

PEBBLE

February 2021

Message from the CEO & Chair

Greetings everyone

Almost at the end of February, hard to believe where the time has gone, although I think summer has departed with the much colder mornings this last week.

As mentioned previously, SASI has exciting things on the horizon for this year and we look forward to continuing supports for our existing clients and their families as well as expanding options for existing and new families to join us.

We have commenced short term accommodation assistance this week at our cottage in Newborough, Gippsland for those families with funding and needs, which is very exciting. This service will also be offered at the new Cranbourne property in the coming months.

The Seaford site is almost finished, with work taking a bit longer than anticipated for a variety of reasons. We are planning a morning/afternoon tea prior to opening to give all families, clients, and community members an opportunity to view the newly refurbished space and the supports which will be offered there.

Our co-located space, in partnership with the Salvation Army at 750 Nepean Highway, Mt Martha, is almost up and running and will also be hosting a morning/afternoon tea to invite prospective families, SDS's and other community members to view the space and discuss their needs in the coming month.

SASI staff continue to ensure everyone's safety by implementing all the relevant guidelines for infection control including mask wearing, physical distancing, hand washing/sanitiser, daily health checks, temperature checks, designated spaces for everyone and access and egress routes to and from each building occupied.

As you will be aware the National Covid vaccination roll out has commenced and staff and residents in SIL are part of the initial group. We have communicated with all families and carers related to this and will keep everyone updated with specifics when we are updated.

The Annual SASI Art Competition and Show for 2021 will be held virtually during the 'Autism Awareness' month of April. Entries are open now and details are included in this edition as well as on the SASI website. We look forward to 'viewing' lots of exciting works from those creatives with a disability in our community.

Stay safe everyone and happy reading...

Cheers

Kath (CEO) & Louise (Chair)



Latest Adventures

Supported Independent Living Homes

Frankston House

Steph enjoyed watching music videos on TV and had some great dancing moves on the floor!!!



Above: Steph

Aspendale House

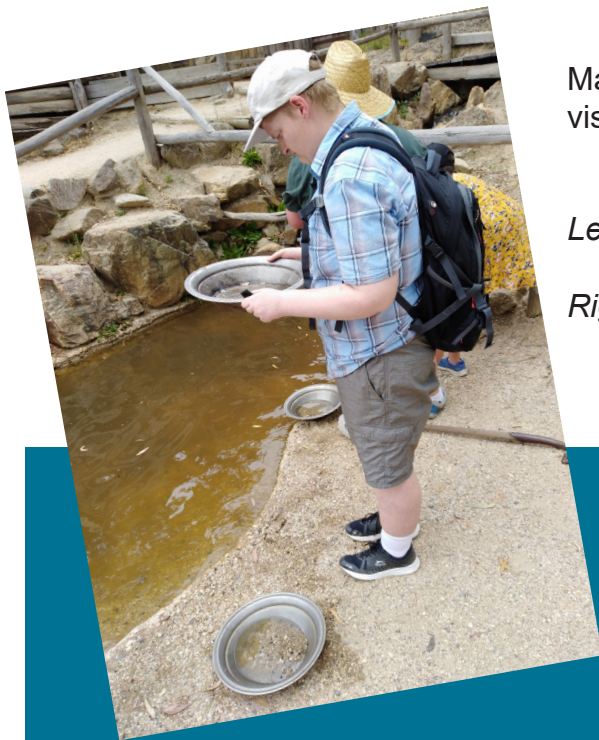
Cameron from Aspendale House was in a good mood, chilling on the beach with staff and friends.



Above: Cameron



Springvale House



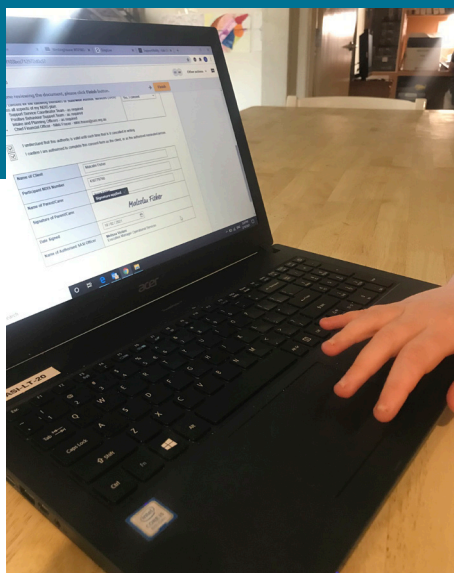
Malcolm from Springvale House had a great time visiting Sovereign Hill in Ballarat with his parents.

Left: Malcolm

Right: Benjamin



Benjamin enjoyed having a coffee out and doing some shopping.



Malcolm learnt how to sign his own documents electronically via Panda Doc.



Did you know....

It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open!



Cheltenham House



Cheltenham House resident Matthew (above) loved having fun playing a round of lawn bowls.

Our CEO Kath visited SASI houses and popped in to see everyone at Cheltenham House. Matty showed Kath his favourite footy toy.



