

ANNUAL REPORT
July 2013 – June 2014

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Mr Mark Bonfieni | Ordinary Board Member |
| Ms Heather Budich | Ordinary Board Member & SA Coordinator |
| Ms Joanne Elliott | Ordinary Board Member & NSW Coordinator |
| Ms Jennifer Holman | Ordinary Board Member & QLD Coordinator |
| Mr Nick Hatzioannou | Ordinary Board Member |
| Ms Caroline Hurley | Ordinary Board Member, Treasurer |
| Ms Elizabeth Serpell | Vice President, Secretary |
| Mr Gary Serpell | President |
| Mr Murray Stevenson | Ordinary Board Member & WA Coordinator |
| Ms Natalie Tisch | Ordinary Board Member |
| Ms Colleen Birtwistle | Ordinary Board Member |
| 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>2014</i> | <i>2013</i> | <i>2012</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Hand Difference Affiliated | ACT | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Financial Support | ACT | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Hand Difference | NSW | 20 | 21 | 21 |
| Hand Difference Affiliated | NSW | 3 | 3 | |
| Professional | NSW | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Financial Support | NSW | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| AH-Board Member | NSW | 1 | 1 | |
| Hand Difference | NT | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Hand Difference | QLD | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Hand Difference Affiliated | QLD | 6 | 7 | |
| Professional | QLD | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| AH-Board Members | QLD | 1 | 2 | |
| Hand Difference | SA | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Professional | SA | 1 | 1 | |
| AH-Board Members | SA | 1 | 2 | |
| Hand Difference | TAS | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Hand Difference Affiliated | TAS | 2 | | |
| Financial Support Affiliated | TAS | 12 | 13 | 12 |
| Hand Difference | VIC | 44 | 39 | 54 |
| Hand Difference Affiliated | VIC | 18 | | |
| Professional | VIC | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Professional Affiliated | VIC | 4 | | |
| Financial Support | VIC | 16 | | |
| Financial Support Affiliated | VIC | 9 | | |
| Donor | VIC | 1 | | |
| Donor Affiliated | VIC | 1 | | |
| Affiliated (various) | VIC | | 30 | |
| AH-Board Member(s) | VIC | 6 | 6 | |
| FIN-Board Member | VIC | 1 | | |
| Sponsors | VIC | 4 | | |
| Hand Difference | WA | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Hand Difference Affiliated | WA | 1 | 1 | |
| Financial Support | WA | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Professional | WA | 4 | | |
| AH-Board Member | WA | 1 | 1 | |
| | | 197 (2014) | 178 (2013) | 153 (2012) |
| Patron | VIC | 1 | | |
| Volunteers | VIC | 9 | | |

VALE

David Cook 'Cookie' Member NSW

During March 2014, Aussie Hands members were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of David Cook (affectionately known as Cookie and also founder of Cookie's Choice). Over the last 8 years Aussie Hands has been blessed to have David as a mentor and inspirational speaker and also inaugural coordinator of NSW. Cookie travelled to Melbourne on numerous occasions to spend time with Aussie Hands members. He left an enormous impression when presenting at Aussie Hands fundraising and family events and, in particular, school visits. David was also so generous with his time outside of normal working hours by volunteering at Westmead Hospital entertaining sick children. The world will be a poorer place without Cookie around as he has left an indelible mark on people's lives. God Bless Cookie. RIP.

Many of us have things to be thankful to David for and it is a huge loss to us all and he will be missed by the whole Aussie Hands family.

