



Adelaide Autism Adventures

Educate • Avocate • Love • Support

Welcome to the fourth issue of the *Adelaide Autism Adventures* newsletter.

As always its been a busy month for Mel and I, and we are guessing that it has been for you too. Isaiah lost his first tooth this month and I was again thankful that his obsession (we prefer 'extreme passion') is dinosaurs, as T-Rex lost his teeth regularly and gave me an excellent reference in our losing baby teeth social story. Im a big fan of social stories and we are often able to use Jane Yolen's "How do dinosaurs...?" series to teach great skills like playing with friends, eating your food, going to bed and going to school.

It seems that the newsletters are growing in pages every month and this one is a whopping 13 long, owing to the large number of events and workshops in Nov. There's an overview of the GoTo Foundations Charity Bike Ride from

Melbourne-Adelaide, Camp Autism SA's October camp and the ASD Rally that was held on the steps of parliament house, all with heaps of photos. We have two touching family stories from Mandy Young and Kimberley Langes, and the Army of Autism Awareness Angels have been so busy that we've had to give them their own page!

We've been steadily adding away to our website and are working on an SA online directory to link families in with ASD and disability services, support groups, recreation activities, therapy resources and much more. So jump online and check it out.

So turn off your laminator (those home-made PECS cards will still be there in the morning) and enjoy the November issue of Adelaide Autism Adventures

~ Tara

Issue 4—November 2011

Like the puzzle banner at the top of the newsletter?

We are offering to feature five different ASD angels in the banner of each edition of the newsletter. These images will not be used for any marketing purposes; they serve purely to put a smile on your face.

This month we have Josh, Jamie, Brodie, Ryan & Elliot

Email us your pics to adelaideautismadventures@gmail.com

In Focus — Disability Information and Resource Centre (DIRC)



The Disability Information and Resource Centre (DIRC) was established in 1982 and provides an information and referral services for people with disabilities, family members and both government and non-government agencies and bodies. The DIRC library is an excellent service and has over 2,500 resources available to hire in various formats including books, kits, posters, videos, DVDs and CD-ROMs. The library also stocks Australian and international journals, which are often quite expensive to access, and you can search their catalogues via their website.

The DIRC publishes a yearly disability directory which is an up-to-date listing of information on about 800 disability organisations in SA and is available for purchase as either electronic or printed copy. People can

search the database online at no charge on the DIRC website, where you will also find a monthly events database covering disability focused/friendly events around SA. In addition to their library and reference services, they also runs the annual Disability and Aging Expo, which is held at the Adelaide showgrounds and two regional centres, and a monthly disability forum with guest speakers.

DIRC

195 Gilles St,

Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: 8236 0555 or 1300 305 558

Email: dirc@dircsa.org.au

Website: <http://www.dircsa.org.au>

South Australian Families — Mandy Young



Miss Chloe

Ever have one of those days where you wake up and you have this feeling it isn't going to be a good day? You know those days, haven't even gotten out of bed and you can hear the mad 'grrr' in the next room. Oh the Autism vibe is strong today.

Get up. 'Hmm wonder if I can have a shower?' Nope.

The sound of the water

irritates Chloe to the point where she runs into the next room OR she loves the sound and tries to hop in with you. Either way, you'll be having one at some stage of the day.

Breakfast time: hmm wonder what it will be today? Cereal? Toast? yesterday it was a healthy meal of whole-meal grain toast with vegemite...today it is Pringles, because it is the only way you get to have a cup of warm coffee and some toast yourself.

Time to get dressed in school uniform. Polo shirt, track pants, white socks goes well with the same dog long sleeve shirt with black texta stains that has been wore for the last 3 days. Oh well, it matches the yellow polo shirt. Shoes on and we're out the door!

Get to school, either bribe Chloe out the car or chase her into the schoolyard, PASS her class gate and round her up from the either the school office, or the mountains of mulch which have been in the schoolyard for the last bloody term and seem to serve no purpose. Chloe particularly likes the mulch mountain challenges where she stands on top of the mulch with a 'ta-da' smile and looks at me as if to say 'not coming down, no matter how many time you say my full name through gritted teeth'. Get her into her class, where I quickly settle her.

Go home where I get to do all the housework that didn't get done the day before, or have my shower finally :)

My favourite part of the day: after school. This can go two ways: Chloe can be REALLY happy or really grouchy. The good days is where she chats happily, draws, plays playdoh and helps me cook tea. The bad days is where she communicates through grunts or whines, trashes any room she walks though or goes outside and tries to climb over our fence. Or we watch the same movie over and over to the point where you find yourself repeating

every word without missing a beat.

Dinner on the table: this again can go two ways, she eats everything in sight or she 'sorts' the food into two groups and eats her favourite foods and then proceeds to 'get rid' of the other group by tossing it under the table.

Clean up time—bath or shower: If it's bath night, we have her in the bath by chasing her naked around the house, putting her in the bath and then she DOESN'T want to get out the bath. PJ's on and then I get to clean up all the water off the bathroom floor.

