



Mirabel Newsletter

June 2016 issue 27

Highlights ...

- Fifty Mirabel children had the time of their lives at Wet'n'Wild Sydney. An enormous thank you to Village Roadshow for giving the children a day packed with happy childhood memories.
- Eleven young people participated in the 'Art of Fresh' Hip Hop Camps during the April school holidays. Over four days they wrote a song, learnt a dance routine which they made into a Hip Hop film clip and were joined by poet and rapper Karl Lokko, a friend of Mirabel's from the UK. Their team spirit, self-confidence and creativity grew in abundance.
- Eighteen young people had an activity packed weekend at our Year 7 Camp - Stepping Up Program. They challenged themselves with mountain bike riding, a vertical challenge jump and learning to surf. The camp was a perfect opportunity to check in and see how everyone is settling into Year 7.

Stephen has come a long way...

'Mum had been sick for ages but I only found out it was drugs after I moved in with Nanna and Poppa.'

Stephen was only 7 when he and his younger sister Tiffany moved in with their grandparents Gary and Maree. His mother tragically died of an overdose 6 months later.

By age 9 Stephen had begun to settle in to life with his grandparents and was going to school regularly. Despite this he was still struggling to make friends and get involved in activities that were normal for his age. He had never played a team sport, never been invited to another child's birthday party and had not developed any strong interests.

Around this time the family were introduced to the Mirabel Foundation and Stephen started attending the Mirabel boys therapeutic groups and attending regular group activities for boys aged 8-12 years, including a range of camps. This program aims to develop social skills and confidence through interacting with positive male role models and other boys who have shared similar experiences. Stephen was very quiet when he first attended group and looked lost. Two years later he is now one of the most

vocal group members and particularly loves the outdoor activities and camps.

At a recent group activity Stephen was confidently teaching the younger boys how to catch yabbies at Ringwood Lake. He has never missed a boys group.

At age 11 life continues to present challenges to Stephen but he and his sister have come a long way. Like many 11 year olds he now plays footy and cricket, attends cub scouts and is obsessed with Minecraft. A highlight of his time in the boys program was when he

came up to one of the group leaders and removed a piece of worn paper from his pocket, carefully unfolded it and excitedly announced 'I got invited to a 10th birthday party, my first ever'. The top of the invite read 'To my best friend Stephen...'

Stephen is finally starting to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance amongst his peers.



Mirabel VIC Ladies Lunch



Chris Judd & Mirabel Staff

Raising funds for Mirabel

It has been a busy start to the year with events, raising both funds and awareness for Mirabel.

Following on from the success of the Sydney Ladies Lunch, the inaugural Mirabel Melbourne Ladies Lunch at Circa was spectacular. The day would not have been possible without the incredible Ladies Lunch Committee - Sophie Rice, Laura McLachlan, Sally Crinis and Sarah Gale combined with the generosity of Diane Bergeron and everyone involved. All funds raised will go towards the building of an inner city house for Mirabel.

Another incredible line-up of artists hit the stage for Mirabel's 18th Music, Mirth & Mayhem. MC Lawrence Mooney, always the audience favourite, was joined by Dave Hughes, David Quirk, Geraldine Quinn, Sweet Jean, Andy Saunders, Tessa Waters, Jen Cloher, Damian Callinan and Jake Johannsen.

The Grassroots Sports Club Lunch held at 45 Downstairs, was a sell-out. 'A Long Lunch with Juddy' featured former Carlton Captain Chris Judd and former Olympic swimmer Michael Klim sharing highlights of their professional sporting life while raising funds for Mirabel children to participate in sporting activities.

Mirabel is currently supporting over 1500 children who have been orphaned or abandoned due to parental drug use. Mirabel's vision is that every child has a childhood filled with love, hope and belonging.

Upcoming Events

Please visit our website to find out more – we'd love you to join us!

#Swap60 – Thursday 4 August 2016

Coming soon to a workplace near you! Check out www.swap60.com.au after 16 June for details.

Design for Mirabel 2016 - The Ivy, Sydney, Thursday 1 September 2016

To register your interest or purchase a tile or wall plaque for the house please visit www.designformirabel.com.au/events

NSW Mirabel Ladies Lunch – The Ivy Sydney, Friday 28 October 2016

The Pharmacy Guild Charity Dinner – Saturday 20 August 2016

Hawthorn Arts Centre - 360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn

Everyday Hero Runs 2016

Participate in an event or fun run in your state and raise support for Mirabel through your Everyday Hero fundraising page.

- Run Melbourne - Sunday 24 July
- Sun-Herald City2Surf Sydney - Sunday 14 August
- Sydney Spring Cycle - Sunday 16 October
- The Sunday Age City2Sea Vic - Sunday 20 November

End of Financial Year

If you would like to make an EOFY donation to Mirabel please contact us or visit our website www.mirabelfoundation.org.au/get-involved/donate

To receive our newsletter via email

please contact us at mirabel@mirabelfoundation.org.au

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 Bankcard Mastercard AMEX

 Expiry Date: /

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Full Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: H: _____ W: _____ Email: _____

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

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