



Celebrating International Women's Day

VIEW in the community

Update on VIEW National Convention

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 with 16,000 members in 320 communities exclusively supporting the education charity The Smith Family. Members sponsor students, volunteer, fundraise and advocate to improve the life outcomes of disadvantaged Australian children and young people. As The Smith Family's largest community sponsor of *Learning for Life* students, VIEW supports the educational outcomes of more than 1,190 disadvantaged children and young people. Through its connection with The Smith Family, VIEW is proud to enable better futures for young Australians.

National President: Gwen Wilton

National Vice Presidents: Toni Thomas and Gloria Walter

National Councillors: ACT: Jan Roberts, NSW: Cecilia Bayliss, Jeanette Cassidy, Kathie Diskin, Elizabeth Doorey, Ellen Gray, Barbara Gullotta, Barbara Hyslop, Pat McRae, Yvonne White, QLD: Barbara Cameron, Lynette Masters, Annette Thiedeke, SA: Eila Harding, VIC: Patricia Brooks, Annette Schlafrig, Sunnie Watts.

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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Front cover: VIEW members from Waverley VIEW Club (Vic). Standing L-R: Gayle Parker and Lyn Gillen. Seated: President Jeanette Elkner.

From the Executive

Gloria Walter
National Vice President

During my time on the VIEW Executive, I have had so many wonderful experiences that will stay with me forever.

Of these moments, it is the encounters I've had with students, parents and carers supported by The Smith Family and VIEW that have been so special.

It has been a privilege to meet so many *Learning for Life* students and hear about how — when presented with many of life's challenges — they have persisted, grown in confidence and achieved positive outcomes for their future.

To learn about the difference educational support has made to these students' lives and their families makes me extremely proud to be part of such a wonderful organisation.

I would like to share two stories I heard last year. At a Gala Day in Ulladulla (NSW), I met Year 6 student Kristen and her dad, Bill. Kristen delivered an inspiring speech, explaining how she had lived from place to place, never able to afford to go on excursions or have a uniform. What she wanted to do most of all that day was to personally thank every VIEW Club member for giving her a chance. She now has a school uniform, new shoes, goes on excursions and wants to grow up to be a teacher and help The Smith Family.

At another function in Victoria, I met 29-year-old Eric, a former *Learning for Life* student. Eric's first words to the

audience were: "Thank you to all my mums". There was not a dry eye in the room. Eric now runs his own business. He told us how The Smith Family helped his mum and four brothers, all of whom have completed university and now have their own businesses or excellent jobs.

These stories demonstrate what our organisation is all about — helping disadvantaged Australian students receive a good education, support and mentoring so they have the same opportunities as any other student.

If you can, I encourage you to interact as much as possible with sponsored students, whether at functions or by writing to your club's sponsored *Learning for Life* student/s. Our upcoming National Convention in September is a wonderful opportunity to hear from a student. A highlight of last Convention was the speech from *Learning for Life* graduate, Paul Ell, for which he received a standing ovation! If you haven't registered for our Tamworth Convention yet, see page 9 for details on speakers and activities.

I truly believe making a difference to Australian children's lives through education is the best gift you can give a disadvantaged child. Thank you all for your commitment to our cause. Together we are building stronger communities and enabling better futures for young Australians.



L-R: National Executive 2016-17: Gwen Wilton, Gloria Walter and Toni Thomas

VIEW for all

16,000 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!



Message from The Smith Family CEO

Dr Lisa O'Brien

Right now there are 1.1 million young Australians living in poverty. For these young people, family struggles at home can negatively affect their schooling, placing them at risk of long-term disadvantage. Yet we know that supporting a disadvantaged child to stay engaged with their education is key in improving outcomes and setting that child up for life.



Last year, The Smith Family reached 33,195 young Australians through its *Learning for Life* program, which has been shown to improve educational and employment outcomes for disadvantaged students. Sadly, however, there are tens of thousands more disadvantaged children in need of educational support to help them create a better future.

I am thrilled about a recent funding commitment from the Australian Government that will enable The Smith Family to extend the reach of the *Learning for Life* program to an additional 24,000 students living in highly disadvantaged communities. This will be transformational for these young people. However, it will not be sustainable without support from you and thousands more sponsors.

To really bring about inter-generational change and help families move out of poverty, we need to ensure long-term educational support for disadvantaged students from the day they join our program until they graduate. To do this, we need more sponsors willing to invest in the education of a child in need. This is where you as VIEW Club members can help us. Please consider sponsoring an additional student through your club's fundraising activities.

