



Supporting young readers

Bequest sponsorship gift

Celebrating International Women's Day

**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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*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 18,278 women of VIEW to the provision of educational outcomes for Australia's disadvantaged children and families.

National President: Robin Perros.

National Vice Presidents: Sue Field, Lyn Gerstenberg, June Greentree.

National Councillors: NSW: Vicki Archer, Robyn Bursill, Beverley Giglio, Marian Kingham, Laura O'Brien, Dawn Sage, Lola Shaw, Toni Thomas, Gloria Walter, Gwen Wilton. QLD: Maggy Hickey. SA: Marjorie Schultz. Vic: Diane Daly, Jennie Wynd.

Caretaker National Councillors:  
ACT: Margaret Gooch.

NSW: Madge Doust, Glenda Noble, Cynthia Guyenette.  
QLD: Lyndsay Basford, Jean Clarke.

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](http://thesmithfamily.com.au)

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Front cover: *Learning for Life* students Jasmine Flack (left) and Kayla Newell (far right) with National Vice Presidents Lyn Gerstenberg (left) and Sue Field at VIEW Clubs' International Women's Day luncheon, Wollongong in March 2014. Photo by Greg Ellis.



# From the Executive

Robin Perros  
National President



## I am excited to present the 2014-15 theme of "Connecting Women, Inspiring Futures".

For me, "Connecting Women" is what VIEW is all about. George Forbes established VIEW Clubs 54 years ago to bring women together, to create lasting friendships and most importantly, to enable them to contribute to their community in meaningful ways, through supporting the charitable works of The Smith Family.

Today, VIEW sponsors more than 1,000 *Learning for Life* students, with an amazing 92% of our clubs sponsoring one child, and a considerable number sponsoring two. We also have clubs sponsoring seven or eight students, and in Western Australia (WA), there are clubs generously sponsoring more than 15 students! Wow, how fabulous!

We are also seeing more clubs continue their sponsorship at senior secondary or tertiary level, supporting students into the next phase of their education and realising our theme of "Inspiring Futures".

As National President, I am also focused on ensuring VIEW remains active, vibrant, contemporary and vital and this is where I need your help. Throughout my term, I would like to ask you to do three things for VIEW:

**Promote** VIEW in the community. Talk with your friends and wider networks about what we do

and our involvement with The Smith Family.

**Invite** a friend or someone new to your next club meeting. Imagine the power of 18,000 VIEW members speaking to and inviting 18,000 other women to join VIEW. Our membership would grow, allowing us to reach many more disadvantaged children through the important work of The Smith Family.

**Join in** your club's activities. For VIEW to have a healthy future, we need members to join club committees, participate in events and become involved in maintaining and developing clubs. Get involved today!

This year, 13 Victorian VIEW clubs will celebrate 20 years of service, and my own club, Waverley, celebrates 30 years! Congratulations to members from Banyule, Beaumaris, Bendigo Evening, Berwick Evening, Blackburn Evening, Eltham Evening, Glenroy, Keilor Evening, Mornington, Oakleigh Evening, Ringwood, Shepparton Evening and Springvale Evening. Thank you to all our members Australia-wide. I look forward to meeting many of you throughout my two year term.

Above: 2014-15 National Executive (from left): Lyn Gerstenberg, June Greentree, Robin Perros and Sue Field.

## VIEW for all

More than 18,000 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; and
- 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](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au)  
We look forward to hearing from you soon!



# Message from The Smith Family CEO

Dr Lisa O'Brien

This issue's cover photo was taken at the VIEW Clubs' Wollongong celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) in March. It features tertiary level *Learning for Life* students who shared their stories of achievement with members on the day. This is a great example of VIEW members doing what they do best – joining in events to support, advocate and help young disadvantaged Australians.



*Learning for Life*  
sponsorships  
supported by VIEW

As at March 2014

1,082

disadvantaged students  
at these levels:

971 Primary  
school

81 Secondary  
school

30 Tertiary  
/TAFE

I had the pleasure of attending the VIEW IWD luncheon at NSW Parliament House in Sydney with 150 VIEW members and other special guests. This is always one of my favourite events and I relish the opportunity to talk with members, as well as highlight some of the issues you work so passionately for. This year I spoke about the extent to which young girls are at risk of falling behind in school, an issue recently highlighted by the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) Reform Council.

