



Reaching out to children in need

Education is the key to a better future

VIEW supports 1,000 *Learning for Life* students

VIEW Clubs of Australia

Our Vision

Women creating and leading a more inclusive Australian society

Our Mission

As a leading voice and valued support network for women, VIEW creates social capital in Australian communities.

Our Purpose

- VIEW empowers women through its voice, interests and education of women.
- VIEW provides support and friendship for women throughout communities nationally.
- VIEW actively raises awareness of and participates in the work of The Smith Family.

Our Guiding Principles

- Inclusive and welcoming
- Diverse and respecting
- Supportive and caring
- Locally focused while nationally active
- Collaborative and future looking

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Front cover:

Myrtle Iverson, President of Raymond Terrace VIEW Club and Kaylene Turner, School Learning Support Officer (back left to right) with Irrawang pre-school children in their Kids Patch food garden. Kids Patch is a Smith Family *Communities for Children* Raymond Terrace and Karuah activity and the garden is a collaboration between Thou Walla Schools as Community Centre and Irrawang pre-school. Myrtle has been a volunteer with Kids Patch since it commenced in 2010.



everyone's family

VIEW is a national women's organisation formed in 1960 by The Smith Family as a service to women and the community. Through strong VIEW networks, women are empowered to achieve new skills and confidence and give voice to issues of national concern. Communities benefit through the commitment of the 19,600 women of VIEW to the provision of educational outcomes for Australia's disadvantaged children and families.

National President: Lorraine Montgomery
National Vice Presidents: Christine Newell, Dawn Byrne, Velda Atkinson
National Councillors: ACT: Margaret Gooch.
NSW: Robin Bosch, Vivienne Brown, Valmai Burnard, Madge Doust, Sue Field, Lyn Gerstenberg, June Greentree, Joy Gregor, Cynthia Guyenette, Franci Morsink, Glenda Noble, Ros Sleeman. QLD: Jean Clarke, Ann McKenna. SA: Erica Kakoschke. VIC: Kath Chapman, Trish Murphy, Robin Perros.

National Manager: Maryanne Maher

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The Smith Family believes that every child deserves a chance and that circumstances should never limit the achievement of potential. With research showing that education has the power to transform lives, not just minds, the national charity's *Learning for Life* program enables disadvantaged children and young people to get the opportunities they need to fully participate in their education and create better futures for themselves. For more information please visit thesmithfamily.com.au

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From the Executive



VIEW National Vice President Christine Newell

This year we are focusing on development and increasing our membership. Why? Because VIEW needs to remain an active and viable organisation. Did you know last year that a significant number of clubs had no new members for the whole year!

Gaining new members as well as retaining current members is the responsibility of us all, and the growth of our organisation starts at club level. To this end, I encourage you all to do the following:

1. Mention VIEW to someone new – our new catch cry for this year! We all know ‘word of mouth’ is powerful. A great way to spread our message is to invite friends to a VIEW meeting. Encourage your clubs to hand visitors and guest speakers a VIEW brochure or a *VIEW Matters* magazine.

2. Grab a new VIEW bumper sticker for your car – you can buy them for

Members of the National Executive, from left: Christine Newell, Lorraine Montgomery (National President), Dawn Byrne and Velda Atkinson

only \$1 from your Zone or National Councillor. This sticker is a marvellous way for the community to see our logo and learn what we are about (see inside back cover).

3. Contact your local newspaper – I encourage all Publicity Officers to send their local newspaper the media release ‘VIEW launches membership drive - VIEW needs you!’ This is an excellent way to get our message into the wider community. I was thrilled to see that Braidwood VIEW Club had an article in their local paper to that end.

As members of VIEW, we can all participate in these endeavours.

VIEW membership gives women the opportunity to be part of a network creating lasting friendships and contributing to the community. Members often share with me the importance of these friendships.

So many members say VIEW has made such a positive difference to their lives. We need you to be continually sharing the benefits of VIEW with other women.

I know you will enjoy reading this edition of *VIEW Matters*, and I thank you all for your great efforts informing the community about VIEW.

Learning for Life students sponsored by VIEW

VIEW currently supports

1002

disadvantaged students at these levels:

Primary school

927

Secondary school

59

Tertiary

16



VIEW for all

The 19,600 women of VIEW know their organisation is unique, offering the opportunity to:

- meet regularly with other women of all ages and from all walks of life
- discuss and exchange ideas
- form lasting friendships while learning new skills and developing new interests
- actively support and participate in the work of The Smith Family.