GRANTS & FUNDING

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Funding Organisation</i> | <i>OUTCOME</i> | <i>Received \$\$</i> |
|-------------|---|----------------|----------------------|
| 18 Jun 2013 | Sentinel Foundation Special 'raising awareness' Database Project | SUCCESSFUL | \$6,000 |
| 23 Jul 2013 | Equity Trustees | UNSUCCESSFUL | |
| 27 Aug 2013 | State Trustees Australia Foundation | PENDING | |
| 29 Sep 2013 | Jetstar | UNSUCCESSFUL | |
| 31 Oct 2013 | Optus | UNSUCCESSFUL | |
| 31 Oct 2013 | Equity Trustees | UNSUCCESSFUL | |
| 15 Nov 2013 | Parks Victoria | RETURNED | |
| 12 Dec 2013 | Department of Human Services | UNSUCCESSFUL | |
| 23 Jun 2014 | Perpetual | UNSUCCESSFUL | |
| 9 Feb 2014 | City of Melbourne 'Mentoring Program' | SUCCESSFUL | \$10,000 |
| 27 Mar 2014 | CBB Community Consulting | UNSUCCESSFUL | |
| 13 Mar 2014 | Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) | UNSUCCESSFUL | |
| 30 Jul 2014 | Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund (LMCF) | PENDING | |



FINANCE

Acknowledgement to volunteer Mike Collins 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 2014.

In summary, for the year ended 30 June 2014:

Total income \$74,677

Total expenses \$46,657

Current Assets = \$89,010 + Non-current assets totalling \$4,178 = TOTAL ASSETS \$92,270

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

DATA AUDIT → RESEARCH

Aussie Hands with 3 highly regarded VIC Hand Surgeons are keen to undertake an extensive project which anticipates several years of data collection for future research. The data audit project will require a recall of all Australians born with a hand defect from 1960. 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 in collaboration with hand surgeons in WA (project aim to commence in 2015 depending on grant funding).

WEBSITE



The website continues to provide resources and links and 'news'. During early 2014, a new section under Resources called 'self-help tasks' was added as part of a NAB grant which supported this project coordinated by Josie Duncan OT who supervised an intern from Deakin University in Geelong. Plans to launch a new look website for 2015 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. Acknowledgement to dedicated volunteers: Aida, Maysa and Maryam.

FACEBOOK

The Aussie Hands FACEBOOK group page and PUBLIC interface FACEBOOK pages recruited more friends throughout the course of the year. Acknowledgement to dedicated volunteer Maria for producing a Digital and Social Media Policy and Strategy, plus updating Photography policy/permission forms. Due to regular posts on facebook, online engagement has provided members to utilise additional networking opportunities and share their inspirational stories.

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 2015.

MEDIA

PUBLICATIONS

1 July 2013

Online Melbourne Storm News

Billy's Buddies Clinic – Melbourne Storm (The Members' story featured Melanie Tisch (Kilsyth, VIC)

8 August 2013

Blue Mountains Gazette 'Handsup for Keiras charity' The Members' story featured Keira Scanlon (Winmalee, NSW)

22 November 2013

Ross House Association Annual Report 2013 pg 11 Members' Stories, written by Social Media Volunteer Maria Reyes. The Members' story featured Michael Bradtke (Mitcham, VIC)

TV

23 October 2013

Vasili's Garden, Channel 31. The Members' story featured David Serpell (Coburg, VIC)

FUNDRAISING

11 August 2013
Sydney, NSW
City 2 Surf



Aussie Hands NSW Members husband and wife team Josephine and Patrick D'Ambrosio ran in the Sydney City2Surf. They both found it very challenging as it was a hot day and Josephine ran a much faster pace to keep up with Patrick. Josephine was so excited to finish the race that she fell over the finish line, grazing her hands, knee and elbow. This meant she didn't register a time for the race but since Patrick was right in front of her, she was allocated his time too. By participating in the City2Surf, they successfully raised awareness of Aussie Hands and provided others the opportunity to donate as well. Josephine looks forward to participating next year and will continue to do so every year until she can. Josephine and Patrick raised \$813.29 for Aussie Hands.

Words: Elizabeth Serpell, Vice President

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, and, in Australia the Australian Hand Therapy Association (AHTA); HELPING HAND, LIMBS4LIFE, the Federation of Victorian Counsellors. As Aussie Hands has an ongoing relationship with the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, in September 2013, Aussie Hands established new connections with the Women's and Children's Hospital (Adelaide SA) and the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children (Perth WA).