Bedtime: melatonin time. Time for Chloe to hide behind the sofa and giggle her little head off. I hold her on my lap, where she fidgets or screams but has no tears while Garth proceeds to shove the syringe into her mouth. Once the solution is in her mouth, Chloe swallows and jumps off my lap happily and into her bedroom where we do the night bed check. Two Adelaide Hills magazines: check, dinosaur soft toy: check, mink blanket to lay on top of: check. Chloe then happily chats herself to sleep and then falls fast sleep. I crash on the sofa and eat far too much chocolate and go to bed.

Good or bad, our days are always full of adventure and humour. (I think you need to have that!) You learn you have to be super organised and plan for the crap days. And yes, some days you want to cry. But I always go to bed thinking 'well, tomorrow is a new day'.

~ Mandy Young, Chloe's mother.

South Australian Families — Kimberly Langes

Like many parents my suspicions of autism were confirmed officially with a hearing assessment and visit to the child development unit at the WCH. My youngest son Mitch was 3 and a half at the time and we were referred by CAFHS who really didn't know what to make of his no interest in talking.

I remember being given a video on autism to watch at home and to return in a couple of weeks to the unit. I had two things on my mind when I returned to WCH, firstly the video was a snapshot of a child with repetitive behaviours and there must be more to life with Autism than that? Secondly, I wanted a full assessment completed by Autism SA as I was aware that two diagnosis were needed for the "label to stick".

Our second assessment by Autism SA was the real thing with Mitch, myself and his maternal grandmother spending the day at Fisher Street, it was a relief in a way to have a thorough explanation of the diagnosis criteria explained. We had a handle to move forward and get some help.

But then the overload of information starts, registering with services but which ones? We live in country SA at Meningie and honestly Mitch is the only autistic child in the village. While being open with our small community had its advantages, people certainly did look out for him at Grandma & Granddad's (which is very close to the highway) Sometimes I did get sick of being the advocate for "What is Autism?", after a while you could quickly gauge whether a person has a grasp on it or not.

I still today have the mantra that autism is not an intellectual disability, there is no limit to Mitch's potential. While some learn a skill with no showing or intuitively, some take five demonstrations, Mitch may take 100. Then to make your day he can demonstrate a new skill that hasn't even been consciously demonstrated.

Mitch turned 10 a couple of weeks ago, here is him with his cake. He still can't blow out candles but that didn't stop him turning the lights out for four goes at it! He brings joy to us and like any 10 year old we also brings lots of washing, cooking and running around. By the way Mitch is still non-verbal, we communicate in our own way. I believe in time iPad apps and similar will make his life in the wider world more accessible.

When I'm asked "But what will he do as an adult?" I always answer "Do you have children?", normally the answer is yes and to that I reply "Do you know what they will do?". Believe in your beautiful autistic child, they deserve it, each and every one of them.

~ Kimberly Langes, Mitch's mother.



Happy Birthday Mitch!

Would you be willing to share your story?

We are asking for personal stories from parents/caregivers, family members, individuals and therapists/care workers.

There is no right or wrong way to write a personal story; it can be an overall intro to your family or can focus on a specific part of your journey, like diagnosis or a milestone achievement. It can focus on the highs or the lows. Stories can be between 400-600 words

Let us know if you would feel more comfortable remaining anonymous.

Send your contributions or feedback to adelaideautismadventures@gmail.com

This is your newsletter; be a part of it :)

November Calendar 2011



ASDSouthEast Support Group - MT GAMBIER

Your child doesn't need to have a confirmed diagnosis to attend, and children, grandparents and friends are most welcome. Books are also available to be borrowed from the ASDSouthEast library collection.

When: Tuesday 1st November from 11:00am - 1:30pm

Venue: Mount Gambier Library, multipurpose room

Contact: andrew@burstons.com or

Facebook :

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/126395287553/>

Website: <http://www.asdsoutheast.org/>



"The Carer Journey" Seminar - BERRI

Explore the concept of caring as a journey with six common stages, identify and share your own journey as a carer, and learn appropriate strategies and tools to support each stage of your journey. Morning tea provided.

When: Wednesday 2nd November from 9:30am - 12:00pm

Venue: Berri resort Hotel, Riverview Drive, Berri

Cost: \$10

Contact: Register with River Murray and Mallee Carers 8584 6855 or 1800 806 580

Website: <http://www.carers-sa.asn.au/carer-support/river-murray-mallee>

Manual Handling Course for Carers - BERRI



This practical hands-on workshop will cover basic manual handling, preventing falls, back care and posture, safe home environments and aids for daily living. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

When: Wednesday 2nd November from 1:30 - 3:00pm

Venue: Berri resort Hotel, Riverview Drive, Berri

Cost: \$10

Contact: Register with River Murray and Mallee Carers 8584 6855 or 1800 806 580

Website: <http://www.carers-sa.asn.au/carer-support/river-murray-mallee>



eBook Creation with the iPad: Which App? -

SERU Seminar

Hands on session in which participants will create a various ebooks using a range of apps. There will be a particular focus on the ePub format and issues and solutions around the creation and insertion of various multimodal components of this format.

When: Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd November, from 1:30 - 3:30pm

Venue: 72A Marlborough Street, Henley Beach SA

Cost: \$16.50

Contact: Deb 8235 2871 or



Siblings Australia DVD Launch

"Stronger Siblings: Support for

Brothers and Sisters of Children with a Disability."