We also need more Australians to understand the challenges faced by disadvantaged students and the positive impact of improved educational outcomes for a child's future. Your valuable advocacy work in local communities — particularly where The Smith Family does not yet have a presence — will be critical in spreading this message and attracting new sponsors.

I encourage you all to continue your community activities and involvement in local events where you promote VIEW, The Smith Family and our work with disadvantaged students.

More than ever your continued support can make a difference to our work, to students and families in need and to communities across Australia. Thank you once again for your dedication and commitment to improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged young Australians.



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

VIEW's impact

Learning for Life
sponsorships
supported by VIEW

As at April 2017

1,198

disadvantaged students at
these levels:

955 Primary
school

235 Secondary
school

08 Tertiary
/TAFE

Christmas giving

Christmas is an important fundraising time for all VIEW Clubs and last Christmas was no exception. VIEW members across the country took to shopping malls in their local communities to wrap Christmas gifts in exchange for a small donation. Over \$20,000 was raised by participating clubs in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

VIEW Clubs also gave generously to The Smith Family's Toy and Book Appeal, contributing an amazing \$62,970 in donations. In total, over 14,000 toy and book Christmas packs were distributed by The Smith Family to disadvantaged children around Australia.

If your club would like to be involved in wrapping activities this year, now is the time to approach your local shopping centre regarding opportunities at Christmas time. Other significant events such as Mother's Day and Father's Day may also provide opportunities for clubs to wrap gifts for a 'gold coin' donation and promote VIEW to potential members at the same time.



VIEW members sought in the NT

Do you have female relatives, friends or colleagues located in Darwin/Palmerston in the Northern Territory who would like to be involved in VIEW and give back to the community? Palmerston & Darwin Rural VIEW Club is seeking new members. This club has been active since 2009 and works closely with The Smith Family's Darwin team members through volunteering and providing fundraising support. Anyone interested in learning more about the club should contact the VIEW National Office on view@thesmithfamily.com.au.

New loyalty shopping program

Don't miss an opportunity to obtain the new *Buying is Giving* Smith Family Retail Store Loyalty Card, just for VIEW members. Cards are available from your nearest Smith Family retail store (NSW/ACT) from April. Simply present your VIEW Club badge to The Smith Family store manager to receive your loyalty card. The card entitles VIEW members to 25% discount on all full priced items in any Smith Family retail store. Additionally, for every \$20 you spend in-store, you will receive a stamp. Collect 10 stamps to receive a \$20 voucher to be spent in-store. Start shopping today!

**people's
choice**
CREDIT UNION

Community Lottery 2017

VIEW Clubs will again be participating in the People's Choice Community Lottery. This is a simple and effective way for clubs to raise funds for The Smith Family, while promoting VIEW and the work of The Smith Family in local communities. To get involved in this year's Community Lottery, clubs must contact their Zone Councillor with their requested number of books and a mailing address (cannot be a PO Box). Requests are handled on a first come first served basis. Paper tickets will be distributed to participants from April. Members can purchase online tickets now: www.peopleschoicecu.com.au/smith-family-the. All funds raised through this initiative go towards The Smith Family's *student2student* reading program, to help young students who are behind in their reading skills to catch up.

Be Bold for Change

VIEW Clubs around the country celebrated International Women's Day 2017

Throughout March VIEW Clubs joined the global International Women's Day movement to celebrate women and call for a more inclusive, gender equal world. Clubs embraced the theme, "Be Bold for Change" and organised thought-provoking and unique events in support of women. Here is a snapshot of some of the events.

In Queensland

Members from VIEW clubs around Brisbane enjoyed a fundraiser luncheon in Coorparoo with special guest The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, Queensland Minister for Communities, Women and Youth. Ms Fentiman spoke about the important role everyone can play in creating a supportive and inclusive society where women and girls can succeed.

Guests also heard from *Learning for Life* high school student Katriel, who shared some of her experiences and how educational support from The Smith Family has helped her.