19 August 2013

Bulli NSW

Rotary Club Presentation



David Cook (Member, NSW) presented to a crowd of about 30 guests which ranged from backgrounds in Engineering, Teaching to retired University Lecturers. It was a good night and well received which raised awareness of people living with a hand difference. David kept them entertained with his 'handy' hints/techniques.

4 September 2013

Northcote VIC

Lions Club Presentation

Elizabeth and marketing volunteer Tom, attended the Olympic Hotel in Preston on behalf of Aussie Hands, for a presentation and dinner meeting with the Lions Club of Northcote. Beginning the proceedings at 7pm, they were treated to a delicious two course meal and got to listen to the various meeting points on the agenda. It was very interesting to find out how much time and resources the Lions Club, particularly the chapter in Northcote, gives back to the community.

Around 9pm, it was presentation time! Elizabeth delivered a great presentation, starting off with a bit of history about Aussie Hands, before giving an insight into what we do as an organisation and how we support individuals with a hand difference. The Lions Club was great and with many people asking questions it proved to be a busy night! Concluding the night, a raffle was held with heaps of fantastic prizes on offer.

A big thankyou to the Lions Club of Northcote, for the opportunity to deliver the presentation and also to the Olympic Hotel for their exceptional catering on the night. Both Elizabeth and Tom had a fun night, and it was a good opportunity to increase awareness about the Aussie Hands Foundation.



Words: Thomas Boatman, Volunteer

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

19 September 2013
West Perth WA
Specialised Hand Therapy Services



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

During our recent family holiday in WA we visited 'Specialised Hand Therapy Services' in West Perth and met with the Director, Cathy Thomas B Sc(OT), Post Grad Dip (Hand & UL Rehab).

Specialised Hand Therapy Services treat patients with all types of hand injuries but most of their work generally tends to be with patients with acquired hand injuries.

We are pleased that Cathy Thomas and her team at Specialised Hand Therapy Services are able to promote Aussie Hands to their patients who visit their clinics across WA (Subiaco, West Perth, Midland, Murdoch, Joondalup, Armadale and Albany).

Words: Gary J Serpell, President

20 September 2013
Perth WA
Princess Margaret Hospital for Children

During our 27-day family holiday (driving across the Nullabor from VIC to WA), we arranged to meet with WA esteemed Hand Surgeons Lewis Blennerhassett and Rohan Page, along with Emma Staples (Senior Occupational Therapist) at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in Perth.

We left a BIG bag of brochures and posters which will now be distributed weekly to patients visiting the Hand Clinic. We are excited about the prospect of increased membership in WA which will provide more opportunities for families to meet and share their inspirational stories.



Rohan Page, David Serpell, Lewis Blennerhassett
Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth

Words: Gary J Serpell, President

EVENTS

25 August 2013
Maribyrnong VIC
ROBOHAND

Aussie Hands members, volunteers and friends were enlightened by a presentation by Scott Phillips from THE ROBOTS ARE COMING.

All learnt about the new 3D printing technologies that are changing the world! From small plastic knick-knacks to medical applications, and architecture, Scott showed some of the amazing 3D printing projects (including the ROBOHAND). Scott scanned one of the Aussie Hands members and all were amazed to see the 3D printer in operation and saw how a 'real person' turned into an actual 3D object.



Scott demonstrating ROBOHAND

Scott invites members to contact him to consider ROBOHAND for those with a hand difference.
<http://www.the-robots-are-coming.com/>

New members from Bon Beach, Montrose and Oak Park were welcomed by all. Kate Doughty PATRON caught up on members' progress at kindergarten and school. Volunteers were thrilled to be part of the event and all enjoyed LAZY MOE'S culinary delights and beverages.

Attendance:

VIC MEMBERS:

Borg *East Keilor* | Doughty PATRON | Franklin *Oak Park* | Ling-Gardom *Montrose* | Ireland-Hay *Reservoir* | McNally *Carnegie* | Oldham *Bon Beach* | Serpell *Coburg* | Venkatesh *Croydon* | Wardley *Avondale Heights* |

WA MEMBER:

Stevenson *Bridgetown*

FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS:

Alistair & Mike MICROSOFT | Gardner family Northcote | Kathleen FACEPAINTING | Luana and Ashan | Tom | Kim

PRESENTER

The Robots are Coming
Mel & Scott

THIS EVENT WAS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



Words: Elizabeth Serpell, Vice President

EVENTS

7 September 2013

Gawler SA

INAUGURAL FAMILY DINNER

SA based Aussie Hands families met for dinner at the Southern Hotel in Gawler.

