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Federal Minister for Disability Bill Shorten reuniting with Troy 15 years after their first meeting at the Seaford Hub.

Message from the CEO and Chair

Greetings everyone,
Happy New Lunar Year of the
Rabbit !
We hope that everyone had an
enjoyable break over the holiday
season and are back refreshed and
ready for a new and exciting year.



We welcome the start of our School Leaver Employment Support (SLES) program, our partnership with Vinnies in Rosebud with our Hospitality program at Seaford Hub and we have been fortunate with the weather to reconvene our camps down at Saltbush on the Peninsula which have been popular with clients looking to get away for a change of scenery.

Seaford Hub had a very exciting visit on 30 January from the Federal Minister for Disability, Bill Shorten, accompanied by Federal Member for Dunkley, Peta Murphy. Back in 2008, Bill opened the Seaford site, and he was very impressed to see the changes to the site and the supports offered through the NDIS to ensure that our clients have 'Choice & Control' in their options. Troy and Barry, two of our clients, were also present back then and enjoyed this happy reunion. The visitors were shown around the Hub, meeting clients and staff as well as some parents who came along. The VIP party enjoyed home-made scones with home-made jam, made and served from clients in the Hospitality Hub. The Minister was interested and asked many questions related to our provision of supports and interactions with the NDIS. We thank Minister Shorten and Peta for coming along to meet us all – a wonderful start to 2023.



Above: Federal Member for Dunkley, Peta Murphy and Federal Minister for Disability Bill Shorten visit Stacey at the Seaford Art Hub.

SASI is honoured to have been accepted to present at the upcoming 'Having a Say' Conference in Geelong in February, in partnership with Enliven, a local community organisation. As many of you will know this is a wonderful opportunity to show case some of our work and also to hear directly from our clients and other community members.



Having a Say Conference 2023

20th & 21st February 2023

Theme: *We're Still Here!*

It's nice to see a number of our staff taking the opportunity to visit their families in their homeland in the new year, a thing we have all been unable to do for the past few years.

Our newest Supported Independent Living house (SIL), in Traralgon, Gippsland, is now fully occupied with a number of residents enjoying their first experience of shared living. Fabulous to see...

Our COVID Recovery Roadmap: Response, Recover and Thrive continues as we navigate our way into this new year and we look forward to further expanding our activities and services for all SASI's clients.

Happy reading

Cheers,

Kath (CEO) & Rob (Chair)



Above: L-R, Federal Minister for Disability, Bill Shorten, Federal Member for Dunkley, Peta Murphy and Kath Ferry, visiting the Seaford Hub gardens.

Support Services

Let's Talk About...Autism Hub

Hi, I'm Georgia the Support Services Manager at SASI. I am lucky enough to engage in a range of areas within SASI from autism play group, School Leaver Education Support (SLES), autism education and now I get to talk to you every month!

Anyone love a podcast like I do? I think they are the perfect combination of feeling somewhat productive however, also tuning the world out. So, when I stumbled across Too Peas in a Podcast I couldn't get enough it.

From that day (about a year ago) I have been telling anyone that will listen to put their AirPods in and step into the welcoming world of Mandy and Kate.

Kate and Mandy are both mothers of twins with additional needs. They were tired of feeling like other parents didn't understand their day to day "parenting the road less travelled".

So, they thought why not create a podcast to ensure no parent feels alone on this journey. They laugh and cry in this brutally tell all experience (of course with pseudonyms so their children cannot be identified).

One point that really stuck with me was the term Smilestones (you will hear this term a lot through multiple episodes). Mandy and Kate talk about always hearing about children's milestones. Which let's be honest the Maternal Health nurse checks in on developmental milestone progression a lot!! We even have a book with a checklist of milestones, that gets ticked off at appointments. But what if your child isn't meeting them?

So, Mandy and Kate termed the coin Smilestones. These refer to those times that your child does something truly remarkable that puts a huge giddy smile all over your face. You know what I mean. I bet you are smiling now thinking of one (or many).

During my time working as a teacher in a specialist school I have had the joy of witnessing many Smilestones. These could be getting dressed unassisted, turning the tap on and remembering to turn it off, or something as beautiful as saying hello for the first time using AAC. All equally as important, significant and rewarding.

