

PEBBLE

October 2021

Message from the CEO & Chair

Greetings everyone

It is lovely to know that, as we approach the end of the month, that we will have some freedoms from Friday 29th October, plus even a crowd at the Melbourne Cup!

SASI launched its vaccination policy during October and are pleased to let you all know that all our staff are partially/fully vaccinated – well done everyone...

We at SASI take our responsibility for providing a safe workplace for our staff and all our clients and families extremely seriously and are continually updating processes and procedures to keep our community safe.

The Annual SASI Staff Awards are currently accepting nominations, so have a thought about nominating someone; a colleague, worker or team who you feel has demonstrated excellent work supporting our clients during this very challenging year...winners to be announced at our Virtual Annual Forum on Wednesday 24th November – save the date and watch out for information about this event!

Our inaugural on-line forum (via Zoom) for families was postponed this month but we are back again in November and keen to receive any topics suggested. Email me your ideas at kath.ferry@sasi.org.au.

Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly due to the large numbers of cases, two of our houses reported positive COVID19 cases. Staff and

residents have been tested and staff are following our COVIDSafe Plan wearing Tier 3 PPE, working changed rosters while supporting and keeping our residents and our staff safe. Preparation was paramount in safeguarding our staff and residents.

I would like to thank each and every one of our staff who have stepped up and responded magnificently to the challenge of supporting our residents in isolation, and all the other SASI staff who have stepped in to help with a range of tasks, from shopping and food preparation, to deliveries etc.

We are so fortunate at SASI to have such a committed, professional staff who support our clients and their families.

I would also like to acknowledge Lisa Wilson, our Deputy CEO and Exec Manager of Corporate Services who has left us in October – Lisa has contributed hugely to SASI in the last three years and we wish her well for the future.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy the spring weather.

Happy reading.

Cheers

Kath (CEO)

Cont...



Hi All

It is hard to believe we are in November!

What a surreal year it has been, more time in lockdown than any other city in the world. It's going to take time to get used to these new freedoms, but I will definitely be enjoying every moment.

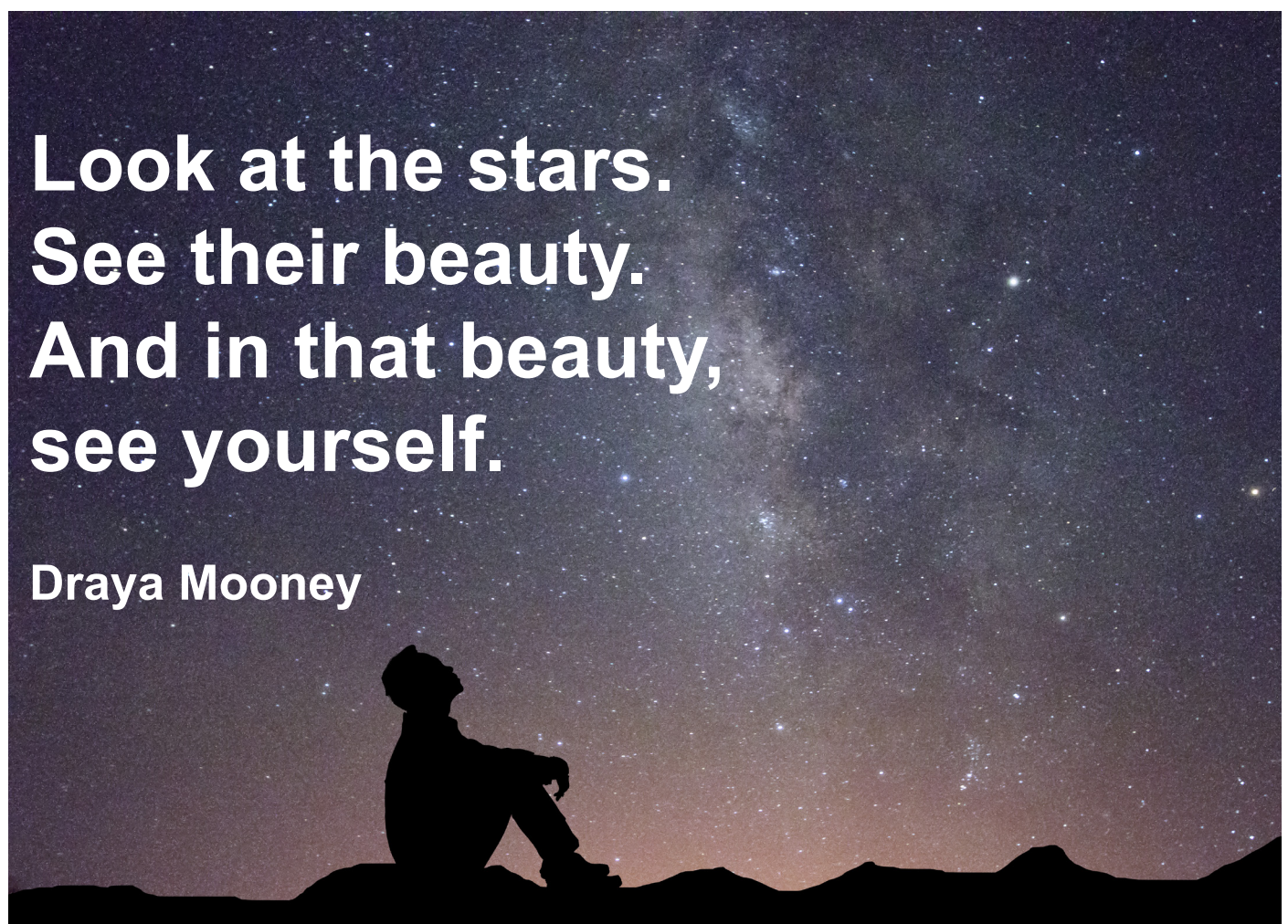
It will be wonderful to start having you all back enjoying all the services and activities we offer here at SASI.

