

# VIEW Matters

November 2025



---

**2025 National Convention**  
**VIEW keeps growing**  
**Our 65th year of celebrations**

view   
celebrating 65 years

## Our Vision

Women creating and leading a more inclusive society.

## Our Mission

As a leading voice and valued support network for women, 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



# Contents

- 3 From the Executive
- 4 Message from The Smith Family CEO
- 5 News briefs
- 6 Brisbane hosts VIEW National Convention
- 10 New VIEW Clubs opened!
- 11 Celebrating 65 years!
- 12 Around the Clubs
- 14 VIEW photos!
- 15 VIEW merchandise



VIEW is a national women's organisation with 13,000 members in 266 communities exclusively supporting the education charity The Smith Family. Members sponsor students, volunteer, raise funds and advocate to improve the life outcomes of Australian children and young people experiencing disadvantage.

As The Smith Family's largest community sponsor of *Learning for Life* students, VIEW supports the educational outcomes of more than 1,800 children and young people.

Through its connection with The Smith Family, VIEW is proud to enable young Australians to create better futures for themselves.

National President: Elizabeth Birch  
National Vice President: Lorraine Thomson

National Councillors: NSW: Angela Carroll; Pam Evans; Dianne Fiddes; Pat McRae; Jill Mason; Aletia Norman, Elizabeth Terry. QLD: Lyaal Aldridge; Jean Jennings. SA: Bernie McSwain. VIC: Hazel Austin, Christine Patmore, Janet Park.

National Manager: Maryanne Maher

Published by The Smith Family  
GPO BOX 5438, Sydney NSW 2001  
For more information about VIEW  
Tel: 1800 805 366  
Email: [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au)  
Website: [www.view.org.au](http://www.view.org.au)

The Smith Family provides Australian children living with disadvantage with the tools and support to thrive at school. This help extends to the child's family and community with wrap-around support essential to breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Helping a child to do well in their journey through school brings a lifetime of reward for them and their family. Investing in a child's education today will have a long-term impact that empowers them into their

working life. For more information, please visit [thesmithfamily.com.au](http://thesmithfamily.com.au).

The contents of this magazine are subject to copyright. All expressions of opinion and advice are not necessarily the official views of VIEW Clubs of Australia or The Smith Family. All information is published in good faith.

VIEW Clubs of Australia and The Smith Family accept no responsibility for any of the advice, opinions, representations or information contained in this publication.

ISSN 1444-3635  
The Smith Family  
ACN 000 030 179  
ABN 28 000 030 179

Front cover: L-R: Judy Allender, Evelyn Hicks and Silvana Miron from Greensborough VIEW Club (VIC) participating in the Community Walk With VIEW at National Convention in Brisbane.



Elizabeth Birch (NP) and Lorraine Thomson (NVP).

## From the Executive

As VIEW's 65th anniversary year draws to an end, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the amazing women of VIEW on another impactful year of support for The Smith Family and students experiencing disadvantage.

I am deeply honoured to have been National President for the past two years during which you – our wonderful members – have continued to make an incredible difference to the lives of children and young people growing up in financial hardship.

Sixty-five years on from inception, VIEW is an organisation with a rich history of community engagement and support. Members across the country are known for their passion for giving back, the support, friendship and fun they share, their

loyalty to VIEW and longstanding connection to The Smith Family.

For me, these qualities have shone through at club meetings, social gatherings, inaugurations, fundraising activities and of course, the inspiring VIEW National Convention held recently in Brisbane (see pages 6-9 for more).

At Convention, I reminded the 575 VIEW members who attended of what we have achieved together in the last year, including:

- opening three new VIEW Clubs across the country, adding to the three clubs we opened in 2024;
- welcoming Her Excellency The Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, as Patron of VIEW;
- contributing to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the prevalence, causes and impacts of loneliness in New South Wales, showcasing VIEW's role in building connections and friendships;
- sponsoring more than 1,800 students on The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program;
- raising more than \$306,000 for The Smith Family's Digital Learning Essentials program, providing computers, tech support and internet access to thousands of *Learning for Life* students;
- providing more than \$100,000 in gift vouchers to students, giving them the agency to choose a

gift for themselves; and

- generously providing more than 70,000 hours in volunteering to The Smith Family.