"My family was in a situation of hardship, which created stress, anxiety and really took a toll on my family's health. My parents soon became ill and unfit for work. This is when my parents separated and my family had no place to go. We reached out to Lifeline and they pointed us to The Smith Family. Now my mum is a full time solo-mother with six children (including myself), five of whom are home schooled. From financial assistance to Christmas gifts, the Learning for Life program and more, The Smith Family has really helped my family. My dream is to own my own chain of cafés with live music. I also hope that I can give back and help young people especially women who are financially disadvantaged with opportunities, to gain an income, to continue studies or even give them a joyful Christmas present."



Learning for Life student Katriel (right) with her mother, Becky, at the VIEW Clubs International Women's Day event in Brisbane.



L-R: Deborah Wallace, Detective Superintendent, NSW Police Gang Squad; Toni Thomas, VIEW National Vice President; Isabel West, *Learning for Life* student; and Marisa Mastroianni, UOW Enterprises CEO.

In New South Wales

The Macarthur, Southern Highlands and Illawarra regions, including Wollongong hosted an event at the Sage Hotel in Wollongong where guests heard from *Learning for Life* student, Isabel, who has been supported by The Smith Family since she was in Year 6. Isabel recently commenced a Bachelor of International Studies at the University of Wollongong as a Dean's Scholar.

"I can honestly not imagine a life without all of your support and other Smith Family sponsors' support. I'm a child of four and our loving mother raised us mostly by herself. Things were a little tight around our house and we would sometimes miss out on the odd excursion, but when we were taken under the wing of The Smith Family, the difference was immense. I was especially lucky to have a sponsor who wrote me letters. I treasured the Christmas, birthday and other day-to-day updates. It made me feel valued and important, as though other people who weren't in my family circle had hope for my future and trust in my capabilities."



L-R: *Learning for Life* student Travis with other students, Jake and Kiara at the West Coast VIEW Club luncheon.

In Western Australia

Two separate events were held for VIEW members from the six clubs based in Western Australia. West Coast VIEW Club hosted a luncheon at Hillarys Yacht Club featuring a presentation from Carina Hoang, a Vietnamese War refugee and author of the book, *Boat People*. Guests also heard from university student Travis who has been supported through The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program since he was nine years old. This year Travis commenced his first year as a medical student, fulfilling his dream. Travis spoke about how he has always endeavoured to 'give back' by tutoring other students and helping The Smith Family through a peer-to-peer program he established. After being invited to The Smith Family's National Aspiring Leaders' Summit, Travis set up a transition-

based program in primary schools. At the luncheon, Travis impressed all present with his story and thanked VIEW members and The Smith Family for the ongoing support.

First WAVE VIEW Club held a luncheon at the Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club with over 40 non-VIEW members joining current members to learn more about VIEW. There were a range of speakers, including Lesley Reece, Founder and Director of The Freemantle Literature Centre, a Smith Family *Learning for Life* student and a *Learning for Life* mother. The student, Ndeye, who is currently completing a Diploma of Nursing at TAFE, spoke about how the educational support from The Smith Family has helped her since she was in Year 7. Now completing her studies with the support of a Tertiary Scholarship, Ndeye hopes to one day

return to her birth place Senegal to open a clinic for women and children.

Guests also heard from *Learning for Life* mother Kathryn, who has two children on the sponsorship program. Kathryn spoke about how the support and programs delivered by The Smith Family have helped her two daughters stay engaged with their schoolwork.



Learning for Life student, Ndeye with Kathryn, a *Learning for Life* mother.



L-R: Eila Harding, VIEW National Councillor; Kaylan, *Learning for Life* student; Daphne Philip, VIEW Zone Councillor; Tahlia, student; and Marlene Powell, VIEW Zone Councillor.

In South Australia

A combined luncheon for VIEW members from clubs in and around Adelaide was held at the Gawler and Barossa Jockey Club. Retired Judge Maria Shaw QC was the special guest speaker, with entertainment provided by vocalist, Linda McCarthy. Guests also enjoyed a lively debate between *Learning for Life* student, Kaylan, who is a third year veterinary science student, and her friend Tahlia, and three local women. The young women (both aged 18) enthusiastically debated with Karen Redman, Mayor of Gawler; Linda McCarthy entertainer; and Janet Done, Personal Assistant to Tony Piccolo, Member for Light (who also attended), about how life for women today has changed from the 1950s and 60s.