We just had our Board's Annual General Meeting, and I am very excited to announce three new members to our SASI Board: David Maywald, Carol Adams, and Barry Small. All three come with incredible knowledge and strengths across a diverse range of professions, and will bring even more insights, guidance, and passion to the current committed Board.

I am looking forward to seeing all the SASI team at our annual staff awards this month and being able to recognise and thank the incredibly talented, passionate, and loyal team who work at SASI, who have been truly phenomenal during these trying times.

Cheers

Louise (Chair)



Latest Adventures

Supported & Independent Living Homes

Aspendale House



Joe from Aspendale House relaxed and enjoyed the evening sun in the back-yard.

Left: Joe

Todd spent some time in the gardens and got to enjoy the trampoline in spring time.

Right: Todd



Frankston House



Above: Amy

Amy chose to go out to McDonald's for dinner and had a relaxing picnic at Baxter Park. She enjoyed her meal and feeding the magpies that came up to the table for some chips, and Amy also enjoyed watching people exercising their dogs on the oval.

After her dinner, Amy kept some of her drink to enjoy on the bus drive. Once at Oliver's Hill, Amy enjoyed watching the sun setting on the water, before driving back to Frankston House.



Active Choices

Newborough

Our Master Chef's in the making have done it again. They created another beautiful lunch and baked potatoes were enjoyed by all.



Right: Randy

Below L-R: Randy, Dwayne, & Brendan



Did you know....

One million earths could fit inside the sun!



Bubbles can create the biggest smiles and provide so much entertainment.

Our participants at SASI Newborough love it when the bubbles come out!



Above: Brandon



Above: Jeremy

Left: Mark

The chickens are growing fast at Newborough. Participants love patting and playing with them.



Above L-R: David, Mark, & Leonie



Above L-R: Randy & David

Right L-R: Brendan & David



Client Services

Dear valued clients, families/carers, and SASI teams



A big YIPPEEEEE from us as the Melbourne Clock struck 11.59pm on 21st October lockdown #6 removed the curfew and travel limits. Now that travel limits have been lifted, between Melbourne and our regional friends, we are looking forward to catching up again soon!

Additional updates:

- Home visits permitted for up to 10 people per day
- Childcare is open to children currently attending and those whose parents/guardians are fully vaccinated
- Groups of up to 15 people can gather outside in Melbourne, and this is increased to 20 in regional Victoria
- The staged return to school has been brought forward with students in regional Victoria to return full time on Friday 22 October and for metro Melbourne on staggered days for different year levels
- Masks will still be required inside and outside until the 80% target is reached, then it switches to inside only
- For further and current information please [click here](#)

Parent & Carers 'Let's Talk About'

Having experienced a range of parent and carers participation approaches over the years, SASI is now launching a free inclusive online support forum for families and carers to discuss a range of topics in a safe, friendly, and supportive place.

These will run bi-monthly starting with a discussion about the hot topic of COVID Vaccinations, so grab your favourite cuppa or drink and join us for a conversation.

These sessions will feature expert advice from our teams and at times include external professionals who will offer support and are keen to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Our Aim

To understand and hear the views of parents and carers in discussions and, through this, to influence the way services are delivered. We are also keen for parents and carers to play a more active part in service design and development by ensuring that the needs and wishes of our clients and families are heard, and placed at the centre of these processes.