Join VIEW today by calling VIEW National Office on 1800 805 366 or email: view@thesmithfamily.com.au
We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Message from The Smith Family CEO



Dr Lisa O'Brien

The Smith Family turned 90 in December 2012 and VIEW Clubs of Australia was invited to celebrate this milestone birthday and the enduring commitment by The Smith Family to better futures for disadvantaged children.

VIEW members contributed to this special event by hosting vintage high teas. I was amazed by the range of activities and events held around the country, highlighting our initiatives and the work that VIEW members do in local communities supporting, advocating and helping young disadvantaged Australians in need.

From the media generated, it was clear that a fun time was had by all, with members donning period costumes and putting on a wonderful

spread. Thank you to those members who celebrated last year and to those of you celebrating early this year. See the 90th birthday article on page 9.

I recently attended the VIEW International Women's Day (IWD) luncheon at NSW Parliament House with 300 VIEW members. In my speech I referred to the *Making a Difference* study which interviewed around 100 young people aged 11 to 17 years, over an 18 month period. It shines a spotlight on their experiences and offers a rare view on the way they cope with disadvantage and what they think can be done about it. You can read more about this report on page 6.

A first for Victorian members was the VIEW IWD luncheon held in Queens Hall, Victorian Parliament House. Congratulations to all of you who participated in IWD events nationwide in March, enhancing your public profile and highlighting the role that VIEW plays in providing women with a voice on issues of national concern. Both of these events attracted significant interest from Members of Parliament.

I would like to acknowledge the involvement and contributions of VIEW members. Your continued

"VIEW members have raised more than \$1 million for The Smith Family and currently sponsor 1,002 *Learning for Life* students. Achieving this sponsorship milestone shows the commitment of members to enabling better futures for more young people in need. On the students' behalf, I thank you."

volunteering and fundraising efforts for our *Learning for Life* students is an integral part of The Smith Family, and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you all.

I look forward to working with VIEW throughout 2013 to continue to make a positive difference to the lives of young Australians in need.



The Smith Family's *Back 2 School Day* event – September 2013

New date for your calendars! This year we are encouraging VIEW Clubs to turn their September meeting into a *Back 2 School Day* event by hosting a recess break, morning tea, play lunch or picnic to re-live your school days for a great cause.

Last year 84 clubs took part and raised more than \$18,000 nationally, holding spelling bees, trivia and photo guessing competitions as part of the fun! Stay tuned for information on how to officially register your club in July. This September, celebrate your past and change a child's future.

News briefs

Toy & Book Appeal 2012

The Smith Family would like to thank VIEW Clubs for their continued support of the Toy & Book Appeal. VIEW raised an incredible \$55,000, an increase of 13% from last year. Your generosity allows disadvantaged children around Australia to celebrate Christmas with their families. Thank you to all who raised funds for this Appeal.



Christmas wrapping

A significant number of VIEW members nationwide volunteered their time to take part in Christmas wrapping activities to raise funds, as well as their profile in their local communities. In December, members set up stalls in NSW at Erina Fair on the Central Coast, Stockland in Nowra, Toormina Centre in Sawtell and Centro Tweed Heads. In Queensland, stalls were set up in Southport Park Shopping Centre, Stafford City Shopping Centre, Centro-Springwood Shopping Centre and Mt Ommaney Shopping Centre. Gift wrapping took place in Victoria at Wendouree Village and in South Australia at Bunnings in Mt Barker. From this activity VIEW raised \$29,204 in cash donations, a truly incredible effort. Congratulations!



Christmas wrapping with Kenmore Evening VIEW Club

People's Choice Community Lottery

Following the success of 2012, the People's Choice Credit Union (PCCU) has again invited VIEW to participate in the Community Lottery and has allocated us 8,000 tickets.

The funds raised will support The Smith Family's *student2student* program, which matches students who have reading difficulties with older student buddies who are specially trained to offer advice, support and encouragement with reading.

VIEW Clubs in South Australia, Victoria and the ACT will already have received their allocated tickets. Clubs in Queensland, NSW and Western Australia wishing to buy PCCU lottery tickets should contact NVP Velda Atkinson on (08) 8552 4085 or by email at jawvla@bigpond.net.au.