In Victoria

VIEW members from clubs around Melbourne came together for a luncheon at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. Author and motivational coach, Lisa McInnes-Smith captivated guests with her speech on this year's International Women's Day theme of "Be Bold for Change". Maryanne Maher, VIEW National Manager also highlighted examples of bold action for women, mentioning the new Women's Australian Football League (AFL) competition and the women's march in Washington DC on January 21 as recent examples of bold action. Anton Leschen, General Manager, The Smith Family Victoria, presented an update on The Smith Family, emphasising how the *Learning for Life* program is making a difference to disadvantaged students. Lyn Geer, former National Vice President, also shared an inspiring anecdote about the importance of writing to sponsored *Learning for Life* students. See page 11 to learn more about her experience.

See page 14 for more International Women's Day photos.

Connecting in Community

Mosman Council partners with VIEW

Late last year, Mosman Municipal Council approached the VIEW National Office to discuss re-establishing a VIEW Club in Mosman. Mosman VIEW Club originally formed in 1960, but closed in 2004. The Council has now kindly offered a space in the Mosman Square Seniors Centre to hold the club's monthly meetings.

Fully supportive of re-forming a local club, the Council also invited VIEW members to attend a cocktail party at the Art Gallery in Mosman Square during NSW Seniors week (3-12 March). This was an opportunity for the VIEW Executive and VIEW members to spread the word about the exciting plans for the new VIEW club.

An afternoon tea for local women interested in learning more about VIEW has also been held and additional monthly interest meetings are scheduled until June (on the third Friday of each month). Mosman Council is promoting these upcoming events on their website and through other local channels.

"Having the support of Mosman Council is great recognition for our organisation and our work," said Maryanne Maher, VIEW National Manager. "We look forward to building a strong partnership with the Council over the coming months as interest in the new club grows."

To attend a Mosman interest meeting, be part of the development team, or for further information, please email view@thesmithfamily.com.au or contact Jeanette on (02) 9144 6108.

All members are encouraged to inform their friends, relatives and colleagues in Mosman and neighbouring suburbs about this exciting opportunity for VIEW and to come along to support and learn more about the new Mosman VIEW Club.



L-R: Kathy Ellis, Hornsby VIEW Club with Ros Dinnell, Zone Councillor.

Bringing VIEW back to Bathurst

Interest is growing in and around Bathurst for the re-establishment of a VIEW Club based out of the regional centre. Following two successful interest meetings last year, more Bathurst meetings are planned for June and October 2017. Bathurst VIEW Club was originally formed in 1969 but closed in 2005. Traditionally, VIEW has had a strong presence in the central west of NSW with active clubs in areas including Blayney, Orange (two clubs), Dubbo, Forbes, and Parkes (two clubs). For women interested in attending an upcoming meeting in Bathurst or learning more about the development team, please contact view@thesmithfamily.com.au or contact Toni on 0468 793 832.

VIEW Speakers' Bureau

The VIEW Speakers' Bureau has kicked off in the NSW regions of the Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Sydney and the Central Coast. The Speakers' Bureau is a new initiative supported by the National Council to promote and profile VIEW and its connection with The Smith Family to the wider community. Organisations such as Lions, Rotary, Inner Wheel, Country Women's Association, Zonta, and Probus as well as local businesses, local councils and other community groups have been approached and offered VIEW speakers to attend their meetings to speak about VIEW and its work.

Earlier this year, Gwen Wilton, National President, delivered a presentation at the NSW Conference for Environmental and Zoo Education in Bowral. Attendees were very interested to learn about The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program and VIEW's involvement, with \$2,000 generously donated to VIEW Clubs and The Smith Family after the presentation. More engagements have been booked with Shoalhaven Ladies Probus, Shoalhaven Lioness and Wyong Rotary Clubs.

Please contact view@thesmithfamily.com.au if you know of any other opportunities for speaking engagements to promote VIEW.

National Convention is coming

Join us in Tamworth this September!



When

15-17 September 2017

Where

Tamworth, NSW

How

Register now at:
[view.org.au/media/2294/
registration-form.pdf](http://view.org.au/media/2294/registration-form.pdf)

VIEW National Convention 2017 is less than six months away. Have you registered to attend?

This biennial event is a three-day forum where VIEW members from across Australia come together to learn more about VIEW and The Smith Family, be inspired by prominent speakers and hear first-hand from a *Learning for Life* student who is receiving support from The Smith Family for their education.

National Convention also presents a unique opportunity for members to debate issues of importance, share ideas about VIEW and explore new ways the organisation can build social capital and make a difference in communities.