Alarmingly, girls from disadvantaged backgrounds are starting school behind and then staying behind throughout their schooling and adult life. As the only national women's organisation focused on helping vulnerable Australians access a full and comprehensive education, VIEW members are important role models for young girls from all backgrounds. I commend each of you for your support of The Smith Family and our common goal of helping young Australians build a better future through education. For more about VIEW's IWD celebrations across the country, see page 14.

Research and evaluation underpin The Smith Family's programs. We believe it is important to clearly measure the impact of our programs. Last December, The Smith Family released a report on the *student2student* reading program, showing that 93% of participants had

improved their reading after completing the 18-week program. This is an impressive result and demonstrates the effectiveness of *student2student*, supported by many of you as volunteers. You can read more about this on pages 6-7.

St Georges Basin VIEW Club in NSW was recently the recipient of a substantial bequest from the estate of a former member. I'm delighted members have decided to use the bequest to establish an education legacy to support 15 disadvantaged students to undertake university studies as well as support a number of *Learning for Life* programs in the Shoalhaven area. We are extremely grateful to the late Margaret Burrow for her generosity and foresight, and to the members of the St Georges Basin Club for enabling more young people in need to reach their full potential through the *Learning for Life* sponsorship.

Lastly, thank you to all VIEW members. Your efforts are truly making a positive difference to the lives of disadvantaged young people and their families throughout Australia.



Join Facebook

Keep up-to-date with the latest VIEW news by joining the VIEW Clubs of Australia Facebook page. Post comments about your club's activities and comment on posts on The Smith Family's Facebook page.

## News briefs

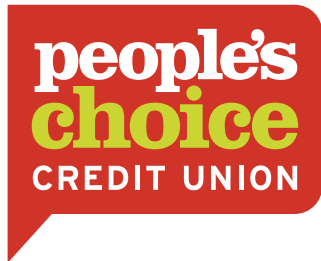
### People's Choice Community Lottery

Looking for a new way to fundraise for your Club? The People's Choice Credit Union (PCCU) has again invited VIEW to participate in its Community Lottery with 9,000 tickets allocated to members. This is an increase of 1,000 from last year. The Community Lottery enables not-for-profit organisations to raise funds by selling lottery tickets. For every ticket sold, organisations receive 100% of funds raised.

Tickets can now be sold in NSW. VIEW Clubs in SA, Vic, NSW and the ACT will by now have received their allocated tickets. Clubs in QLD and WA wishing to purchase lottery tickets can contact PNVP Velda Atkinson on (08) 8552 4085 or by email at jawvla@bigpond.net.au.

VIEW funds from the Community Lottery will go towards The Smith Family's *student2student* reading program. To learn more about *student2student*, see pages 6-7.

Join the challenge and help VIEW sell all its PCCU lottery tickets! Cheques and raffle butts must be returned to your local Zone Councillor by **Friday 4 July 2014**.



### Christmas wrapping

Each December, many VIEW members across Australia volunteer their time to take part in Christmas wrapping activities to raise funds. This is also an opportunity to get out and about in local communities and spread the word about VIEW. Last year, NSW members set up stalls at the Cooma Shopping Centre, Woolworths in Bega, Erina Fair on the Central Coast, and Stocklands in Nowra. In QLD, stalls were set up in Southport Park Shopping Centre, Stafford City Shopping Centre, Centro-Springwood Shopping Centre and Mt Ommaney Shopping Centre. Gift-wrapping also took place in Vic at Bendigo Market and Stocklands Ballarat and in South Australia at Bunnings in Mt Barker. From this activity VIEW raised more than \$20,000 in cash donations to support the education of children in need, a truly incredible effort. Thank you!



### Toy & Book Appeal 2013

The Smith Family would like to thank VIEW members for their fantastic support of the 2013 Toy & Book Appeal. VIEW raised an incredible \$58,000 towards the Appeal. This is \$4,000 more than 2012. Your generosity allows disadvantaged children around Australia to participate in the joy of Christmas. All funds raised are used to purchase toys and books for children most in need. Thank you to all VIEW members who raised funds over the Christmas period.

