July 2012**  
**Port Melbourne, VIC**  
**Bunnings Sausage Sizzle**

It was a chilly morning on Friday 6 July 2012 when the first shift arrived at Port Melbourne Bunnings. Isabel (Marketing and Communications Assistant Volunteer) drove from Footscray to Victoria Market to pick up the sausages at a discounted rate! Well-done Isabel!

The day before, Marsya (Marketing and Communications Manager Volunteer) and I went to do most of the shopping at Cheltenham, came back to my house and started chopping 9kg of onions. We were happy that Indira (Fundraising and Grants Volunteer) and Annapurna (Marketing and Communications Assistant Volunteer) came to join us, as Marsya and I were teary from the onion cutting.

The volunteers had a good time even though it was hard work. The fundraising gave us a chance for the public to know us, exchanging short introduction on what Aussie Hands was all about and selling the sausages!

The Friday first shift was a thrilling moment, wondering if we would raise enough money for the foundation. Mark Bonfieni was the designated chef and did an impressive BBQ, and our first customer started to trickle one by one. Then 2, 5 suddenly a queue ... by 11:30am we have used up 7 loaves of bread and almost half of the sausages. The first shift did an amazing job, thanks to Andrea, Isabel, Mark and of course me...

The second shift arrived, Brooke and her husband Charles, the next BBQ chef. They did whopping sales, by 1pm the bread was almost sold out. Impressive team work for the second shift! Thank you Brooke, Charles and Isabel! At 1:30pm I had to run back to the supermarket to buy more bread. The third shift Neville (Marketing and Communications Pro Bono Volunteer) and Marsya ran out of bread too. Unfortunately, I had to be the chef, though I did not burn most of the sausages, and by 2:30pm we were quite finished for the day. Lewis (volunteer) arrived at 2pm and helped out with the cleaning! Great work Neville, Marsya and Lewis!

Although a lot of time and effort was involved, unfortunately, a very small profit margin was achieved, due to the outlay of catering and accessory items pre-purchased for the BBQ. The bonus of this event was that we raised awareness amongst the local community.

Words: Charet Garcia

## FUNDRAISING

**9 August 2012**  
**Blacktown, NSW**  
**Mufti Day**

Shelley Public school kindly agreed to use one of its 4 allocated days per year to hold a RED MUFTI DAY for Aussie hands affectionately calling it "Aussie Hands Day". It was requested of the students to wear red on the day to represent Aussie Hands colours and donate a gold coin towards the fundraising efforts for the school. It was a huge effort for the children and teachers alike as the school is made up of 565 pupils and they managed to raise \$505 for the Aussie Hands. So, 505 children participated in the day! Shelley Public school was pleased to connect with Aussie Hands and create awareness within the school community of both Aussie Hands and upper limb associated differences.

<http://www.shelley-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Words: Paula Dibsdales NSW Coordinator

## FUNDRAISING

**12 August 2012**  
**Sydney, NSW**  
**City 2 Surf**



Running in the City2Surf was definitely a highlight for me, not only did I get to make a difference to Aussie Hands but being part of something that huge (85,000 people) and running together with people who all had an individual or team purpose, raising awareness for their own charity, was amazing to witness and be a part of. Despite the cold and windy weather, I actually enjoyed every minute of it and there were a lot of bystanders showing their support throughout the whole event. Everyone running or walking, young and old, all showed the same enthusiasm and generous spirit. I will definitely do it again next year! Josephine raised \$2500 for Aussie Hands

Words: Josephine D'Ambrosio, Member, NSW

## FUNDRAISING

**26 August 2012**  
**West Melbourne, VIC**  
**Aussie Hands Bazaar**

The Aussie Hands Bazaar proved to be a milestone event in the Foundation's short history. Months of preparations materialised in the brightly decorated interior of the Maritime Union of Australia.

The sound of enthusiastic chattering filled the air even before nine in the morning. Tables were shuffled and repositioned, the smell of fresh coffee and tea emanated from the bar, and glaringly red posters were taped at the entrance. Volunteers busied around in their red and black uniforms, stopping occasionally to ogle at the assortment of hand-made items laid out in a burst of colours and scents.