In addition to hearing from the VIEW Executive and representatives from The Smith Family, this year's convention will feature a panel discussion with Lucy Haslam, Co-Founder and Director of United in Compassion, Shayne Higson, spokesperson for Go Gentle Australia and Meg Keneally (co-author of The Monsarrat Series with her father Tom Keneally).

Renowned authors will take part in the popular Writer's Festival: Dr Anne Summers AM, best-selling author, journalist and thought-leader, who will interview ABC's Tony Jones about his soon-to-be released political thriller, and Meredith Jaffe, book reviewer and author of *The Fence*.

There will also be two Social Dinners, one Grand Celebration and an absolutely spectacular Gala Dinner. National Convention is where making new VIEW friends, connecting with old friends and having fun are a priority!

'Making a Difference' Award

While all members strive to live the VIEW values and guiding principles some achievements go well beyond this. The 'Making a Difference' Award recognises these members and National Convention is the time we acknowledge them. Is there a member of your club deserving of national recognition? Nominate her now!

Every quarter, the VIEW Executive will review nominations and select members to receive the Award. All winners will be listed in the VIEW honour roll at National Convention 2017. For more information, including the criteria and nomination form, please see the June 2016 mailout section of www.view.org.au/resources. Please send completed nomination forms with a high resolution photo of the nominee to view@thesmithfamily.com.au. Nominations close 30 June 2017.

★ News flash! ★

Anna Bligh AC has confirmed she will deliver the George Forbes Oration on Saturday 16 September. Don't miss out! **Book your tickets now!**

Fabulous Fountain Photo Competition

Have you submitted your entry in our Fabulous Fountain Photo Competition? This fun activity is a great way to get out into your community to promote VIEW.

To enter:

1. Locate a fabulous fountain
2. Frolic around the fountain with your VIEW umbrellas
3. Capture the moment in a high resolution photo
4. Send your photo to view@thesmithfamily.com.au by 30 June 2017.



Members from Leeton VIEW Club (NSW).

All entrants will be acknowledged on the VIEW Facebook page, celebrated at VIEW National Convention 2017 and posted on the VIEW website. Enter your photo now!

Community in profile

Spotlight on Area AA: Canberra and surrounding areas

VIEW in Area AA

As at April 2017

761
members

19 VIEW
Clubs

39 *Learning for Life*
students sponsored

Braidwood Evening

The Braidwood Evening VIEW Club (NSW) celebrated its 25th anniversary in October last year with an evening of 'Hats and Glamour'. Membership numbers at this club have fluctuated over the years, but in 2017 there will be a larger committee coming on board to carry the club forward. Being a close knit community, there are always a lot of activities competing for members' time so Braidwood Evening VIEW Club's activities are kept simple. Each month members attend a meeting, hear from a guest speaker from the local community and take part in a monthly fundraising raffle. Last year, members were thrilled to be able to donate \$400 to The Smith Family's Christmas Appeal, \$400 to Joyspreaders (The Smith Family's Christmas Gift program) and \$50 to the local primary school for the Encouragement Award. Great interest and support is given for the club's *Learning for Life* student, Tobias, who is now in secondary school.

Canberra City Evening

The monthly meetings of Canberra City Evening VIEW Club (ACT) are described as times of friendship, fellowship, exchange of ideas and an opportunity to hear from interesting guest speakers. The club, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year, currently has 40 members who are all dedicated to raising money to support three *Learning for Life* students. These students have been supported for a number of years and the club closely follows each one's progress through the yearly reports.

The club's major fundraising activity is a 'Games Day' where everyone is involved in some way to make it a success. The club provides a venue and a range of board games for

anyone who wants to play. Mah-jong, Scrabble, Chess and Canasta are just a few of the games on offer. A scrumptious morning tea begins the day before the serious business of playing gets underway. By lunchtime everyone is ready for a wonderful spread of soup, sandwiches, homemade sausage rolls and a variety of slices.

Between monthly meetings many members participate in social outings, including visits to theatre shows, picnics, morning teas, al fresco dining and a festive Christmas in July celebration. The club's main goal in 2017 is to increase membership so that members can make an even greater difference to young Australians in need.

Attendees at the Canberra City Evening 'Games Day' fundraiser.



Other VIEW news

VIEW supports new Smith Family retail store

Sixteen VIEW members joined team members from The Smith Family to celebrate the opening of a new Smith Family retail store in Kempsey in NSW.