We encourage you to take up the challenge to sell all PCCU lottery tickets and return all your cheques and raffle butts to your local Zone Councillor by **Saturday 15 June 2013**.



Join Facebook

A quick reminder to members to 'like' the VIEW Clubs of Australia Facebook page. This social media site is proving popular with members and we hope to see more of you join this year.

By the way, The Smith Family is enjoying VIEW member contributions to its Facebook page. More members are encouraged to post here as well as on our VIEW Facebook page.

Supporting young people

Making a Difference Report



“Many young people suffered repeated experiences of missing out on key learning opportunities.”

Making a Difference Report official launch: (from left) authors Dr Jennifer Skattebol and Professor Peter Saunders with The Smith Family's Dr Lisa O'Brien and Anne Hampshire, Head of Research and Advocacy

“Being the CEO of an organisation helping disadvantaged young people to participate in education, it is particularly important that we make the right decisions on how we best support them so that our work makes a real difference,” says Dr Lisa O'Brien.

The *Making a Difference* study, led by the University of NSW's Social Policy Research Centre, provided insight into what young people experience when living in economic adversity. The authors interviewed around 100 young people aged 11 to 17 years over an 18 month period. It provided a rare view on how they cope with disadvantage and what they think can be done about it.

Because their families couldn't afford it, many missed out on going to school camps, or participating in local sport and recreational activities. Because of their home conditions, some weren't able to have friends visit and others found it hard to find a quiet space to do homework.

As a result of their disadvantage, young people also narrowed their interests and desires and adapted their preferences, protecting themselves and their parents.

As a consequence, many young people suffered repeated experiences of being left out and missing out on key learning opportunities. These experiences deeply affected young people's sense of self-esteem and their engagement with their education. One teenager said, about asking her parents for money: “I wouldn't want to ask because I feel sorry for them”.

A deeper understanding of the experiences of young people is an important outcome of this research. For The Smith Family, this research affirms the importance of providing support to students in need, both financial and emotional, as well as a range of opportunities such as mentoring and other initiatives that

connect students with a wide range of networks and supports.

As sponsors of 1,002 *Learning for Life* students, VIEW members are also giving these young people emotional support and letting them know that someone out there (you), cares about them and their future. The Smith Family knows how much this means to a sponsored child.

In Australia today, there are around 606,000 dependent children and young people living in jobless families. The Smith Family has sponsors for 34,000 and recently VIEW reached the special milestone of sponsoring 1,000 *Learning for Life* students. Congratulations members.

Opportunities for young people

Recipients speak

Recent posts to The Smith Family's Facebook page reveal how your support helps.

"My son was given the wonderful opportunity to be supported by *Learning for Life* run by The Smith Family. He not only excelled in his school work, coming first in 3 subjects in Years 10, 11 and 12 (first one in our family to complete high school), he is also now a fully qualified chef. If it wasn't for this program he wouldn't be where he is now and has broken the poverty cycle. Thankyou Smith Family and bless your good works!!!! And a HUGE thankyou to the sponsors who take this work on. It's definitely working!!!"
Parent, *Learning for Life* student

"My children were on *Learning for Life*. It provides money to buy uniforms and books and pay for excursions, all of the things I was struggling to provide for them. I don't smoke, drink or do drugs. I was a sole parent carer of two boys with autism and a daughter and was living on welfare as a result of my caring role. Public schools give nothing and contrary to popular belief, education in public schools is NOT free. My children were given a chance to fit in with their peers and not look like the poor kids wearing uniforms from 3 yrs ago. My children are grown adults now and work hard for their living. I believe that without the help of The Smith Family the outcome might have been a lot different."
Parent, *Learning for Life* student

Learning for Life student profile – James Cosentino

In November last year, *Learning for Life* student James Cosentino addressed more than 100 guests at The Smith Family's 90th birthday reception at Admiralty House in Sydney, hosted by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of Australia. James outlined his journey and how The Smith Family helped him achieve his career aspirations.

James has been on the *Learning for Life* program for seven years. Through the program he was given the opportunity to reach his full potential and credits the ongoing support from his sponsor as a key factor in helping him to fulfil his dream of completing a Masters in Physiotherapy at The University of Sydney.