Two new families attended along with a loyal Aussie Hands family from Athelstone who were very pleased to meet and share their stories. All are keen to keep in touch and look forward to future events with the hope of meeting more Aussie Hands members in SA.



SA families in attendance:

Evans Seaton | Nield Athelstone | Proctor Hillbank

VIC family in attendance:

Serpell Coburg

Words: Gary J Serpell, President

EVENTS

3 November 2013 Ormeau Park QLD Princesses and Pirates Picnic

This was a great opportunity for all of us to catch up on the past year and share the experiences of children whether at kindy, prep or school. Hayden showed off his very 'cool' Robohand, while we were all left in awe with his dexterity and out-going nature. Thanks to Liza for sharing her wealth of knowledge in how and where to access various services for our children and to Emma for having the brilliant idea of organizing a presentation at Taylor's kindy as a way of helping other kids understand the 'why' and 'how' of being born with a hand difference. There is great comfort in being able to see the resilience and strength of the Aussie Hands members.

Thank you to all the wonderful families and their beautiful children. A special thank you goes out to Jennifer and her sister for organising the 'sweet' table for our pirates and princesses, as well as to her mother for playing so lovingly with the kids.



The sweet table organised by Jennifer and her sister

Aussie Hands families in attendance:

De La Rey Ormeau | Glencross Daisy Hill | Holman Burleigh Waters | Mohan-Druce Ormeau | Puscasu St Lucia |

Words: Lilia Darii, St Lucia Qld

EVENTS

10 November 2013
Barwon Heads, VIC
FUN FLIGHT

The Helicopter Ride

On Sunday the 10th of November we went to the Fun Flight in Barwon Heads where we were going to go on an aeroplane. We finally arrived there and man gave us our tickets we walked through the gate and waited for what felt like 4 hours but was actually probably only ½ an hour, I was soooooo excited when they said we could wait another 15 mins for the next plane or we could go on the helicopter I yelled out "HELICOPTER" so we went on the helicopter. To get to the helicopter we went by golf buggy, which was actually pretty fun as well.

Anyway we got up in the helicopter and the view was amazing it was like you were a giant you had to have head phones so you could speak to each other. Our pilots name was Tom.

Thank you soooo much Aussie Hands and Fun Flight!

Words: Jarrah Harris Moore (10yrs), Jan Juc VIC

10 November 2013
Kyneton, VIC
FUN FLIGHT



Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Fun Flight on Sunday. Billy had a great time (me, not so much until we were safely back on the ground!).

Words: Kerri-Ann, Darley, VIC

EVENTS

24 November 2013
Maribyrnong, VIC
AGM Xmas Party

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

Young members were encouraged to be 'creative' in making plastic Christmas bells filled with lollies and decorated with glittering stickers and star ribbons.

Chairperson (Brooke Young) conducted the Aussie Hands Annual General Meeting where the Vice President (Elizabeth Serpell) gave a report of the last financial year 2012-2013 including highlights of 12 events and 3 successful grants. Board Members, Interstate Coordinators and Volunteers were acknowledged along with Sponsors: Lazy Moe's, Sovereign Hill, Ernest Hillier Chocolates, Maritime Union of Australia, and the University of Melbourne (Faculty of Business and Economics).

Julie McNally (new Executive Officer) was officially welcomed by all. The President (Gary Serpell) concluded that Aussie Hands role of reassurance to the future of children and parents is crucial. By children seeing that they are not alone and making new friends makes them fiercely independent and fosters resilience in their nature, and that mentors can also enhance their self-esteem. Fulfilment by gathering together makes Aussie Hands an important Foundation which aims to continue to grow across Australia.