Above L-R: Matty & Kath



Ben (above) enjoyed having a drive along the beach and a walk in the Mornington beach park

Active Choices

Newborough

Brad has been working alongside AC Newborough staff with transitioning into Day Services.

As staff are learning what Brad likes to do, they have recently supported him with gardening on our beautiful property in Newborough.

Brad enjoyed collecting the sticks and twigs and using the wheelbarrow to transport them to the greens waste bin.



Left: Brad

Right L-R: Brad & Tom



Events

SASI ONLINE ART SHOW

1 - 30 April 2021

**Exhibition of autistic
& disabled community
artwork**

ENTRIES ARE OPEN!

www.sasi.formstack.com/forms/art_show

Take a photo of your artwork and enter online by 14 March 2021 and you will have the chance to win a prize!

Alfred Murfey Prize	\$250
Packers Prize	\$200
People's Choice Award	\$150



www.sasi.formstack.com/forms/art_show



Having a Say Forever!

Having a Say Conference 2021

15th – 17th June 2021

Theme: *You're My Best Friend*

VALID will be running their Having A Say Conference from 15 to 17 June 2021, so make sure you pop it in your diary!

There will be lots of activities, performances, sessions, and opportunities to catch up online and face to face in Geelong with old and new friends.

Client Services

Dear clients, families and SASI teams

SASI @ Seaford Hub

Our redevelopment of the Seaford Hub is in full swing... tiny delays due to the snap lockdown, however we are still on schedule to be up and running in March. The space is coming together well, recruitment is underway, our Intake & Planning team will be reaching out in the coming weeks and once we have a finalised open date we shall sing it from the roof tops.

Hub @ Mt Martha, 750 Nepean Hwy, Mt Martha

We are moving our furniture... this perfect little spot that we are sharing with Salvos will accommodate groups for parents & bubs + youth group opportunities. Members from our Support Coordination & Positive Behavioural Support teams will regularly be onsite here. We continue to strive to be better at how we communicate and to get buy in and feedback from our clients / families & communities as we understand the better holistic approach to meeting client needs, with better and more efficient access to the range of services

required, improved quality and consistency of service and greater responsiveness to needs and the best service we can deliver, as such we shall be holding a Morning Tea in early April, invites will be sent out in the coming weeks – hope to see you there.

Cottage @ Newborough

We are so thrilled that our cottage at Gippsland is ready for people to enjoy and there will be opportunities for overnight stays on Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings. To register your interest, please contact Lisa Wellington by email: lisa.wellington@sasi.org.au

Hotham Street, Cranbourne

Has the time come to find a new home? Moving into your own home is a big decision. There are lots of things to consider and it is important that the place not only feels right to you, but also has everything you need to live comfortably. From the vibe you get from potential house-mates and the ways they contribute to your everyday life, to physical features of the home itself.

If you or someone you care for is ready to move out, we are very excited that our new residence at Hotham Street, Cranbourne is open for inspection, offering short, medium and long term accommodation options – please contact Chirag Shah by email: chirag.shah@sasi.org.au for further information or visit Housing Hub for further information.

Website

Our website has undergone some significant updates over the last 6 months and is a terrific resource for families/carers to keep updated

with all SASI services, plus NDIS updates, parents blog section and informative articles. For any information regarding our services, please email enquiries@sasi.org.au and one of our of team shall touch base.

Stay safe, stay well.

Melissa

Executive Manager Operational Services



Above L-R: Rex, Sarah, & Tara

NDIS Support Coordination

The NDIS Support Coordination Team really enjoy visiting all the SASI services. They recently had a road trip to Gippsland where the highlight of the day was their visit to the Gippsland Day Service in Newborough. Set in a beautiful location and so quiet and peaceful, they didn't want to come home!

Positive Behaviour Support

SASI & Handz Up Therapy have developed a key communication lanyard to be worn by all staff, with vocabulary that is specific to our settings and client needs. Our communication lanyards assist support staff in visually communicating with clients who have limited verbal communication skills. The lanyard will also help support client's understanding of verbal language and keep communication and expectations clear.





There are
so many
beautiful
reasons to
be happy

COVID-19 Update

Current Status








On 26 February 2021 the Premier of Victoria announced Victoria is returning to its previous COVIDSafe settings, allowing more visitors in the home and reduced mask wearing.

How this effects us at SASI


We unfortunately continue to have the Active Choices facilities closed at Seaford, but we are hoping to re-open soon.

Fortunately our services remain open in Gippsland so our support services continue there.