"My father passed away when I was 2 years old, leaving my mother to work multiple jobs, including long night shifts, to support us. This stress took a tremendous toll on my mother and when I was 13 she became very ill and was hospitalised. I was left to look after cleaning the house, shopping and generally taking care of everything" he said.

"The Smith Family provided me with financial assistance to aid in my university education, such as textbooks, access to resources and travel expenses. They provided me with a physiotherapy mentor and connected me with local physiotherapy practices that gave me amazing career opportunities."

James was recently offered locum work as a physiotherapist at Gosford hospital. Congratulations on your success James!

"What The Smith Family has provided me with, is not a hand out but a hand up. I believe that, without The Smith Family, I would not be where I am today!"



Learning for Life student James Cosentino meets the Governor-General at Admiralty House in Sydney

Community in profile

Australia's performance in reading literacy

The latest OECD report on the reading, mathematical and scientific literacy skills of 15 year olds contains mixed news for Australia. While Australia's performance remains relatively strong, it has declined significantly over the past decade.

But of even greater concern is that students from the highest socio-economic group outperformed students from the lowest group in reading by the equivalent of almost three full years of schooling.

Without urgent action, some Australian students will not acquire

the literacy skills they will need to participate fully in life beyond school.

VIEW members understand the importance of reading and numeracy to children which is why dedicated VIEW women volunteer in schools throughout Australia.

A recent example is Toukley VIEW Club which conducted a successful book drive for The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* students late last year. Members enjoy buying these books themselves knowing that they go to local children in need.



Toukley VIEW Club President Ellenor Crum (right) giving books to The Smith Family's Jenny Morgan

Spotlight on Macarthur, Southern Highlands and Illawarra Region including Wollongong



National Councillor Sue Field at a local VIEW event

National Councillor Sue Field profiles Thirroul VIEW Club and Figtree Evening VIEW Club and shares their success.

Thirroul VIEW Club celebrated its 50th birthday last June with one of its inaugural members in attendance. Figtree Evening VIEW celebrated 43 years last July. Both clubs have in excess of 100 members and each sponsor seven *Learning for Life* students.

Sue believes the reason for their success is the continued enthusiasm and dedication of committee members. "The most important thing is that the members of Thirroul VIEW Club know how to enjoy themselves, raise money and support each other in many ways," she says. "They are a very pro-active and vibrant club and always have been."

Thirroul VIEW Club caters for many different interests for members including a craft club and a library run by one of its members. The club organises theatre trips, a mid-week retreat, fun concerts as well as special birthday and Christmas events.

When Figtree Evening VIEW Club started, members were made up of young mothers and many of them are still members today and some have introduced daughters and their friends to the Club. The Club holds only one or two major functions during the year, however still manages to make substantial donations twice a year to The Smith Family appeals.

"Figtree Evening VIEW is my Club and as an inaugural member, I'm very proud of who we are and what we have achieved over the years," Sue says. "The women running these clubs and their enthusiasm is what makes them successful and perhaps it's just a love of VIEW, who we are and what we can achieve."

Celebrating 90 years

The Smith Family turned 90 in December and VIEW members were on hand around the country to help celebrate this important birthday.

For nine decades, The Smith Family has continued to review the needs of disadvantaged children and families and respond accordingly. Today, The Smith Family empowers disadvantaged Australian children to transform their lives through education and VIEW shares that purpose through its partnership with The Smith Family.

VIEW members embraced the spirit of the day by hosting special vintage high tea themed events including a 'Mad Hatters High Tea' and a 'World Par-Tea' event, where they enjoyed dressing up in elegant period clothing, complete with beautiful hats and gloves.

Members prepared 90th birthday themed food including traditional high tea delicacies such as cupcakes, fruit patty cakes, slices and a range of themed birthday cakes presented on beautiful fine bone china plates. Some members enjoyed tea tastings with organic and herbal teas from around the world.

A number of clubs combined their Christmas parties with birthday celebrations as well as recognising their own 90 year old members on this special occasion. Some are still celebrating this year!

Funds raised from the 90th events help in supporting the *Learning for Life* program.

VIEW members have shared in a wonderful time full of fun, friendship and many happy memories.



