



# Mirabel Newsletter

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Issue 31

## *As this newsletter goes to print, we are in the midst of our move to the new Mirabel office.*

It's taken an army of individuals, donors and supporters to help us move, and our new HQ exceeds our wildest dreams. Our contact details remain the same, so please let us know if you'd like to drop by to visit as that will make it feel like home. We can't wait to show you around!

There have been many highlights already this year and apart from the wonderful achievements of our Mirabel alumni and children, this included, coincidentally, Board Member Jude Pettitt and I both receiving an OAM. Sharing this day with my family and Jude was very special and my award recognises the work of the entire Mirabel team.

Thank you for your ongoing care and support – we need and deeply appreciate both. In the meantime, here's a snapshot of what's been going on for us over the last few months.

Jane Rowe  
Founder/CEO



## Ashlee's Story – Mirabel Alumni

When I think about Mirabel, *safe* is the first word that comes to mind. I have got through the past 26 years because Mirabel has provided me with the safety net that I needed to survive – the net that has caught me every time I have been pushed over the edge or slipped when I was overwhelmed. Life always seems to be that fraction harder for Mirabel kids. Drama is constantly unfolding, frequently testing our mental strength whilst simultaneously challenging us to try and fit in with mainstream society. It's not easy trying to do both... but the main thing Mirabel has taught me is that we don't HAVE to fit into this box that is considered 'normal'.



We are unique, we are special, and in a way I believe we are gifted. We have been given the chance to build on our strength, resilience and courage at such a young age that we are equipped to handle anything life throws our way. We have prematurely been given the gift of emotional awareness and inner strength, and I wouldn't be where I am today without having had those tools as a child.

The Mirabel staff have taught me to embrace my experiences rather than hide them, and to be proud of who I am and never doubt myself even if someone else does. I have met so many incredible people from attending Mirabel events and activities – from the staff who have gone above and beyond countless times to help me through any crisis, to the other kids who have made me feel relief and comfort in knowing I will never be alone. Twenty years ago, I was too ashamed to let my grandparents pick me up from primary school; now, with Mirabel's constant reassurance and support, nothing makes me prouder than saying *I was a Mirabel Kid and I survived*.

