



Bennelong Foundation
Level 2
9 Queen Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
Australia

Tel: +61-3-9617-0444
Fax: +61-3-9617-0400

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Bennelong Foundation's newsletter for July 2010.

- Youth Committee:
Congratulations to Chris Cunningham on his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Bennelong Group. Unfortunately, due to Chris' expanded work commitments, he has had to resign as a member of the youth committee and we thank Chris very much for his commitment and contribution.

Consequently, we welcome Jay Doherty as a new member of the youth committee and I am sure Jay will provide a valuable contribution in the future.

The youth committee meet monthly and the current members are –

Nick Chapman (Chairman)	-	Sportsbrand Media Group
Kelly Chapman		
Jay Doherty	-	Bennelong Group
Leanne Sullivan	-	Crown Content
Darlene White	-	Bennelong Funds Management

In the last financial year the Bennelong Foundation Board have approved projects submitted by the Youth Committee totalling \$44,400.

Please don't hesitate to contact either myself or any member of the youth committee if you have an organisation you would like the Foundation to consider, or if you would like any information on volunteering, either personally or at our Make a Difference Days.

- The Foundation hosted a Taste of Harmony lunch to celebrate Harmony Day on the 17th March 2010 in the Bennelong Board Room. The continuing message of Harmony Day is "Everyone Belongs" – it's about community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Staff were encouraged to attend and bring along a dish that represented their cultural heritage to share with their work mates.

We had 15 staff attend with dishes varying from Tikka Chicken, Roast Beef with Horseradish Sauce, Keftedes and Chocolate Guinness Cake! Two representatives from the Victorian Arabic Social Services also attended and judged the dishes with gift vouchers for Angus and Robertson going to Carena Shankar and Ailbhe Kane. Everyone had a great time and the variation and quality of dishes was fantastic.

The Foundation plans to hold the lunch again in March 2011 and we hope a lot more staff attend – more news closer to the date!

Another lunch was held on the 13th April 2010 where we had two grantees present to staff on the projects we are supporting.

SAIL Programme Inc. – Nik Tan – The Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning (SAIL) Programme Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit, secular organisation that provides free English support and community services to the Sudanese refugee community in Melbourne and Sydney. Bennelong Foundation has made grants of \$11,000 in November 2008, \$8,000 in November 2009 and a further grant of \$8,000 will be made in November 2010 to assist with educational support for Sudanese students.

It is very pleasing that Shivani Singh and Madeline Ryan from Crown Content are volunteering their time to SAIL to assist the Sudanese students. If any other staff member is interested in volunteering to SAIL or any other organisation we support, please contact me.

Western Chances – Rhyl Dorrington - Western Chances has a vision to see Melbourne's West working together as a proud, vibrant and successful community. To achieve this, the organisation assists talented and self-motivated young people in the Western suburbs to realise their potential through the provision of scholarships and other related programmes. The Bennelong Foundation Board approved grants of \$50,000 per year for 3 years from April 2008 for scholarships to disadvantaged children and young people in the western suburbs.

The inaugural lunch for Sydney staff was held on 28th April 2010 where Anna Jenko from Youth Off The Streets spoke about the project we are supporting in New South Wales. This project was chosen by the Bennelong Funds Management staff in Sydney from three New South Wales based applications and it was a great opportunity for them to hear first hand about the project and opportunities for volunteering in the future. We will organise a visit to the project before the end of the year for anyone in the Sydney office who would like to attend.

These lunches are not only a good way to learn about the organisations we support and the valuable work they do, but an excellent opportunity for staff from the different business units to get together in the one place. An announcement about a lunch to be held in early September will be made shortly.

- A visit day was held on the 21st April to see and hear about the projects we are supporting at Swinburne University and Open Family. The attendees were Phil Honeywood, Jeff Chapman, Carena Shankar, Scott Davies, Helen Christon, Leanne Sullivan, Alison Watkins and myself.

It has been decided to re-vamp the visit days and instead of having one visit day for directors and staff, if anybody is interested in visiting a particular project, please contact me and I will organise that.

- One of the organisations we have been supporting for some time is Ganbina in Shepparton with the Jobs4U2 project and every year we bring the leadership group of Year 10 indigenous students to Melbourne for a visit day. This year it was held on the 29th June and Darlene White of the Youth Committee and I met with seven participants of the leadership group, their two chaperones and the CEO of Ganbina, Adrian Appo. The tour involved picking them up from Trinity College where they were staying and going to Swinburne University for a tour of the university campus and the TAFE college to experience two streams of tertiary education and meet with

the indigenous welfare officer who spoke about studying and living in Melbourne.



Ganbina kids and chaperones with Darlene White about to leave Swinburne University on one of the coldest days Melbourne has experienced for 12 years!

We then went to Sportsbrand for a tour and lunch. A big thank you to Paula Rigby and Sabrina Jansz for making the kids feel so welcome and also for producing a short DVD featuring photos of the kids with a caption showing their ambition for the future. Several employees from Sportsbrand spoke to the kids about their life journey and how they got to where they are today. Chris Cunningham also joined us for lunch and spoke to the group about his career and education.

The last stop was a tour of Parliament House and another thank you to Phil Honeywood for organising that and conducting the tour. Phil had the kids sitting in the lower house as the Premier, Treasurer, Leader of the Opposition, etc. which they greatly enjoyed.