### Mention VIEW to someone new

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 disadvantaged young Australians.

"We're looking for women from all backgrounds and of all ages," said Robin Perros, 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](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au).





# Supporting young people

Improving children's reading through peer support

One in 10 students from low socio-economic backgrounds in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 do not meet the NAPLAN national minimum reading standards. For these kids, their poor reading levels can mean they fall even further behind in their education.

The Smith Family's *student2student* reading program supports disadvantaged students who are behind in their reading, to improve their skills. The program matches students in Year 3 to 8 with an older trained student buddy who supports and encourages them with their reading. Over an 18-week period, the students connect over the phone two or three times a week to read together. The younger student reads to their buddy from books provided by The Smith Family. The buddy helps the younger reader become a better reader by using the effective 'Pause, Prompt, Praise' reading support method.

Last year, a major study of 742 participants in the program showed that 93% of students improved their reading as a result of *student2student*, with two-thirds boosting their reading age by more than six months. The study also found that 83% of participants were reading more at the end of the program and 81% of students agreed the program helped them feel more confident with their school work.

"The secret of *student2student's* success is that it addresses the two crucial factors in becoming a better reader: practice and motivation. The more

you read, the more you enjoy it and the more likely you are to keep reading.

"The one-on-one nature of *student2student* contributes to increasing the student's engagement as well as maintaining their attention to the text for longer periods" said The Smith Family's Head of Research and Advocacy, Anne Hampshire.

Last year, *student2student* ran in 75 communities across Australia with 1,064 students supported by 1,064 buddies. The cost effectiveness, reach and success of the program would not be possible without the valuable support of The Smith Family's partner, Optus and many hundreds of volunteers. Thank you to VIEW members who raised funds to support the program and volunteered their time to assist with program co-ordination, packing and sending of book packs to participants.





## Joel's story

Joel with his mum, Trina.

Eleven-year-old Joel participated in *student2student* when he was in Grade 6. Described by his mum, Trina, as a poor reader lacking in confidence, the program "dramatically improved" his reading ability and his self-confidence.

"His reading became much better. He can now read a book without having to stop and look at the words. I put that down to *student2student*. Before *student2student*, he was probably bottom of the class. Now, he's not top, but he's just past half.

"And he now has no problems standing up in front of the whole family and reading quite well. Before *student2student* I don't think I would have seen that, so it's definitely improved his confidence.

"As a parent, the best thing is seeing how much confidence Joel now has and how much he has learnt from the program. I would definitely recommend *student2student*. I have a daughter, who is quite a good reader, but I would still like somebody to help her with her reading. It does wonders for the kids, for their self-confidence. It's not just about learning to read."



## VIEW Club volunteer

Hobart VIEW Club Secretary and founding member Yvonne Bottomley has been a *student2student* volunteer supervisor for two years.

"It has been rewarding and I would do it again. I enjoy what I get out of my involvement. It is a way of giving back to help students so they can have a leg up. My role is as a volunteer supervisor between the buddy and The Smith Family. I'm involved in getting the books to the students and helping out with other problems. In the first year I was also a sounding board for the buddies. When the students start to read the last book, the buddy contacts me to request a new set of books. I talk to them about how they think it's gone, and we discuss whether they need more books at the same level or whether we should mix them up.

"To see what happens to the students as a result of this experience and to hear the comments they make is amazing. These buddies are getting something back. It is such positive reinforcement for them, and you never know where it will lead."

Above: Yvonne Bottomley, Hobart VIEW Club Secretary and *student2student* volunteer.



# Community in profile

## Spotlight on Victoria

### VIEW in Victoria

2,500+  
members

54 VIEW  
Clubs

138 *Learning for Life*  
students sponsored

## Volunteering spirit spreads across Vic

### Greensborough Evening Club

For nine members of Greensborough Evening VIEW, volunteering at Thomastown Primary School is integral to their involvement with VIEW and the local community.