Noelene Goldfinch (left) and Narelle Goldfinch at Taree VIEW Club's High Tea at The Bean Bar



1



2



3



4

1. The Smith Family staff in Canberra celebrate 90th birthday with local VIEW members

2. Greensborough Evening VIEW Club event committee

3. From left, Jenny Wrigley, NP Lorraine Montgomery, Shirley Flinn and Joy Nelson at the Shoalhaven Heads Evening VIEW Club vintage high tea event

4. From left, Norma McCade, Rita Strong and Pam Sullivan of Brunswick Valley VIEW Club. Photo: Veda Dante, courtesy Byron Shire News

Connecting in community

Donating stationery supplies

Seven Hills *Learning Club* celebrated its end of year event with some fun circus activities, which gave both the students and volunteers the chance to hula hoop, spin a toothbrush and a plate with a stick and learn other circus tricks.

Each student received a certificate for participating in the *Learning Club* for 2012, along with a gift bag containing stationery items kindly donated by Sylvania VIEW Club.



Gift bags donated to Seven Hills *Learning Club* students by Sylvania VIEW Club

VIEW needs you!

VIEW is looking for positive, skilled, motivated women to join the organisation, have fun, meet new friends and play their part in supporting the education of young Australians in need.

"We're looking for women from all backgrounds and of all ages," says Lorraine Montgomery, VIEW National President. "Many of our members are retired teachers and educators who find it very rewarding to have continued involvement in the education of young Australians in need."

For more information contact VIEW National Office on (02) 9085 7178 or via email at view@thesmithfamily.com.au

Christmas pageant



Westminster Junior Primary School Christmas Pageant

The First WAVE (Western Australia VIEW Evening) Club regularly assists Westminster Junior Primary School in activities such as making art shirts, reading cards and alphabet boxes.

Members have also supported the creation of a community garden and provided craft materials for the staff's use. The club sponsors eight children on the *Learning for Life* program.

As a thank you, members were invited to attend the school's Christmas pageant and presentation day. Member Dawn Gillis, who volunteers as a mentor at the school each week, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Principal, Peter Mulcahy.

Members thoroughly enjoyed the performance by the children and now look forward to their next task – making curtains for the library windows.

Books of joy

It has been seven years since the President of Eltham Evening VIEW Club approached Meera Govil from the local Eltham Bookshop to support The Smith Family's Toy & Book Appeal.

The partnership has grown from 30 books to 212, with a retail value of over \$3,000 being donated last year by the local community, bookshop staff and Meera.

The benefits of the partnership are many, and the local community has established a personal relationship with VIEW and The Smith Family. Meera has organised authors as guest speakers for VIEW meetings and has promoted VIEW by distributing *VIEW Matters*, brochures, details of meetings and associated events through the bookshop.

Members of the Eltham Evening VIEW Club decorate a box each year for the collection of the books. For every book donated by the community, the bookshop donates an additional book.



Meera Govil (left) and Lyn Morris of Eltham Evening VIEW Club

Chapel Hill choir



Chapel Hill VIEW Club choir - Photo courtesy Alex Marsh

Chapel Hill VIEW Club choir celebrated its 10th Anniversary in style last year with a concert at Chapel Hill Uniting Church.

The choir performed a repertoire of music from stage shows, films, classical works by Liszt, Schubert and Mendelssohn, and modern works by John Rutter. Solo

pieces were performed by Soprano Frances O'Sullivan, a graduate of Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

The concert attracted a large audience who also enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at interval. Funds raised from the event went towards the Club's *Learning for Life* student sponsorships.

Joining forces with Lions

Thank you to those VIEW Clubs who, prior to Christmas, contacted their local Lions Clubs and sold cakes and puddings in their local communities to raise funds to help improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged Australian children.

This is a wonderful opportunity for VIEW members to associate with a like-minded organisation that shares common objectives of volunteering and fundraising in local communities. If you did not take up this opportunity last year, another opportunity will be available this year.

petals
FLORIST NETWORK

Mother's Day Special
VIEW Members save 12% & 18% of your purchase will be donated
to The Smith Family
valid 1st-13th May 2013
to order go to www.petals.com.au/view
or phone 1800PETALS

Award winners

Congratulations to those VIEW members, including the following, who received Australia Day Awards:

- Audrey Blood of Richmond/Windsor VIEW Club – awarded the Hawkesbury Australia Day Citizen of the Year for 2013.
- Betty Wright of Bonville-Boambee VIEW Club – awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).
- Dawn Sword of Lennox Head VIEW Club – was one of three individuals to receive 'Volunteer of the Year' awards on Australia Day.
- Gail Raymond of Bellinger Valley and Bonville-Boambee VIEW Clubs – Volunteer of the Year at Coffs Harbour Australia Day Awards.
- Joan Harman of Caves Beach VIEW Club – awarded a NSW Government Community Service Award.

