



AUTISM WEEK 11 –18 MAY, 2003

Welcome to Autism Week 2003 and our round up of some of the activities that are happening around Australia this week. Congratulations to all involved around the States on a very diverse and dynamic programme. Have a great week everyone!

STARTING WITH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Whilst you have been busy over in the East Coast, here in the West Coast this is what we have been up to: Believe it or not, just a group of 4 parents organised this event, we have had a meeting every week since the end of February.

The aim main focus for us, is to create greater awareness of ASD in our community, we thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to educate the public. We have also been successful in creating a Community Service Announcement with Channel Seven.

I have been interviewed by The Sunday Times of WA, and will also have several stories in the Community Papers. The press release was sent 4 weeks ago, we will also have media cover of the launch, hopefully some may filter through to the East Coast.

It has been a very rewarding and uplifting experience for us, and all in tribute to our children. A complete labour of love.!

From: Giselle Roznicki groznicki@hotmail.com

PS: Pray it does not rain, it is an outside event, as we will be releasing 1000 balloons to represent ASD individuals in WA. We will be selling merchandise on the day (key rings, caps, pens, badges, and T-shirts will be available to order) we will be wearing samples, the funds raised on the day will go to cover the costs of the launch, or if Lotteries Commission approve our grant, then it will go towards FOCAS Inc. to help cost associated our new Direct Instruction Reading Programme on Saturdays.



Focus On Children Within The Autism Spectrum Inc.

ABN 38 262 080 944

NATIONAL AUTISM WEEK

11th - 17th MAY 2003

'HELP THEM PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER'

OFFICAL LAUNCH

MONDAY 12th MAY 2003

PERTH CULTURAL CENTRE

11.45AM - 1.20PM

11.45 am	Introductions - Compare: Basil Zempilas
11.50 am	All Saints Choir - song 'We are the World'
11.55 am	Dance West Dancers
12.05 pm	Sharon Dale - songs 'Shine' ,
12.15 pm	Mr Mark McGowan MLA - Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier - Presentation Official Launch - Release of balloons representation of children & adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder in WA
12.30 pm	All Saints Choir - songs 'Morning Has Broken' 'People Get Ready'
12.40 pm	Latin Dancers
12.50 pm	Sharon Dale - song 'Absolutely Everybody'
12.55 pm	Focus on Children within the Autism Spectrum Inc. (FOCAS) Presentation - Thanks & Acknowledgments
1.10 pm	All Saints Choir - songs 'One Hope' 'We'll be one'
1.20 pm	Close

Community Service Announcement

Supported by Channel Seven

*Produced and Directed by Martin Plotz
And Team*

Autism Spectrum Disorder, in Western Australia 200 children are diagnosed each year, with those figures rising, due to causes yet unknown.

Let's build the bridge that connects us to them

Their world! Our world, and make it one world

and

“Help them put the pieces together”

Autism Week 11th May – 17th May 2003



Focus On Children Within The Autism Spectrum Inc.

**For more information regarding support for families
of children with Autism please email**

focascontact@hotmail.com

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WALK ON PARLIAMENT HOUSE to raise awareness of autism

Victoria Square to Parliament House

Sunday May 11th

Meet at 11.30 at Victoria Square and walk to Parliament House from 12.00 noon to 12.30 pm.

Who is the walk for?

- Individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- families and friends
- professionals involved with ASD
- anyone else who has an interest in and wants to support raising awareness of ASD

Enquiries: Ph. 8 269 5526

Afterwards there will be an informal picnic at Marshmallow Playground, Glen Osmond Road, City (between Hutt and Pultney Streets, on the Southern side of the road). BYO everything.

This is an initiative of the Western and Eastern support groups for families and carers of individuals with an ASD

Further info:

1. T-shirts have been made up as a fundraiser for the Flinder's EIU (Adults say "Someone I love has autism and children's say "Learning to learn-Flinders EIU, helping children with autism"). A number of people have bought them and will wear them to the walk.
2. Andrew Evans (Family First Party and MLC) is the only politician who has replied positive for the Walk and will speak on the steps (I haven't heard from Stephanie Key or Dean Brown yet). I met with Vickie Chapman just before Easter and she was very receptive to autism issues. I have also had supportive letters from Iain Evans and Tim Stanley.
3. 200 helium balloons have been donated.

4. The following media are involved to date.
 - a) Channel 10 are going to cover the Walk and a story is planned with a family next week to lead up to the Walk/Autism Awareness Week story.
 - b) 3 local newspapers have interviewed 3 different families and will tell these families stories accompanying a story about the Walk next week and/or in autism awareness week
 - c) Notices have appeared and will appear again in all the local newspapers Community Announcements
 - d) 2 local radio stations community switchboards have been agreed to run ads
5. Smith's Chips have agreed to provide packets of chips.
6. Draft timetable for speakers from 12.30pm at Parliament House include:
 - a) Michele Roney (parent)- reading "Someone I love"
 - b) Kate King (ex-CEO AASA, her perspective)
 - c) Andrew Evans (Family First Party, MLC)
 - d) Mary Rose Angley (aged 7) a sibling's perspective
 - e) Grandmother- reading "Welcome to Holland"
7. All the DECS Special Schools have been phoned and emailed and asked to put ads in their newsletters
8. A flier has been widely emailed around and individuals asked to print it off and give it out to allied health professionals, doctors, teachers in special small classes etc.
9. Families are making banners etc.
10. Another ad appears in the Autiser
11. We have approval to use the steps of PH.

