

ASPIRE SUPPORT SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER



Hello everyone. Here is your next update from the Board.

We regrettably accepted the recent resignation of Jamie Gay. After recovering from a serious illness, Jamie has returned to work as Principal of Belvoir Special School and acknowledged that he does not have the time he knows must be devoted to the huge task the Board has to guide Aspire into the NDIS. The remaining Board members have acknowledged Jamie's invaluable contributions to the organisation, in addition to his previous role as Treasurer for Cooina Family Support Group for many years before that.

His resignation spurred the Board to assess its needs to fill a couple of vacant positions with an advertisement in the Border Mail seeking expressions of interest from community members who would bring the necessary skills sets to the mix.

After receiving 5 very worthy applications, we are very happy to announce 2 new Directors:

Kim Campbell. Kim is currently on the Board of the Tallangatta Health Service and works as the Strategic Projects Manager for the Home Services Division of Baptist Care. She has a degree in Psychology and Master qualifications in Health Management, Public Health and Arts.

Belinda Fenn. Belinda is a Solicitor with Nevin, Lenne and Gross in Wodonga and serves as Vice Chairman with the Open Door Neighbourhood House in Wangaratta. She works in the area of personal injury law and has a sound understanding of board governance.

We look forward to working with Kim and Belinda, whose skills will be most beneficial to our board processes, as we shape the future direction of Aspire and the introduction of the NDIS.

We are focusing on two major tasks at present, the first being an in-depth risk assessment of all aspects of our organisation, covering the entire range of activities- for example: interactions - with staff, families and the Board examining all of our assets and the suitability of their current use, how we see systems are working at present and to what degrees of success; how we see our organisation relating to our community, with partnerships- both in various levels of government and business, and with our customer base- you, our families, and customers. We are examining financial and governance issues, communication, forward planning and NDIS readiness, plus lots more.

From this analysis, we can address any gaps in our immediate Strategic Plan and for the next 12 month to 3 year period.

The second task, relating to communication and feedback is still a work in progress, with many different levels of management still gathering final information from staff and customers, which will give us comment on current services, better insight into the types of services customers may want to access under the NDIS, and which will assist us to build our capacity to deliver those potential services.

As you can see, we are very busy with self-assessment and planning. Your input will be most welcome to assist us.

Until next time, warm regards on behalf of your Board.

Lizzie Pogson



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Autism/ Asperger's Family Network Group

Where: La Maison Café, 40 Lincoln Causeway, Gateway Island

When: Thursday 15 September - 10:30am—12:30pm

From 11.00am our guest will be Nigel Stone, CEO at Aspire Support Services.

This is an opportunity to meet Nigel, share in a general discussion and for Nigel to hear how you see the lives of your children heading and what you are seeking for them now and in the future.

Please RSVP for seating and catering:

Telephone Aspire on 02 6058 4000 or email sue.pringle@aspiress.com.au.

Albury Wodonga Down Syndrome Family Network Group

Where: Sunday 11 September 2016

When: Kinross Woolshed Hotel

RSVP: Telephone Aspire on 02 6058 4000 or email sue.pringle@aspiress.com.au.

Albury Wodonga Home Schooling Family Network Group

Where: Willow Creek EAP
(Equine Assisted Psychotherapy)
www.willowcreekeap.com
811 Hume Highway,
Mullengandra

When: Thursday 15 September
10:00am

Cost: \$10.00 per family
(cost is subsidised)

What to bring: closed in shoes, hats, sunscreen, water bottle

Once bookings are confirmed we will work with families on what you would like to get from this program.

Please RSVP for planning purposes;
Telephone Aspire on 02 6058 4000 or email sue.pringle@aspiress.com.au.

Mother's Weekend 2016

When: 21 – 23 October 2016

The time has come around again to start planning for our annual Aspire Mothers' Weekend to Melbourne.

At this stage the cost is still to be decided. The cost will include two nights in a 2 bedroom apartment, group dinner on the Friday night and breakfast daily.

If you think that you may require respite to enable you to attend, please contact Sue Pringle.

Telephone Aspire on 02 6058 4000 or email sue.pringle@aspiress.com.au.

Aspire Family Network Group

This is a general support group covering all disabilities everyone welcome. Join us for a luncheon and the opportunity to relax and share information and support.

Where: Soden's Hotel
459 Wilson Street, Albury

When: Wednesday 14 September
12 midday

Please RSVP for planning purposes;

Telephone Aspire on 02 6058 4000 or email sue.pringle@aspiress.com.au.