Come and celebrate the launch of Siblings Australia's new resource for families and professionals. The launch will be presented by Ian Henschke, ABC radio presenter, and bookings are essential

When: Thursday 3rd November, 5:00pm for 5:30pm start

Venue: Mercury Cinema, 13 Morphett St, Adelaide

Cost: free

Contact: Kate on 0408 720 558 or

kate@siblingsaustralia.org.au

Website: <http://www.siblingsaustralia.org.au/>



DIRC Forum - "Nothing About Us Without Us:

Involving Children and Young People in Disability Research" with Professor Philip Darbyshire

Morning tea with gluten free options provided and there is limited parking available on site.

When: Thursday 3rd November from 10:30am - 12:30pm

Venue: DIRC 195 Gilles St, Adelaide City

Cost: gold coin donation

Contact: library@dircsa.org.au or call 8236 0555

Website: <http://www.dircsa.org.au/>

National Additive-Free Day

Why not celebrate the first ever national additive-free day by holding an additive-free morning tea? See the website listed for more info and your info pack.

When: Friday 4th November

Contact: Tanya Winfield on 0144 263 780 or tanya@additivefreepantry.com

Website: <http://additivefreepantry.com/>



SERU Family Morning - Introduction to iPads

Come and find out how a countless number of apps can offer your child opportunities for communication and learning

When: Friday 4th November from 9:00am - 12:00pm

Venue: 72A Marlborough Street, Henley Beach SA

Cost: free session

Contact: Deb 8235 2871 or

deb.mcguiggan@seru.sa.edu.au

Website: <http://web.seru.sa.edu.au>



MusicWorks Dynamic Day Gig

Disability and family friendly event. Presented by Tony Doyle Visions, this is a disability inclusive event which often features musicians with disabilities.

When: Tuesday 4th October, from 10:30am-2:30pm

Venue: The Governor Hindmarsh, 59 Port Rd

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Cost: \$6 entry (support workers free)
Contact: 8212 0390 or tdoyle.visions@bigpond.com
Website: <http://www.tonydoylevisions.com.au/>



Occupational Therapy for Children - Info Evening for Parents

Presented by Dino Menillo (OT and director of OTFC) and with guest speaker Eleni Lucas (OT and Fast ForWord Provider) this parent session will discuss sensory integration disorder and therapy, and the Fast ForWord Program.

When: Monday 7th November from 7:30 - 9:00pm
Venue: OTFC offices, Level 1, 254 Waymouth St, Adelaide

Cost: free info session
Contact: 8410 4522 or admin@otfc.com.au, booking essential but not limited.
Website: <http://www.otfc.com.au/>



An introduction to Autism for families with a new diagnosis

An introduction to autism and an opportunity to meet other families.

Dates: Tuesday 8th November from 7:00-9:00pm
Venue: Autism SA, 262 Marion Rd, Netley
Price: \$15 per family (payable at door)
Contact: call info line on 1300 288 47 to book or for more info
Website: www.autismsa.org.au



How to use a PODD Communication Book - Novita Workshop

PODD communication books are a way of organising whole words and picture symbols in a communication book in a systematic way. This workshop is presented by a speech pathologist and will teach participants how a PODD works and how to use it as a tool to help learn and develop language, and to integrate it with other communication strategies ie. Keyword signing, voice generating devices etc. Limited places!

When: Tuesday 8th November from 9:30am-12:30pm
Venue: Novita Regency Park Offices, 171 Days Rd, Regency Park
Cost: \$30 pp
Register: download registration form Novita or Adelaide Autism Adventures website.
Contact: Novita on 8243 8311
Website: <http://www.novita.org.au/>



Learning about Behaviour - Family Workshop

This three week course introduces the nature and function of behaviour and identifies the key issues and strategies to support individuals. This course is similar to "hear my behaviour." Prerequisite - attendance at either introduction to Aspergers/Autism.

Dates: Tuesday 8th, 15th and 22nd from 9:30am - 12:00pm

Venue: Autism SA, 262 Marion Rd, Netley
Price: \$15 per session per family (payable at door)
Contact: call info line on 1300 288 47 to book or for more info

Website: www.autismsa.org.au



Early Days Introduction Workshop

Early Days provides mothers, fathers and other family carers of children 6 years and under who have an ASD or are going through the assessment and diagnosis process. The workshops are written for parents who are in the "early days" of their journey through the assessment and diagnosis process. Parents/ caregivers are requested to attend both sessions

When: Tuesday 8th and 15th November from 6:00-9:00pm
Venue: Autism SA 262 Marion Rd, Netley
Cost: free

Contact: to register call 1300 288 476 or email earlydays@autismsa.org.au
Website: <http://www.earlydays.net.au/>



46th Annual Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability (ASID) Conference

The conference theme is to 'beg or to choose - you decide.' Hear stimulating and inspiring speakers, with an emphasis on key issues, current and future trends. There will be a daily exhibition as well as a conference dinner and welcome reception. Download your registration form from the website.