"Volunteers assist by hearing reading one-on-one, changing books for Home Reading, and generally showing concern and compassion for our students. Given that many students are from disadvantaged families and do not often have someone at home to assist them academically and socially, the volunteers provide invaluable assistance," says Jill Mitchell, Principal, Thomastown Primary School.

"The volunteers also hear and change readers for all the children in the Language School. They help the children to build their reading skills by directing them to use the picture clues, helping them to sound out words as well as helping them with pronunciation.

"The regular weekly opportunity to practise their reading is of great assistance to the whole language learning program. The children benefit from the extra time the volunteers give them.

"The VIEW volunteers are also a valuable part of playgroup, and assist greatly by developing relationships with children and families."

Greensborough VIEW member Pam Shaw said the opportunity is rewarding for all involved.

"At the playgroup, it is really pleasing to see children who have very little, blossom as they experience the freedom

to play and explore with other children. Mothers also have the opportunity to mix socially and learn how to 'play' and sing with their children."

If you are interested in knowing more about the volunteer program contact National Councillor Jennie Wynd on [nj.wynd@bigpond.com](mailto:nj.wynd@bigpond.com).

### Point Cook Club

Point Cook VIEW member Anne Bull is one of hundreds of VIEW members who volunteer during the school term to assist at The Smith Family's *Learning Clubs*. These clubs are run throughout Australia to provide a supportive out-of-school learning environment to help students develop their academic and social skills.

Anne has volunteered at the West FunShine *Learning Club* at the Sunshine Community Centre for the past two years. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, she's on hand to help with homework, computer activities and assignments.

To find out more about volunteering with The Smith Family, call 1300 397730.

### Bendigo and Castlemaine Clubs

In December, VIEW members from Bendigo and Castlemaine Clubs joined The Smith Family's Bendigo *Learning for Life* program coordinator Lia Comodo to help deliver Christmas gifts to local families in need. The experience was both uplifting and rewarding for the members. Since then two Bendigo members have met with Lia to discuss other ways VIEW members can assist The Smith Family in the local area.

One initiative has been to help *Learning for Life* recipients write thank you cards to their sponsors. Lia is also planning an after school program to provide students with further learning support. Several VIEW members have agreed to volunteer at the *Learning Club*, providing support to students and assisting with the running of the program.

### Waverley Day Club

Waverley Day VIEW members were treated to some unique insights at the Club's recent Annual General Meeting when one of The Smith Family's *student2student* reading buddies from Southwood Boys Grammar came along to share his story.



Dorothy Anderson, Greensborough VIEW member helping a child at Thomastown Primary School.



Anne Bull helping at the West FunShine Learning Club.



National President Robin Perros, reading buddy Vishnu Pillay and Zone Councillor Jeanette Elkner.

Southwood Boys Grammar was the first Victorian school to provide buddies for *student2student*. Vishnu, who volunteered last year, shared with members his experiences helping Chloe, a younger student who was struggling with her reading. Vishnu described how he would help her when she was stumbling over words and how he felt she improved throughout the program. He said he enjoyed being part of *student2student* and seeing Chloe gain confidence in her reading.





Members of the new Onkaparinga VIEW Club with Past National President, Lorraine Montgomery.

## Welcome aboard Onkaparinga

Onkaparinga VIEW Club, our newest club and the 15th VIEW Club to be established in South Australia was inaugurated in October last year.

2012-13 National President Lorraine Montgomery inducted the new Committee, presenting Onkaparinga President, Johanna Berkin with the VIEW Club Charter, Foundation Certificate and an array of booklets, letters and badges for the new VIEW members.

Close to six months since forming, Onkaparinga's President Johanna said the club is beginning to feel settled with well attended monthly luncheon meetings and an informal coffee morning each month to help build new friendships.

"Thanks to the support from Zone Councillor Jan McFarlane, we do feel that we have settled in. We had 26 women attend our February meeting and our Committee and members are certainly enjoying their involvement. Some members are making reading mats and library bags for students while others are getting involved with the schools by volunteering with The Smith Family. We also have a small donation box at our meetings and we feel that as a new club, that's initially a good way to raise funds," Johanna said.

"We've had some great speakers at our luncheons and because our members are looking to get to know each other a little more, our informal morning tea is also becoming popular."