The Bazaar officially opened its doors at 11am. On the quiet street of suburban West Melbourne, young families, elderly couples and curious young people started streaming in. The Henna artist and face painter were swamped by a sea of children, all eagerly waiting for their faces and hands to be branded with sparkly patterns.

At noon, the Kensington Community Choir took the stage and filled the Bazaar with melodic voices amongst the bustle of activity. A group of stylishly dressed young people popped in at this moment, and after crowding up the restrooms whilst changing into their outfits, the Flare Dance Ensemble finally broke out some sweet dance moves to highly addictive music.

The performances continued until the president of the Aussie Hands Foundation, Gary, announced the winners of the raffle. Volunteers had previously roamed the Bazaar to accost customers and stallholders to buy tickets. Yells of

delight followed one after another like a procession. By the end of the announcement, almost everyone who participated had won something, and the mountain of prizes had dissipated into nothing.

Microwaves tinkled non-stop as samosas and other Indian delicacies were snatched up by starving patrons. Drinks were selling out fast at the bar, and the atmosphere dwindled to a serene tone as guitarists strummed out ballads on stage.

The entourage of cute Bollywood dancers brightened the mood at the very end of a long and fruitful day. After much giggling and jumping around the cooking demonstration, they finally busted out their moves on stage. And with that, the Bazaar came to a close with \$930 raised.

Stallholders packed away their goods, decorations were torn down and the earlier elated atmosphere was replaced with quietness.

Words: Mei Hooi

SPONSORS & DONORS acknowledged for their contribution to the AUSSIE HANDS BAZAAR

### **Sponsor**

The Maritime Union of Australia

### **Donors**

Continental Fruit & Nut Shop, Coburg  
Baker's Delight, Coburg  
Coca Cola Amatil, Mentone  
Chefs Toolbox  
Kiddies Food Cutters  
Mrs Mak  
Ms Wu  
Charet Garcia  
Serpell & Sons  
Jasemin Sibon Ho  
Officeworks  
Rebecca Hoben  
Faculty of Business & Economics, University of Melbourne

### **Volunteers**

Jasemin Sibon Ho  
Thanh Dangvan  
Luana Riccardi  
Sylvana Li  
Mei Hooi Liew  
Zi Lun Wong  
Vincy Yau  
Wen Chan  
Jessy Tang  
Michael Chumak  
Teresa Wu  
Sophia Yang  
Yiran Zhu  
Isabel Ngo  
Ristanio Aripin

### **Entertainers**

Kensington Community Choir  
Matthew Hluchanic  
Flare Dance Ensemble  
Bolmat family  
Jacqueline Roussel (Lotus Group)  
Bollywood Dancers: Abhinav, Anushka, Bhargavi, Harshitha, Rishab, Meghana

## **FUNDRAISING**

### **ONLINE or DIRECT CREDIT**

Ritchies  
Aussie Farmers  
Give Now  
Everyday Hero  
Go Fundraise

## EVENTS

**26 August 2012**  
**Melbourne, VIC**  
**CIRCUS QUIRKAS**



The Circus Quirkus event from Rotary was a fantastic event, with a huge turnout. There were tightrope walkers, acrobatics, and the same amazing group from last year – 3 African Men performing balancing acts on chairs! It was a good family event, where the clown of the show invited guests up on stage also. Immense fun was had by all! Thanks to Aussie Hands and Rotary for the tickets.

VIC Aussie Hands Members in attendance  
Mollo *Mooroolbark* | Pegg *Ballarat*

Words: Shawna Mollo, VIC Member

**16 September 2012**  
**North Fitzroy, VIC**  
**Spring Family Picnic**

It was a slightly cold overcast day on the 16th September when the Clark (Bendigo), Hay (Reservoir), Bell (Diamond Creek) families and newest members, the Smith Family (Flemington) enjoyed some time together at the Edinburgh Garden playground. The younger kids enjoyed a chance to play on the playground equipment and chase bubbles, the older kids had a kick of the footy in celebration of the AFL finals while the adults got to talk about all sorts of things, hand related and not. There was discussion about Jessie's recent double toe transfer surgery, the older kids adaptation to school and how all of the kids manage to show family and friends that they can do anything, just in different ways. Everyone commented that all the kids are growing very fast! It was a fun social lunch enjoyed by all.