Zealous Kidz Café and Play

Where: Zealous Kidz Play Centre,
Elgin Boulevard, Wodonga

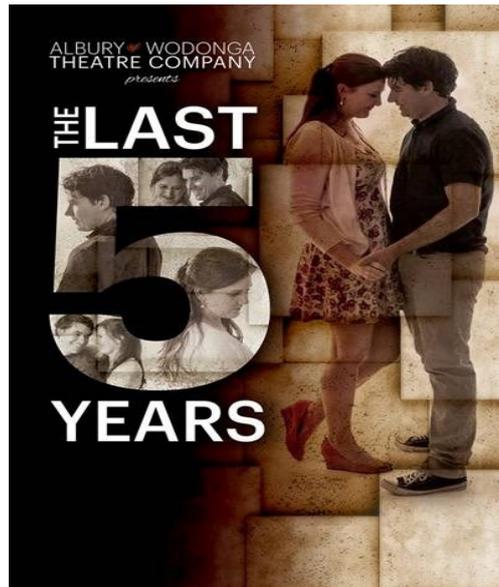
When: Wednesday 28 September
5:30—7:30pm

Cost: Children Over 5 years \$6
Children 3 –5 years \$5
Children under 3- years free

Light meal supplied, so please let us know if you or your children have specific dietary requirements
Aspire will have exclusive use of Zealous Kidz for this event.

For bookings, contact Sue Pringle on 02 6058 4000 or email sue.pringle@aspiress.com.au

Albury Wodonga Theatre Company is pleased to offer this award-winning musical as a community fundraiser opportunity for Aspire



'The Last 5 Years'

A contemporary musical by Jason Robert Brown

"There are two sides to every love story..."

"An emotionally powerful and intimate musical about two people in their twenties who fall in and out of love over the course of five years. Cathy, a struggling actress, and Jamie, a budding novelist on the brink of wild success, are 20-somethings in New York who meet, fall in love, marry, and divorce over the span of five years. Since its Off-Broadway premiere in 2002, Brown's funny, poignant, and devastatingly honest two-person production has enraptured audiences around the world with its spellbinding and emotional score and libretto."

We're delighted to once again offer one of our high-quality local productions as a rewarding and highly entertaining fundraiser for your group.

Aspire sells tickets through its network at \$25 per ticket.

For every ticket sold, Aspire receives \$15 and AWTCO receives \$10

Where: Albury Wodonga Theatre Company

234 Olive St South Albury

Some parking on site, excess parking on Olive St

When: Friday 23 September 2016 -

The show begins at 7.30pm with the doors opening at 6.30pm.

Seating

- Cabaret seating at tables – tables seat 10.
- BYO platters and nibbles welcome and encouraged

Facilities

- Bar available
- Venue heated

Tickets are to be booked through the Albury Entertainment Centre Box Office, either in person or booked over the phone. Call on **02-6043 5610** and say you are with Aspire's group when you book.

Patrons have to book over the phone to use this option, as there is no online facility to nominate which group you are with.

ASPIRE OAKS DAY LADIES LUNCHEON 2016



Please put Thursday 3 November into your diaries and ring 0407263361, anytime from here on to book your seat. There are tables of 10, but singles, pairs, or any configuration is welcome.

This year's colour theme is 'CLASSIC BLACK AND WHITE.'

You can pay for your tickets by:

Depositing \$120 into the Hume Bank

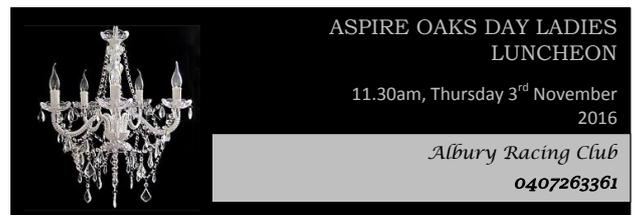
Account name: Aspire Support Services Ltd

BSB: 640-000

Account Number in a Branch: 590274 S9

Account Number Online: 590274 59

****Please put your name as our reference.**



It will be another wonderful day out at the Albury Race Club, enjoying amazing food from John Thurgood's 'Rafferty's Catering', 'Fashions in the Marque', lucky spot prizes, being entertained by Can't tell you that as it's a surprise. But we have zany MC - Steve Bowen keeping our day moving along, and Auctioneer, Will Bonnici- who will croon his way, in his own inimitable style, into your hearts as well as your purses, in search of those fundraising dollars. So come along and enjoy catching up with friends, whilst raising funds for Aspire's Community Grants Scheme.

The degree of goodwill and joy at celebrating and acknowledging the ability in disability has always been so genuine, and each year, it's a superb opportunity to showcase the talents of our Aspire Family, supported by and sharing this initiative with several very committed staff members, and Aspire Management.

*My biggest problem this year is how to top last year's James Bond scene with Richard arriving in an Aston Martin, complete with white tuxedo, carnation in lapel and martini glass in hand- definitely shaken- not stirred....as was the crowd!!!

Aspire Commercial Club Community Grants Scheme helps those touched by disability to lead the lives they choose. We have donated over \$150,000 to hundreds of people in our region over the past several years, but we are struggling to keep up with demand, so your support will be vital!

We look forward to your company.