When: Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th November, 8:30am - 5:00pm daily

Venue: Stamford Grand Hotel, Moseley Square, Glenelg
Cost: Fulltime Registration on concession is \$250 or \$130 for a day attendance

Contact: 8422 8356 or sponex-asid11@eventplanners.com.au
Website: <http://asid.asn.au/Conferences/46thAnnualAdelaide2011.aspx>

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Sue Larkey LiveChat Seminar - Interview with Anna Tullemans

Anna is a consultant and author on ASD, founding president of Asperger Syndrome Support Network QLD and parent of a child with ASD. She and Sue Larkey will be discussing ASD diagnosis, talking to family and friends about diagnosis, and 10 tips for understanding ASD.

When: Thursday 10th November from 8:30-9:15pm

Venue: via web access or skype at

<http://InstantTeleseminar.com/?eventid=23277648>

Cost: free seminar

Contact: Dearne on 0433 660 379 or

dearne@suelarkey.com

Website: <http://www.suelarkey.com>



2011 Credit Union Christmas Pageant

Its that time of the year again and Santa is making his way to town with the Christmas Pageant. The Army of Autism Awareness Angels have organised a number of ASD specific areas which are fenced and you can go into the draw to win tickets for your family. See the "Whats new in SA" section for more info

When: Saturday 12th November from 9:30 -11:20am

Where: starts from South Tce and ends North Tce

Website: <http://www.cupageant.com.au/>

ASD Family Picnic @ Marshmallow Park

Come along for a community picnic and meet other ASD families. The park is fully fenced and has access to public toilets. An ASD picnic was held here earlier in the year and the families who attended had a great time. No need to RSVP just come along on the day

When: Sunday 13th November from 10:00am

Where: Marshmallow Park, Glen Osmond Rd, City

What to bring: chairs and a plate of food to share

Facebook: Adelaide Mum's Group

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/11039658105/>

Marshmallow Park:

<http://www.playgroundfinder.com/playground.php?playgroundid=95>



Camp Autism Inc SA - Kids Fishing Day

When: Sunday 13th November from 11:00am - 5:00pm

Where: West Lakes

Contact:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=206103439453382>

Website: <http://campautism-sa.org/>



TWILIGHT SAGA - BREAKING DAWN PT 1 MIDNIGHT SCREENING - Autism SA Fundraiser

Come along to the first screening of BREAKING DAWN PT 1 and support Autism SA. Included in the price is entry into a raffle to win twilight memorabilia and a good bag, which includes popcorn and Autism SA merchandise. TICKETS ARE LIMITED

When: Wednesday 16th November

Time: 11:40pm (movie will commence at 12:01am on 17/11/11)

Venue: Cinema 1, Wallis Cinema, Mitcham Shopping Centre, 119 Belair Rd, Torrens Park.

Tickets: \$25 per person - download order form from Autism SA website. TICKETS ARE LIMITED!!!

Contact: Jessica Bostock on 8462 0653 or

jbostock@autismsa.org.au

Website: <http://www.autismsa.org.au/>

Visual Making Day with Autism Advisors - TANUNDA

Come along and create, print and laminate free visuals with the assistance of an Autism Advisor. This is for families with ASD children aged up to 7 years and is a free service. Sorry, no creche

When: Wednesday 16th November, from 9.30am-3.30pm

Venue: Pfeiffer House, 15 Mills Street, Tanunda (next to Tanunda hospital)

Cost: free

Contact: Autism SA Info Line on 1300 288 476

Rudy Simone - Full Day Workshop

Rudy is a big mover and shaker in the Asperger community. She is an international author and speaker and this workshop will cover two topics; 'Asperger's and Employment' and 'Asperger's and Relationships.' In addition to her role as a ASD advocate and author, Rudy is a stand up comic and jazz singer!

When: Thursday 17th November from 8:30am-5:00pm

Venue: Minda Inc Seminar Room, King George Ave, North Brighton

Cost: \$75 client/family member, \$85 financial members, \$90 standard pp (morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea included)

Booking: online at Autism SA website

Contact: Jessica Bostock on 8462 0653 or

jbostock@autismsa.org.au

Website: <http://www.autismsa.org.au/>

Heard about or planning an event or workshop?
Let us know about it at
adelaideautismadventures@gmail.com



DIR®/Floortime™ Introductory Workshop for Parents

This workshop will explain the DIR®/Floortime™ model, how to help your child share attention, engage, play and communicate with you; practical strategies to help you facilitate your child's development. Strategies will be supported by video footage of parents playing and communicating with their children using the DIR®/Floortime™ approach.

Presenters: Dana Baltutis DIR®/Floortime™ certified speech pathologist and Georgina Ahrens DIR®/Floortime™ certified occupational therapist

When: Saturday 19th November from 9.30am-4:00pm

Venue: St Andrews School, Walkerville

Cost: \$80pp or \$150 per couple (can use FACHSIA funding) includes lunch

Contact: to register contact Kathy Sampson at

Kathleen.sampson@bigpond.com

For more info on DIR® Floortime™ visit:

<http://www.icdl.com/dirFloortime/overview/index.shtml>

Port Adelaide & Enfield Twilight Christmas Parade

Come along and see floats and local community groups, including local primary schools and The Army of Autism Awareness Angels, and Santa himself! A fun event with clowns, street performers, faces painting, fireworks, rides and lots more.

When: Saturday 19th November, starts at 6pm with fireworks at 9pm

Where: along Commercial Rd and St Vincent St, Port Adelaide

Cost: Free community event.