Words: Toni Ireland-Hay, VIC Member

**8 October 2012**  
**Blacktown, NSW**  
**Spring Picnic**

The day began with uncertainty as the weather was totally unpredictable! But thankfully we were smiled upon and blessed with a lovely day for our picnic.

In total there were approximately nine families that arrived to join in the fun, two of which were families that planned on joining us here at Aussie Hands. This was just fantastic!

Joanne Elliot's daughter Samantha came along and did face painting for the kids! A special thank you for doing that, I know the kids were crazy about it! Our day was made up of chatting away, planning future Aussie Hands events and as always watching our wonderful kids all playing happily!

Words: Paula Dibsdaile, NSW Coordinator

## EVENTS (continued)

### 24 November 2012 Qld Inaugural Picnic

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the first ever Queensland Aussie Hands family picnic was held on the 24th of November 2012.

The weather was on our side and everyone enjoyed sharing their stories under the mild sun and the cool ocean breeze.

The kids happily explored the new playground and concurred the "spider web" in no time. There truly is nothing they cannot do.

Red balloons were popped and lollies devoured under the watchful eye of parents, of course.

Having Jennifer (an adult with a hand difference) at the picnic was priceless. To hear her life story, the challenges she had to overcome and how confident and strong she turned out to be was inspiring to all of us. Thank you!

Parents shared their concerns and hopes for the future as some children transition into preschool or primary school. It is very comforting to know that there are mothers and fathers that we can relate to on a personal level and, as always, we left the picnic more hopeful and confident that both parents and children made new friends and that their beautiful spirit will always shine through.

QLD members in attendance:  
Glencross *Daisy Hill* | Holman *Burleigh Waters* | Puscasu *St Lucia*

Words: Lilia Darii, QLD Coordinator

### 24 November 2012 Melbourne, VIC WORLD FESTIVAL OF MAGIC



On Saturday the 24th of November we went to the World Festival of Magic. It was simply magical and great and the best part was when the girl lay on the table, then Michael put a blanket over her and she floated up and then she wasn't there! How could this possibly happen?

Thanks to Aussie Hands and the Lion's club for the tickets.'



Words: Jarrah Harris Moore (9yrs) - VIC Member.

## EVENTS (continued)

### 25 November 2012 Maribyrnong, VIC AGM Xmas Party

On Sunday 25 November 2012, Aussie Hands held its Christmas break-up at the Maribyrnong location of Lazy Moe's family restaurant. Michael Guida who owns the chain of restaurants has himself a hand difference and is keen to establish an association with our Foundation whilst advocating the membership of those whose hand differences are a result of an accident. Michael's generously supplied the upstairs lounge, catering and music/sound equipment for what was an entertaining three hours.

Our Annual General Meeting AGM was held mid-afternoon and office bearers were re-nominated.

Members had travelled far and wide for the occasion, particularly, David Cook from Currans Hill in NSW and the Stevenson family from Bridgetown in WA.

After a SOVEREIGN HILL family pass was given to the Stevens family (Port Melbourne), Santa's lolly bags were distributed to many happy children, thus marked a successful end to the 2012 year.

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

VIC Members: Clarke – Bendigo | Garcia-Umer – Elwood | Hatzioannou – Newport | Ireland-Hay - Reservoir | Mackenzie – Croydon South | McGregor – Avondale Heights |  
McGregor - Ballan | Serpell – Coburg | Serpell – Highett | Tisch - Kilsyth | Stevens – Port Melbourne |  
Wardley – Avondale Heights | Young – Heidelberg  
NSW Member: Cook – Currans Hill  
WA Member: Stevenson – Bridgetown  
Volunteers: Luana, Stephen, Thanh, Zi

THIS EVENT WAS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



Words Gary J Serpell, President

### 3 February 2013 Carlton, VIC Summer Picnic

On Sunday 3 February the first Aussie Hands function of the year was held in Melbourne. Several families gathered at Lincoln Square Gardens with a picnic lunch and a rug. Apart from many of our regular members attending, two new families also joined us. We were also blessed to have our Patron – Kate Doughty join us for the occasion. Parents of the new born babies were very pleased to see and speak to a broad range of children of various ages and felt more certain about the future of their own children. A BIG thanks to Jess who brought along her palate of face paints and decorated the children's faces beautifully!

