



VIEW's volunteering role

Club news and events

VIEW National Council

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 17,000 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: ACT: Jan Roberts. NSW: Robyn Bursill, Kathie Diskin, Elizabeth Doorey, Beverley Giglio, Barbara Hyslop, Marian Kingham, Laura O'Brien, Lola Shaw, Toni Thomas, Gloria Walter, Gwen Wilton. SA: Marjorie Schultz. VIC: Mary Daly, Sunnie Watts, Jennie Wynd.

Caretaker National Councillors:
NSW: Madge Doust, Cynthia Guyenette.
QLD: Lyndsay Basford, Jean Clarke.

National Manager: Maryanne Maher

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The Smith Family steps into a disadvantaged child's life while they are still at school, to help them get the most from their time there. By supporting a child to participate in education, The Smith Family prevents them experiencing a lifetime of poverty. By investing in a child's education, we can break a cycle of disadvantage. For more information please visit thesmithfamily.com.au

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

Front cover (front left): National Councillor, Marian Kingham, *Learning for Life* student, Tenile Bryce and National Councillor, Gloria Walter at the VIEW International Women's Day Luncheon in Sydney in March. For more about this event, please see page 14.

From the Executive

Lyn Gerstenberg
National Vice President

One of the most rewarding aspects of being part of VIEW and the National Executive is the opportunity to meet students who benefit from the support and learning programs delivered by The Smith Family.

Last year I was delighted to be involved in interviewing applicants for The Smith Family 2015 Tertiary Scholarship Scheme, which supports disadvantaged students pursuing tertiary education. I was very impressed with the two students I met - Gavan and Rebekah - who have both been accepted into the program.

I was impressed by Gavan's determination and positive attitude as to what he can achieve. Gavan has ambitions to become a pastry chef and plans to study at TAFE. He already has extensive knowledge of the course content and what will be required of him. Gavan's interview skills were exceptional and it was lovely to see a young man full of praise for his mother, who has supported and guided him through life.

Rebekah was just as impressive and is focused on her goal of studying a Bachelor of Criminology/Education with the aim of becoming a secondary school teacher. Rebekah's excitement and gratitude on receiving news of her

scholarship was a delightful reminder of the impact The Smith Family has on the lives of so many young students.

It brings a smile and a sense of achievement to me when I see the accomplishments of students like Gavan and Rebekah. Whether it is at an after-school Smith Family Learning Club, or a tertiary graduation, the feeling is the same. These students achieve because VIEW and The Smith Family care.

This sense of achievement was also evident at the recent NSW Graduation Ceremony for Year 12 and tertiary graduating *Learning for Life* students, which I attended with fellow Executive members and VIEW National Manager, Maryanne Maher. It was truly inspiring to hear the dreams, aspirations and educational journeys so far for three students about to embark on the next chapter of their lives. I was particularly pleased to hear each student's commitment to education and their desire to give back to the community that has, and is, continuing to help them achieve their goals.

This was a very special evening not only for the students, but also for supporters and sponsors who could see the pride with which each student received their graduation certificate. For me, this is the reason we do what we do.

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



VIEW for all

17,000 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
We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Women of all ages enjoy being members of VIEW around Australia.



Message from The Smith Family CEO

Dr Lisa O'Brien

Congratulations to VIEW Clubs of Australia on celebrating 55 years and a new sponsorship record of 1,122 *Learning for Life* students. Your support is crucial in helping disadvantaged Australian students succeed at school.



Learning for Life
sponsorships
supported by VIEW

As at April 2015

1,122

disadvantaged students
studying at these levels:

997 Primary
school

99 Secondary
school

26 Tertiary
/TAFE

One of my favourite functions of the year is the annual VIEW International Women's Day Luncheon at NSW Parliament House. Not only is this a great opportunity to meet many VIEW members, but there is no better group of enthusiastic and committed women with whom to celebrate the achievements of women.

This year's theme was 'Make it Happen' and I can't think of a more fitting theme for VIEW Club members. By raising funds, volunteering, building awareness in your communities and sponsoring students on the *Learning for Life* program, VIEW Club members are helping students succeed at school and build promising futures.

In my speech at this year's lunch, I spoke about Emma, a young student from a disadvantaged suburb who, thanks to The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program, was given the financial means, self-confidence and professional connections to thrive at secondary school and university. Emma was recently admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria, and has an exciting career in law ahead of her. Outcomes like this would not be possible without the support of people like VIEW members. By supporting our work, you are all, 'making it happen'.