Contact: visitor information centre on 8405 6560

Website: <http://www.portenf.sa.gov.au/>



Its Christmas Jungle Bells at Club Cool

Energising socially inclusive disability music monthly event. Club Cool is geared towards teenagers and adults but children are always welcome when accompanied by a carer.

When: Sunday 20th November, from 12:00-3:00pm

Venue: The Governor Hindmarsh, 59 Port Road, Hindmarsh

Entry: gold Coin donation

Contact: DIRC on 8236 0555, 1300 305 558 or

dirc@dircsa.org.au

Website: <http://www.dircsa.org.au/>



iPads and Apps for Children with Special Needs

A hands-on workshop which will introduce participants to navigating the iTunes store, compare current teaching tools to available apps, explore case studies and

appropriate strategies when using apps. This workshop has a focus on visual scheduling, social skills and Assisted and Augmentative Communication (AAC).

When: Wednesday 23rd November, from 9:30am - 12:30pm

Venue: Autism SA Offices, 262 Marion Rd, Netley.

Cost: \$70 financial members, \$75 non-financial members ([see Whats New in SA for use of HCWA](#))

Contact: call info line on 1300 288 47 to book or for more info

Website: www.autismsa.org.au



Video Modelling for Social Development Interventions

Hands-on workshop covers social understanding in ASD, benefits of video modelling, video modelling methods and practice, and participants will be shown how to use the new iModeling App developed by Autism SA. Participants will also be donated the app itself.

When: Thursday 24th November from 9:30am-4:00pm

Venue: Autism SA Offices 262 Marion Rd, Netley

Cost: \$250 ([see Whats New in SA for use of HCWA](#))

Contact: call info line on 1300 288 47 to book or for more info

Website: www.autismsa.org.au

SERU Family Morning - Supporting Young Children in Mathematics

Come along and find out about some simple and fun ways to support children's learning in math.

When: Friday 25th November from 10:00am - 12:00pm

Venue: 72A Marlborough Street, Henley Beach SA

Cost: free

Contact: Deb 8235 2871 or

deb.mcguiggan@seru.sa.edu.au

Website: <http://web.seru.sa.edu.au>



Parenting, Schooling and Asperger Syndrome - Mark Le Messurier

Workshop focuses on understanding the core processing differences for Aspies and how to help with emotions, anxieties, inflexibilities and social issues to create socially and emotionally nourishing environments. Will discuss what support families can expect from schools and tips for choosing the right school for your child. Opportunity to ask individual questions and purchase Mark's books.

When: Friday 25th November from 12:30 - 3:00pm

Venue: Sophia, 225 Cross Rd, Cumberland Park

Cost: \$60 pp which includes light afternoon tea

Contact: Sharon on 8332 0698 or email

mark@marklemessurier.com.au

Website: <http://marklemessurier.com.au/>

November Calendar 2011

Violence against Women with Disabilities Workshop

Presented by 'Women with Disabilities South Australia' and sponsored by The Office for Women's 'Don't Cross the Line' anti-violence campaign. Transport available.

When: Friday 25th November, from 10:00am - 4:00pm

Venue: The Julia Farr Association 104 Greenhill Rd, Unley

Cost: free workshop

Contact: eigram1@optusnet.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Women-With-Disabilities-South-Australia/190331824319014>



An introduction to Asperger syndrome for families with a new diagnosis (up to 13yrs) - Family Workshop

Focused on families of younger children with Asperger syndrome, this session describes the characteristics of Asperger syndrome and helpful strategies.

Dates: Monday 28th November from 7:00-9:00pm

Venue: Autism SA, 262 Marion Rd, Netley

Price: \$15 per family (payable at door)

Contact: call info line on 1300 288 47 to book or for more info

Website: www.autismsa.org.au



Positive Partnerships Online Workshops

The Positive Partnerships online learning courses are fully funded by DEEWR (Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations). They cover topics such as 'using evidence to guide decision making,' 'positive behaviour support,' 'transitions,' 'communication,' and 'bullying.' You can register and access the workshops at <http://www.autismtraining.com.au>



47th Annual Autism SA General Meeting

The Autism SA Board invites Autism SA Financial Members and the general public to attend the 2011 Autism SA Annual General Meeting to report on the 2010/2011 financial year and vote (members only) for positions vacant on the board.

When: Wednesday 30 November from 6:00 - 8:00pm

Venue: The Lion Hotel, 161 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide

Contact: for catering purposes please RSVP to Jessica on 8462 0653 or email at jbostock@autismsa.org.au by 23rd November.

Website: www.autismsa.org.au

Community Noticeboard

SURVEY - Investigation of Consumer Experience of Autism Services within South Australia

Parents/caregiver, individuals with an ASD, and service professionals are invited to participate in either an online survey or a semi-structure interview (in person/over the phone/skype) to investigate their personal experiences with autism services provided by Autism SA. The survey should take approximately 30 minutes.

