

# L4life News

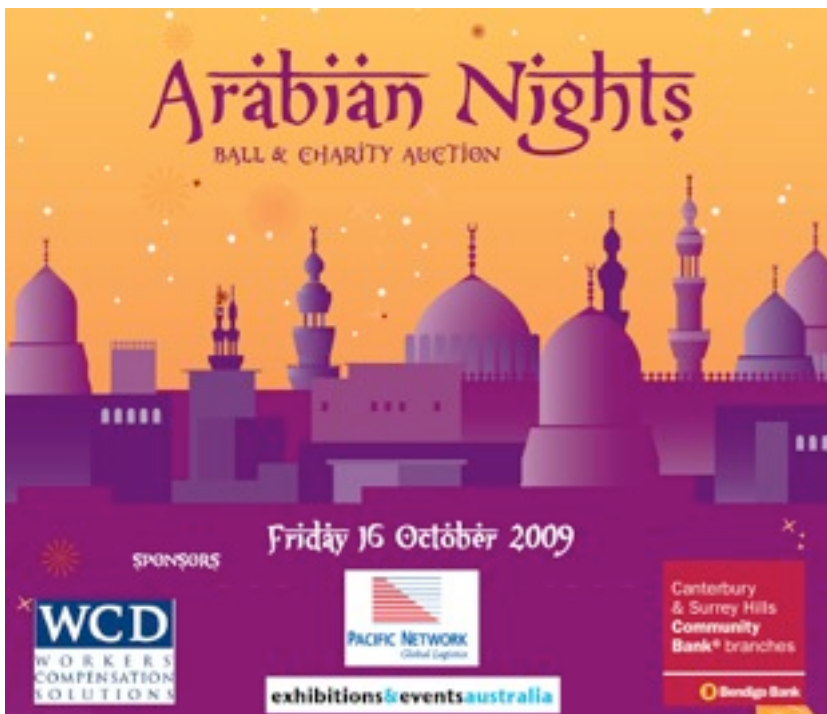


Learning for Life

Helping Children on the Autism Spectrum Reach Their Full Potential

September 2009

## ANNUAL L4LIFE BALL/AUCTION 2009



Tickets available online at

[www.learningforlife.com.au](http://www.learningforlife.com.au)

Tickets \$150 (\$75 tax deductible)

Tables of 10 allocated according to booking...we can find a table for those coming with less than 10

**Regal Ballroom**

**218 High st. Northcote**

**HOSTED BY**

**TOM GLEISNER AND FIFI BOX**

**Come by camel or go "Green" ...book an Eco Limo (email [don@ecolimo.com.au](mailto:don@ecolimo.com.au))**

**Donations for Auction Items are welcome!!**

**Raffle for Ball will be open now and be drawn on the night - contact [Mary@learningforlife.com.au](mailto:Mary@learningforlife.com.au) if you are able to assist in selling tickets...**

**Prizes include 1st prize....Hisense LCD TV 42" from Harvey Norman Chadstone (\$1599)**

**plus 1 dozen Voice of the Vine Wine, \$600 Snooze voucher, \$400 Centonove dinner, \$250 Simon Johnson hamper, \$150 Lavish voucher...be in it to win it!!**



1700 delegates congregated in Sydney recently to “connect” and update on Autism Spectrum Disorders. I went along with Kate Exner, one of the Learning4Life Program Supervisors, to hear the latest research, discussions on interventions, education, advocacy, issues about early intervention to adolescents to adults in the workplace, families and siblings, programs and international speakers. It was great to meet people in all areas involved with families affected by autism.... paediatricians, music therapists, parents, teachers, psychologists, speech pathologists and consultants in all areas. It was interesting to hear the people in charge of the peak bodies in different states all with their special interests. One of the highlights again was to see the drama group from Adelaide, Company@ performing “Framed Out’ which left many quite emotionally affected from this frank but humorous performance by adults on the autism spectrum and their “take” on life. They think “labels” are “in”!

Areas at the conference focused on were early diagnosis (from 12 months), very early intervention, research pointing to the possibility that ASD had several underlying causes each leading to different clinical expression (social, communication or behavioral issues) and therefore the possibility of different successful interventions. The hypothesis put forward was that finding different causes may lead to indicators as to which intervention may suit a particular individual. Presentations were recorded and can be purchased on CD Rom. [www.apac09.org](http://www.apac09.org)

I realised that our language when discussing people with an ASD should be modified as to indicate respect and value the “diffabilites” these people have - different abilities and ways of looking at the world. It is important to recognise that people with Aspergers Syndrome and high functioning autism often like themselves just the way they are and we are encouraged to see life through their eyes just as much as we try to get them to adjust to the “neurotypical” world...I recognise that by providing early intervention we give children the skills and tools to choose to live life as they wish and that showing them social understanding and giving them the means to communicate empowers them to be who they want to be...I would not in any way want these kids to be moulded into stereotypes, just given the best opportunity to reach their full potential..



Whilst in Sydney Kate and I visited the Lizard Centre, one of the largest ABA providers in Australia and caught up with Nicole Rogerson who was featured recently in “Australian Story” on the ABC...here is Nicole demonstrating a pocket video used for recording childrens’ behaviours at home to be evaluated by a supervisor or consultant...OK it was Friday late afternoon and there is a tradition at Lizard to toast the end of the week !!Nicole has set up the 1000 hours cam-

campaign, they are currently surveying families to see their experience of the new federal autism funding [www.1000hours.com.au](http://www.1000hours.com.au)- **Mary Muirhead - Director Learning for Life Autism Centre**

## THANK YOU TO...



### **RUNNERS... MELBOURNE JUNE 09**

Run Melbourne on June 28th, presented by The Age, was another record breaking event raising more than \$500,000 for a variety of causes and charities. With the incredible efforts of our Friends of Learning for Life and runners, including Karen and Richard Treagus, Jason McSpeerin, JP and Vicki (pictured) we raised \$4000 for our children and their families - THANKYOU so very much!

### **THE LIONS CLUB OF MELBOURNE MARKETS...**

L4life was blessed by being one of the beneficiaries of the amazing \$280,000 raised by the mighty Lions Club of the Melbourne Markets... the \$20,000 donated will be a significant contribution to L4life programs for this year. Committee members Cathy Ryan and Melanie were at the handover dinner (pictured with Senior Australian of the Year 2009 Pat La Manna)



**HAWTHORN COMMUNITY CHEST** organised a film night on July 23rd at the Balwyn cinema. A capacity crowd were treated to a fine supper and drinks before viewing "My Life in Ruins" which was great fun. Combined with a raffle the night raised \$2186 which was a sensational social fundraiser. The HCC committee are to be congratulated with sourcing items for raffle, food and wine and being such cheery and warm hosts.

### **SAUSAGE SIZZLE - SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER - HAWTHORN**

Bunnings Hawthorn have kindly allowed L4life to hold a sausage sizzle on Sat 19th Sept from 9-3pm...come along and have a shop at the

sensational new Hawthorn Bunnings, buy a few raffle tickets and keep us company. If you have some time to donate we would love some volunteers for our roster..

email [Mary@learningforlife.com.au](mailto:Mary@learningforlife.com.au) if you can help out or come along.....