From: Manya Angley angley@senet.com.au

VICTORIA

FAMILY STEAM TRAIN TRIP TO BACCHUS MARSH SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2003

TRAIN DEPARTS SPENCER STREET STATION IN MELBOURNE AT 10 A.M.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT AUTISM VICTORIA 03 9885 0533 OR
office@autismvictoria.org.au

AUTISTIC FAMILY SUPPORT ASSOCIATION INC (AFSA)

AFSA AGM

The 2003 AFSA Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 18 May at 11.30 am at Maddingley Park, Bacchus Marsh. This will be during the lunch break of the Family Day Steam Train Trip.

Autism Expo

Wednesday 14th May, 2003

Cato Conference Centre, Hotel Y, 489 Elizabeth Street Melbourne
10 am until 3 pm ... ADMISSION FREE

Service information, support groups, resource displays and sales, informative talks - find out all you want to know about

Autism Spectrum Disorders in a friendly and relaxed environment.

The Expo is designed to meet the needs of parents, extended family, educators, child care workers, health professionals, child, family and disability service agencies and anyone who wants to learn more about this largely invisible developmental disorder.

Featuring Displays, Representatives and Guest Speakers from:

- Parent Support Groups
- Specialist Autism Services—Early Intervention, Schools and Adult Programs
- Generic Disability and Family Services
- Commercial Services and Suppliers

ENTRY IS FREE !!!

Car Parking is available at Guardsec Parking.

Full details available from Autism Victoria 03 98850533

NSW

Autism Association of NSW

Autism Awareness Week is on from **Sunday 11 May** to **Sunday May 18**. For more information contact the **Autism Association of NSW** on (02) 8977 8300. Included in the week is the Autism and Asperger's Disorder Expo, a Autism Family Day and various open days at the six Autism Association schools. Below are brief descriptions of the Expo and the Family Day.

Event: Autism and Asperger's Disorder Expo

What: The Autism and Asperger's Disorder Expo is the highlight event of Autism Awareness Week and will provide a public forum on the treatment and management options for people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder in New South Wales. There will be a range of exhibitions, presenters, workshops and seminars over the two days. Presenters are drawn from the specialist educators, psychologists, speech pathologists and occupational therapist in the Autism Association and other specialists in the field.

Date: Friday May 16 and Saturday May 17

Venue: Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Talavera Rd, North Ryde

Contact: Autism Association of NSW on 8977 8371 or visit the website www.autismnsw.com.au

Event: Family Sunday - Transitions

What: Autism Awareness Week will close on Sunday 18 May with a special family day. With a focus on transition, workshops on the day will include 'Living with a Partner with Asperger's Disorder', workshops for siblings of a child with Autism, workshops for extended family and friends, Parent 2 Parent sessions and much more.

Date: Sunday May 18 May

Venue: Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Talavera Rd, North Ryde

Contact: Autism Association of NSW on 8977 8371 or visit the website www.autismnsw.com.au

ACT

Autism ACT 25th Anniversary Conference

**Partnerships for success:
Parents, Professional and Services Working together
for people with Autism**

Saturday 31 May & Sunday 1 June 2003
National Convention Centre, Canberra

A weekend conference for Parents, Teachers and Professionals

Program

SATURDAY 31 MAY, 2003

8.30am Registration Opens

Mr Simon Corbell, ACT MLA

Bradman Theatre

Donna Williams: Three Faces of Autism, ,

Bradman Theatre

Strand 1

Education

Bradman Theatre

Strand 2

Family and Relationships

Menzies Theatre

Autism and Asperger's Disorder: Promoting behavioural adjustment and well-being

Dr Avril Brereton & Prof Bruce Tonge

Autism Early Intervention Project Monash

Raising kids without raising the roof – Good parenting for children with identified differences and their siblings

Dr Loretta Giorcelli

Professor of Special Education

Individual Education Plans

Mr Trevor Clarke, Former Principal

NSW Autism Association

Information about Benefits and Programs

Family and Community Services

Question and answer session.