Leave an education legacy

Your legacy can live on and make a lasting difference with a bequest to The Smith Family. When you include The Smith Family in your will, you will be leaving the gift of a better future for disadvantaged Australian children in need.

For more information about making a bequest please visit: www.thesmithfamily.com.au/bequest or call Cristina Fica on (02) 9085 7222.

Around the clubs

Royal Sunraysia



Members of the Sunraysia VIEW Club receive the royal treatment

Sunraysia VIEW Club celebrated its 7th birthday with royal flair. South Australian VIEW members in handmade fascinators, tiaras and their finest pearls bowed their heads and curtsied as Marian Hassett walked to her throne, while a Scottish piper played 'God save the Queen'. Her first duty was to award the Medal of Mildura to Margaret Stephenson, NVP Velda Atkinson, NC Erica Kakoschke and Club President Glad Lane. Hats off to the event committee who themed the Diamond Jubilee event fit for the Queen herself.

Want to be seen in the magazine?

Please send all club news and photos as high resolution jpegs to Carleen Maley at:
carleen.maley@bigpond.com

Your club might be the next to feature in VIEW Matters!

Coonabarabran driver reviver

Coonabarabran Evening VIEW Club works together with two other charities every school holidays and long weekend at the Driver Reviver Centre. Members provide light refreshments to drivers to reduce fatigue related crashes on our roads. Coonabarabran Evening VIEW Club use the funds raised to sponsor its *Learning for Life* students.



Bev Rayner (left) and June McWhirter from Coonabarabran Evening VIEW Club

Twelve days of Christmas

Members and guests of Harrington Evening VIEW Club dressed in their best silver and white outfits to attend the Club's Christmas party at Harrigan's Irish Tavern last November. Christmas carols with a twist were performed by members, with everyone joining in the singing and action, then Rudolf (complete with red nose) led the other reindeers in a lively conga line. Santa had a hard time checking his Christmas list trying to find out who had been naughty or nice.



Harrington Evening VIEW Club members perform Christmas carols

Friendly Olympics

A memorable day was enjoyed when sister clubs Caboolture VIEW Club and Redcliffe Peninsula VIEW Club met at Scarborough Beach for an annual social get together. Both clubs participated in their very own Olympic Games including events such as javelin, egg and spoon race and pick up pegs. 'Redcliffe Escapists' won the gold, 'Redcliffe Variety' took out the Wooden Spoon with 'Caboolture Warriors' winning silver and 'Caboolture Invincibles' taking bronze. A return Olympics match will be held in Caboolture next year.



From left: NC Ann McKenna, Genevieve Hickey, Kaye Gleeson and Cath Cramb getting into the Olympic spirit

Fun and friendship



Greensborough Evening VIEW Club enjoyed a fabulous three day weekend at Wangaratta last year. Members enjoyed guided tours of Wangaratta, Chiltern and Glenrowan, wine tasting at the Wine and Food Festival La Dolce Vita, excellent local cuisine and great company.

Members held a raffle on the bus trip with prizes being donated by local Greensborough businesses. Money raised supports the club's five *Learning for Life* students.

Christmas celebration



Twin Waters VIEW Club members. From left, Dale Hickey, Helen Lardner, ZC Maggy Hickey, Joan Howse and Josephine Lahiff

Twin Waters VIEW Club members attended the North Shore Community Centre's Christmas Celebrations at Mudjimba and spent time handing out pamphlets to the crowd and talking to people about the work that VIEW and The Smith Family do in the local community.

They actively recruited new members with an encouraging response.

Walk like an Egyptian

West Coast VIEW Club celebrated its 7th birthday with a touch of pink and purple. Special guest Christina Johnson, a member of the Ancient Egypt Society, gave an interesting talk with the final presentation slide saying 'Happy 7th birthday' in hieroglyphics!