In attendance:

Members

Bell *Diamond Creek* | Grant *Kensington* (new member) | Hayward *Wangaratta* | Serpell *Coburg* | Serpell *Highett* |  
Tisch *Kilsyth* | Young *Heidelberg*

New family:

Ditchburn *Pakenham*

PATRON – KATE DOUGHTY

Volunteer : Jess Tisch (face painting)

Words Gary Serpell, President

## EVENTS (continued)

**3 March 2013**  
**Blacktown, NSW**  
**Symbrachy Tea**

Although the weather for the week leading up to the Symbrachy Tea involved everything from mini cyclones to exhaustive heat waves, we were lucky enough to be given exactly 6 hours of decent weather for us to enjoy the day! Numbers were good again taking into consideration the terrible weather the state was experiencing. There were 65 individuals present and of that, there were 3 new families that came along. One family travelled down from Foster through flood waters and another came all the way from Wagga just to be a part of the great family like supportive atmosphere that is forever present at any Aussie Hands gathering.

My day was spent sharing information with members, connecting families up who live within short distances from each other and overall really listening to what stories members had to share. Once again, it was an overwhelming experience that allowed us to just be together as a group and enjoy the setting whilst the kids played uninterrupted and the adults let off steam and relaxed taking advantage of having others who understand.

We were overwhelmed by firemen this time around! As a result of the Blacktown City Festival being on the Police were unable to be in attendance, than the fire station that participated in last years Symbrachy Tea also advised me that they may not be able to come. I enlisted the assistance of Huntingwood station to come along! Thankfully they arrived and the kids loved it! And to our surprise later that day Blacktown 063 came into the park with their lights on and beaming smiles! The kids, and adults, loved to be able to explore the truck and chat away with the fire fighters. Melissa Sleiman from Meliscious Cake House once again donated a most fantastic cake and cupcakes towards the day. The teddy topper cake actually ventured off with one of our families to their preschool to participate in putting smiles on more kiddies faces whilst encouraging the kids to be more accepting of difference!

I couldn't be happier and more thankful than to have had another wonderful opportunity to meet with members from across the state and hear their stories. There is an absolutely wonderful deep sense of togetherness at the Symbrachy Tea, and I feel all that come along experience the safety and security within the understanding and supportive environment.

With great happiness I am very pleased with how the Symbrachy Tea 2013 went and I look forward to planning further events throughout the year and aiming big for the Symbrachy Tea 2014!!!

I would sincerely like to thank everyone that came along on the day and thank you for your support and friendship. It means more to me than you know!

Until next time, 'Keep On Shining'!!!

This event was proudly sponsored by



<http://www.ernesthillier.com.au/>

Words: Paula Dibsdale, NSW Coordinator

## EVENTS (continued)

### 17 March 2013 Seventeen Mile Rocks, QLD Easter Egg Hunt

After many weeks of questions about “When are we going to Aussie Hands, Mummy?” and with butterflies in our tummies, the big day had finally arrived.

On the 17th of March, the first Easter Egg Hunt (picnic) for all Aussie Hands Queensland members was organised at Rocks Riverside Park.

The weather could not have been more perfect for the occasion, after all, what is an Easter Egg Hunt without melting chocolate, sticky fingers and happy children on a sunny Autumn day.

Mia and Hayden kicked the ball around, hunted for Easter Eggs, played in the pool, and just had lots of fun. As for us, the parents, there is no greater joy than hearing children’s laughter amongst people that go through similar experiences and have many stories of resilience to share.