I have also recently been attending Graduation Ceremonies across the country and have been pleased to see many VIEW Club members at these functions. For all our sponsors and supporters, the opportunity to hear from students first hand, about

the impact of our learning programs and financial support for their education is so important. It demonstrates how students really are benefitting from your hard work and generosity. If you have the chance, I encourage all VIEW members to attend functions such as the VIEW National Convention where you will have the chance to hear from a *Learning for Life* student.

Before going to print, I learnt that VIEW Clubs had raised more than \$36,000 from a National Shopping Day and Styling Workshops in Blue Illusion stores across the country. This is yet another example of the great work achieved by VIEW members. Well done!

Thank you to each and every VIEW Club member for your commitment and dedication to supporting the work of The Smith Family. Your efforts are making a real difference to the educational outcomes and lives of disadvantaged Australian students.



National Vice Presidents Lyn Gerstenberg (left) and Sue Field (right) with Dr Lisa O'Brien, CEO, The Smith Family at the NSW VIEW International Women's Day Luncheon in Sydney.



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

Happy Anniversary VIEW!

This year, VIEW Clubs of Australia celebrates its 55th anniversary. With more than 17,000 members across the country and millions of dollars raised for The Smith Family, we have come a long way since 1960. Thank you to all past and present VIEW Club members for your ongoing commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to VIEW, The Smith Family and your local communities. We would not be here today without such a strong network of women.



Don't miss National Convention

Registration is well under way for this year's National Convention to be held in Wollongong in September. We are excited to announce that Geraldine Doogue AO, Australian journalist, author and radio and television host, and Sarah Hopkins, an Australian criminal lawyer and novelist (*Crimes of Billie Fish*, *Speak to Me* and *This Picture of You*) have been secured as guest speakers in our first ever "Writer's Festival". We will be announcing more inspirational speakers as the Convention draws nearer. For more information about National Convention and to register, go to www.view.org.au.

When: 11-13 September 2015

Where: Novotel Northbeach, Wollongong

Spaces are limited so please book early.

Toy & Book Appeal 2014

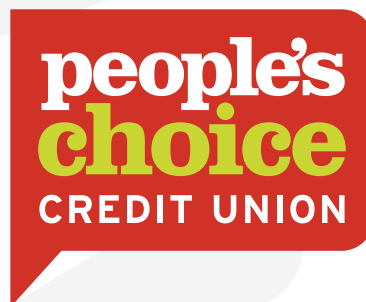
A big thank you to all VIEW members who supported the 2014 Smith Family Toy & Book Appeal. VIEW Club donations reached \$63,000, a new record! Funds raised through the annual Toy and Book Appeal are used to buy Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children who may not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas.

Blue Illusion shopping day

Following the successful National Shopping Day and Styling Workshops last September with our partner Blue Illusion, a second event was held in March this year with many VIEW Clubs participating. Ten per cent of the day's sales were donated to The Smith Family, with an amazing \$36,732 raised. The event was also an excellent opportunity for VIEW members to connect with like-minded women, talk about VIEW Clubs and the great work we do for young Australians in need through education, while encouraging fellow shoppers to become VIEW members. We are grateful for the ongoing support of Donna Guest, co-founder of Blue Illusion, and her staff in more than 100 stores across Australia, who helped make this initiative so successful.



VIEW members from Marion, Blackwood Hills, The Vines Evening and Holdfast Evening VIEW Clubs at the Westfield Marion Blue Illusion National Shopping Day for The Smith Family.



Lottery tickets

VIEW Clubs will again be participating in the People's Choice Credit Union (PCCU) Community Lottery. This is a great opportunity for clubs to raise funds for The Smith Family's *student2student* reading program, which supports students who need help with their reading. Clubs interested in selling tickets should contact National Office as soon as possible. This year PCCU tickets will be available online and distributed in May for sale until the end of August.

Volunteering with The Smith Family

Being a volunteer is a rewarding way to help disadvantaged students.

Each year, The Smith Family relies on the collective generosity of nearly 8,000 volunteers who give an incredible 460,000 hours of their time and talent to help it achieve its vision of a better future for young Australians in need.

VIEW Club members are some of the most active volunteers for The Smith Family. Members assist at after-school Learning Clubs, mentor students participating in the *iTrack* program, supervise readers and buddies in the *student2student* reading program and assist with administration and office tasks in many Smith Family offices around the country. Without them and thousands of other volunteers, much of the work of The Smith Family would not be possible.

"With the changing face of volunteering, one thing that doesn't change is our reliance on the direct support of volunteers in local communities. Our programs simply wouldn't run without them," says The Smith Family's Volunteering Manager, Lauren Stocker.

