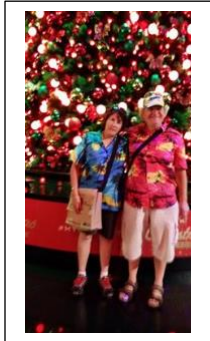




December Newsletter 2019

EDITORIAL



Hi readers,
 Welcome to our summer newsletter.
 This year has gone by so fast and here we are nearly Christmas time again. Reinforce had another busy year with employing Georgina Mills our new ILC project worker And 2 peer workers Susan Arthur and Heather Smith.

On the 9th of October Reinforce held their AGM. Reinforce will be closed over Christmas from the 16th of December to 15th of January, the reason why we are Closing on the 16th is because Ross House is putting a brand new lift in which will take some weeks. When we return we will be operating mostly from the City Library in Flinders Lane. Please **email** us in this time. All of the Reinforce committee and Staff wish all our Members a very Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year. And we will see u all back in the New Year 2020.

We would like to hear from our members what you like about the newsletter? if you would like to receive the newsletter by email? I will make sure you get a copy.

Send in your email address to

gipsygirl88@bigpond.com or
sw@reinforce.org.au

If you wish to know more about Reinforce please see our website

www.reinforce.org.au

Disclaimer All information contained within the Reinforce newsletter is as accurate as possible and is provided in good faith, however it is not guaranteed. Reinforce does not recommend any product, activity, organisation, service or item – such details are provided with the Reinforce news for general information and interest only.

WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Editorial
 from
Janice

AGM office Bearers

Heather Smith Trip to Bendigo

Project workers Report

OPA Project Report

Birthday column

Birthday Column

We wish the following members a happy birthday for the coming months:

James Teeken: December 20th.

Heather Smith: January 26th.

Pam Geoghegan: February 1st

Amanda Miller: February 5th.

Julie Brasington: February 9th.

Jane Rosengrave: February 21st.



If any of the members would like their birthday mentioned in the birthday column just SMS me your birthday and your name to (0439806000)

Reinforce AGM

On the 9th of October Reinforce had their 43rd Annual General meeting. The guest speaker was Dr Belinda Johnston from the Office for Disability. She spoke about what the Office for disability does and how they work with other government departments to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. Thank you to Belinda for agreeing to speak we enjoyed your presentation.

Reinforce elected 10 members to our committee.

- Colin Hiscoe
- Jane Rosengrave
- Susan Arthur
- Norrie Blythman
- Amanda Millar
- John Slattery
- Janice Slattery
- Heather Smith
- Justin O'Brian
- Eve Kinnear

Thank you to those who agreed to be on the committee and a special thanks to Pauline Williams for agreeing to be our returning officer.

On the 9th of October Reinforce had the 43rd annual general meeting (AGM) and the following people were elected to be on our Committee

Colin Hiscoe: President.

John Slattery: Vice – President.

Janice Slattery: Secretary.

Norrie Blythman: Assistant - Secretary.

Amanda Miller: Treasurer

Jane Rosengrave: Assistant – Treasurer.



ILC PROJECT WORKER'S REPORT

It has been a very busy time in the Reinforce Training Unit. Two new Peer Workers have been employed and an advisory group created, to help steer the project. Our Peer workers are in the office every Thursday, unless we are at a seminar or delivering a presentation somewhere else.

We have made our office space easier to work in and we have started updating the policies and procedures that Reinforce uses. Along with these things, the Peer Workers organised a successful Coffee Morning as well as attending a seminar on Easy English Project Management.



We also travelled overnight to Bendigo to deliver a

presentation titled **"10 Tips for Being a Strong Self Advocate"** to the Have a Say Bendigo group.

On a personal note, I continue to learn many things about speaking up for ourselves and how to work with people of all abilities. Reinforce is a strong group of people with a shared desire to let people know about being a strong self-advocate, and I feel quite privileged to have the Project Worker job.

Reinforce Goes To Bendigo!

On Monday afternoon, some Reinforce & Positive Powerful Parents members (Colin, Norrie, Jane, Susan, Jacqui - Susan's support worker, Julie, Heather, Shannon) met up with the project workers Georgina, Melanie and Mark at Southern Cross Station. A couple of us were having our lunch. At 1:10pm, we started on our journey to Bendigo to meet "Have A Say Bendigo". On the two-hour train ride, we travelled together as a group. Georgina kindly made up some goodie bags for everybody that was put to good use. We all had a very pleasant train ride up to Bendigo. When we arrived at Bendigo, we went to our accommodation. After

arriving we then decided to relax until dinner time. For dinner Reinforce & Positive Powerful Parents went to the Lake View Hotel. We



gathered up and had dinner together as a group. We all enjoyed our meals there. We enjoyed the food so much we decided to go to dinner next time.

After dinner a couple of us went for a night walk to the supermarket, while the rest just relaxed at our accommodation. On Tuesday morning, we all gathered up and had breakfast together at a fancy nearby café Percy On Percy. Just like dinner, we all enjoyed our meals for breakfast. We also had our morning doses of our favourite hot drinks too. We sat outside in their courtyard which was relaxing for everybody. After breakfast we went to the Bendigo Library to set up for the meeting. When we got there, there were already a few members of

"Have A Say Bendigo" waiting for us. Before the actual meeting started, Colin, Susan and Heather did a rundown of their presentations with Georgina. Reinforce are producing a training unit to introduce Reinforce and Self Advocacy to Have A Say Bendigo. As the meeting was happening, there were a lot more people arriving at the venue. The presenters were a little nervous at first. But we nailed it in the end and



everybody enjoyed the presentation and the meeting. After the meeting, we had lunch together, which we all enjoyed too. All members from Have A Say Bendigo gave great feedback on

this meeting and the presentations.

After the meeting was closed, Reinforce and Positive Powerful Parents and the project workers had a debrief. Then at about 1:30pm, it was time for most of us to come back to Melbourne.

Norrie enjoyed himself that much that he decided to spend another night in Bendigo. After a long train trip



back to Melbourne, we were zonked out, but it was worth all of the effort. We had to leave the Beautiful warm weather in Bendigo and come back to the cold windy weather in Melbourne.

OPA Project Launch

On Wednesday October 30th Reinforce celebrated the launch of our project in partnership with Office of the Public Advocate. **"The right of people to make their own medical decisions"**. It was an excellent event with the launch of 2

brochures. One brochure was for people with an intellectual disability advising them of their rights in the healthcare system and the other brochure was for doctors to help them better support people with an intellectual disability to make their own medical decisions.



A special thank you to Ellie, Emma and Colin for their work on the project. Also, thank you to Colleen Pearce Victorian Public Advocate and Lynn Haultin Executive Director of the Victorian Law Foundation for coming to the launch and funding & supporting the project.



If you are interested in receiving a copy of these brochures please contact Reinforce at sw@reinforce.org.au or call 03 9650 7855 or the Office of the Public Advocate on 1300 309 337 They will soon be available on the Reinforce website as a download but download them here <https://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/>