A BIG thanks to Ernest Hillier for their delicious chocolates and can only hope that next year many more Aussie Hands kids can join in the fun.

QLD Members in attendance:

Mohan-Druce *Ormeau* | Puscasu *St Lucia*

This event was proudly sponsored by



<http://www.ernesthillier.com.au/>

Words: Lilia Darii, QLD Coordinator

### 17 March 2013 Carlton, VIC Easter Egg Hunt

After some early morning drizzle the sun broke through as several families gathered for a catch-up, bite to eat for lunch and, of course, the Easter Egg Hunt. The 3-hour gathering culminated in the search for 300 delicious Easter Eggs. Smiling children were not disappointed when they ended the hunt with bulging bags of treats.

The success of the day relied heavily on the generosity of the Lapetina Family who for several years have gladly donated a box of Ernest Hillier chocolates to Aussie Hands. They kindly sent a box of Easter Eggs to NSW, QLD and WA for similar events to ours here in Melbourne.

As with most events, it was truly satisfying to see new families at the gathering and to sense their reassurance at seeing so many lively, exuberant children enjoying each other’s company.

VIC Members in attendance:

Bell *Diamond Creek* | Clarke *Maiden Gully* | Eriksen *Croydon* | Ditchburn *Pakenham* | Harris *Jan Juc* | Ireland-Hay *Reservoir* | Grant *Kensington* | McGregor *Ballan* | NEW MEMBER Pearson *Mordialloc* | Serpell *Coburg* | Tisch *Kilsyth*

This event was proudly sponsored by



<http://www.ernesthillier.com.au/>

Words: Gary Serpell, President

## EVENTS (continued)

**17 March 2013**  
**Heathcoat, Perth, WA**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**

The WA crew plucked some fantastic weather for our best Aussie Hands picnic yet. Heathcoat was an amazing location for the NINE families that attended. The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge hit - big thanks to Ernest Hillier. It was great to catch-up with familiar faces and to warmly welcome a few newbies. A BIG thankyou to all those who left in the wee small hours to travel the distance to Perth. It was amazing to see how some of the kids had grown. The word that resonated for me on the day was "confidence". It is a credit to these kids (and their families) how confident they are. Although at times they may go through "rough patches" their resilience always pulls through. Thanks again to everyone for a really great day.

This event was proudly sponsored by



<http://www.ernesthillier.com.au/>

Words: Murray Stevenson, WA Coordinator

**19 May 2013**  
**Maribyrnong, VIC**  
**BAH – BIG AUSSIE HANDS**

On a sunny 'wintry' afternoon in Melbourne VIC BAH members gathered at Lazy Moe's Restaurant in Maribyrnong, thoroughly enjoying the delicious varieties of food from the enormous menu.

The BAH group shared their stories and had a few laughs before delving into yummy ice cream.

Before leaving, the BAH group acknowledged and thanked the team at Lazy Moe's for sponsoring the event.