We shall be hosting these sessions via Microsoft Teams and invites will be emailed, so if you would like to join us, please RSVP when you receive an email by pressing 'Accept':

- Cost: Free
- Time: 7pm to 7.45pm



Future 'Save the Dates'

- Wednesday 15th December
- Wednesday 16th February
- Wednesday 20th April
- Wednesday 15th June
- Wednesday 17th August
- Wednesday 19th October
- Wednesday 14th December

Annual SASI Forum & Staff Awards for 2021



Our forum is open to all SASI Staff, Board Members, Parents and Carers, and Clients and again will be held online via Zoom webinar on November 24th.

Staff Awards 2021

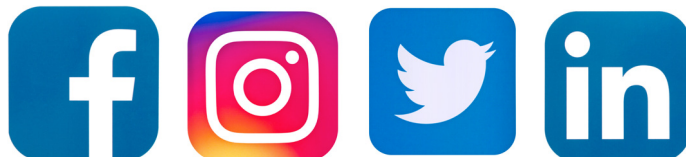
- Who can nominate?
 - Absolutely everyone Clients, Families, Carers, 3rd Party Providers, Support Staff, Members of the Public, Practice Leaders and Managers
- Who selects the winners?
 - SASI Board and Executive team
- Prizes
 - The winners are announced at the virtual forum on Wednesday 24th November – check your emails soon for invites!
- Each category winner shall receive a gift certificate

To submit a nomination, go to: https://sasi.formstack.com/forms/staffawards_2021.

If you have any questions, please contact us on 1300 577 305 or send an email to: enquiries@sasi.org.au - we look forward to seeing you there!

Follow Us

Stay up to date with the latest news via SASI's social media blogs with faster communication - you can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram + LinkedIn.



So time to download or print your vaccination certificate and get out to enjoy our beautiful city... for assistance please visit: [Vaccinations/how-get-proof](#).

Warmest Regards

Melissa & Client Services Team
Executive Manager Operational Services

SASI Toolbox Taskmasters

An 'aided language display' is a symbol display where all the relevant symbolised vocabulary for a specific activity is displayed on a single page. Belinda and Benjamin from our Cheltenham SIL are learning to use this communication aide from our SASI 'Toolbox of Tier 1 Supports' for meal times. Their support staff are assisting by modelling how to effectively use this tool.



Above L-R: Belinda, Callum, Benjamin, & Jarrod

Key Word Sign (KWS) uses a core vocabulary of specifically selected words containing concepts and ideas. Each word or concept is matched with a hand sign. KWS uses the signs from AUSLAN. Callum and Jarrod from our Springvale SIL are learning the signs from our new SASI KWS list. The list will be used to boost and support the communication development of clients with communication difficulties and to emphasise the most important words in a message or sentence. This KWS list is also from the 'Toolbox of Tier 1 Supports' being developed with Handz Up therapy.










COVID-19 Update

Current Status

The Victorian Premier announced Melbourne was coming out of lockdown at 11.59pm 21 October 2021.

The Roadmap is now being implemented and more restrictions are expected to be lifted soon.



Accommodation

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

AC Hubs

-  Online Programs
-  Seaford
-  Newborough
-  Moe
-  Mount Martha



Coming Soon

-  Home to Community
-  Camps

Client Services

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

Corporate Services

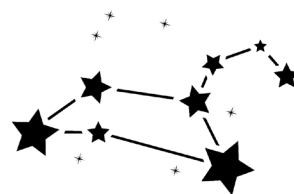
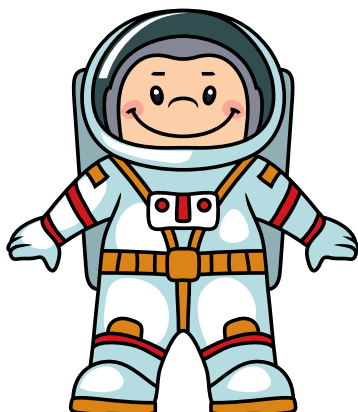
-  People & Culture Team
-  Finance Team

COVID-19 Resources

www.health.gov.au
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au
www.premier.vic.gov.au

 Service Open  Coming Soon

A colorful illustration of three children jumping joyfully against a dark grey background. On the left, a boy with brown hair, wearing a yellow and white striped shirt and blue pants, is jumping with his right arm raised. In the center, a girl with blonde pigtails, wearing a pink dress, is jumping with her arms outstretched. On the right, another boy with brown hair, wearing a green t-shirt and orange shorts, is jumping with his arms raised. All three children have red cheeks and are smiling broadly.



To get brighter!



Staff Feature

Riya Support Worker

What does your role at SASI involve?

I work in Support Independent Living at Frankston house. My role is being part of the team who supports clients who have complex disabilities in their day to day living. Providing quality service to clients. Ensuring NDIS plans are implemented and client outcomes are achieved.