The online survey can be accessed at

PARENTS/INDIVIDUALS

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DH6B2WR>

PROFESSIONALS

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8PBXJ3D>

You can contact Manya Angley, Director of MARAC, to register your interest or for any further questions on 0400 951 179 or by emailing manya@marac.com.au



Ongoing Fundraiser - Batteries for Camp Autism Inc SA

Camp Autism is currently collecting old car batteries to raise funds to support families attend next year's camp's, and to restock much needed craft and activity stuff. If you have any old car batteries that you want to get out of your life, let us help you so you can help us. Give us a call and we will arrange to pick them up, or give you a location to drop them off. Call Ian 0417

840 355 (northern suburbs) or Coby 0412 155 486 (southern suburbs). They have collection points all over Adelaide.



Christmas Party for Special Children @ The Adelaide Zoo 2011 Tickets

The Christmas Party for Special Children is organised by The Salvation Army in conjunction with a number of media companies and sponsored by Australian businesses. It is a ticket only event and the organisers distribute these to SA disability organisations to pass on to clients. Autism SA has been allotted a limited number of tickets and registered clients can call the Autism SA infoline on 1300 288 476 to register their interest. Each ticket allows for one child and one adult only.

Website: <http://www.christmasparty.com.au/>

CAN YOU HELP THE ARMY OF AUTISM AWARENESS ANGELS?

The Army of Autism Awareness Angels are walking in the Port Adelaide & Enfield Twilight Christmas parade and are in need of some red wings for 20 Angels involved. If you can help out or know of anyone who can donate some red angels wings please contact Brooke at autismawarenessangels@hotmail.com ASAP.

What's New in South Australia



New Workshops @ Autism SA

Autism SA is offering two new additions to the training calendar this month - 'iPads and Apps for Children with Special Needs' and 'Video Modelling for Social Development Interventions.' Both workshops are hands on and participants in the video modelling workshop will receive a copy of the newly released 'iModeling App' developed by Autism SA. Parents cannot access these workshops on the 23rd and 24th of November using HCWA funding at this point. However, families should contact Merel Pummer at Autism SA on 8379 6976 to register their interest in using their funding and a special session will be offered if enough interest is received.



Be AUTISM AWARE and win a Solar System valued \$2,249 thanks to Unleash Solar

The Army of Autism Awareness Angels and their sponsor Unleash Solar, have launched their nationwide autism awareness campaign with a fantastic prize donated by Unleash Solar to the winning entry. To take part in the competition you will need to download and print either the "Im Autism Aware" or "We're Autism Aware" signs from the Unleash Solar website (also available on the Adelaide Autism Adventures website) and snap a picture of you with it. The judges are looking for the most creative, funny and interesting entry to take home the prize. Once you have your photo, upload it on the Army of Autism Awareness Angels facebook page and tag yourself. Competition closes Monday 21st November and T&C available on the Unleash Solar website, Unleash Solar — <http://www.unleashsolar.com.au/> AAA Angels — <http://www.facebook.com/armyofautismawarenessangels>



Autism Rainbow Day 2012

Autism Rainbow Day is an initiative of Rainbowland Autism Services (RAS) and is a global event to celebrate and raise ASD awareness. In 2012 this day will be celebrated on FRIDAY 27th APRIL, so mark the date in your calendar and get involved with this great cause. The more individuals who participate in the day the better, so get your school and workplace involved. For info on how to participate as an individual, school or workplace visit the new and official website at www.autismrainbowday.com, where you will also find info sheets, and info on the ARD sponsors and ambassadors. Free downloads will be available to everyone participating in the day via the website. The organisers can be contacted via autismrainbowday@gmail.com

Lived Experience of Asperger Syndrome Study - Call for Participants

Matthew Bennet of Flinders University is conducting a study into the lived experience of Asperger syndrome and is looking for participants 18 years and over. Participants will be interviewed twice, with each interview lasting between 35-60 minutes. Participants are reimbursed for their time with either a JB-HIFI or Myer gift card to the value of \$25.

If you are interested please contact Matthew on either 0431 154 925 or through email at

benn0299@flinders.edu.au.

For more information please read the participant information sheet on our website under "News - Research."

www.adelaideautismadventures.org



New DIR® Floortime™ DVD by Parents4Kids

Parents4kids are delighted to be able to make available to the community the DVD "DIR® Floortime™ - Empowering Children to Reach their Potential". Parents4kids have produced this DVD with the support of Adelaide families, educators, therapists, and two SA based grant funding bodies.

This is for anyone who is seeking to unlock the potential of a child with developmental disorders or language delays. The intent of the DVD is to provide an insight into the DIR® Floortime™ approach and for some of the parents who have embraced DIR® Floortime™ in SA to share their stories of hope and belief in their children's capacities to grow. To also demonstrate that there are techniques that those in the community that support these children, can use to feel empowered to understand and build the potential in a child with social and emotional challenges. This DVD includes the parent stories, an introduction to DIR® Floortime™ by two certified practitioners, case studies, insights for educators, insights for therapists, and a special international feature. This two hour resource is divided into segments so that you can view it in the order of your choice. Throughout these segments you will be introduced to several different families to demonstrate the breadth and depth of change as no child or family is exactly the same as another. An outline of the DVD content is provided on our website.

We have been able to make free copies of the DVD available for a period of time in South Australia. We are also approaching community agencies, educators and therapists that support or work directly with children and families to ask for their assistance in making this DVD accessible to families.