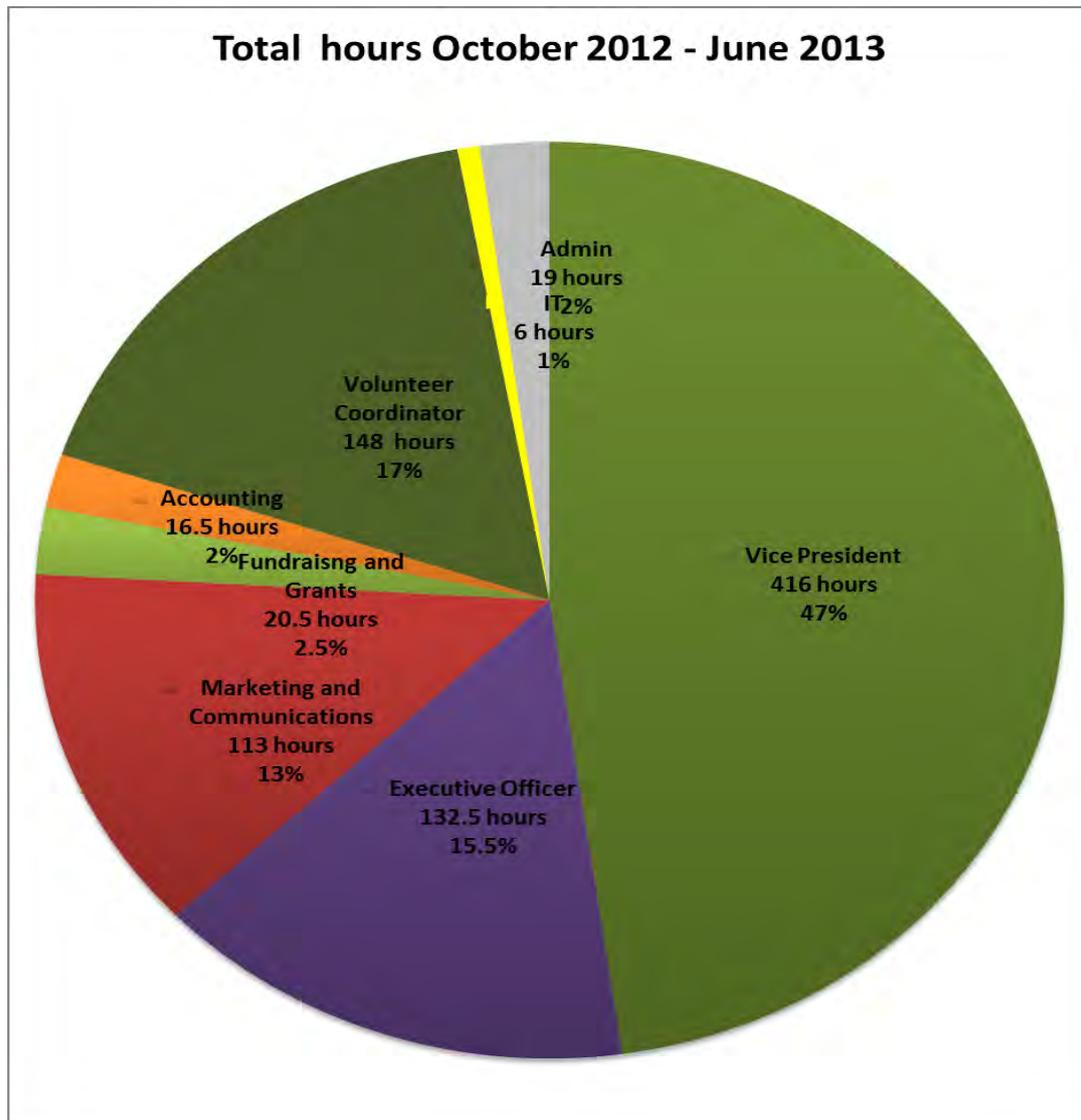
In attendance:

new member *Joanna North Melb* | *Leo Wonga Park* | *Bella Greensborough* | *Julie Carnegie* | *David Coburg*



## VOLUNTEERS \_ VIC

With the excellent guidance and supervision of Volunteer Coordinators Charet Garcia, Luana Riccardi and Zi lun Wong achieved the following tasks/projects:



The day to day operational tasks continued to be carried out with precision. These tasks included:

- ACCOUNTING: Membership fees auditing; Receipts consolidation; Bank reconciliation
- COMMUNICATIONS: Writing and sending Members birthday/Christmas cards
- MARKETING COLLATERAL: brochure amendments to updated contact details
- FUNDRAISING: Established Fundraising Policy; Fundraising Events : Bunnings & Aussie Hands Bazaar
- GRANTS: increased Grant applications
- MEMBERSHIP: Database maintenance including membership fee audit
- ADMINISTRATION: General office tasks including shredding, filing, scanning
- VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: Updating Volunteer List and Master list; Advertising roles; Interviewing new candidates; volunteer file maintenance (eg, timesheets)
- IT: Website development and maintenance; Dropbox; Membership website access; Email access maintenance; Daily backup; Website check-up for bugs; Spam filters; publication of enewsletter 2012
- MARKETING: School awareness program MELB to increase fundraising and awareness in primary school; establish social media policy (facebook); Linked-In; Graduate Consulting Group Univ of Melb – marketing and communications strategy