"Students from low socio-economic backgrounds experience barriers to their learning, which can impact on their educational outcomes. Our Learning Clubs aim to increase students' engagement with their learning, by increasing their self-confidence at school. We believe these factors are important in motivating a child to stay in school to complete Year 12.

"Our mentoring programs support students who are beginning to develop their post-school plans or who are embarking on their higher education experience. We match them with active members of the workforce who can offer encouragement, career advice and share the benefit of their experience. Students really appreciate the opportunity to have



Jasmine (Learning Club student), Zone Councillor Jan McFarlane (Holdfast Evening VIEW Club volunteer), and Pat Beaumont (Blackwood Hills VIEW Club volunteer), with community volunteers, Brigitte and Jill (seated), at an after-school Learning Club.

access to supportive adults outside their existing networks who are not their parent or a teacher," says Lauren.

"Many VIEW women volunteer in roles such as *student2student* supervisors and Learning Club tutors. Thank you to those fantastic VIEW women who are dedicating their time and skills by volunteering with The Smith Family."

Have you thought about volunteering?

Blackwood Hills VIEW Club member, Pat Beaumont, has volunteered with The Smith Family fulfilling several different roles over the years. She has found each role rewarding and enjoyable.

"Initially it was packing the Christmas gift packs and loading the cars to deliver them to the families. With The Smith Family annual bike fundraising rides I have enjoyed volunteering to support the children's activities. For the last year, my role has been as a tutor at a Smith Family *Learning for Life* Learning Club.

"Children who are enrolled in the Learning Club range from Years 3 to 7. It is rewarding for me to see how much the children appreciate having one-on-one interest shown in them.

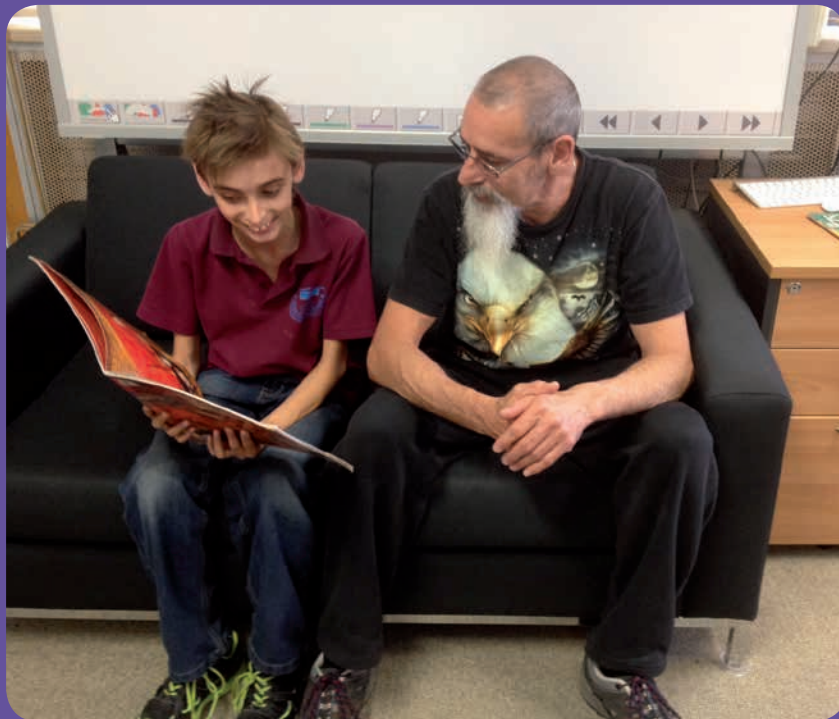


"Some children are shy and lack confidence, and it is fulfilling to see them come out of their shell, and begin to enjoy Maths and English. We try to make it fun and enjoyable.

"Volunteering in the Learning Club has broadened my outlook on life, and shows me that not all children have the same opportunities to learn, due to a combination of reasons.

"Where possible, I encourage members to volunteer with The Smith Family. There are various avenues available. Children are Australia's future, and even the smallest amount of time volunteered can make a ripple in the pond of need. It is enlightening to see the extent of the reach of The Smith Family, and the difference its work makes in the lives of families and children."

For current volunteering opportunities, visit <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/get-involved>



Cameron and his father, Steve, at the Learning Club.

Cameron's story

Every Thursday afternoon, Cameron goes to The Smith Family's Learning Club at his primary school where volunteer tutors help him complete his homework and support the development of his literacy and numeracy skills. The one-on-one attention helps Cameron keep up with his school work and stay motivated to learn.