Behind the scenes, we have also put in place measures to strengthen our future. Most significantly, we have redrawn some VIEW area boundaries to inspire greater connection and create the potential to develop more new VIEW Clubs in the future. We have also made changes to encourage more members to take on leadership roles and help drive VIEW to become more relevant and impactful going forward. I am confident these steps will ensure a strong and positive future.

Finally, I am so proud to be a part of this wonderful organisation and to have represented such an exceptional group of women, committed to making connections in local communities and making a difference to the lives of others. There is something very special about sharing the VIEW spirit and being united by our collective purpose and belief that every Australian child deserves an education. Thank you for being part of VIEW. Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable festive season.

**Elizabeth Birch**  
VIEW National President 2024-25

## What is VIEW?

**VIEW is a national women's volunteer organisation supporting the education charity, The Smith Family. Connected through a common purpose, VIEW Club's 13,000 members:**

- make lasting friendships, share ideas and knowledge and enjoy social activities;
- learn and develop new skills, while giving back to their communities; and
- advocate for and support the educational outcomes of Australian children experiencing disadvantage.

Find out more about VIEW by visiting the VIEW website at [view.org.au](http://view.org.au), calling 1800 805 366 or emailing [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au).

[view.org.au](http://view.org.au)



1800 805 366





# Message from The Smith Family CEO

To every VIEW member across the country, thank you for your wonderful support of The Smith Family during 2025. It has been another tremendous year of achievement for VIEW Clubs.

Whether it is sponsoring a student on the *Learning for Life* program by attending monthly meetings, raising funds to cover the cost of a Digital Inclusion Pack for a student who doesn't have a laptop and internet connection at home, volunteering at a Learning Club or helping at a VIEW Christmas gift wrapping fundraising stall this December – every VIEW member is greatly appreciated.

In September, I was lucky to be a guest at VIEW's wonderful National Convention in Brisbane. This three-day event truly captures the essence of what makes VIEW so special: like-minded women from across Australia coming together to learn, debate, have fun and make friendships.

It was an honour to sit on a panel with fellow Smith Family representatives to discuss our approach, the importance of digital inclusion for students today, how evidence and data are informing our programs and, of course, the value of volunteers like VIEW members. Hearing the personal stories of


*Learning for Life* alumni, Mark Ryan (also a Smith Family Board Member) and talented performer Faith Kayrooz, was incredibly inspiring. I know that hearing these stories is the reason so many women choose to be part of VIEW.

When VIEW Clubs was formed 65 years ago, The Smith Family was well known for providing welfare support to families in need. VIEW members stepped up to support this cause with gusto. Many years later, when The Smith Family changed focus to support the education of children growing up in disadvantage, VIEW members embraced this new approach and began to sponsor students on the *Learning for Life* program. This year, along with sponsoring more than 1,800 *Learning for Life* students, VIEW has answered our call for support to help close the digital divide impacting thousands of students. New research conducted by The Smith Family recently found that 51% of parents whose child required a digital device either couldn't or struggled to afford it. The more than \$700,000 donated by VIEW for Digital Inclusion Packs is making a huge difference to families who are struggling with cost-of-living pressures and other financial


concerns. Thank you so much for your contribution to providing this important school essential.

Congratulations on a fabulous 65th anniversary year! Take care over the festive season and I look forward to following VIEW Clubs' wonderful achievements in 2026. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving educational outcomes for young people in need.

**Doug Taylor**  
Chief Executive Officer



Have you seen the 65th birthday message video from The Smith Family's General Managers and students from the *Learning for Life* alumni? Check it out here:




**We're on Facebook and Instagram!**

Join our online community of almost 3,000 fellow VIEW members to connect with like-minded women across Australia and stay up-to-date with VIEW news. Join the VIEW Clubs of Australia Facebook page or follow @viewclubs on Instagram.

# News briefs

## VIEW's impact

Learning for Life sponsorships supported by VIEW  
(as of October 2025)

**1,824** Students experiencing disadvantage at these levels:



**1,427**  
School



**368**  
Senior School



**29**  
Tertiary



## Scarf sale success

VIEW Fashion Partner Black Pepper generously designed a beautiful summer-ready scarf in calming shades of blue to recognise VIEW's 65th Blue Sapphire anniversary. The scarf, which was launched on 5 September and made available at National Convention, was so popular with attendees it sold out on Day One! The scarves were also available in Black Pepper stores and online through September and early October, with \$10 from the sale of every scarf donated to The Smith Family. At the end of the offer, an incredible \$4,300 was raised! Thank you to every VIEW member who purchased a scarf or helped to promote this offer!