Guests included Susan Schofield, The Smith Family Partnership Manager in Western Australia, and members from other WA VIEW Clubs.



Dianne Cook (left) receiving raffle prize from Jess Sim

VIEW events

International Women's Day

This year's theme was 'The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum' and provided the perfect opportunity for VIEW members to come together to celebrate the achievements of women.

In Melbourne, 200 VIEW members celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) at Parliament House. Keynote speaker Lyn Swinburne AM, founder of the Breast Cancer Network Australia, told members how as volunteers they can advocate to raise the profile and awareness of VIEW in the community.

Learning for Life graduate Skye McFarlane spoke about the educational opportunities given to her on the *Learning for Life* program. Donna Bauer MP, Member for Carrum, acknowledged the tremendous work of VIEW in her community and Anna Burke MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives, made a guest appearance.

In Sydney, NSW Parliament House again played host to 300 VIEW members for an IWD luncheon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC thanked VIEW members for their volunteer work, encouraging them to continue their dedication to improving the education of Australia's youth. Members also heard from Shelley Hancock, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, and Shannon Slattery, an inspirational *Learning for Life* graduate.

VIEW IWD celebrations were held throughout Australia with members celebrating with a broad range of guest speakers including politicians, social commentators, celebrities and friends of VIEW.



From left: PNVP Susan Groenhout, Speaker of the House of Representatives Anna Burke MP and NP Lorraine Montgomery at Victoria Parliament House



NVP Christine Newell (left) with *Learning for Life* graduate Shannon Slattery at NSW Parliament House

Glitz and glamour on the Gold Coast



The Gold Coast – home to VIEW 2013 National Convention

VIEW is coming to the Gold Coast after an absence of 10 years, holding the 2013 National Convention at Jupiters Hotel & Casino.

Do not miss out on your opportunity to attend our 'Women of Inspiration' Forum, *Learning for Life* presentation, Resolutions debate, two themed social dinners, spectacular Gala Dinner and of course the Grand Celebration with your fellow VIEW members and friends.

Tickets are selling fast. We encourage you to book early so you don't miss out on your preferred events. The booking form is available at www.view.org.au.

Proposed new breakfast club

VIEW recently held an interest meeting for the first Breakfast Club in Surfers Paradise.

It is proposed that this club will meet monthly on a Saturday at the Gold Coast Arts Centre. For further information please contact Zone Councillor Marsha Mewton by email at: mlmewton@bigpond.com



New VIEW Merchandise

Now available

Spectacle Cleaning Cloths

\$5 each or both for \$8

2 designs, sold separately or together
(microfibre, 16x16cm, sawtooth edge)



VIEW Bumper Sticker

Only \$1



VIEW Pen

Only \$8



VIEW Note Cards

Only \$20 per pack

Each box consists of 2 cards x 5 designs, in A6 size, packaged with envelopes.

**Coming
Soon**

VIEW Apron in purple

Available mid May

\$20



To order any of this new VIEW merchandise contact National Office
via email: view@thesmithfamily.com.au

The Smith Family Joysreader Gifts



Joysreader Charity Gifts

There are 12 different gifts to choose from and the proceeds will fund education programs which support Australian children in need. You'll receive an attractive greeting card to give to your friend or loved one so they'll know their gift is changing a child's life!



\$15

Ready, Brekkie, Go

Provides breakfast and mentoring for Aussie kids in need. A simple practical way to help kids get the most out of every day.



\$35

It Takes Two

Helps kids in need who are struggling with their reading, by matching them with a reading buddy who gives them advice and encouragement.



\$85

License to Mentor

Provides disadvantaged kids with access to a mentor who offers practical knowledge and guides them through their study and career paths.

Creative & Inspiring Gifts

Select from a great range of gifts for the little people in your life. All proceeds will help Australian children in need to reach their potential through education. What better gift is there than the hope of a bright future?



\$15.95

Create Your Own Mug Design

Draw your own design using the magic crayons supplied, or use the patterns in the pack. Place in the microwave to set. It's as simple as that! Ages 8+



\$22.95

Dingoes are not Dogs

Created by kids from an Indigenous school, this story is about two children who form a friendship despite their differences. Ages 4-6



\$25.95

Magic Kit

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