"I like The Smith Family because they help me out. I like the Learning Club because the people there help you finish your work and they are fun," says Cameron. "I do my homework and finish all my work before Friday when it's due. When we've done all our homework, we play games and have snacks."

Cameron's father, Steve, says the Learning Club has been a great help in improving Cameron's attitude to school, as well as his behaviour. "Since he started there, I've noticed that he sits down and reads a bit more. He also comes home some nights and sits down and draws. Now he quite enjoys school and even more so because he is doing a bit better," Steve says.

Steve says the extra assistance from the tutors at the Learning Club makes a big difference. "When we were offered the Learning Club, I thought it would be good because it was to help Cameron with reading, maths, English and all his schoolwork. The tutors help fix up the homework and get it up to the level where it is meant to be."

Community in profile

Spotlight on NSW Central Tablelands, Central and Western Slopes and Western Plains

VIEW in Area NH
As at 20 February 2015

811
members

15 VIEW
Clubs

46 *Learning for Life*
students sponsored

Mudgee's key to success

Inaugurated in 1970, Mudgee Day VIEW Club (NSW) is one of VIEW's longest serving clubs with more than 100 members who support five *Learning for Life* students. The club's goals in 2014 were to have fun, learn new things and enjoy each other's company.

At the recent Annual General Meeting, it was clear that the goals had been achieved. In 2014, members enjoyed lunches with guest speakers and entertainment from local musicians and the club's very own choir, The VIEW Club Singers, led by VIEW member Rhonda Brennan.

In a significant milestone in the club's history, after more than 40 years of meeting monthly at the Mudgee Bowling Club, the club's committee had the hard task of finding a new location. Mudgee Golf Club was chosen as the new venue and has warmly welcomed VIEW members. Committee members were excited to discover memorabilia including the Club's original charter from 1970 hidden in a Bowling Club cupboard!

The club also recently honoured one of its former members, the late Valmai Burnard, for the Mid-Western Regional Council's Wall of Reflections. A VIEW member for 26 years, Valmai held the positions of Secretary, Vice President and Delegate in the Mudgee Day VIEW Club and was a Zone and National Councillor. The Wall of

Reflections honours residents who have made a significant contribution to the Mid-Western Region.

Eugowra Evening VIEW Club

With 27 dedicated members aged between 50 and the mid 80s, the Eugowra Evening VIEW Club packs a lot of punch when it comes to raising funds and hosting events in their small community. Inaugurated in July 2008, the club sponsors three *Learning for Life* students and holds a major fundraising event each year at the Eugowra Show. The club's popular morning and afternoon teas and sit down lunches at the Show not only raise funds for the club, but also provide an opportunity for the public to see VIEW at work in their community.

Other memorable fundraisers have included the Blue Illusion National Shopping Day where members became catwalk models for a day, and the 'Parade of Wedding Gowns' event where young women from the community modelled and paraded members' gowns, much to the enjoyment of all.

The club meetings feature an interesting array of guest speakers sharing their knowledge in subjects as diverse as veterinary surgery to colon irrigation. The club has also earned a reputation for hosting vibrant and fun anniversaries and functions involving surrounding VIEW Clubs.

Back (L-R) Eugowra Evening VIEW members: Sally Mongan, Maria Dawson, Judy Smith, Esther Hyde, Therese Welsh, Vicky Archer (Past National Councillor). Front (L-R): Wendy Drady, Kay Jones, Irene Sharp and Janine Hando.



Cobar VIEW Club

When a VIEW Club is located 300 or 400 kilometres from the nearest large town, preparing for a club celebration or function isn't always easy. For the members of Cobar VIEW Club, situated 300 kilometres from Dubbo in central NSW, isolation can present some challenges and shopping for an outfit often becomes an event in itself. Despite the distance, the enthusiasm of the club's 43 members never dampens and this year, the club hopes to attract at least three new members.

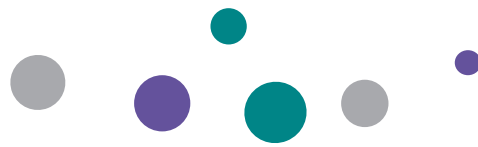
The club's main fundraising activity is a monthly Street Raffle where VIEW members get out in the community to sell raffle tickets and talk about the work VIEW does to support The Smith Family. This initiative, combined with other major raffles held for Mother's Day and Father's Day, enables the club to raise enough funds to sponsor one *Learning for Life* student and make a generous annual donation to The Smith Family. Cobar VIEW Club is grateful for the support it receives from local businesses who generously donate prizes for all raffles enabling more proceeds to go directly to supporting disadvantaged students.