The leadership group at Parliament House.



Future parliamentarians!

- Attached at the end of the newsletter is a thank you letter from the kids at Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School for providing the funds for them to attend a Cottage by the Sea camp in December 2009. This contribution was made possible by matching donations made by staff to the Bushfire appeal in February 2009 so this thank you is for all staff who donated as well!
- Another note of appreciation to Spencer Wilson and Carole Saunders of Sportsbrand Media Group for assisting Whitelion, one of the organisations we support, to produce a DVD to celebrate their 10th anniversary. A great deal of work was put in by Spencer and Carole and the DVD was a feature of Whitelion's gala dinner.
- At our last Board Meeting in April the Board approved the following:

Continued funding applications:

Western Chances for Scholarship Programme for Disadvantaged Youth in the Western Suburbs – 3rd year of 3 year funding commitment - \$50,000

Lord Somers Camp & Power House for the Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Camp – 3rd year of 3 year funding commitment - \$4,750

Wintringham, a youth committee application for a bus to accommodate disabled residents – 3rd year of 3 year funding commitment - \$20,000

Ganbina – Jobs4U2 project – an extra year's funding for \$25,000

New applications approved:

Ardoch Youth Foundation – a youth committee application:

\$10,000 was granted for the Early Childhood Support Project – Ardoch removes the barriers that prevent children from fully participating in education. They do this through the provision of basic needs, and through other tailored intervention and prevention programmes in early childhood centres, primary and secondary schools. Ardoch engages businesses and communities to partner with them in supporting schools and students.

This project will intensively support a single early childhood centre in the base of the high rise flats in South Melbourne by implementing prevention and early intervention strategies that enhance children's learning opportunities and preparedness for school.

Concern Australia – Youth Engagement and Sustainability Scholarships - \$15,000

Concern Australia's vision is to provide programmes that radically change the lives of disadvantaged and at risk young people – to give them hope and focus. These programmes not only address young people's behaviour and immediate physical needs, but tackle the deep underlying issues of self belief. CA aim to divert them from a potential life of disadvantage, poverty, unemployment, welfare dependence, crime, substance abuse, poor mental health, self harm issues and broken relationships to a life that contains hope, actualisation and self-sufficiency.

These scholarships will give highly marginalised young people the opportunity to be engaged and participate in the Hand Brake Turn's life changing experience at Gosford, Geelong, Dandenong and Sunshine. Hand Brake Turn provides a structured 8 week automotive training and mentoring programme for young adults, both male and female.

Create Foundation – Create Your Future Programme (CA) - \$25,000

Create Foundation is a national peak body for children and young people in care and provides services and support to children and young people between the ages of 8 – 25 years of age. Create Foundation also influences and supports (34,000) children and young people through their advocacy and policy work and believe this group in care are arguably the most disadvantaged in Australian society.

Bennelong Foundation are funding 4 independent workshops as part of a holistic life skills programme specifically developed for young people transitioning out of the care system. The objective of this programme is to empower young people leaving care to learn skills to be functioning community members, support job readiness and personal development.

Learning for Life – Early Intervention ABA Programme - \$20,000 p.a. for 2 years

The Learning for Life Autism Centre was set up in 2004 to provide subsidised intensive early intervention Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) programmes to as many families as funds could be raised and to record data on all the children in their programmes to support the research into the effectiveness of intensive ABA therapy in Melbourne in children aged 2 – 6 years of age who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Bennelong Foundation are providing a grant to sponsor one child from a disadvantaged family through two years of Learning for Life's full service early intervention programme. The primary objective of this programme is to enable the child to reach their full potential.

Humpty Dumpty Foundation – a youth committee application - \$6,000 provided for a Newborn Emergency Transport Service Good Egg Pack for Tamworth Hospital. The Humpty Dumpty Foundation was introduced to the youth committee by Andrew Aitken of Bennelong Funds Management. They are a children's charity and provide medical equipment and support to Paediatric services, Newborn Care Centres as well as Emergency Paediatrics across Australia. The Humpty Dumpty Foundation look after premature babies right through to children up to the age of 16 years.

The pack that has been provided for through the grant from Bennelong Foundation will be placed in Tamworth Hospital and is equipped with crucial equipment for the resuscitation and immediate treatment required to treat sick babies in an isolated emergency situation until a specialist team can arrive.

Breast Cancer Network Australia – (BCNA) a youth committee application - \$12,039 a year for 2 years to provide a CD to support partners of breast cancer patients as part of the "My Journey" kit. Breast Cancer Network Australia supports all Australians affected by breast cancer including the person diagnosed, their family, friends and colleagues. BCNA currently support over 250 member groups (support groups) and 40,000 members (people with a breast cancer experience).

Bennelong Foundation has provided a grant for two years to fund the production of multiple copies and distribution of the CD "When the woman you love has early breast cancer" as part of the "My Journey" kit. BCNA is confident that the CD will help provide information, support and tangible strategies to men, who they know are currently under-resourced and overlooked.

If you would like further information on any of the organisations currently supported by the Foundation or would like to suggest a project for future funding, please let me know.

Susan Frances.

e-mail: susan@benngroup.com

telephone: 03 9617 0480

21 July 2010