*Onkaparinga meets at 11am on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Morphett Vale Function Centre.*

## Help us!

VIEW National Executive is excited to be working with VIEW members of local Development Teams to establish new VIEW clubs in the areas of Plenty Valley (Vic), Reynella (SA) and Launceston (Tas).

We are looking for VIEW members with relatives, friends, co-workers or acquaintances in these areas who may like to be part of these new clubs. If you know somebody that might like to get involved, contact VIEW National Office on [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au).

## Subiaco VIEW secures \$30,000

Subiaco Club (WA) member Janny Williams recently asked her husband Glen whether his work might be able to support The Smith Family in some way. Glen, a pilot with Bristow Helicopters, championed The Smith Family among his colleagues and helped put forward a proposal to the company's Community Investment Fund.

As a result, Bristow Helicopters has agreed to donate \$30,000 to support The Smith Family's work in the Pilbara. What a result!



Janny Williams (Subiaco VIEW member) with her husband Glen and Susan Schofield, Corporate Partnership Manager WA for The Smith Family celebrating the partnership.



"When my primary school referred my family to The Smith Family in 2004, it was a relief to feel supported and to be able to 'fit in' with the rest of my friends. I was able to be in the correct uniform and go on excursions.

"I was given stationery, which I now know was provided by VIEW members. This helped reduce the cost of my education for my Gran every year.

"This year I am in Year 12. My aspiration is to be a teacher and work with disadvantaged communities overseas as I believe that everyone deserves an education."

**Kacie McLean, Learning for Life sponsorship recipient and speaker at VIEW Clubs' International Women's Day luncheon, Melbourne in March.**

## Connecting in community

# Awards recognition

## 2013 VIEW National Convention award winners

### 2013 George Forbes Award

Congratulations to Past National Vice President 2008-09 Carleen Maley of Bega Evening Club (NSW) who was awarded the *2013 George Forbes Award*. This award recognises a member who has advanced or progressed VIEW nationally over and above what would normally be expected of an office bearer. Carleen was instrumental in setting up the VIEW website ([view.org.au](http://view.org.au)) in 2008 and has continued to volunteer her time as the website administrator. This involves keeping the website up-to-date with the latest information, happenings and postings, as well as handling website membership enquiries and providing training to other members on how to use the internet.



Carleen Maley accepting her award.

### Special Commendation

2012-13 National Executive also awarded a *Special Commendation* to Edna Burwash from Keilor Evening Club (Vic) for her tireless work in helping to develop new VIEW Clubs in Victoria to ensure the sustainability of the organisation. Edna has been a dedicated VIEW member since 2000, and has taken on many committee roles during that time. As Development Team Leader, she regularly opens her home for meetings, encourages other members to assist with the development of new clubs and mentors Development Team members in other states. In 2013, Edna was instrumental in forming the newest Victorian club, Ocean Grove Evening and this year, she is working hard to setup a new club in the Plenty Valley area.



### 2013 National President's Award

Congratulations to Zone Councillor Jan McFarlane from Holdfast Evening Club (SA) who was awarded the *2013 National President's Award*. This award recognises a member who has displayed leadership qualities above and beyond the normal duties of an office bearer. Jan is a very active VIEW member. She was heavily involved in the organisation of the SA VIEW Clubs' International Women's Day Morning Tea and in 2013, through the SA Development Team, played a key role in the formation of the new Onkaparinga VIEW Club. Additionally, Jan is an active volunteer for The Smith Family, participating in the *iTrack* mentoring program, volunteering and tutoring at *Learning Clubs*, mentoring a tertiary *Learning for Life* student and assisting at Smith Family fundraising events.

Left: Jan McFarlane with Dylan at the *Learning Club* where she helps students with their homework and prepares afternoon snacks donated by her club for the children.





Edna Burwash accepting her Special Commendation.

## Other recognition

We love seeing VIEW members recognised in their communities for their hard work and commitment to community service. Recently we were pleased to learn that Sue Brown from Bendigo Evening VIEW (Vic) was awarded a Community Service Award for the Loddon Shire on Australia Day. Congratulations Sue!