VIEW and The Smith Family's Recycling Operation have been building a stronger partnership in recent years with VIEW members volunteering in retail stores throughout NSW and the ACT and hosting clothing donation drives to collect good quality clothing and accessories suitable for sale in stores. VIEW promotional material, including brochures and posters, is displayed in stores to promote VIEW to the wider community and attract new members.

At the Kempsey store opening, VIEW members provided morning tea and took advantage of discounts to make some worthwhile purchases. In the store's first four hours, record sales of over \$1,500 were achieved.

"The store was beautifully presented. As no shopping was allowed until after the official opening, we all had plenty of time to browse. The quality of the merchandise was very high. The official opening was brief and meaningful with the ribbon being cut by the local Mayor and the landlord," said Elizabeth Doorey, National Councillor, who attended the function.



VIEW members enjoyed opening day sales at The Smith Family's new Kempsey retail store.

The store is located in a converted church, donated by Terry Rowney, who has offered the venue to The Smith Family for 12–18 months. Clothing and accessory sales in the new store will help The Smith Family reach thousands more disadvantaged students with its support.

If you are in Kempsey, we encourage you to visit and shop at the new store. Please contact view@thesmithfamily.com.au if you are interested in volunteering in the store.

Visit a Smith Family retail store to receive your exclusive VIEW Clubs *Buying is Giving Smith Family Retail Store Loyalty Card* and enjoy shopping discounts and rewards! See page 5 for details.

VIEW's Australia Day on the water

On Australia Day, VIEW took part in the annual New South Wales Premier's Community Thank You BBQ aboard the HMAS Canberra. National Vice Presidents, Toni Thomas and Gloria Walter joined other community groups and volunteers who have given back to their community and made a positive contribution to the State.

Gloria Walter and Toni Thomas aboard the HMAS Canberra.



When a letter makes a difference

Has your club considered writing a letter of encouragement to your sponsored *Learning for Life* student? This small gesture can make a big difference to a student's motivation for their schoolwork.

Lyn Geer, former VIEW National Vice President, was recently volunteering at The Smith Family Melbourne office when she started a conversation with a mother whose daughter was sponsored by a VIEW Club.

"The mother said her daughter loved receiving the club's letters of support and encouragement during the year. She said that she believed the letters contributed to her daughter's lift in self-esteem and success at school," Lyn said.

While it's not compulsory to write letters to your sponsored students throughout the year, corresponding regularly with your student lets them know that there is somebody else interested in them, who has invested in their education.

If your club doesn't yet write to your sponsored student, consider assigning this task to a Sponsorship Liaison member. Even just one letter each year can motivate a disadvantaged student to stay engaged with school and achieve improved educational outcomes.

Around the Clubs



L-R: Ruby Pritchard, Cheryl Dangerfield (Logan VIEW Club President) and Sam Mao with the six tablets donated to students.

Logan VIEW's grant success

Thanks to some resourceful thinking from Logan VIEW Club President, Cheryl Dangerfield, students from The Smith Family's Learning Club in Logan, Queensland, will enjoy using six new tablets this year. Cheryl, with the help of Linus Power, Member of Parliament for Logan, made a successful application to the Logan Diggers Club for a community grant to purchase the tablets for the students. Logan VIEW Club presented the tablets to The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* Program Coordinators, Sam Mao and Ruby Pritchard, late last year.

All clubs are encouraged to apply for community or local council grants to assist with the purchase of club equipment (see Club Handbook).



Batlow's Garage Sale fundraiser.

Batlow VIEW joins Garage Sale Trail

Participating in community activities is proving to be a good method of fundraising for members from the Batlow VIEW Club (NSW). In October last year, the club joined in the National Garage Sale Trail initiative by setting up their own stall selling books, bikes and household items. Proceeds from the Garage Sale were donated to The Smith Family. In the same month, members also took part in the Open Garden weekend at Tumbarumba, welcoming visitors to the gorgeous garden of Ann Miles at Fallowfields while collecting donations for The Smith Family and promoting the work of VIEW Clubs.



Belconnen Day VIEW members dressed as witches at a function.

Belconnen Day growth

With 55 members, 11 who have joined in the last two years, Belconnen Day VIEW Club (ACT) is a thriving and active club. In the past year their monthly meetings have featured a bush poet, a representative from the Australian

Federal Police Crime Prevention unit, a representative from the National Zoo and Aquarium, and an Elvis impersonator. Two of the club's most popular fundraisers include an annual fashion parade and a "Blind Auction", which regularly raises more than \$1,000 in a single day.