Congratulations to the McGregor family (Darley) for receiving the donated Family Voucher to Sovereign Hill

Families in attendance:

Bell *Diamond Creek* | Bonfieni *Glenroy* | Brear *Gardenvale* | Clarke *Bendigo* | Driessen *Wonga Park* | Hatzioannou *Newport* | Hurley *Moorabbin* | Ireland-Hay *Reservoir* | McGregor *Avondale Heights* | McGregor *Darley* | McNally *Carnegie* | Mollo *Mooroolbark* | Serpell *Coburg* | Tisch *Kilsyth* | Trela *Elwood* | Venkatesh *Croydon* | Wardley *Avondale Heights* | Young *Heidelberg* |

THIS EVENT WAS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



Words: Gary J Serpell, President

EVENTS

24 November 2013 **Engadine, NSW** **FAMILY PICNIC**

We had a wonderful day on Sunday at the Cooper Street Reserve picnic ground at Engadine. The weather was a little windy at times but at least we had no rain! We managed to get a couple of picnic shelters reserved early thanks to the Thompson family, and Aussie Hands banners were displayed by David Cook.

The families enjoyed chatting and the children and their siblings played furiously in the playground for much of the day. It was wonderful to see how well all the children were progressing considering most met for the first time which was a real thrill.

Joanne Elliott NSW Coordinator enlightened the group on how she became involved at Aussie Hands and thanked everyone for being there. Joanne encouraged everyone to ensure their membership was up-to-date and join the Aussie Hands facebook page.

David Cook and Joanne Elliott also chatted about raising Aussie Hands profile in country NSW and amongst the children's services in Sydney.

9 families attended and 3 families were disappointed they couldn't join the group. The parents talked about the frequency, nature, and location of future events.

A BIG thanks to the Dundas family for taking photos on the day.

Words: Joanne Elliott, NSW Coordinator

1 December 2013 **Wangaratta VIC** **XMAS FAMILY PICNIC**

Three Wangaratta Aussie Hands families including grandparents attended the first Aussie Hands picnic in Wangaratta. Also, Aussie Hands Pasko family from Albury NSW travelled south across the Murray River/border to meet the group. The weather was beautiful and a BBQ was cooked by the Hayward family for everyone as all the families brought a salad, so there was plenty to eat and the kids were able to have a good play in the playground.

Words: Belinda Hayward, Wangaratta, VIC

1 December 2013 **Flemington VIC** **Christmas Party for Special Children - Melbourne**

Finally Melbourne put on some sunny summer weather and the kids enjoyed the morning at Flemington. There were all sorts of fun things, jumping castles, police, fire brigade, animals, Humphrey B-Bear, delicious food, sports and don't forget Santa, arriving on a Harley Davidson.

It was lovely for two Aussie Hands families to meet for the first time amongst the many special children with disabilities. Both Aussie Hands parents were pleased to share their experiences of their child living with a hand difference.

All in all a fun morning, thanks for the complimentary tickets supplied by the Charity 'Christmas Party for special children' – Melbourne.

Aussie Hands Members in attendance:
Mackenzie Croydon | McGregor Darley |

This event was proudly sponsored by <http://www.christmasparty.com.au/>



Words: Elizabeth Serpell, Vice President

EVENTS

23 February 2014
Carlton VIC
Summer Picnic

On a pleasant Sunday afternoon, Victorian members gathered at Lincoln Square Gardens for the first Aussie Hands family event for 2014. Jen from the Australian Hand Therapy Association (AHTA) travelled from Ballarat to meet with members to enlighten them on AHTA support services.

The Aussie Hands PATRON Kate Doughty enjoyed catching-up with members and was so surprised to see how many of the young children had grown up along with their happy-go-lucky nature.

The children were excited when the Metropolitan Fire Brigade arrived and demonstrated various functions of their fire engine. Some members were delighted at having the opportunity to hold the strong hose and sit in the fire truck. Members also received a 'show bag' of goodies from the firemen. Thanks to Elizabeth for organising the MFB's visit.