Congratulations also to Barbara Colson from First WAVE Club (WA) who was awarded the 2013 *Intergenerational Award* in the WA Seniors Awards. The award recognises seniors who work with children and young people. Barbara has been instrumental in growing VIEW in WA.

Our congratulations also go to Sue Townsend of Blayney District Evening Club (NSW) who was awarded the Blayney Citizen of the Year Award and to Shirley Hanney of Wellington Club (NSW) who won an Award for Tireless Help and Service from her local community.

# A lasting legacy

St Georges Basin VIEW (NSW) recently became the beneficiary of a very generous bequest from the estate of former member Margaret Burrow.

"We were thrilled to learn about Margaret's incredible gift," said St Georges Basin VIEW Club President, Rita Curtis.

"The Shoalhaven is an area of great need, with many disadvantaged families. With this bequest, St Georges Basin Club is able to sponsor 15 tertiary students to study at university for three years, with the remaining funds going towards a variety of *Learning for Life* programs currently run in the Shoalhaven area. We are proud that through the Margaret Burrow bequest we are enabling Margaret's legacy to live on."

There are currently 315 students in the Shoalhaven area on *Learning for Life* sponsorships with The Smith Family. These students receive financial assistance to help cover the costs of their education. They also have access to a *Learning for Life* program coordinator who provides support and advice to help them stay engaged with their education. The coordinator also provides the students with access to learning and support programs to enhance their learning and development and help them build aspirations for the future.

With a full-time *Learning for Life* program coordinator based in East Nowra, The Smith Family is actively involved in the Shoalhaven. This



St Georges Basin VIEW members holding student profiles: Susan Craig, Ann Laidlaw, Rita Curtis (President), Thelma Clark, Ethel Metcalf, Deborah Hanlon and Roslyn Evans.

year, the organisation will run four *Learning Clubs* in the area, assisting around 50 students with their homework. A number of members from St Georges Basin VIEW volunteer at these *Learning Clubs*. Additionally, The Smith Family plans to run the *student2student* reading program, financial literacy classes for students at Shoalhaven High School, *Experience Days* at Sydney University, a Tertiary Mentoring program for tertiary level *Learning for Life* recipients, the *Tech Packs* computer skills program for *Learning for Life* families, and the *Let's Read* program for pre-schoolers.

Leaving a bequest or part of your estate to VIEW Clubs as an education legacy is a very special way to continue your support of disadvantaged young Australians. Please contact the VIEW National Office on 1800 805 366 or [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au) for more information on how to leave a bequest.

With more than 18,000 VIEW members across Australia, we do our best to keep track of the achievements of our members. Please let us know of any VIEW members recognised in your community by emailing [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au).

# Around the Clubs



Jocelyn Henry, Grace Purcell and Kathy McDonald.

## Christmas bow-making

Kenmore Evening Club (QLD) is one of many VIEW Clubs across the country that runs a Christmas wrapping stall in December to raise funds for The Smith Family. In preparation for the busy four days of gift-wrapping, Kenmore members meet for a day to create colourful bows for the fundraiser. Club President, Anne Bamford hosted last year's bow-making day and experts were on hand to help members new to the job. Many beautiful bows were created to adorn the Christmas presents wrapped by members.

## Marion Angels

In recognition of their ongoing hard work, members of the Marion Club (SA) have been nicknamed the 'Marion Angels' by Michael Penglase, The Smith Family *Learning for Life* program coordinator in Port Augusta. Last year, Marion Club aligned with Port Augusta Outreach and Michael to support disadvantaged children and families in the area. Members collected over 200 stationery items, handmade 37 reading mats and gave two backpacks to the most improved students. In addition, Marion Club sponsored five *Learning for Life* students and raised substantial funds for The Smith Family's Winter and Christmas Appeals and Toy and Book Appeal. Busy Marion VIEW members also participate in four book clubs, three discussion groups, three Knit and Natter groups, four Mah-jong groups and one walking group.



## Manly Council thanks VIEW members

Members from Manly Club (NSW) were invited to the 2013 Community Volunteers' Morning Tea hosted at the Manly Council Chambers in November last year in recognition of their commitment to the local community. Manly Club President Sue Marker and Club Secretary/Treasurer Helen Loseby-Bowles attended the event on behalf of VIEW.

