Music, Mirth & Mayhem 14

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Laura Robins’ Photo Exhibition

An exhibition of photographs by Laura Robins was held at Mossgreen Gallery in April to raise funds for Mirabel. Many of Laura’s beautiful photographs were sold on the night and special thanks to Laura, Mikey and the CorriLee Foundation for their ongoing generosity and support.

Mirabel’s ‘My First Mega Camp’

In April, Mirabel held its largest ever camp. The setting was Maitmby’s DONA campsite - where 39 kids, aged 8-12, attended a fun-filled weekend, supported by 16 volunteers and 4 staff. The awesome volunteers kept everyone busy with a range of activities, including a soccer clinic, mini Olympics, paintballing, an art activity and a special pyjama disco.

There were smiles, friendships and laughs aplenty. For all the children there, it was their first experience at a Mirabel camp and for some of them, it was their first time away from home. It was also the first time many of them realised there were other kids in a similar situation to them.

Volunteer Andrea said, “I just wanted to let you know how much I really enjoyed volunteering at Mirabel’s ‘My First Mega Camp’ last weekend. The kids were very special and it was a very humbling experience.”

Carers’ Story

Paul and Susan have raised their 2 grandsons for the past 7 years. Having had minimal contact with their daughter during that time they recently received a phone call from interstate saying their daughter had overdosed and died, leaving behind a 6-month old daughter. Susan travelled there the next day and, a week later, brought their granddaughter back to their Melbourne home.

The shock of their daughter dying and having a grandchild they didn’t know existed has left them feeling extremely distressed. Despite doting on their grandsons, they feel overwhelming guilt that they weren’t able to intervene and do more for their daughter and that their grandchildren will now grow up without a mother they can’t remember.

For Susan, trying to explain to the boys that this newest addition to their family is actually their sister has been a challenge. Paul is now looking at going back to full-time work to make ends meet but knows Susan could also do with his help at home. Despite this added stress and responsibility, they both feel so thankful that their grandchildren are with them and will grow up together.

Become A Hero

Join in an event or fun run in your state and raise funds and awareness for Mirabel through your Everyday Hero page. If you are planning to give your runners a workout this year, please select us as your chosen charity when you register. www.everydayhero.com.au

- The Age Run Melbourne, Sunday July 15 2012
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I would like to support the Mirabel Foundation

Here is my/our donation (Please complete this form then mail/fax to Mirabel)

$25 $50 $120 $200 $________ my/our choice

Sponsor a Child for a year’s extra curricular activities

$100 per month

Cheque Money Order Visa Mastercard AMEX

Account name: ___________________________________________________

Name on Card: __________________________________________ Signature: __________________________

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Full Name: __________________________

Address: __________________________________________ Postcode: __________

Phone: H: __________ W: __________ Email: __________________

*All donations over $2 are tax deductible
This is my poem about Mirabel

Mirabel Mirabel is really fun
Especially when you’re in the sun
Playing, sharing and caring too
That’s what we all like to do
By Taylah (10)

Easter Eggstravaganza

The younger Mirabel children and their carers had a wonderful day at our annual Easter party at Mirabel House. The children all loved the animal farm and face-painting but the Easter egg hunt through the gardens was the definite highlight. A very big ‘thanks’ to PKL Recruitment for their extremely generous donation of Easter eggs.

Pearl Beach Camp

10 young people attended a weekend camp at Pearl Beach on the NSW coast. The weekend saw the kids relaxing and kayaking on beautiful Avoca Beach before heading back for a cook-up of tacos to sustain everyone for an energetic night of ice-skating. The next morning, the group headed to Umina for a surf lesson. Mirabel Grandmother Eileen said, “Jack spoke about the camp for days afterwards and he’s thrilled to be involved with Mirabel.”

Big Day Out!

Jamberoo Water Park was the perfect place to catch up with Mirabel friends and staff when 22 children enjoyed all the thrills and spills at Mirabel’s NSW Big Day Out.

In Victoria, 51 Mirabel children spent an energetic day running from ride to ride at Adventure Park. The Tunnel of Terror water slides, paddle-boats and Go Kart track did not disappoint.

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Stepping Up - Year 7 Program

In the April school holidays, 10 Mirabel young people spent the day soaring through the trees and enjoying the thrill of the flying fox. This program allows the kids to catch up after their first term of secondary school and see how they are settling in.

NSW Ladies Lunch – December 2011

The Ivy in Sydney was the perfect venue for our NSW Ladies Lunch in December. Guests were treated to a highly regarded guest speaker, Danielle Miller, who discussed a number of issues affecting our daughters today. The lunch was an opportunity for our NSW supporters to get together and raise awareness about Mirabel.

2012 Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Jane Rowe (Mirabel Founder and CEO) was one of 20 women who were inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women on Tuesday 6th March, 2012 as a part of International Women’s Day activities. Minister for Women’s Affairs, the Hon Mary Wooldridge, congratulated the new inductees at a function in Parliament House.

“We should all acknowledge these women for their inspirational work and the impact they have had at all levels of our society. The Honour Roll provides ongoing recognition of the role of women and their success in overcoming the hurdles that have traditionally limited women’s participation.”

Above: Jane Rowe and MP’s Graham Watt, Mary Wooldridge and David Southwick

Hawthorn Football Club Match Day Charity

Thanks to Simply Energy and the Hawthorn Football Club for choosing Mirabel as the match day charity for their game against the Adelaide Crows at the MCG. Mirabel volunteers rattled tins prior to the match to raise funds for the Mirabel children.
Premier’s Office Annual Gift Drive

The Premier’s Office again held a present drive for the Mirabel children and the families were delighted to spend an afternoon in the park with Premier Ted Baillieu and MP’s David Southwick, Mary Wooldridge and Georgie Crozier.

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PO Box 1320, St Kilda South, Victoria 3182
ABN 22 926 759 458
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The boys are involved with Mirabel programs and Susan says they return from camps and activities ‘full of little angels’, asking when they can see their Mirabel friends again. They’re already protective of their baby sister and although they struggle to understand why she was with Mum when they weren’t, their love and attachment to her is unquestionable.

Mirabel assists children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental illicit drug use and who are now in the care of extended family (kinship care). We are currently providing support to over 1,100 children throughout Victoria and NSW, with an average of 4 new children being referred to Mirabel each week.

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