Kind Regards—Parents4Kids

Please visit www.parents4kids.org.au

(Ensure that you include the .au in the web address)

Out and About in Adelaide



Lewis Pountentis, George Diakomichalis & Nick Apostolou—Founders and Directors of The GoTo Foundation

The GoTo Foundation Melbourne to Adelaide Charity Bike Ride

The GoTo Foundation is SA non-profit organisation whose members aim to improve the health, well being and education of the SA community by assisting in the provision of essential services in these sectors. It was founded in April of 2010 by three passionate and dedicated men - Nick Apostolou, Lewis Pountentis and George Diakomichalis. In late 2010 the trustees decided that one their chosen benefactors would be the Flinders University Autism Early Intervention Research Program (EIRP), headed by Dr. Robyn Young, which many of our families will be familiar with. The GoTo Foundation pledged to raise \$100,000 for the EIRP and has held three major events this year, with the bulk of their fund raising coming from the Melbourne to Adelaide Charity Bike Ride that was completed this month. Lewis, Nick, George and 8 other riders completed a marathon total of 895km, leaving from the Federation Square Amphitheatre in Melbourne and arriving back under the Gawler Place canopy in Rundell Mall on the 22nd October to the welcoming cheers of family, friends and the Army of Autism Awareness Angels. So far the GoTo Foundation has raised \$72,000 for the EIRP and aims to raise another \$28,000 by the end of March 2012.

We would personally like to thank Nick, Lewis, George and everyone involved with The GoTo Foundation for their generosity, dedication and hard work. Their tireless efforts will greatly change the lives of many ASD families, and that is something that no one can put a price on.

If you would like to donate to The GoTo Foundation please visit their website at www.goto.org.au/

You can also find the guys on facebook at www.facebook.com/thegotofoundation



The Melbourne to Adelaide Riders



Claudia Balestrin enjoying a sensory play activity with some friends

Camp Autism Inc SA—Camp 3.5 "Bears, Bubbles and Beyond!"

20 ASD families attended Camp Autism SA's 'Bears, Bubbles and Beyond' camp at the Beachside Caravan Park in Normanville this October. This camp is being held back-to-back with their "Ghouly Good Weekend" camp and we hope to have an update on it in the next newsletter.

Camp Autism Inc was founded by Mary and Bryan West from QLD in 2008, and is a registered, strictly not for profit organization, run by volunteers, with all donations going directly to benefit attending families. In May 2010 the first camp



Ryan, Deb and Matt Verner



Ian and Coby—"alternative Autism Angels"

was held in SA by our SA coordinators, Coby Hudson and Ian Ward; whom both have ASD kids, and since then the camps have always booked out fast. These camps offer an opportunity for ASD families to holiday together in an understanding environment and to make friendships and connect with other ASD families. Throughout the weekend special activities and games are held, and families can participate at their own pace—"Sensory Sunday" has become a big hit with young and old! There was lots to do at the 'Bears, Bubbles and Beyond' camp including crafts, seeing both Coby AND Ian dress up as ballerina angels to raise funds, games and visits from a magician and some puppies from Labs n Life (autism assistance dog organisation). Camp Autism SA also unveiled their new official t-shirts, with many thanks to the talented Simone Balestrin for the design, which they had available for purchase and proved to be a big hit. We at Adelaide Autism Adventures want to thank Camp Autism SA and everyone involved with the organisation for all the fantastic work they do for SA families.

If you would like to donate please visit the Camp Autism SA website at www.campautism-sa.org

Out and About in Adelaide



ASD Rally for Education, Disability and Services Issues

South Australian parents of children with ASD and PDD-NOS once again urgently called upon the on the state government and the opposition to understand and act upon the state of disability issues failing SA families. This rally was organised by parents from the yahoo group "South Australian parents of children with autism spectrum and pervasive developmental disorders (ASD &PDD)" working as 'Adelaide Autism.'



We met on the steps of parliament house and passionately called for change for our children and our families. There were a number of speakers at the rally including; Kelly Vincent MP, Garry Connor MP (father of two ASD boys) and Rick Neagle MP all from Dignity for Disability; Shadow Minister for Education and Early Childhood, David Pisoni MP; Shadow Minister for Disability, Vickie Chapman MP, President of the SA AUE Corrina Haythorpe, and Daryl Barkhazen from 'Adelaide Autism.' It was great to stand together with other family members and educators of ASD individuals and we can only hope that the changes we called for will be heard and acted upon.



ASD SUPERSTARS

We had some extra space this month so we opened it up to families on our facebook page to show us what their ASD superstars have been up to.



Blake, Age 3



Isaiah, Age 6



Brodie @ Lady Bay



Ezekiel, Age 3



TJ listening to his iPad



Selina @ Victor Harbour High

Army of Autism Awareness Angels News



The Angels have certainly been busy in the past month with multiple media appearances and community awareness program launches. Among this work is the article in the *Victor Harbour Times*, and the ASD segment on Today Tonight last month in which Brooke Clark appeared and talked candidly about her experience as a mother of an ASD child and about the goals of The Army of Autism Awareness Angels. You can watch this episode in the archive section of Today Tonight's website at www.todaytonightadelaide.com.au/. Brooke was also featured in Link Magazine which covers disability issues in SA, and she and her gorgeous boy, Aiden, made the cover.