## Look out for free financial wellbeing seminars!

VIEW members are invited to attend free, one-hour Financial Wellbeing Seminars, offered nationwide by ANZ and The Smith Family. These in-person sessions are delivered by The Smith Family and cover practical topics such as safe digital banking, scam awareness and support available during times of financial stress. Attendees also receive a free tote bag, morning tea and a handbook of useful links and tips. These free seminars are open to all VIEW members as well as friends and family. Keep an eye on your emails for dates, times and locations.



## Blue Illusion National Shopping Day

Blue Illusion's National Shopping Day for The Smith Family on Thursday 18 September was an outstanding success with more than \$32,000 raised! Thank you to all the VIEW members who ventured into their local Blue Illusion store on the day to make a purchase, enjoy a fashion parade, promote VIEW to others or simply catch up with VIEW friends.



VIEW Club members at Blue Illusion Carindale (QLD)

## 65th Blue Sapphire online raffle tickets available now

Don't miss out on the VIEW 65th Anniversary Blue Sapphire Online Raffle! There are spectacular prizes to be won, including return economy airfares to **Copenhagen, Denmark**, a beautiful **sapphire jewellery set**, travel vouchers, a handmade quilt, accommodation stays and fashion gift vouchers. Every VIEW member has a chance



to win. The raffle closes on Wednesday 3 December 2025. Buy your ticket today to make a difference! Share this link with your family and friends! All funds raised will go towards The Smith Family's Learning for Life program providing long-term educational support to young Australians in need.

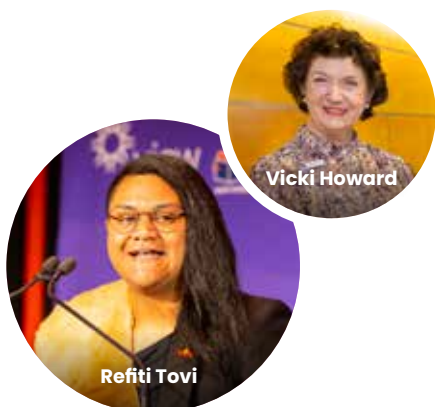
# Brisbane hosts VIEW's National Convention

For three glorious days in early September, 575 VIEW members descended on Brisbane for the 57th VIEW National Convention. It was a fabulous event, where the VIEW spirit of fun, friendship, learning and celebrating was on full display.

## Three special welcomes

Convention's first day, Friday 5 September, began with three welcome messages.

Refiti Tovi, a proud descendant of the Turrbal people, delivered a powerful Welcome to Country, and also performed a welcoming song in her language. With over a decade of experience in Early Childhood Education, Refiti is passionate about empowering the next generation and strengthening her community through truth-telling, advocacy and cultural connection. Following this, Central Ward, Brisbane City Councillor Vicki Howard warmly welcomed guests to Brisbane before a pre-recorded congratulations message from VIEW's Patron, the Governor-General of Australia, Her Excellency The Honourable Sam Mostyn AC was shown.



Refiti Tovi

Vicki Howard



Watch the Governor-General's message here!



## The Smith Family Panel

Attendees enjoyed hearing from a panel of Smith Family leaders and *Learning for Life* alumni, facilitated by Alan LeMay, The Smith Family's General Manager, Queensland. The engaging discussion highlighted how the *Learning for Life* program supports students to remain engaged in their education, while also empowering them to grow and succeed academically, personally and professionally. Doug Taylor, CEO; Wendy Field, Head of Evidence & Impact; Lisa Allan, Head of State & Territory Operations shared perspectives from The Smith Family, while *Learning for Life* alumni, Mark Ryan (who is also a Smith Family Board member) and Faith Kayrooz, shared their personal stories of the life-changing impact of The Smith Family's support.

For Mark, The Smith Family's sponsorship provided financial assistance to cover his university costs, enabling him to focus on his studies and build a stable career and life. Mark's four children are now growing up with opportunities he never had. This is the ripple effect of The Smith Family's work. The *Learning for Life* program

doesn't just reach one generation—it sets the next up for success.