The Mudgee VIEW Club Singers, pictured here at the Christmas luncheon, entertain on special occasions.



Lorraine Beasley, Plenty Valley VIEW Club President (left) with National Councillor, Jennie Wynd.



Developing VIEW Clubs

Continuing to grow existing clubs and develop new clubs remains just as important today as it was 55 years ago. That's when a group of women met at a home in Balgowlah Heights, Sydney with the object of forming the very first VIEW Club. Within that first year, 26 VIEW Clubs were formed in Sydney and since then, new clubs have been inaugurated across the country each year.

Victoria - Already this year we are thrilled to welcome Plenty Valley VIEW Club in Victoria. This new club, based near Mill Park, Melbourne, was inaugurated in March. Established as a morning tea/coffee group, members meet on the first Wednesday of the month and also have a casual lunch get-together every third Wednesday. At its inaugural meeting, the club announced that it is able to sponsor a *Learning for Life* student.

Club President, Lorraine Beasley, said members are grateful for the assistance and guidance provided by Development Team Leader, Edna Burwash, and members of Greensborough VIEW Club (VIC) in establishing the club and providing advice on membership management. "All members of the Plenty Valley VIEW Club are very pleased to be joining the VIEW family," Lorraine said.

Our next new VIEW Club will be formally established in Prospect, South Australia on 19 May.

The early stages of establishing a VIEW Club are always a busy time with lots of enthusiasm from Development Teams and members of nearby clubs. There are many decisions to be made, from the best venue to hold meetings, to developing ways to attract members from the local community.

New South Wales - Currently, preliminary discussions are underway for a potential new club in Woollahra in Sydney's eastern suburbs. Two interest meetings were held in February and March for local women to find out more about the formation of a VIEW Club in Woollahra. We are continuing to promote this club to women of all ages and all VIEW members are encouraged to invite friends and colleagues who might be interested in joining a club in this area. Please contact Marcia Taylor on 0404127921 or email roy.mar@optusnet.com.

Tasmania - In Launceston, an initial meeting was held in January with the Launceston Development Team, Hobart VIEW Club members and the General Manager of The Smith Family in Tasmania to gauge interest. The Development Team is now working towards hosting an interest meeting in Launceston in June. Members are asked to pass on details of any friends, relatives, or colleagues who may be interested in the development of the Launceston VIEW Club to National President Robin Perros by phoning 03 9764 4776 or emailing robinjimperros@yahoo.com.au.

Contact the VIEW National Office on 1800 805 366 for more information about establishing a new VIEW Club in your area.

Plenty Valley VIEW Club inaugural members with Edna Burwash from the Development Team and members from Greensborough VIEW Club.



2014–15 National Council at work

The VIEW National Council held its February meeting in Sydney where they welcomed a number of new Councillors, reflected on the past year and planned for the busy year ahead. The VIEW National Council plays an important role in developing and nurturing the organisation. Each Councillor serves a two-year term, with some moving to a role in the National Executive, and many taking a well-earned rest.

National Councillors undertake a range of activities of behalf of the organisation, including meeting with local, State and Federal Members of Parliament, promoting VIEW and The Smith Family in the community, hosting Gala and

special events and attending National Council meetings and Zone Conferences. National Councillors are also important spokespeople for the organisation and are vital in distributing information and communicating with all members.

The National Council also plays a role in reviewing and resolving issues and taking a leadership position when VIEW is out in the community advocating for a cause. We encourage all members to consider these rewarding leadership positions in the organisation.

Congratulations to our new National Councillors and thank you to all National and Zone Councillors for your dedication and hard work for the benefit of the whole organisation.



Your new National Councillors (from left): Elizabeth Doorey, Barbara Hyslop, Sunnie Watts, Kathie Diskin, Jan Roberts.



Discussing motions for Resolution at the February National Council.



Your National Council 2015: Front (from left): Kathie Diskin, National Vice Presidents Sue Field, Lyn Gerstenberg and June Greentree. Back (from left): Barbara Hyslop, Gwen Wilton, Elizabeth Doorey, Toni Thomas, Marian Kingham, Robyn Bursill, Jan Roberts, Gloria Walter, Jennie Wynd, Lola Shaw, Marjorie Schultz, Sunnie Watts, Mary Daly. Absent: National President, Robin Perros and Laura O'Brien.

