

DECEMBER 2010



Learning for Life



THANKS TO THE WIGGLES WHO VERY GENEROUSLY DID A MEET AND GREET AND SHOUTED SOME OF OUR FAMILIES THE TREAT OF BEING GUESTS AT THEIR CONCERT IN DECEMBER. ALL THE L4LIFE FAMILIES THAT ATTENDED HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AND MANAGED REALLY WELL IN A VERY BUSY ROD LAVER ARENA. IT HELPED THAT THEY WERE GREETED IN A QUIET SPACE BEFORE THE CONCERT AND THE 4 SKIVIED GENTLEMAN SPENT TIME WITH EACH FAMILY IN A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE ROLLING OUT SEVERAL CONCERTS A DAY.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2011 FROM L4LIFE

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE...

2010 has been a fabulous year for L4life. Fundraising has been better than ever, we have seen a few very young children now start programs from 2 years of age some of who have got to kinder after catching up on delays, which shows that **early intensive intervention** is the key to allowing children on the Autism Spectrum to reach their full potential. We are proud of all our families and children who work so hard. We are excited by new services we have started this year (see p2), the opportunity given to Rachel Larke (one of senior staff) to have 3 months study leave at the Lovaas Institute in LA and to bring back a certification training program to initiate with our staff, the establishment of a solid organisational structure and the continuing connection with the Autism Behavioural Intervention Association with L4life supplying some of their training programs. I would like to thank all our staff who work so well together, the fundraising committee, volunteers, and the management committee, especially Melanie Larkey (who has filled in for me when I have been out of action for a month) and Sally Mc Neilly who both have donated their time this year.



Best Wishes, *Mary Muirhead*

THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS FOR 2010 WITH YOUR HELP WE HAVE SUBSIDISED 8 FAMILIES THIS YEAR AND HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH OUT TO 11 FAMILIES FOR 2011. ALL OUR OTHER L4LIFE FAMILIES BENEFIT FROM OUR FUNDRAISING TOO. WE HAVE APPRECIATED GROUPS FUNDRAISING INDEPENDENTLY THIS YEAR, SPONSORS OF THE BALL, CORPORATE FOUNDATION GRANTS, COMMUNITY GRANTS, PRIVATE DONATIONS AND ALL THOSE PARTICIPATING IN OUR EVENTS AND DONATING ITEMS FOR AUCTION AND THEIR SERVICES!!

NEW PROGRAMS FOR L4LIFE

School Behavioural Consultancy

Learning for Life offers a Consultancy Program for primary school age children with behavioural problems. This program is available to everyone not only to clients of Learning for Life home programs. The new stream of our service started in the last half of this year and already there is much interest. Thanks to Emma Miller who has taken this on, she is one of our experienced behavioural interventionist/supervisors and loves the work in schools as well as with the “littlies”.

Ready Set Go

A kinder readiness program on Saturdays for L4life children who are approaching kinder age to give them practice in a smaller kinder group setting where they can practise the skills needed such as transitions, learning how to play with items appropriately, small group games, turn taking, circle time, music, snack time, putting bags and lunch boxes away, meeting and greeting people. We thank our kinder teacher, Cathy Gleisner for giving her Saturday mornings up to join in with music with Mary, we also thank the Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre for allowing us to book their play group space including the use of the equipment and all our wonderful families and therapists. It was with great excitement that we received a Boroondara Grant to cover the pilot for the program and there were no extra costs to our families. Next year we will look at including more typical peers to help out with social interactions. A Boroondara Grant also was given for our resource library at L4lifea great outcome!!



ABIA Parent And Professional 2 Hour Seminars

L4life are one of the service providers providing some of these 2 hour practical seminars for the Autism Behavioural Intervention Association. We also deliver some of the training courses for therapists and other courses such as Serenity Now (a look at anxiety and how to deal with it in the setting of having a member of the family on the Autism Spectrum.) For all of the courses and seminars offered by this great organisation go to their new updated website www.abia.net.au - become a member for great newsletters, information, coffee mornings, seminars/workshops and resource library.



PRIME MANAGEMENT GROUP /L4LIFE PARTNERSHIP 2010

This year L4life has been partnered by Prime Pharmacy Group who set their management course of 16 pharmacy interns/managers the task of fundraising for L4life. The participants had to put their retailing, business and general management skills learned in the program to use to sell goods at the Caribbean Markets (pictures below.) They also promoted awareness of Autism, the work we do at L4life and learned alot about it themselves along the way. I think they also learnt how difficult it was to fundraise too but they managed to raise a remarkable \$10,763.16 including their own donations and some store fundraising. We enjoyed the partnership and would like to say a big thank you to all the participants and Michael Gray (one of the principles of the organisation) who threw themselves into the project. This amount will carry one family in subsidisation for 2011, which is a major contribution to our years' work!! Pictured above Mary Muirhead (Director) and Mel Larkey (Executive Officer) with that "big cheque". Congratulations to all involved!!



QUILTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Quilters Association of Australia held a raffle of which 50% funds were raised for L4life and 50% raised for the Biggest Morning Tea - \$1250 was raised raffling a quilt. Thank you to Pamela Hammer who convened the raffle and thanks to Mel Larkey who met with the fabulous group. Pamela met with L4life through our Kwiz for the Kidz fundraisers. Thank you for your support!!

LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

L4life received another major contribution just short of \$10,000 from a conference held in August in Warnambool. The connection was made by Mary and Tom when visiting earlier in the year to participate in the Murray to Moyne, Ferris team fundraiser. The Boyle Family of Warnambool then facilitated this fabulous auction at the conference - another family covered for subsidisation for 2011 - thank you seems so little for such a big contribution!!

XMAS GIVING....

THANK YOU TO A NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHO HAVE DONE A WHIP AROUND THEIR FAMILY/FRIENDS FOR XMAS, AND OTHER OCCASIONS SUCH AS BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES. WE HAVE BEEN WOWED BY THE FABULOUS CELEBRATORY GIVING AND ENCOURAGE ANY DONATIONS GREAT OR SMALL AT THIS "GIVING" TIME OF THE YEAR.

<http://www.givenow.com.au/learningforlife>

All donations tax deductible
For other giving ideas go to....

<http://www.givenow.com.au/otherways>

