

WET and WILD

Friday 25 February saw the annual Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia's Wet and Wild event in the later afternoon/evening time slot.

'Wet and Wild' is an Early Intervention Programme event where the outdoor playground area is converted into an aquatic world, full of slippery slides and of course, super soaker water fights.



This year saw a later starting time that gave a number of fathers the opportunity to attend, socialise, and of course, have a splash in the pools.

The afternoon was concluded with a BBQ sausage sizzle that gave all the families an opportunity to kick back and relax, and soak up the atmosphere in what was a fun filled afternoon.

*Damien Beale
Speech Pathologist
Early Intervention Programme*



A Driving Success!

On Wednesday 16 March 2005, the Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia's Adolescent Team hosted our first driving information session for our teen driving hopefuls. The evening turned out to be a resounding success with very informative presentations from three talented Occupational Therapists. It was held at the Independent Living Centre (ILC) in Nedlands.

Firstly we heard from Laurel Hocking, the Manager of Driver Access, and a specialist driver trained Occupational Therapist about an assessment done by Driver Access to see whether one has the capacity to become a driver as a person with a disability. Laurel explained that a visual test needed to be completed as well as a biomechanical assessment and a

screen of perception and cognitive capacity. The assessment also included practical testing. The speaker was Nicky Lorrain from ILC, who informed teens and their families of funding available for the car and for any vehicle modifications that may be needed. Laurel heard from another senior Occupational Therapist - Sacha Penrose - who spoke on a real car all the different hardware and equipment available for disabled drivers. It truly is amazing to see how technology is making driving a realistic goal for many of our teens!

All in all the evening was considered useful and informative to all who attended.



*Michelle Katz
Occupational Therapist
School Age Intervention Programme*

Supporting Young Siblings Project

The Intervention Programme (EIP) of CPWA is conducting a very important project. The aim of the project is to investigate the emotional needs of young brothers and sisters of children with cerebral palsy (CP). It is hoped that from this research we will be able to develop resources and support services for brothers and sisters in EIP.



The aim of this research is to:

- 1 Discover the experiences of siblings of children with cerebral palsy; and
- 2 Determine how CPAWA can best support siblings and ensure positive outcomes for the future.

We need parents and siblings (aged 8-12 years) to participate in the project.

What does participation in the project involve?

Participation in the project will involve siblings (8-12 years) of children with CP to take part in an interview with the Project Officer. The Project Officer will be asking questions about what it is like to have a brother or sister with CP. Parents will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire.

The interview should take no longer than one and a half hours.

Participation in the project is voluntary. All information collected is confidential and will not be stored in your CPAWA central file.

What is the benefit of the project to my family?

The main aim of the project is to determine how we can best support families of children with CP. Most importantly, we want to determine how to support siblings. The information provided is enormously important. It will help to ensure that CPAWA is providing the best possible service to its clients.

The outcomes of the project are expected to be of benefit to families involved in EIP in the future.

Further Information.

If you would like to know more about the project before agreeing to participate, please do not hesitate to call and discuss your queries.

If you are interested in taking part in the project, please contact the Project Officer on the number below.

Project Officer: Kellie Cassidy **9443 0301**
Manager EIP: Elizabeth Barty **9443 0295**

'What Do I Need To Know?' Project Update

The 'What Do I Need To Know?' project commenced in November 2004 with funding from the Disability Services Commission, with the objective to find how important general information is to families. Feedback from the Measures of Processes of Care (MPOC) Questionnaire in 2003 showed that although families thought that Community Development services were family friendly and respectful, more 'general information' related to having a child with a disability was required.

Senior Project Officer Natalie Georgeff developed a telephone survey guided by the nine items in the 'Providing General Information' construct of the MPOC. The survey consists of 35 questions under five aspects of general information provision::

- 1 **how** information is given, for example by a newsletter or on a website;
- 2 **who** the information is for, for example, mothers or fathers;
- 3 **when** information is given, for example, during the day or in the evening;
- 4 **where** information is given, for example, at CPAWA or in the community; and
- 5 **what** type of information is given, for example, about cerebral palsy.

The questionnaire and project plan were presented and discussed with the Steering Committee* of staff and families from Community Development in November 2004.

A big 'Thank you' to the 160 families who completed the 'What Do I Need To Know?' Project telephone survey over the summer months. Also thanks to those families who continue to do face-to-face interviews with Paula Dyke, Community Development Acting General Manager, about general information needs.