Connecting in community

VIEW Clubs get behind Anti-Poverty Week

Last October, during Anti-Poverty Week, VIEW Clubs nationally joined forces to send an important message to State and Federal governments about the impact of financial disadvantage on children's educational performance. Clubs from as far west as Bayswater City in Western Australia and as far east as Caloundra in Queensland raised awareness and public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship and how financial disadvantage can impact on a child's education.

VIEW Clubs called on governments to address the gap in educational performance between disadvantaged and advantaged

young Australians, citing research that shows that students from disadvantaged backgrounds are almost 20 per cent less likely to complete Year 12, than their more advantaged peers.

To help highlight issues around poverty, clubs including Glasshouse Country VIEW Club (QLD), Bayswater City VIEW Club (WA), Blayney VIEW Club (NSW), and Caloundra VIEW Club (QLD) held special events featuring guest speakers who spoke about poverty, homelessness and helping the disadvantaged in our community. In addition, VIEW Clubs campaigned to local media and their communities about the need to tackle

disadvantage in Australia and the link to educational outcomes.

"Being disadvantaged can have a huge impact on a child's time at school. If you're living in a jobless family, and you're struggling to pay the bills, put food on the table, or access specialist health care, then it's going to affect your child's education," said Cessnock VIEW Club (NSW) member, Judith Wright in an article in the Cessnock Advertiser.

This year, Anti-Poverty Week will be held from 11-17 October. VIEW Clubs are encouraged to organise events and activities, featuring relevant guest speakers, during this week to help raise awareness of the critical issue.



AnneLouise Cooper, Palmerston and Darwin Rural VIEW Club President.

VIEW in the NT

Palmerston and Darwin Rural VIEW Club in the Northern Territory (NT) is a unique club in many ways. Not only is it the only VIEW Club in the NT, but its members are all full time working women with careers in

sectors including education, health and government.

The club meets monthly on alternate Mondays and Thursdays at Kormilda College in Berrimah, Darwin. Members have a close relationship with The Smith Family's staff in the NT, who regularly attend

meetings to share information about their work with local disadvantaged students, many of whom are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

Social events have included a 60s night, medieval night and sunset cruise as well as the Club's annual fundraising Trivia Night.

This year, members are looking forward to some new social activities including karaoke, paddle boarding, Japanese cooking and barefoot bowls.

AnneLouise Cooper, VIEW Club President and Head of Boarding at Kormilda College, says the club is currently looking for new members. If you are interested in learning more about Palmerston and Darwin Rural VIEW Club, please contact the National Office on 1800 805 366.

Around the Clubs

Bendigo's birthday bash

Bendigo Evening VIEW Club (VIC) celebrated its 20th birthday last October, with 75 VIEW Club members and guests coming together at Bendigo's historic pottery function centre. Among the guests were Past National Councillor Diane Daly, National Councillor Sunnie Watts, Zone Councillor Catriona Ebeling, Smith Family *Learning for Life* program coordinator for Bendigo, Lia Comodo and Lisa Chesters, Federal Member for Bendigo. Representatives from other local Service Clubs including Zonta, Soroptimists and the Lioness Club also attended.

The theme for the day was 'Derby Day' and guests dressed glamorously in black and white. Highlights included a hat making and modelling activity and the phantom 'Derby Day' race call from the 1940s. An amazing birthday cake decorated in the race day theme and cut by the inaugural president, Jenny Arbuthnot, and current president, Robyn Tickner, marked the Club's 20-year milestone.



Walk with VIEW joins Prawn Festival

Members of the Lennox Head Day and Ballina Day VIEW Clubs (NSW) joined forces to march together in the Ballina Prawn Festival last November. Despite the very hot and humid weather, members donned hats, purple shirts and carried banners to promote the work VIEW does in the community and raise awareness about The Smith Family.



VIEW members marching in the Ballina Prawn Festival.

Tea Tree Gully turns 14

Tea Tree Gully VIEW Club (SA) celebrated its 14th birthday recently with the theme 'Tin Can Alley', inspired by the day's entertainers, also called Tin Can Alley. Despite the challenging theme, members and guests embraced the day, dressing up as cats, dogs, mice, hobos, spiders, kindly stray animal feeders and even the rubbish one might encounter in an alley. Highlights in fancy dress included Past National Vice President Velda Atkinson as the Tin Man, and member Helen Moritz who dressed as the feeder of stray alley cats. Thoroughly entertained by the performers, the function was a huge success.

Knit & Natter Group

In honour of the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli, Erica Korotcoff from Marion VIEW Club (SA) and a group of her fellow VIEW members have made a wreath of 100 knitted poppies. Erica's husband, Bob, who is one of the lucky few to receive an invitation to attend the commemorative ceremony in April 2015, will take the wreath to Gallipoli. Bob's father Nicolas fought at Lone Pine in 1915, and this is where the beautiful wreath will be laid.