Right: The Hon. Mike Baird MP, Sue Marker, Helen Loseby-Bowles and Manly Mayor Jean Hay AM.



(From back): Barbara Rugless, Mick Penglase (*Learning for Life* program coordinator), Marlies Nelson, Bev Hilton and Shirley Jenner.

## VIEW member celebrates 50 years of service

In an amazing milestone, Barbara Wilson from Kincumber Club (NSW) celebrated 50 years of service to VIEW and The Smith Family last year. Barbara joined Epping Club (NSW) in 1963 before transferring to Kincumber in 1992. During her 50 years, she has served on several committees and made many friends. Her commitment was celebrated at Kincumber Club's 29th birthday where Past National Vice President Christine Newell presented Barbara with a service pin.







## Sunraysia VIEW making a difference in Mildura

Sunraysia Club may be a little isolated but that hasn't stopped members from going to great efforts for their fundraising. The Club holds sausage sizzles at Bunnings and a popular fashion parade at Mildura fashion store "Lorraine's" to raise funds to sponsor two students through The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program. Recently acknowledged in the Sunraysia Daily Newspaper, the Club is making a name for itself as a positive contributor to the local community and a fun and social club providing support and friendship.

ZC Eila Harding, NC Marjorie Schultz, Lynne Windsor, Mary Midgley and Faye Spence.

Photo reproduced courtesy of Sunraysia Daily - Mildura, [www.sunraysiadaily.com.au](http://www.sunraysiadaily.com.au)

## Street Stall success

Redlands Evening VIEW (QLD) members rallied together yet again to tirelessly prepare for and stock their Cleveland Street stall full of bric-a-brac donations, knitted and crocheted items, handmade clothing and linen, baked goods, jams and preserves. Redlands Evening VIEW runs the Street Stall biennially to raise funds to sponsor an additional student through The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program.

Throughout the year members collect items and donations to be sold at the stall. Members also prepare homemade goodies and beautiful handmade items. The freshly baked cakes, scones, biscuits, jams and preserves always prove to be favourites with the community, and many of the handmade children's clothes, aprons, embroidered hand towels, table runners, and craft items are snapped up quickly by passers-by.

Club Vice President and stall organiser Nerelle Brown said she was thrilled with the success of the most recent stall and is looking forward to the next one.



From left: Redlands Evening VIEW members at their stall with customers - Judy Green, Claire Williams and Nerelle Brown (Vice President).

## European White Christmas for prize winner

Harrington Evening Club (NSW) member Shirley Smith was the lucky first prize raffle winner at last year's National Convention, taking home the European White Christmas Tour for two donated by Albatross Tours. With her family, Shirley visited Switzerland and Italy over the Christmas break, and even managed to meet up with fellow VIEW member Hemlata Kumar from Carindale VIEW Club in Queensland. VIEW Clubs and Shirley would like to thank Euan Landsborough, Managing Director of Albatross Tours for generously sponsoring the 2013 VIEW National Convention and donating this wonderful trip as a raffle prize.



Above: VIEW member Shirley Smith with her children Grant and Susan on the ski fields at Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy.

## Carnival in Queanbeyan

Queanbeyan Evening Club (NSW) recently celebrated its 29th birthday with a colourful "Carnival" themed party. In the spirit of "Carnival", members dressed in colourful wigs and leis, coloured their hair, sang and danced. The 'clown' group (pictured) performed "*Pop goes the weasel*" and danced a conga line to "*Goodbye cruel world.*" Club President Cheryl Davis and Sue Forbes sang and danced to the old classic "*We're a couple of swells.*"



Queanbeyan's clown group.

# VIEW Events

## International Women's Day

Each year in March, VIEW Clubs across Australia come together to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) and mark the achievements of women.

This year's theme was "Inspiring Change" highlighting that while women's equality has made positive gains, the world is still unequal and many areas are in need of further action.

In Sydney, 150 VIEW members attended a luncheon at the NSW Parliament House with guests including The Hon. Pru Goward, Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister for Women, The Hon. Shelley Hancock, Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, The Hon. Victor Dominello, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Citizenship and Communities and NSW Members of Parliament.