All of the results from the telephone survey are now being analysed to determine the rating of importance of each survey question, and to determine whether the information needs of families differ according to demographic characteristics, for example, the age of the child with a disability, the type of cerebral palsy or the age and number of siblings. Additional comments, opinions and suggestions will be obtained from the Steering Committee* on how the results can improve CPAWA services that provide general information to families.

The 'What Do I Need To Know?' Project will be completed by July 2005.

For further information, please contact:

Natalie Georgeff
Senior Project Officer
Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia
Ph: (08) 9443 0314

* The eight family representatives on the Steering Committee are:

- 1 Thalia Secker
- 2 Jill Palmer
- 3 Wendy Atwell
- 4 Naomi Edwards
- 5 Mary Marchese
- 6 Pamela Davies
- 7 Rebekah Martin
- 8 Debbie Killian

Brandon Steps Out

The Lions Club of Ocean Reef, together with the Bullseye Entertainers and the Joondalup Ulysses Club, are wonderful supporters of the Association's Equipment Sponsorship Programme and have funded a number of walkers for our clients over the years. Recently they had the opportunity to visit Brandon Moore



Brandon with members of the Lions Club of Ocean Reef, Bullseye Entertainers and Joondalup Ulysses Club.

class even sang their school song to the immense enjoyment of the Bullseye Entertainers!

Brandon expressed his gratitude to the Lions Club of Ocean Reef, Bullseye Entertainers and Joondalup Ulysses Club, and presented the group with a card he made himself.

The Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia, together with Brandon and his family, wishes to sincerely thank the members of the Lions Club of Ocean Reef, Bullseye Entertainers and the Joondalup Ulysses for their tremendous support.

Frances Thomas
Community Relations Officer

Call for Entries

Invitation to participate in WHO Health and Disability photo contest, **'Images of Health and Disability 2005'**. Special Theme: Employment and Labour
Further information: <http://www.who.int/classification/icf>

Invitation to participate in the Keller Foundation's **'Overcoming Disability Anthology'**. Required – poetry or prose of 3,000 words or fewer, about overcoming a physical or emotional disability.

Deadline: June 1, 2005
Further information:
dscharpe@towson.edu
www.helenkellerfoundation.org

From Arts Access Australia

On the Western Front

The Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia's charity greyhound 'WESTERN FRONT' has commenced racing again after a short spell. So far she has had 29 starts with 8 wins, 3 seconds and one third, raising more than \$6,245 for the Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia and the Breast Cancer Foundation.

But 'WESTERN FRONT' is about more than just raising money for charity. She has brought with her an immense amount of exposure in the media and warmed the hearts of the greyhound industry, our very own membership base and the wider community in general.

At the recent Schweppes Greyhound of the Year Ball, Tim Gossage, the brainchild of the Western Front Promotion, was acknowledged for the wonderful exposure he has achieved in the media with 'WESTERN FRONT',

and was presented with the award for Best Media Contribution.

The efforts of Nick and Lisa Minutillo who train 'WESTERN FRONT' were also acknowledged on the night, with Lisa being awarded the Gerry O'Keefe Achievement Award.

The Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia congratulates Tim Gossage and Lisa Minutillo on their awards, and would also like to extend our thanks to both of them, together with Nick Minutillo, Greyhounds WA, and of course, 'WESTERN FRONT' for their wonderful support.

I can also tell you that there are some exciting times ahead for our charity greyhound – so stay tuned for more information!

Frances Thomas
Community Relations Officer



Back Row: Tim Gossage, Betty Lorrimer and Nick Minutillo.

Front Row: Lisa Minutillo with Western Front.

Creating 'Opportunities'

Janelle McMahon attends 'Opportunities', an alternative to employment programme at the Cerebral Palsy Association of Western Australia. Janelle shares with us some of the exciting projects she has undertaken in recent weeks.

Janelle is never short of presents to give friends at birthdays and Christmas.



Creative Art

Since a young girl, Janelle has loved painting and her home is full of her art work. While doing creative art, she is learning new styles of painting and mixing paints. Her latest creations include a butterfly and an autumn leaf.



Creative Art

Janelle spent time painting stars and moons onto a T-shirt with a sponge to make this great top.



Mosaic Tiles

Currently, Janelle is making a mosaic plate by gluing small pieces of tile onto a round block. Once finished, Janelle will be able to hang the plate in her home in Morley.