VIC Members in attendance :-

Bell *Diamond Creek* | Cavell *Poowong* | Clarke *Bendigo* | Driessen *Wonga Park* | Franklin *Oak Park* | Grant *Kensington* | Ireland-Hay *Reservoir* | McGregor *Darley* | McNally *Carnegie* | Serpell *Coburg* | Serpell *Highett* | Tisch *Kilsyth* | Venkatesh *Croydon* | Wardley *Avondale Heights* | Young *Heidelberg*

This event was proudly sponsored by **MFB Carlton**
<http://www.mfb.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Stations-and-Districts/Station-No-3.html>



Words: Julie McNally, Executive Officer

EVENTS

30 March 2014
Port Melbourne, VIC
Easter Egg Hunt

A warm autumn day brought many Aussie Hands families together for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children were delighted in making their own paper basket with lots of stickers, stencils and colourful textures. A BIG thanks to Julie (Aussie Hands Executive Officer) who organised the art activity which also encouraged siblings, parents and grandparents to join in the fun!

The Patron admired all the young members mingling amongst the playground whilst many chocolate Easter eggs were scattered amongst the flowers and palm trees at Edwards Park for the children to collect.

The Canning family donated a handmade fabric bag filled with goodies which was raffled off (\$80 was raised). Puffing Billy family tickets were awarded to two lucky families (kindly donated by the Hurley family).

VIC families in attendance:

Borg Attwood | Canning *Launching Place* | Cavell *Poowong* | Hatzioannou *Newport* | Hurley *Moorabbin* | Ireland-Hay *Reservoir* | Johnson *St Kilda* | McCann *South Melbourne* | McCluskey *Coburg* | McGregor *Avondale Heights* | McGregor *Darley* | McNally *Carnegie* | PATRON Kate Doughty | Serpell *Coburg* | Tisch *Kilsyth* | Venkatesh *Croydon*

This event was proudly sponsored by



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



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

Words: Elizabeth Serpell, Vice President

EVENTS

30 March 2014
Bicton, WA
Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual WA Easter Egg Hunt at Point Walter Reserve hosted Aussie Hands families and friends. Murray welcomed 5 new families to the Aussie Hands gathering and acknowledged that 9 children with a hand difference were in attendance. The children and parents enjoyed meeting each other and shared their inspirational stories. The bonus of the day was the Easter Egg Hunt which resulted in many happy faces and lots of chocolates

Words: Murray Stevenson, WA Coordinator

4 May 2014
Epping, NSW
Easter Egg Hunt

At the May 4 picnic there were 5 families, and all had a lovely day. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the Easter Eggs and shared them with some other families playing at the park. It was such a lovely day and parents were struggling to get their children to go home.

Words: Joanne Elliott, NSW Coordinator

EVENTS

8 June 2014

Sydney Olympic Park, NSW
Family Picnic

On 8 June we had about 8 families meet at Olympic Park at the picnic area at the end of Victoria Avenue near the Concord West train station. We played a couple of organised games, such as duck duck goose and Simon says to get the kids to meet each other. Then the children played in the playground while adults supervised.

Words: Helen Thompson, Member, NSW

22 June 2014

Maribyrnong VIC
Frozen

On a cold wintry day in Melbourne, Aussie Hands members and friends met at Lazy Moe's to chat, eat yummy food and create some wonderful FROZEN inspired crafts. Many volunteers were able to meet members and admire their artistic abilities.

While Lazy Moe's provided an array of delicious finger food, new families from Geelong and Pascoe Vale were able to meet other members and talk about their experiences and share their inspirational stories.

The President announced that membership payments will change from 1 July due to a Board of Management decision to alter the annual membership from \$20 to a one-off joining fee of \$30 with 2 appeals for donations in each calendar year. Members were reminded to consider participating in the upcoming mentoring program, coordinated by Julie (funded by the City of Melbourne). The President also advised that the website and marketing collateral is currently being reviewed and invited members to be involved in any opportunities in sharing their stories (including videos and photography).