The knitted wreath made for the Gallipoli 2015 commemoration.

Awards for members

A number of VIEW members were recognised with Australia Day and community awards. Our congratulations go to Rita Hartney from Cranbourne VIEW Club (VIC), who was awarded Senior Citizen of the Year 2015 at the City of Casey Australia Day Awards ceremony, and three Harden VIEW Club (NSW) members, Deirdre Farrell, Cathy Sanderson and La'Reine Deal. Deirdre and Cathy shared a Town Care Award and La'Reine was awarded a Community Service Award at the Harden Australia Day Awards.

We are proud to see our members recognised for the hard work they do in their local communities. While we do our best to keep track of the achievements of all members, sometimes we miss out on the news. If you know a VIEW Club member who was recently recognised in your community, please email us at view@thesmithfamily.com.au with the details.



Back (from left) Warragul VIEW Club members: Chris Brown, Helen Ryan, Eleanor Rhodes, Jean Long, Graeme Marriott, Lyn Grigglesstone, Joy Johnston, Mary-Lou Davis, Lois Ryan. Front (from left): Eileen Staple, Lyn Smith, Glenys Marriott, Julia Hurst.

26 years for Warragul

Eighty members and guests celebrated Warragul VIEW Club's (VIC) 26th birthday last September at a special lunch meeting. The highlight of the day was a 're-VIEW', written by club member Chris Brown and performed by 12 members and guest musicians.

In line with the celebration's theme 'The Wiggles with a Twist', performers sang, danced and acted through a show which saw Dorothy the Dinosaur and Wags the Dog decide to abandon The Wiggles and audition for a new troupe of famous animals including The Lion King, Angelina Ballerina, Bo Peep's Lost Sheep, The Pin-Up Deer from John Deere, Three Blind Mice and even race horse, Black Caviar! The performers had a ball and the audience had plenty of laughs. The celebration was a great success, with guests enjoying themselves and Warragul VIEW Club raising \$770 for The Smith Family.

Anonymous donor shouts lunch

Tongues are wagging in Manilla, NSW, after a gentleman anonymously paid for Manilla VIEW Club's February monthly luncheon, a bill of more than \$500. The visitor was in town for the Paragliding Cross Country National Championships and heard the noisy lunch meeting in the dining room of the Royal Hotel. Publican Tom Cocking and his wife Vicki (who was an inaugural member of Manilla VIEW Club) explained to the stranger that VIEW Clubs around Australia sponsor children, whose families are struggling financially, through The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program. The stranger then offered to pay for the entire lunch at a cost of over \$500, but insisted that the donation remain anonymous and not made known until he had left the hotel. When informed of the gesture, Club President Sue Hall and the 30-odd VIEW members present were overwhelmed by the generosity. As the cost of sponsoring a primary school student for one year is \$576, the stranger's donation will help the club continue its support of three *Learning for Life* students.

Christmas wrapping

Members of Narooma and Eden VIEW Clubs on the NSW South Coast spent two weeks at the Sapphire Market Place in Bega wrapping Christmas gifts to raise money for The Smith Family and spread awareness about VIEW. Wearing their purple or white VIEW T-shirts, the members were hard to miss at the stall, which was decorated with Smith Family and VIEW banners. Members had the opportunity to mingle with the local community, and learn new skills. "I learnt to curl ribbon and wrap a vacuum cleaner. I also learnt how to wrap a frying pan to not look like a frying pan. I never realised that the 'Education of Women' part of VIEW would cover such skills," joked Past National Vice President Carleen Maley.



Bega Christmas wrapping stall

The impact of VIEW

After reading Dr Lisa O'Brien's CEO message in the November 2014 edition of *VIEW Matters*, National Office received an email from Fay Williams Burton, a former Stockton VIEW member, now a member of Gold Coast VIEW Club, reflecting on VIEW's impact on her life. "Time has shown how VIEW was a catalyst in my life for my future even to the present day. VIEW allowed me to search myself regarding any strengths I might have. I was Publicity Officer (Voice) at one stage and found I could string words together that other people could understand. Interest was provided by stimulating luncheon speakers, who lent weight to the concept of Education which was something I attempted at various levels of life. This journey finally culminated in my obtaining a Bachelor Degree in Counselling and Mediation at the age of 63 in 2000. I am the first university graduate in my family!"