## **VOLUNTEERS \_ VIC**

From late 2012, the Marketing and Communications Team has been spreading the word about Aussie Hands to the local Victorian school community. After preparing a database of 572 Victorian primary schools, the volunteers set to work on contacting the schools and distributing Aussie Hands brochures. To date they have contacted 63 schools, 58 of which were happy to receive brochures and learn more about Aussie Hands. Some schools even offered to advertise Aussie Hands on their community board or school newsletter. The Marketing and Communications Team are now working on strengthening ties with these local schools and developing school fundraising activities.

Our goals for the next financial year are:

- Support projects directed by senior management
- continue with our operational activities
- participate in training programs
- create soft copies for our filing cabinets
- continue with our awareness campaign and expand into awareness of appropriate professionals in the medical field
- continue with our Social Media operations
- enhance the Foundation's profile in media
- continue to apply for grant funding to support events/activities and data audit/research project

### **Professional Development**

17 Sep 2012 Strategies for Sustainable Funding (Sophia Qing Yang, Volunteer VIC)  
16 Nov 2012 NFP Social Media Forum (Luana Riccardi, Volunteer Coordinator & Mktg Assistant VIC)  
20 Aug 2012 Secrets of Successful Boards (Charet Garcia, Executive Officer VIC)  
28 Feb 2013 Webinar 'Intermediate Facebook – Paula Dibsedale (Board Member NSW)  
13 May 2013 Webinar: Intermediate Facebook (Maria Reyes, Volunteer VIC)

### **Volunteer Acknowledgement**

The Board of Management would like to thank the following volunteers for their enormous contributions between July 2012 – June 2013:

#### Executive Officer | Volunteer Coordinator

Charet Garcia

#### Volunteer Coordinators

Luana Riccardi | Zi Lun Wong

#### Grant Writers

Sophia (Qing) Yang | Louise Scerri

#### Fundraising & Grant writer Assistants

Kristel Oh | Yiran Zhu | Teresa Wu | Isabel Ngo | Vincy Yau

#### Accountant Assistant

Than Dangvan | Sonia Yanjing Ke

#### IT

Noot Yi Fang | Padma Priya Venkataramanan | Maryam Jabbarzadeh

#### Marketing & Communications

Coordinators: Luana Riccardi | Zi Lun Wong

Support Team: Sylvana Liwei Li | Wenchan Huang | Liew Mei Hooi | Marsya Aisikin | Shannon Hee |

Meghan Cummins | Ammie Negrin | Benny Hu | Neville Unvalla | Kim Wilson

#### Social Media

Maria Reyes

#### Graphic Design

May Tang

#### Administration

Chiara Di Pasquali | Indira Lakshamanan | Sonia Yanjing Ke | Punya Nanayakkara | Michelle Coppe

## TELEPHONE

On 26 March 2013, Aussie Hands ceased telephone number (03) 9354 0324 and relocated to the Melbourne CBD exchange, therefore the updated telephone number is (03) 9671 4242

## GOALS 2014

### *RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN*

Circulate updated brochures and flyers nationally from 2014 and establish in-house database system (stakeholders/membership)

### *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*

Move over to wordpress and launch 'new-look' 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.

### *LINKED-IN*

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **SPONSORS** - MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA, LAZY MOE'S, ERNEST HILLIER CHOCOLATES, SOVEREIGN HILL, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE – FACULTY OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS
- **WEBSITE** - Charet Garcia, Aida Viziru, Padma Priya Venkataramanan, Maryam Jabbarzadeh
- **FINANCE** – Craig Young, Thanh Dangvan, Sonia Yanjing Ke
- **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT** (including Interstate Coordinators)
- **GRANTS OFFICER** – Sophia Yang, Louise Scerri
- **VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS** – Charet Garcia, Luana Riccardi, Zi Lun Wong
- **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST** - Josie Duncan
- **VOLUNTEERS**

## CONCLUSION

In 2013-2014, 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 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, 2013*

## 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