The Smith Family's Chief Executive Officer Dr Lisa O'Brien gave an inspiring address highlighting the large gap in educational performance between disadvantaged girls and their more well-off peers and the need to support young Australian women to be well educated and skilled. Lisa thanked VIEW members for their ongoing dedication to The Smith Family's purpose and emphasised the importance of VIEW and The Smith Family working together to better the futures of young disadvantaged Australians.

*Learning for Life* sponsorship recipient Trent Hunter also addressed the room, thanking VIEW and The Smith Family for giving him the educational opportunities and support to achieve his personal goal of becoming a teacher.

In Victoria, National President Robin Perros joined more than 120 VIEW members and friends to celebrate IWD at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. Keynote presenter Magistrate Anne Goldsbrough had the audience listening intently as did *Learning for Life* student Kacie McLean who shared her personal journey and offered insights into the need as well as the outcomes of educational support.



More than 120 VIEW members from Queensland gathered at the Pullman-Mercure for their inaugural IWD luncheon. National Vice President, June Greentree was joined by Queensland General Manager for The Smith Family Alan Le May and keynote speaker Mary Kelly, Equity Director, Queensland University of Technology. *Learning for Life* graduate Stephanie Heath was Master of Ceremonies, sharing details of her achievements.

Other VIEW celebrations were held throughout Australia with a range of guest speakers including politicians, social commentators, celebrities and friends of VIEW sharing their stories. Congratulations to VIEW members from Clarence Valley, Gawler, Harrington, Marion, Merimbula, Perth, Victor Harbor, Wollongong and many other clubs who joined in a day of superb celebration of women's achievements.

Top: NVP Sue Field with Lisa O'Brien, CEO, The Smith Family.  
Bottom left: NVP June Greentree, Mary Kelly, PNC Jean Clarke, Alan Le May from The Smith Family, PNC Lyndsay Basford and graduate Stephanie Heath at the Brisbane luncheon.  
Bottom right: Magistrate Anne Goldsbrough speaking at the Melbourne luncheon.



"Being on the *Learning for Life* program has enhanced my educational opportunities. For this support through my education I would like to give my sincere thanks. I would like to acknowledge the partnership that The Smith Family and VIEW share. Strong partnerships and relationships are what help students like me to continue to achieve our personal goals."

**Trent Hunter**

*Learning for Life* sponsorship recipient and speaker at VIEW Clubs' International Women's Day luncheon at NSW Parliament House, Sydney in March.





# VIEW Merchandise

voice, interests and  
education of women

All money raised from the sale of VIEW merchandise goes towards helping to change the lives of disadvantaged young Australians through education.



## VIEW Apron \$22

Purple Drill w/-White logo  
(86cm l x 70cm w)  
Multi-use pocket.



## VIEW Tea Towel \$10

Great for Gifts. Very limited numbers, 100% white cotton (50cm x 70cm).



## VIEW Lapel Pin NEW \$5

Brushed silver lapel pin featuring the VIEW logo. Available June from your National Councillor (11mm).



## Spectacle Cleaning Cloths \$5 each or both for \$8

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



## VIEW Pen \$8

Elegance in writing. Black barrel with silver engraved VIEW logo.



## VIEW Note Cards \$20

Each box consists of 10 beautifully designed cards in five different styles, A6 size, packaged with envelopes.

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



## **SOME KIDS LOSE MORE THAN HATS AND JUMPERS THEY LOSE BELIEF IN THEMSELVES.**

Most school kids only worry about losing stuff like jumpers or hats. But disadvantaged children lose something much more debilitating – their self-belief. Right now more than 638,000\* Australian children are living in disadvantage. But you can help. Donate today and give these kids the support, skills and confidence to change their future.

RETURN SELF-BELIEF TO A DISADVANTAGED AUSTRALIAN CHILD.  
DONATE TO THE SMITH FAMILY.  
**CALL 1800 024 069 VISIT [THESMITHFAMILY.COM.AU](http://THESMITHFAMILY.COM.AU)**



\*Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013). *Labour force status and other characteristics of families*, June 2012

*everyone's family*