Clubs participate in Shopping Day

Thanks to an ongoing partnership with women's boutique Blue Illusion, VIEW members across the country have continued to enjoy special discounts and styling workshops offered exclusively on the Blue Illusion/VIEW National Shopping Day. On this day, a percentage of the proceeds from all sales made at Blue Illusion stores is donated to The Smith Family.

The most recent National Shopping Day was held in November 2016. More than \$32,600 was raised for The Smith Family. Another Blue Illusion/VIEW National Shopping Day is expected to be held in November 2017 — stay tuned!



Members of Macarthur Evening taking part in the Camden 2017 Australia Day parade.



Port Macquarie Day's VIEW Beauty rose.

Macarthur Evening takes to the streets

For the second year running, members from Macarthur Evening VIEW Club (NSW) marched in the Camden Australia Day parade to promote VIEW and The Smith Family. Carrying a VIEW banner, the group was very well received by the crowd of thousands. To add to the excitement, Macarthur Evening was delighted when member Robyne Meek was named Camden Citizen of the Year 2017. Robyne is a hardworking member of Macarthur Evening and has held various committee positions over the years.

Recognition of Macarthur Evening is growing in the local community as a result of members being involved in many different community activities throughout the year. The club has also embraced social media; the club's Facebook is regularly updated with photos and news of local community involvement. Already in 2017, six new members have joined the club proving all the promotional work is well worth it!

VIEW Beauty rose blooms for Port Macquarie Day

It was with some very smart forward planning that Port Macquarie Day VIEW's President, Joan Field, decided to purchase a VIEW Beauty rose back in 2010 in preparation for her club's own 50th anniversary this July. With special care and attention, the rose has now matured into a beautiful tree with abundant blooms. Fittingly it will be the centrepiece of a special 50th birthday celebration for the Port Macquarie Day VIEW Club later this year. Have you thought about purchasing a VIEW Beauty rose for your club's 50th birthday milestone? The VIEW Beauty rose was named for VIEW Clubs of Australia on the organisation's 50th anniversary in 2010. Roses can be ordered online at www.treloarroses.com.au or by phoning 1300 044 852. Remember, \$0.80 from the sale of each rose is donated back to VIEW for The Smith Family.

Tweed Heads Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Shirley Kuhnell, President of Murwillumbah Day VIEW Club (NSW), who received Tweed Shire Volunteer of the Year Award, announced on Australia Day. Shirley was nominated by her fellow VIEW members and supported by the Tweed Valley Compassionate Friends and her local community of Crystal Creek and Chillingham. "Shirley is a tireless worker, her volunteering is endless and even though her own world may be



Shirley Kuhnell (third from the left) with her Community Award and other community representatives.

exploding around her, she is always there to help. She is much admired and respected throughout the community of the Tweed Shire," her nomination said.

Antiques VIEW show

VIEW member Leonie Clark shared her family treasure at Waverley Day VIEW's Antiques VIEW show.



Inspired by the popular TV show, *Antiques Roadshow*, which recently featured one of the club's members, Waverley Day VIEW Club (VIC) recently held its own Antiques VIEW show. Members were encouraged to bring along family heirlooms and share stories about how the items came to be part of their family's treasures. The storytelling made for a lovely afternoon of sharing tales and family history.



International Women's Day events

Photos from events hosted by VIEW Clubs around Australia



Central and Southern Sydney, NSW



West Coast VIEW Club, WA



Melbourne, VIC



Harrington, NSW



Brisbane, QLD



Central and Southern Sydney, NSW



Casino, NSW



First WAVE VIEW Club, WA



Adelaide, SA



\$12

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includes envelopes



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VIEW Nailfile



\$5

VIEW Lapel Pin



\$7

VIEW Travel Hairbrush



\$10

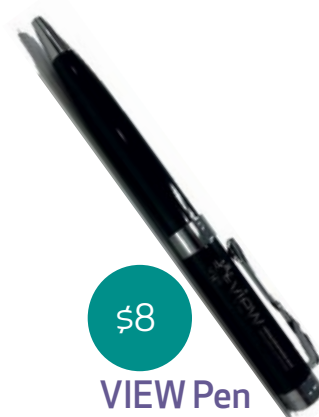
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All money raised from the sale of VIEW gifts helps children in need to succeed at school.

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