After the customary 'group' photo was taken, members got involved in 'hand' photos too



A BIG thanks to Julie who organised the amazing art/craft activities, to Paul who volunteered his services as official 'photographer' and also to Lazy Moe's for their generous hospitality.

Members in attendance:

Cavell Poowong | McGregor Darley | McNally Carnegie | Patti Pascoe Vale | Serpell Coburg | Svanosio Talbot | Tisch Kilsyth | Trela St Kilda | Van Tiggelen Hamlyn Heights |

Volunteers in attendance:

Azra | Mike | Shoukat | Paul

This event was proudly sponsored by



Words: Elizabeth Serpell, Vice President

VOLUNTEERS

The day to day operational tasks handled by Victorian volunteers included:

- ACCOUNTING: Membership fees auditing; Receipts consolidation; Bank reconciliation
- COMMUNICATIONS: Writing and sending Members birthday/Christmas cards
- GRANTS: increased Grant applications
- ADMINISTRATION: General office tasks including shredding, filing, scanning
- IT: Website development and maintenance; Dropbox; Membership website access; Email access maintenance; Daily backup; Website check-up for bugs; Spam filters; publication of enewsletter 2013
- MARKETING: establish social media policy (facebook); Linked-In; Graduate Consulting Group Univ of Melb – fundraising strategy and trademarking

Professional Development

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 25 Sep 2013 | Workshop: Developing an Effective Digital Marketing Strategy, Connecting Up (Maria Reyes, Social Media Volunteer, VIC) |
| 7 Nov 2013 | WEBINAR Social & Blogging, Connecting Up (Maria Reyes, Social Media Volunteer, VIC) |
| 14 Nov 2013 | WEBINAR on the essential for winning grants, Connecting Up (Louise Scerri, Grants Officer, Volunteer, VIC) |
| 25-26 Mar 2014 | Positive Leadership Development, Univ of Melb (Julie McNally, Executive Officer VIC) |

Volunteer Acknowledgement

The Board of Management would like to thank the following volunteers for their enormous contributions between July 2013 – June 2014:

Volunteer Coordinators

Luana Riccardi | Zi Lun Wong | Kim Wilson | Azra Kucukalic

Grant Writers

Louise Scerri | Julie McNally

Accountant Assistant

Than Dangvan | Sonia Yanjing Ke | Alexandra Ershova | Deb Dennett | Mike Collins

IT

Maysa Labadi | Maryam Jabbarzadeh | Naga Koswara | Timothy Uhen | Gina Barri-Rewell

Marketing & Communications

Luana Riccardi | Zi Lun Wong | Thomas Boatman | Lisa Do | Kim Wilson | Toni Hay

Social Media

Maria Reyes

Graphic Design

May Tang | Teresita Reyes

Administration

Sonia Yanjing Ke | Sharanjeet Sidhu | Azra Kucukalic

Self-Care Booklet (online website resource)

Josie Duncan, Monique McKenzie, Aida Viziru

Website

Aida Viziru (Pixel Salad) | Jen Port

Photography Paul Danyluk ++ Video Romy McCann | Selwyn Thomas

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

GOALS 2015

EVENT MANAGEMENT

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

RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Circulate updated brochures and flyers nationally from 2015 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

RESEARCH

Initiate 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, marketing & communications and accounting

SPONSORSHIP

Attract Corporate Sponsorship

PARTNERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

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

WEBSITE

Transfer platform 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

- DONORS AND FUNDING (IN-KIND) – Nuttelex, Pixel Salad, Sentinel Foundation
- SPONSORS – Lazy Moe's, Ernest Hillier Chocolates, Sovereign Hill, University of Melbourne – Faculty of Business and Economics
- WEBSITE - Aida Viziru
- FINANCE – Mike Collins, Mathew Simon
- CONSULTANT – Stephen Gardner
- BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (including Interstate Coordinators)
- GRANTS OFFICER – Louise Scerri
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST - Josie Duncan
- EXECUTIVE OFFICER – Julie McNally
- VOLUNTEERS

CONCLUSION

In 2014-2015, 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, 2014

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