Faith, an award-winning Karingbal singer-songwriter, talked about how she juggled school and caring for her unwell mother, describing how The Smith Family's sponsorship enabled her to complete a Bachelor of Music.

Faith's story showed attendees what is possible when barriers are removed. Faith concluded this inspiring session by performing two original songs. After the session, attendees shared that the panel was an excellent addition to the Convention program showcasing the real-life outcomes of The Smith Family's work.



Mark Ryan



Faith Kayrooz

## National President's Address and National Awards

Elizabeth Birch, VIEW National President 2024-25 delivered an informative update on VIEW's achievements during her term, sharing how memorable it has been to meet VIEW members across the country and feel so welcomed. Elizabeth presented the 2024-25 National Awards. The National President's Award was presented to **Mary Deakin from Busselton in Western Australia**, and the George Forbes Award was given to **Jan Roberts from Mackay, Queensland**.

Visit [view.org.au](http://view.org.au) to find out more about these dedicated VIEW members.



Back row: L-R: Prof Tamara Davis, Katy Forde and Melissa Anderson. Front row: L-R: Beth Harvey and Donna Field

## Panel of Inspirational Queenslanders

Day One's afternoon session featured an exceptional panel of four Queenslanders, facilitated by Donna Field, ABC Head of Regional, Rural and Metro News. **Detective Chief Inspector Melissa Anderson BM, APM** inspired everyone with her humility, bravery and heartfelt community engagement. **Beth Harvey, Animation Director**, shared a specially developed animation video on her career as an animator and trainer for the award-winning ABC program Bluey. **Professor Tamara Davis AO, Cosmologist**, gave an awe-inspiring presentation on her work measuring time dilation in distant supernovae and creating some of the largest maps of galaxies in the universe. **Katy Forde, Musical Director**, delighted the audience with stories of writing her award-winning musical

*A Girl's Guide to World War*, which tells the incredible story of two pioneering female doctors who served as military surgeons during World War I. With such diverse career journeys, these amazing women shared stories that were engaging, thought-provoking, and often amusing.

## Fun filled social dinners with dancing!

The two themed social dinners held on Friday night lived up to expectations with many guests dressing up to match the 'Welcome to Bris Vegas' or 'Shake, Rattle n' Roll' themes. Both events began with an energetic performance from students of the Brisbane Academy of Dance. Fabulous live bands, with musicians dressed in costumes, had attendees captivated and on the dance floor all night long.



Mary Deakin with Elizabeth Birch, VIEW National President



Jan Roberts



Members at Shake Rattle n' Roll!



Macarthur VIEW Club members at Welcome to Bris Vegas

# Brisbane hosts VIEW's National Convention

Day Two featured another jam-packed program of speakers and sessions before all attendees came together for the 65th Anniversary Black Gold & Bold Gala Dinner!

Highlights included the inspiring George Forbes Oration by a leading professor of chemistry, VIEW's much-loved Convention Writer's Festival and the lively Voice of VIEW Resolutions debate.

## George Forbes Oration

Professor Margaret Sheil AO, Vice-Chancellor and President at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), captured the attention of guests with her speech about her career and the life of her grandfather, James Tyson, a self-made pastoralist and Australia's first millionaire. Professor Shiel shared how James ensured that members of his family were able to receive a university education – a great legacy. She also spoke proudly of the fact that QUT is now the most gender equal campus.

## Writer's Festival

Queensland is a state rich in significant writers and Convention attendees were fortunate to hear from four diverse authors in the Writers' Festival session. Facilitated by Sandra Makeresz from the Queensland Writers Centre, the panel featured Mirandi Riwoe (*Stone Sky Gold Mountain*), Simon Cleary (*Everything is Water*), Steve MinOn (*First Name Second Name*) and Mary Li (*Mary's Last Dance*). All authors shared their love of reading and writing through stories about what had inspired or motivated them. The authors stayed on afterwards to sign their books and speak to members.