Making Inclusion Work

Dr Loretta Giorcelli

Professor of Special Education

Managing the family finances – planning to make ends meet

Tony Wynd, National Australia Bank

5.00pm Day 1 Close

SUNDAY 1 JUNE, 2003

Katy Gallagher, ACT MLA

Bradman Theatre

Wendy Lawson: Autism: A matter of Attention

Bradman Theatre

Strand 1

Educational Options

Bradman Theatre

Strand 2

Working Partnership for Positive Outcomes

Menzies Theatre

Practical Strategies for successful schooling

Sue Larkey

Autism Consulting and Education Services

Pathways for parents, teachers and disability support workers: Difficult behaviour in Autism Spectrum disorders, Part 1

Joan McKenna Kerr, Autism WA

Helping children cope with classroom communication demands in infants and primary school

Louise Ulliana

Lifestart

Pathways for parents, teachers and disability support workers: Difficult behaviour in Autism Spectrum disorders, Part 2

Joan McKenna Kerr, Autism WA

Programs and the Challenges faced by teachers and students

Val Gill, Principal

Weston Autistic School

Fathers' Panel: I'm that kid's Dad and I have an opinion too

Closing Remarks

Bradman Theatre

5.15pm Conference Close

Cost: Autism ACT member \$210 / Non-member \$240 /
Professional/Teacher/Other \$260

**25th Anniversary Dinner
featuring comedian**

Fiona O'Loughlin: 'From Here to Maternity'

7.00pm Saturday 31 May
Chifley Hotel, Northbourne Avenue

Autism ACT 25th Anniversary Dinner: Autism ACT member \$75 / Non-member \$85

For more information on the dinner or the conference, please contact the event managers:

DPM Conferencing

Email: autism2004@dpm.com.au

Phone: 02 6280 8122

Fax: 02 6280 8166

Postal Address: PO Box 601 Fyshwick ACT 2609

QUEENSLAND

As part of Autism Awareness Week, Autism Queensland are launching an Awareness Card. These cards can be purchased from Autism Queensland for \$7.50 per bundle of 25. We highly recommend these cards as an aid in explaining autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to people with whom a child with ASD has contact, eg his/her teacher, extended family members, acquaintances, even strangers! We suggest that they be distributed by you, at your discretion, when there is a need.



Autism Queensland

[t] 07 3273 0000

[f] 07 3273 8306

[e] nicoles@autismqld.asn.au

TASMANIA

The inaugural State Conference for Autism Tasmania is to be held in June. The theme of the conference is FOCUS ON FAMILIES and we hope to run one session especially for dads. It will be held at Wrest Point Casino Conference Centre with a dinner on Friday June 20 and a day conference on Saturday June 21. Wendy Lawson, June Waites and Judy Brewer Fischer will be guest speakers.

Information: from Penny Cromarty penny.c@wacco.com.au

& FINALLY, A LAST CHANCE OPPORTUNITY!

THErapy OPPORTUNITY !
.....retail therapy that is.....

**Did you miss our last newsletter? It's not too late!
A4 introduced it's 'inaugural fundraiser' in the
April
newsletter to help raise money for the upcoming
'Walk with Parliament' and to launch itself as an
effective advocacy body.**

**A4 chose promotional merchandising as a method
to help raise funds, while also promoting
awareness of the organisation and giving
members, family and friends a
useful item and value for money.**

**In our last newsletter you would have noted an order form for
the six items selected – sleeveless polar fleece zip up vest,
polar fleece beanie, cap, water bottle, water bottle holder-
waist belt combo & golf sized umbrella. (Sample pictures
available on request by email – see below).**

**To date there has been so few orders that financially it is
not viable for A4 to proceed with orders.....but 'we' would
very much like to. Help support your organisation by placing
an order. Delivery 4-6 weeks. Orders required by May 31st,
2003.**

**Post orders to A4 Promotions, P.O. Box 762, Hawthorn VIC 3122
Payment by Cheque or Money order only to:
'Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia'.
Please include \$10.00 per order for postage and handling as
per order form.**

**Pictures can be requested by emailing –
'lwryan@bigpond.net.au'.
Please make the email subject – *Promotional Gear***



Promotional Merchandise

Order Form:

Item	Size	Colour	Quantity	Price	Total
Polar Fleece Sleeveless Vest 320 gm antipill fleece	XS S M L XL XXL	Navy with Navy trim		\$25 each	\$
Umbrella – golf style	76cm wide	Blue & White		\$25 each	\$
Polar Fleece Beanies – Unisex	One size fits all	Navy Black Royal Blue		\$10 each	\$
Plastic Water Bottles	Sports bottle	White bottle with black drinking lid		\$8 each	\$
Waist Bag with Mesh Bottle Holder	One size fits most	Black with Black mesh bottle holder		\$15 each	\$
Cap – Heavy Brushed Cotton	One size fits all	Navy with Orange trim		\$10 each	\$
Postage & Handling					\$ 10.00
					\$

Post orders **BY 31/5/03** to **A4 Promotions, P.O. Box 762, Hawthorn 3122 Vic.** Payment by Cheque or Money order only –to ‘Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia’, Please include \$10.00 per order for postage and handling.

Direct queries to ‘lwryan@bigpond.net.au’ – subject heading ‘Promotional Gear’