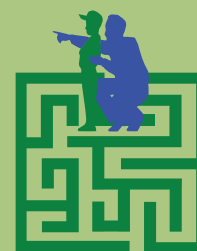


L4life News



Learning for Life

5 February 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR - WHAT DOES 2010 HAVE IN STORE??

We'll see...being an election year we always like to hope that Autism will still be a huge issue as there is still so much to be done to assist people of all ages on the Autism Spectrum and their carers. Even with the Federal "Helping Children With Autism Package" being implemented there are still many people with a child with a diagnosis of ASD left in a state of confusion, funding is still minimal for the recommended number of hours of early intervention required for optimal outcome and May will be the anniversary of the Victorian Autism State Plan so we'll look forward to report the improvements



SYDNEY AUTISM CONCERT

Our patron, Tom Gleisner was on the list of presenters at the Autism Awareness concert at the State Theatre on Wednesday 3rd Feb. The theatre was donated and many of the performers also donated their time - it was very impressive to hear that even the staff at the theatre had volunteered their services! The audience were treated to a mix of music and comedy with highlights including Diesel, Mental as Anything, JPY, Vince Sorrenti, Mikey Robbins, Jono and Dano and more...

Money raised will go to Autism Awareness who are raising money to disseminate info re Early Signs of ASD and other Developmental Disorders and a project to create a video for teenagers/children to understand their peers affected with ASD to raise awareness and develop tolerance and understanding in schools. www.autismawareness.com.au

L4life welcome Prime Pharmacy Group as partners/supporters in 2010

Victorian based Prime Pharmacy Group has launched their successful Prime Leadership Program – Diploma of Management for 2010. The program equips pharmacists, interns and senior retail staff with the essentials of successfully managing a community pharmacy.

Each year the participants are required to undertake project work to achieve their qualification. This year the group has partnered with The Learning for Life Autism Centre, a non-profit organisation dedicated to assisting children with autism spectrum disorders. Participants will use their skills obtained from the program to raise money for Learning for Life. Prime Pharmacy Group's Michael Gray said "community pharmacy is ideally placed to provide information on autism spectrum disorders to the community and being able to help raise money for Learning for Life, provides a positive and practical outcome to our participants."





The essential resource guide for autism spectrum disorders.

Benison O'Reilly and Seana Smith

The Australian Autism Handbook

This book is written for all those who care for or work with children who have an autism spectrum disorder. It has a specific relevance for families whose children have recently been diagnosed. The Australian Autism Handbook is first and foremost a useful book, a comprehensive guide to what autism spectrum disorders are and what they are not. It has chapters on early intervention, useful therapies and schooling. The authors both have children with ASD and have experience in medical writing and journalism. It can be ordered on the website and they also have a great blogsite and share their stories of their now school aged children and information passed on to them by others.

www.autismhandbook.com.au



LOOKING FOR RUNNERS.... START TRAINING NOW!!

We are looking for runners for L4life teams to run the Run Melbourne event on Sunday June 27th, it is a great goal for the fitness oriented (5 km, 10km and half marathon events) and certainly a great team builder for the corporate sector and even just a lovely family Sunday walk for a good cause.....I know a few L4life committee members are interested including Melanie Larkey (now you have to run Mel!!) and myself (Mary Muirhead)...possibly our patron and my partner, Tom. If we get enough runners we may organise a gathering at the end of the events ..possibly a mini marquee (they hire them out with a charity rate), there could be a cap in it and if I get really organised I might get T Shirts too!!! So get some teams together and you can start your own Hero Pages (probably closer to the event) on the website www.runmelbourne.com.au which L4life are registered with...Last year and the year before we raised \$4000 with about 5 participants each year - I'm sure we can rev it up a bit this year...

Kite Bass Strait for Swim 4 All

Kite boarder Natalie Clarke is taking on Bass Strait for a world record crossing between Tasmania and Victoria. Natalie has been training in the Bay with some of the less friendly local wildlife for months and has set herself this challenge to raise awareness and funds for a pool to teach swimming to special needs kids. Natalie will be attempting the world record Kite Board crossing of Bass Strait from Tasmania to Victoria between 16-20th of February 2010 depending on wind. Donations can be made to the Swim 4 All Foundation via the website.

www.swim4all.com.au

By crossing Bass Strait Natalie wishes to raise awareness and funds for a swimming facility to teach Autistic and other disabled children to swim.

MYTH BUSTER - VACCINES CAUSE AUTISM - X

THERE IS NO VACCINE -AUTISM LINK...SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED THIS "MYTH" IN MANY STUDIES BUT NOW THE ORIGINAL STUDY HAS BEEN FINALLY BEEN RETRACTED BY THE LANCET By ASSOCIATED PRESS 2/2/2010

LONDON -- A major British medical journal on Tuesday retracted a flawed study linking the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine to autism and bowel disease.

The retraction by the Lancet comes a day after a competing medical journal, BMJ, issued an embargoed commentary calling for the Lancet to retract the study formally. The commentary was to have been published on Wednesday.

The BMJ commentary said that once the study by British surgeon and medical researcher Andrew Wakefield and his colleagues appeared in 1998 in the Lancet, "the arguments were considered by many to be proven and the ghastly social drama of the demon vaccine took on a life of its own."

Since the controversial paper was published, British parents abandoned the vaccine in droves, leading to a resurgence of measles. Subsequent studies have found no proof that the vaccine is connected to autism, though some parents are still wary of the shot. In Britain, vaccination rates for measles have not recovered, and there are outbreaks of the disease every year.

Ten of Dr. Wakefield's 13 co-authors renounced the study's conclusions several years ago, and the Lancet previously has said it should never have published the research.

"We fully retract this paper from the published record," Lancet editors said in a statement Tuesday.

Last week, Britain's General Medical Council ruled that Dr. Wakefield had shown a "callous disregard" for the children used in his study and acted unethically. Dr. Wakefield and the two colleagues who have not renounced the study face being stripped of their right to practice medicine in Britain. For the study, Dr. Wakefield took blood samples from children at his son's birthday party, paying each of them 5 pounds sterling for their contributions and later joking about the incident.