L-R: Mary Li, Simon Cleary, Mirandi Riwoe, Steve MinOn and Sandra Makeresz

**Thank you to Karen and Michael Weibler from Books@Stones, who hosted a book stand to sell the books of the amazing Writers' Festival authors. The store generously donated 10% of all the sales made at National Convention to The Smith Family, contributing \$600!**

## Voice of VIEW

At each Convention, members debate and vote on up to three issues that will be the organisation's advocacy focus for the next two years. This resolutions process allows VIEW members to collectively speak up on issues that matter to them, their families and their communities. This year's resolutions debate was a lively and stimulating session. Several members bravely stepping on

stage at short notice to deliberate for or against the three proposed motions, which called for federal and state government-led evidence programs addressing loneliness and social isolation; more resources and programs for children falling behind in numeracy and literacy; and funding to provide mental health professionals in schools. All three motions were unanimously agreed on by attendees.



Prof Margaret Sheil AO

## Black Gold & Bold Gala Dinner

The formal finale Gala Dinner is always an elegant affair for all attendees. This year's theme, *'Black Gold & Bold'* was embraced by guests, who dressed for the occasion in their finest black and gold evening wear. At the start of the evening, while sipping drinks on the terrace of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, (BCEC) guests were treated to the spectacular Brisbane Riverfire fireworks display. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal before being entertained with great flair and charisma by Craig Martin and his six-piece swing band featuring backing vocalists and the Queens of Song.

Later in the evening, many members headed to the dancefloor to groove and sing to everyone's favourite hits through the decades.

See page 14 for more photos from National Convention!



## Community Walk With VIEW

On Sunday morning, proudly wearing new purple VIEW bucket hats provided through sponsorship from Brisbane City Council, Convention attendees gathered outside BCEC to stroll along the riverfront and South Bank parklands, over the Neville Bonner Bridge and on to Brisbane City Hall. Walkers congregated in King George Square where they were greeted by Brisbane City

Councillor Tracy Davis who thanked them for bringing their energy and vitality to Brisbane. With the sun shining and smiles on all the faces of VIEW members, it was a wonderful way to end a fantastic, fun and enjoyable Convention!



## Your VIEW National Executive 2026-27

Congratulations to the VIEW Executive 2026-27: National President Lorraine Thomson (pictured middle) and National

Vice Presidents Dianne Fiddes (right) and Angie Carroll (left), who will begin their term in January 2026.

The next VIEW National Convention will be held in September 2027 in...

**GEELONG, VICTORIA.**

# New VIEW Clubs opened!



Kyneton VIEW Club members

In April, May and June, three new VIEW Clubs were opened in the eastern states: **Kyneton VIEW Club** in Victoria, **Capricornia VIEW Club** in Central Queensland and **Murrumbateman VIEW Club** in New South Wales!

All up, these three events saw more than 200 VIEW members, guests and friends come together to celebrate VIEW and learn more about our organisation's connection with The Smith Family.

**Kyneton VIEW Club**, which was inaugurated in April, has been busy raising enough funds to sponsor two *Learning for Life* students!

At **Capricornia VIEW Club's** inaugural event, new VIEW members were joined by representatives from The Smith Family's local office, as well as prominent community figures. Capricornia is located

in Rockhampton in Central Queensland. Club President Sharon Collins expressed how excited she is to be leading a young, vibrant and energetic committee and membership. In the spirit of VIEW, a raffle was held on the day raising \$500!

In June, some 70 women celebrated the opening of **Murrumbateman VIEW Club**, including the club's 28 inaugural members and VIEW friends from Yerrabi, Goulburn, Gungahlin, Belconnen, Weston Creek, Crookwell, Queanbeyan and the former Yass Day VIEW Club. A raffle held on the day kickstarted fundraising for the new club, raising \$300 which, along with other fundraising contributions, went towards sponsoring the club's first *Learning for Life* student!

Congratulations to the VIEW Development Teams involved with forming these clubs and to the new club committees. Since inaugurating, all three clubs have grown from strength to strength, holding engaging meetings, continuing to attract new members and planning fundraising events to support The Smith Family.



Capricornia VIEW Club members



Murrumbateman VIEW Club committee

# Celebrating 65 years!

VIEW members love a celebration and there's no better reason than an anniversary! All year, clubs across the country have been hosting events to mark VIEW's 65th anniversary. Members have embraced the Blue Sapphire theme, decorating cakes with blue icing and donning blue scarfs, dresses and hats in place of the usual VIEW purple. Here is a snapshot of some of the wonderful gatherings held as part of Galas, Zone Conferences and club birthdays.