VIEW Events

International Women's Day

One of the most important days of the year for all VIEW Clubs around Australia is International Women's Day (IWD) celebrated on March 8.

As a leading national women's organisation, VIEW Clubs across the country joined in celebrations to mark the achievements of women with IWD functions throughout March. The events were a great opportunity for Clubs to join together with representatives from The Smith Family and prominent women in the community to celebrate women and learn more about The Smith Family's work with disadvantaged students. This year's theme 'Make it Happen' encouraged effective action for advancing and recognising women, while also calling for greater equality.

VIEW Club members spent months planning their events and inviting guest speakers including Master Chef winner, Jules Allen; South Australian 2014 Person of the Year, Dr Felicity Anne Lewis; and Rosie Batty, Australian of the Year 2015, to name just a few.

In Sydney, the annual IWD luncheon was held at the NSW Parliament House with The Hon. Pru Goward, MP and Minister for Women attending with The Hon. Shelley Hancock, MP, Speaker for the Legislative Assembly and Dr Lisa O'Brien, CEO of The Smith Family. More than 160 guests heard from *Learning for Life* student, Tenile Bryce, who shared her story of growing up supported by The Smith Family.

In Brisbane, Past National Councillors Jean Clarke and Lyndsay Basford hosted a High Tea at the Mercure Pullman Hotel. National President, Robin Perros and The Smith Family's General Manager, Alan Le May attended with a panel of guest speakers including



Alan Le May, General Manager, The Smith Family Queensland, Marie-Rose Ishimwe, former *Learning for Life* student and VIEW National President, Robin Perros, at the VIEW IWD event in Brisbane.

2014 Queensland Telstra Business Women's Awards winners Anne Cross, from UnitingCare Queensland and Samantha Freebairn, RAAF Squadron Leader; Dr Carol Douglas, from the Royal Brisbane Hospital; Rhonda Davidson-Irwin, Director of Viva La Musica; and Jane Prentice MP, Federal Member for Ryan.

In Melbourne, members from VIEW Clubs around the city gathered for a luncheon at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. The Smith Family's General Manager, Anton Leschen, Dr Sally Cockburn (Dr Feelgood) and the Mayor of Stonnington joined former *Learning for Life* student, Kristen Vienna as guest speakers on the day.

Regional events were also held in NSW in Bateau Bay, Clarence Valley, Forster, Goulburn, Harrington, Lennox Head, Nelson Bay, Merimbula, Ourimbah, Peakhurst, South Tweed, St Marys, Tamworth, Taree, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong and Yamba, as well as in South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia.



"I started on the *Learning for Life* program when I was in Year 1, over 10 years ago. I have been assisted financially by The Smith Family, ensuring that I got to go to camps and other leadership opportunities, as well as having all my school supplies and uniforms. The program has impacted my life in all ways, helping me become an independent person, who enjoys education and who wants to continue learning and growing throughout my life."

Tenile Bryce

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

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



view Merchandise

voice, interests and
education of women

VIEW Lapel Pin \$5

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



VIEW Nailfile \$5

Glass nail file, great for gifts anytime
Size: 9cm x 1mm



Spectacle Cleaning Cloths

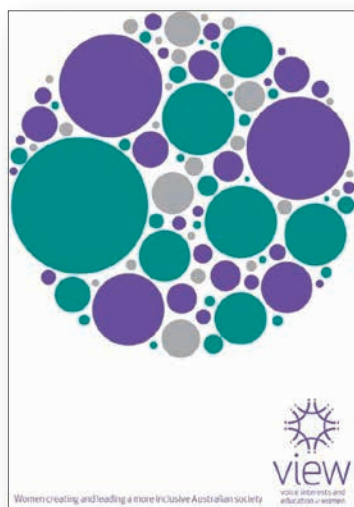
\$5 each or both for \$8

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



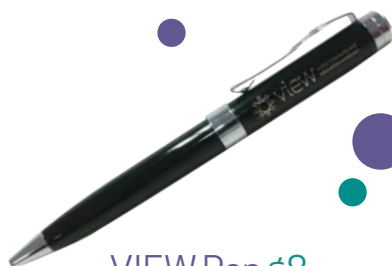
VIEW Apron \$22

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



VIEW Tea Towel \$10

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



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 VIEW Merchandise contact National Office
via email: view@thesmithfamily.com.au

STANDING OUT AT SCHOOL ISN'T ALWAYS A GOOD THING.



This is what disadvantage feels like for thousands of disadvantaged Australian children going back to school. Without the education basics and support, they'll find it hard to fit in and won't be able to contribute like the other children can.

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