The Angels make public appearances in return for donations to an ASD charity/organisation of their choice. This month they participated in the Greyhound SA's Adelaide Cup Races and in doing so raised \$1000 for Camp Autism Inc SA! The Angels were also at the finishing line in Rundell Mall to cheer on the riders in the GoTo Foundation Charity Bike Ride (featured on page 10), and made sure to get lots of photos of the guys with their 'Im autism aware' signs as a part of the photo competition which the Angels are running with their sponsor 'Unleash Solar.' The competition aims to raise ASD awareness on a national level and the winner will take home a solar system valued at \$2,249 from Unleash Solar. You can read more about the competition on page 9. There are already a number of entries on the Angels facebook page and one notable one is from Carly Williams who has managed to get a photo of her sign on the channel 7's breakfast show *Sunrise*, and also one with celebrity chef Manu. For your entry to count you must use the official sign from the Unleash Solar website. So get snapping and let Australia know before MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER that YOU are autism aware!

The Angels will continue to be out in force this month and you will be able to see them in the Port Adelaide & Enfield Twilight Christmas Pageant (see calendar for details). The Angels would like to thank Jon Paor for donating the use of his red convertible and Helen Jansson from TAFE SA Adelaide City Campus for making six outfits for the angels for this event. The girls still need wings to complete their costumes, so if you know anyone who can donate a pair please contact Brooke at autismawarenessangels@hotmail.com



Angels at the Greyhound SA Adelaide Cup



Angels Amanda, Kristy and Adele with Simon and Dean from the GoTo Foundation Ride



ASD Specific Areas at the 2011 Credit Union Christmas Pageant



Rachel Sanderson MP

Through a lot of hard work the Angels have managed to arrange for two ASD specific viewing areas at the upcoming credit union Christmas pageant; one from the offices of Rachel Sanderson MP and another to be gated on Wakefield St with access to a nearby room within the Wakefield St Cathedral for attendees who are feeling a little overwhelmed. The families who have tickets to the offices of Rachel Sanderson MP are from among members of the ASD community who give back to our families through their own work and include Allison and Shane Dix (Founders and Co-Directors of Rainowland Autism Services), Coby Hudson and Ian Ward (State Co-ordinators of Camp Autism Inc. SA), Nicola Lynch (Founder of The Scarlett Foundation), Zoe Sandell (Western Area ASD Support Group), Simone Balestrin (Autism Adelaide Mum's Group) and Karen Cummings Events Coordinator 2IC Army of Autism Awareness Angels), and luckily enough, yours truly—Melissa Haklar and Tara-Jade Brown. We also offer our thanks to Rachel Sanderson Mp and her offices for their generosity in hosting this area.

The families who have won tickets to the second area on Wakefield St are—Lauren Johnston, Kylie Bassett, Vered Ohayon -Hughes, Heather Hartley, Gabriele Vieweg, Fiona Woods, Rebecca Merier, Brownyn & Paul, Anita Becker, Michele Benson, Victoria & Peter Luczak, Tarny Martin, Ann-Marie Young, Melissa Nichele, Peter & Donna Burrows, Renee Byrne, Trudy Ellsmore, Tresche Murphy, Andrew & Rosa Leitch, Alex & Belinda Ferguson, Justine Yelland, Allison Minchington, Laura Keller, Andy & Gina Spratt, and Jessica & Lee Schulze. Thanks also go to Brian Gilbertson, the director of the 2011 Credit Union Christmas Pageant for helping to arrange this area and giving SA ASD families the chance to safely participate in this community event

We want to express our sincere gratitude for all the amazing dedication and work which Brooke Clark and all of the Angels do for our community; they truly are ANGELS to our families!

Light and Laughter

Jamie just tried fairy floss for the first time, I asked him if he liked it. He replied: "yes! it almost tastes like tissues!"

Sharna and Jamie, Northern Suburbs

We were dressing for Halloween and I was concerned that my son understood that this was an act, a game and not real. I don't think I got through to him. I dressed as a witch and he was to be a tiger. He was patient with the process but his attitude towards me seemed to change as I put on the last touched of my make-up. I knew he wasn't clear on non-transformation when he suddenly brightened with an idea, ran to the corner where we kept the broom, handed it to me and said, "Okay, now fly!"

Laughing & Loving with Autism: A Collection of 'Real Life' Warm and Humorous Stories, 1994, R. Wayne Gilpin, Future Horizons Inc.

"I see people with Asperger's syndrome as a bright thread in the rich tapestry of life" - Tony Attwood.

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind." - Dr. Seuss

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." - Mark Twain

"I can remember the frustration of not being able to talk. I knew what I wanted to say, but I could not get the words out, so I would just scream." - Temple Grandin

"For several weeks, we had an unusual occurrence in that the pilot light in our gas clothes dryer was always going out. I was constantly finding it inoperative. It was a real puzzle. Finally, we found that John, at just the right height, was putting the pilot out in a very "unique" way. Our first clue was that John wasn't asking to go to the bathroom quite as much as usual."

Laughing & Loving with Autism: A Collection of 'Real Life' Warm and Humorous Stories, 1994, R. Wayne Gilpin, Future Horizons Inc.

Have you got a humorous ASD story?
Send it to us at

adelaideautismadventures@gmail.com

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