## Gala events

Clubs located on the Lower Mid North Coast NSW and Inland (Area NK) held a spectacular 65th Anniversary Gala in July, with 130 VIEW members representing 17 clubs attending. It was a wonderful day, raising \$2,000 for The Smith Family.

In the Hunter/Central Coast area of NSW, a fabulous Gala attracted close to 120 VIEW members for an informative day of celebration and learning. A display of the area's nine VIEW banners was a striking decoration!

## SA Vice Regal cocktail reception

One hundred Adelaide-based VIEW Club members were delighted to attend a special afternoon cocktail reception at the South Australian Government House to mark VIEW's anniversary. The event was hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, and her husband Mr Bunten. Her Excellency congratulated SA VIEW members for their many years of volunteering, fundraising, building friendships and connecting in the community to support The Smith Family.



Lower Mid North Coast NSW VIEW members



Hunter/Central Coast NSW members



Victor Harbor VIEW members with Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia (far right)



L-R: Barbara Fairbairn, Acting President of Pennant Hills VIEW with Sandra Fong, Zone Councillor and Ruth Geggie, President of Parramatta VIEW

## Two clubs turn 65!

Parramatta VIEW Club and Pennant Hills VIEW Club (both in NSW) also reached the milestone of 65 years this year. In October, 90 members from both clubs gathered for a sparkling Blue Sapphire-themed luncheon filled with formality, friendship and fun. Guests included Fiona Coluccio, The Smith Family's

NSW/ACT General Manager; The Hills Shire Mayor, Dr Michelle Byrne; Parramatta Councillor, Kellie Darley and Federal Member for Berowra, Julian Leeser. As the two longest running existing VIEW Clubs in Australia, the event was a reminder of the longevity of VIEW and our ability to evolve with the times. Well done to organisers on a fabulous event!

# Around the clubs



## Marvellous Mudgee VIEW

In early August, VIEW National President Elizabeth Birch visited members of Mudgee VIEW Club in the Central West region of NSW. Elizabeth was warmly welcomed by 84 members at the club's monthly meeting. Mudgee VIEW Club has a growing membership

## A rail tale

This group of 20 regional Queensland VIEW members travelled together by train from Rockhampton to Brisbane for VIEW's National Convention! Our photographer captured the excitement of their arrival!



## Macarthur Evening's two in one party!

Macarthur Evening VIEW Club (NSW) celebrated their 52nd birthday and VIEW's 65th by hosting a Women in Business panel and inviting local business women who support the club to join in their celebrations. Some 160 VIEW members and friends had a great night at Camden Valley Inn. The function room was a hive of activity with raffles, a silent auction and lots of laughter and chatter. During the panel, three local businesswomen shared stories about their careers and maintaining work-life balance. Sally Quinnell MP, Member for Camden thanked Macarthur Evening VIEW members for their



support of The Smith Family and 12 Learning for Life students! By the end of the night, an amazing \$5,000 was raised!

## VIEW at the Rural Women's Network Event

VIEW National Councillor Dianne Fiddes and members from Lighthouse Port Macquarie VIEW Club (NSW) enjoyed attending the Rural Women's Network 'Connecting Communities – Thank you NSW Volunteers' event. Thirty-nine groups of volunteers represented by 100 attendees had a fantastic evening celebrating the role of

volunteers in communities. Highlights included a panel discussion on the benefits of volunteering, and an address by the NSW Minister for Women and Volunteering, the Honourable Jodie Harrison MP. Our members were proud to be at this event and to learn about other wonderful organisations where women volunteer.



of 154 women and sponsors 30 *Learning for Life* students – the highest number of sponsorships of any VIEW Club. The club celebrated its 55th anniversary this year and has raised over \$275,000 for The Smith Family in this time. Their fundraising activities include three major raffles for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and Christmas. Last year, members raised \$21,000 for their *Learning for Life* students and other Smith Family programs. Congratulations to President

Helen Rhodes (far left) and her hardworking committee members, who also arranged an interview

for the National President on local radio station 2MG to promote VIEW and the work we do!



## Blue Sapphire Awards

At Convention we were delighted to shine a light on the brilliance of VIEW members through our 65th Anniversary Blue Sapphire Awards. Almost 40 nominations were received, highlighting impactful contributions from members, clubs, Zones and Areas across the four categories: Voice, Interests, Education and Women. Congratulations to the winners: Voice Award – Linda Castle from Melville City VIEW Club; Interests Award – Janice Holzhauser, President of Shellharbour VIEW Club (NSW); Education Award – Bairnsdale VIEW Club; and Women Award – Deb Sutton-Smith from Tonsley VIEW Club (SA). To find out more about the wonderful efforts of these VIEW members, visit [view.org.au](http://view.org.au).