Accommodation

-  Aspendale
-  Cheltenham
-  Dandenong
-  Frank St
-  Frankston
-  Langwarrin
-  Mordialloc
-  Springvale

Active Choices

-  Online Programs
-  Gippsland
-  Baxter
-  Croydon
-  Seaford
-  Camps
-  In Home Support

Client Services

-  Support Coordination
-  Positive Behaviour Support
-  Intake & Planning Team

Corporate Services

-  People & Culture Team
-  Finance Team

 Service Open  Service Restricted  Service Closed

COVID-19 Resources

Department of Health
www.health.gov.au

Department of Health & Human Services
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au

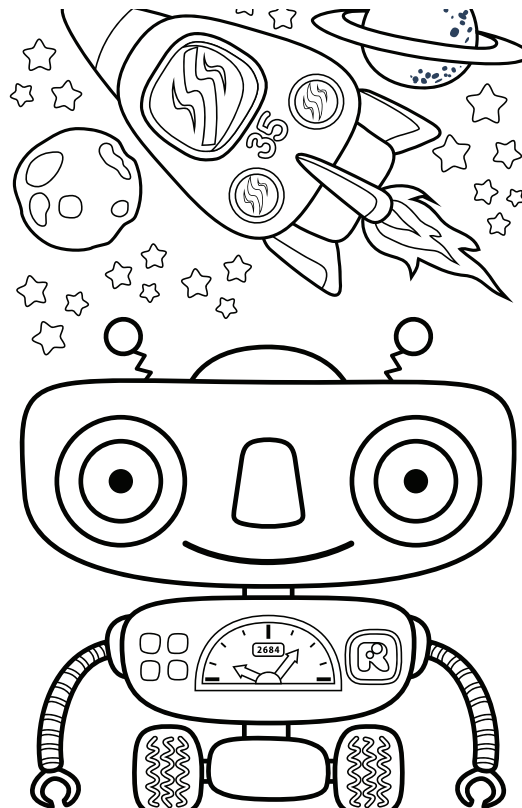
Premier of Victoria
www.premier.vic.gov.au

Fun Zone



Colour in

Have fun colouring in the rocket ship and robot!



Space Maze

Can you help the space man get to the rocket?

See the solution below.



What is fast, loud and crunchy?

A rocket chip!



Space Maze Answer

Staff Feature

Georgie

Disability Support

What does your role at SASI involve?

Supporting Clients in the choices they make, whether selecting clothing for the day, what to have for meals or jumping alongside the guys on the trampoline.

If you could have a super power, what would it be?

My SUPERPOWER would be to sink an Eagle several times on any given golf course before my son-in-law does.

What do you have at the top of your bucket list?



Not much. When I decide on a course of action, it is done with no regrets about what if?? Bungy jumping, hot air ballooning, TOUGH MUDDER.

If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

The Elephant is a majestic regal animal and carries herself with grace and poise. She commands respect by its sheer size and might. She is to be respected.

What is the one thing no one knows about you (until now!)?

I come from a family of 10 girls and 6 boys. My sister and I are not identical. The other set of twin girls are identical.

Why do you enjoy working at SASI?

We have a great team of workers who are respectful of each other and their culture. Every member of the team has people experiences, gifts and insights that they bring to the table which gets passed down to our guys. I feel privileged to be a part of the developing culture of Springvale House. It is Awesome.



Above: Georgie



Foodie corner



Easy snack

There are only four ingredients in this simple and yummy snack.

Banana Bites

Makes 8

Ingredients

- 2 large mashed bananas
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup chopped pitted dates
- 1 cup shredded coconut

Directions

1. Combine the mashed banana with the oats and dates in a blender for 1 minute
2. Place the mixture in the fridge for 30 minutes, or until firm
3. Roll the mixture into small-sized balls in your hands
4. Coat the balls in shredded coconut and store in the fridge

Enjoy!



*Image & recipe courtesy of
www.bestrecipes.com.au*

Have you got a recipe you'd like to share? Email it to us, along with a photo of your masterpiece, and you may see it in Pebble!



The long road ahead for an autism parent

by SASI Guest Parent Blogger

I recently met a lovely couple and their children at a gathering at a friend's house. I watched her gorgeous little boy play for hours with a younger girl. The whole time they played I had no idea this boy had autism. The normal tell-tail signs were not present. The child seemed to communicate fairly well, he played nicely, he interacted with the other children and adults well and not once did I think that he could be on the spectrum.

As we were all getting organised to go home something came up in conversation and the Mum said: "He has autism." I told her I was surprised. As a Mum with an autistic son I generally pick up on the signs. She said that all day, they too watched their son play nicely, waiting for an incident to happen which would lead them to having to pack up and go home early. However, when the dog barked, or the boy hit his head on the trampoline, there was no meltdown as one would normally expect. They were pleased with how well he interacted with everyone and played nicely with the other young girl.

As they left, I thought to myself about the journey these parents were now on. The rollercoaster of emotions that they would now face as they saw their child through his life stages.

[Read more](#)

The rest of this article can be found on the [Blog page](#) of our website, along with many other interesting articles written from the perspective of a parent of a child with autism.



Image courtesy of pixabay.com



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Want to share your ideas?

Email us at enquiries@sasi.org.au



Your life. Your way. Your choice.

**Supporting children, teenagers,
and adults with autism and other
complex disabilities**