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

The capacity to read people's minds is the super power I'd like to have. I'd be able to understand people with disabilities who are unable to communicate.

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

Someday to travel to The Netherlands with the family and enjoy a holiday.

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

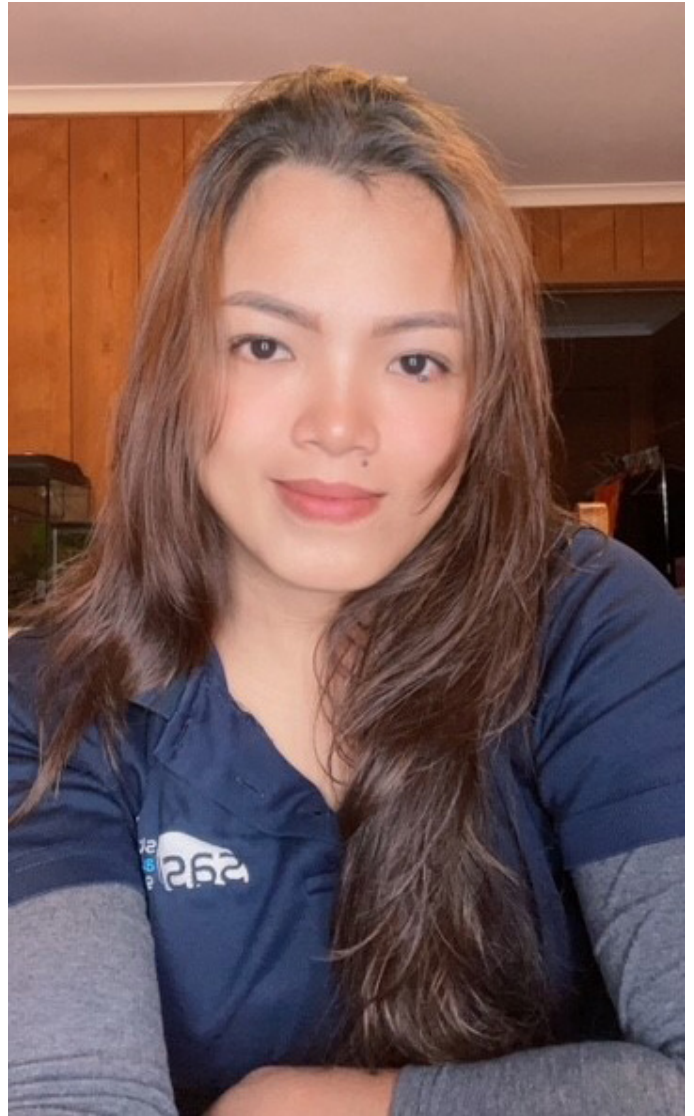
An ant because they are hard workers committed to working as a team and often achieve very impressive results despite their tiny size.

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

That I was once a singer in a music band. My normal diet is I eat meals that always have rice in it, breakfast, lunch and dinner. I love my own time. I like making friends. I may become quiet with some friends and boring to be with but inside of me loves the time and would want to talk more. I've learned to eat salad only here in Australia and slowly adapting to the culture.

Why do you enjoy working at SASI?

I enjoy working at SASI because aside from having great work colleagues, I also love the feeling of helping people to achieve a good quality of life.



Above: Riya



Foodie Corner



Here's a fun space recipe to try!

Everyone will enjoy these yummy Moon Rock Cakes. They are out of this world!

Moon Rock Cakes

Makes 24

Ingredients

- 2 Cups Self Raising Flour
- 125g Butter, melted
- 2 Eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/3 Cup Sugar
- 1 ½ Cup Sultanas



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

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 180°C
 2. Line a baking tray with baking paper
 3. Mix flour, sugar, and sultanas in a bowl
 4. Add butter and eggs, stirring until combined
 5. Place spoonful-sized portions of mixture onto a baking tray
 6. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown
- Enjoy!
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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!



Tips for an ASD Friendly Classroom

by SASI Guest Parent Blogger

Children with ASD tend to be more visual learners, they can be easily distracted by noise and need structure in their lives. As such, the average classroom can be very uncomfortable, with too much noise, bright lights, and lots of things going on in a small space causing too many distractions which is not conducive to effective learning.

Schools and teachers may not always have the knowledge and/or resources to assist ASD students. However, a more appropriate classroom set up will not only help children with Autism, but also those with ADHD and other learning difficulties.

By implementing some of the following strategies in the classroom, all children will likely feel more comfortable, less anxious and will therefore be able to learn better.

1. Have clear rules and expectations

Make sure you are clear with the rules and expectations within the classroom. Provide only a handful, as too many rules will cause confusion. Be very clear with the language used, avoiding anything that can be misinterpreted.

[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



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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**