Cathy Lawrence, Bairnsdale VIEW Club Delegate accepting the Blue Sapphire Award on behalf of her club

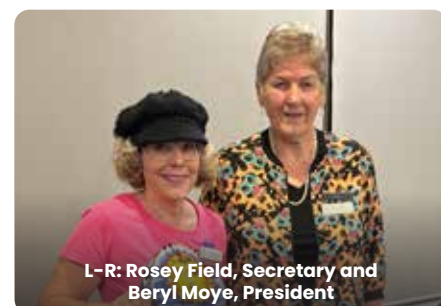
## Governor-General’s celebration

Representatives from VIEW joined the Governor-General of Australia (see left), Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC at Admiralty House to celebrate some of the remarkable organisations of which she serves as Patron, including VIEW and The Smith Family. The event was a wonderful opportunity to meet and connect with others doing meaningful work. VIEW National Manager, Maryanne Maher and VIEW Past National Vice President Susan Groenhout were joined by Lisa Allan, The Smith Family’s Head of State and Territory Operations and Yasmin, *Learning for Life* alumni, at the morning tea.

## Caloundra’s retro and pearls birthday

Caloundra Evening VIEW Club (QLD) celebrated its 30th birthday in September with a retro and pearls themed party. Held just after National Convention, The Smith Family’s General Manager, Queensland, Alan LeMay and VIEW National Manager Maryanne Maher attended to congratulate and thank members for their support of 14 *Learning for Life* students.

New members were welcomed, two 10-year badges were presented and a Making a Difference award was given to a hardworking member before members danced and sang to karaoke. Caloundra VIEW raises funds through fashion parades, Containers for Change, Bunnings barbecues, and Make & Bake and Sew & Grow events. Such a productive club!



L-R: Rosey Field, Secretary and Beryl Moye, President



view  
celebrating 65 years

# merchandise



**Our  
Christmas  
sale is on  
now!**

VIEW gifts make  
great stocking fillers!

## New Merchandise

VIEW Bumper Sticker.....	\$4
65th Pop Up Fan.....	\$5
Bucket Hat.....	\$12

Beanie.....	\$12
Bum bag.....	\$15
60th fan.....	\$3
60th spectacle cleaner.....	\$2
60th pin.....	\$2
Pen.....	\$8
Shoehorn.....	\$3
Nail file.....	\$3
Key ring.....	\$3
Travel pack.....	\$5
Backpack.....	\$3
Apron.....	\$20

All money raised from the sale of VIEW gifts helps children in need to succeed at school.  
To order any of these VIEW gifts, please email [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au)

 Wendy Wu Tours.

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER**  
\$200pp member discount off tours

Quote code: VIEW200



Australia's Leading  
Tour Specialist



Fully Inclusive -  
We include more!



All meals on  
Classic tours



Airfares and comprehensive  
sightseeing included

Proud sponsors VIEW National Convention 2025 | Call 1300 727 998 for offer details or to book

Email [specialistsales@wendywutours.com.au](mailto:specialistsales@wendywutours.com.au) for full bookings conditions. Quote VIEW200 & your membership number at time of booking via WWT call centre 1300 727 998 or book online at [wendywutours.com.au](http://wendywutours.com.au). Offer is valid on all new bookings up to 30 Sep 2026 on any tour.

**ATAS**  
TRAVEL ACCREDITED

# We believe no child should be held back by poverty.

## Do you?

Today, 1 in 6 Australian children like Tom\* are living with poverty. It can take away so much, but it should never take away a child's self-belief and chance to build a better future.

This Christmas, give the gift of extra learning support so children like Tom can thrive.



For 65 years VIEW Club members have provided life-changing educational support to children in Tom's position.

\*Names, location and associated images have been changed to protect the identity of Tom and his family.

**Please donate today.**

[The Smith Family](#) [1800 024 069](tel:1800024069)

**CHRISTMAS  
APPEAL  
2025**



**The Smith  
Family**

Learn today, change tomorrow.