

issue 01 / 2016

FRIENDS OF able



Roberto loving his first time surfing with the help of volunteers and support workers

DEAFBLIND CAMP IN SYDNEY

73 people with deafblindness from across the country converged on Sydney's northern beaches last month as part of our annual Deafblind Camp.

This wonderful weekend was a great example of how the generosity of others can open up a new world of fun and adventure for people with deafblindness.

This year's event offered a range of physical and social activities such as surfing, a visit to the Sydney Opera House, archery and rock climbing. The group were even treated to a visit by local Member of Parliament, Bronwyn Bishop who openly engaged with our campers.

For Roberto and many of the other participants, the camp was the perfect opportunity to try surfing for the first time. While he loved the sensation of the water lapping around him in the practice pool, it was the vibration of the ocean he felt in the open water that made this an experience to remember.

It's been a busy few months at Able Australia since we were last in touch.

In November, our ableart exhibition at Federation Square in Melbourne was a great success. This annual event provides a rare opportunity for people with a disability to publicly display the works of art they develop through our Art Therapy program.

Local dignitaries, past and present residents, families and staff came together in February to celebrate the tenth birthday of Able Australia's very first supported home in Tasmania.

Able Australia took over the operation of the house in Koorngal Ave, Legana in 2006 and it has since proven to be a model of success over the past decade. Able Australia's operation in Tasmania has doubled in size over the past five years and now supports more than 200 people with multiple disabilities across the state.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to consider getting involved in our new Deafblind Awareness Week event – Able Morning Tea. By hosting your colleagues, family or friends for a fun morning tea on International Deafblind Awareness Day (27 June), you can help us raise some much-needed awareness for what is sometimes known as Australia's forgotten disability.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your ongoing generosity. It can't be said enough that without your kindness, we simply couldn't continue supporting people with multiple disabilities across the country to live life their own way.

Please be assured that your regular donations – no matter how large or small – are making a significant difference to lives of those who need us most. Thank you for your trust and support.



New look for The Burrow

Four years after its launch in Hobart's Royal Botanical Gardens, The Burrow has had a facelift.

This unique community library now features works by upcoming artists to encourage visitors to linger even longer in the tranquil surrounds.

Visit our website for more information.



The joy of music

Kate Staggs had her first contact with music during our recent Deafblind Camp.

The joy on her face illustrated what a life changing experience it was for Rosie.

She can now continue to explore everything that music has to offer.

HOST AN ABLE MORNING TEA

How would you like to enjoy a great morning tea with friends and colleagues while helping to raise community awareness and much needed funds for our deafblind community?

There are currently over 300,000 Australians living with deafblindness and that number is expected to exceed 1 million by 2050.

Despite this, awareness of this severe and potentially isolating condition remains low... But you can help.

Each year, Deafblind Awareness Week is celebrated internationally to coincide with Helen Keller's birthday on 27 June.

Helen is arguably the world's most famous deafblind person and is a great example of what people with multiple disabilities can achieve given the right opportunities.

This year, we are encouraging everyone to get involved in Deafblind Awareness Week by hosting an Able Morning Tea in the workplace, with a community group or simply at home with friends and family.

To find out more or register your support, visit ablemorningtea.com.au or call **1300 220 602**.



Able Day in the Sky

Thanks to the pilots at Moorabbin Airport and many volunteers who recently supported people from the deafblind community to experience the sensation of flight, high above metropolitan Melbourne.

The smiles on the faces of both the people we support and the pilots made the whole experience even better!



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

One of Australia's leading advocates for the disability sector was the special guest at our very first luncheon for donors and supporters in December.

Held at the Hawthorn Town Hall during the lead-up to International Day of People with Disability (3 December), the event proved to be a relaxed, but an informative day out to thank donors like you for their ongoing generosity.

Former Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes was the keynote speaker for the day and had the audience enthralled as he delivered a thought-provoking speech. Later in the day, Alex Sar described what living with deafblindness was like and how he hadn't let it affect his passion for painting.

Feedback from those who attended was very positive and we are already planning other donor-related events for 2016. If you are interested in joining future events, please contact us on **1300 220 602** or on fundraising@ableaustralia.org.au.

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Thank You

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To make a secure online donation, visit www.ableaustralia.org.au or call a member of our fundraising team on **03 9861 6251** or **1300 220 602**

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

For a copy of the Able Australia Privacy Policy, please see our website.

Please tick this box if you would like information on making a regular gift.