So, head on over and have a listen to Two Peas in a Podcast, you won't be disappointed!



Lifestyle & Community

December and January were busy months for our groups. We saw the last Camp of the year take place in beautiful Balnarring. Sunshine, laughs, good food and a farm visit were enjoyed by all. We had a couple of camp first timers from our SIL houses (Steph and Cameron), who both had a fabulous weekend away and we hope to see them back again soon!

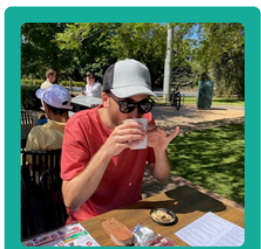
TIME FOR ADVENTURE



Clockwise from the top left: Cameron making sure he gets his whole pizza base covered; Bryan whipping up a delicious pizza for dinner; Dylan looks like he's done that before, yum; Bryan soaking up the sunshine on the beautiful Balnarring beach.



January saw the holiday Recreation Program kick off where lots of different activities were enjoyed including Eagle Arthurs Seat, Moonlit Sanctuary, Melbourne Zoo, Movies and more! This was a great opportunity for everyone to get out and about and socialise with others while doing something fun!



Top : Cheryl enjoying the view from up high on the Eagle at Arthurs Seat

Bottom row L-R: Dylan feeding a very hungry goat ; Cameron enjoying a coffee stop; Steph heading for a trip around the farm via tractor

A busy year ahead with the weekend programs getting back up and running soon as well as our first camp for the year and we are also heading off to Geelong in February for two days to attend the Having a Say conference. We would love some more people to come along, so if you're interested, please get in touch!



Latest Adventures



Steph and Trevor love going out for adventures, using public transport to get to and from places. Steph and Trevor stopped by Mordialloc for a snack and finished the day with a walk around the shops!



Steph and Trevor



Steph and Brooke



Trevor and Steph



Trevor



Amy was very excited to catch the bus to Bayside Shopping Centre and spent sometime walking through the shops, before enjoy a frozen coke after lunch!



CHOCOLATE & PEANUT BUTTER BLISS BALLS



INGREDIENTS

- 1. 1 cup rolled oats
- 2. ½ cup desiccated coconut
- 3. ½ cup peanut butter
- 4. ⅓ cup cocoa
- 5. ⅓ cup honey
- 6. ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Stir all ingredients together in a large mixing bowl
- 2. Scoop the ingredients into golf ball sized balls and roll in the palms of your hands
- 3. Roll the balls in desiccated coconut
- 4. Place the balls on a tray lined with baking paper
- 5. Chill in the fridge for 1-2 hours or until cool and firm

Parent Blog - Raw & Real

Hello SASI readers A HAPPY 2023 to you and your families

Firstly, I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Carly and I'm a mum of two teenage boys aged 17 and 15. I am a carer to both children, I work part time and most of my time is spent project managing the children.

I've titled our piece 'Raw and Real' as I'll be sharing the good, the bad and the ugly each month. Living with disability can be isolating, challenging, physically and emotionally exhausting!

The list goes on but you get my drift....

As a carer I'm sure you are feeling tired after the Christmas chaos! But hello February.....February in our family means routine is back on the horizon! Less meltdowns means you have opportunities to do simple things for yourself again!

When we give care constantly and then we have the opportunity to have respite sometimes we forget what to do!!

YOU have permission to put yourself first!!!

Make time this month for YOU time!!

I look forward to sharing more with you next month! Stay tuned for our first of many stories on the Silent Sibling.



Work with Us

For over 50 years SASI has been supporting people with autism and other complex behaviours to live their best life and we are always on the lookout for new talent. The work is challenging but very rewarding. Every day we see the positive impact daily our programs and staff have on the quality of life of all SASI's clients.

To join our Support Worker team, what you'll need is:

- Must have an NDIS Check, Working with Children Check or be willing to obtain
- Certificate IV Disability (you can gain this whilst working with us) or significant lived experience working with people with Autism or people with complex behaviours
- Current First Aid and CPR
- Flu vaccination
- Evidence of work eligibility
- Benefits of working with us:
 - On the job training and development
 - Work in a tight knit and collaborative team
 - Competitive Pay with Salary packaging available

If you are ready to start your new career with SASI or know of anyone who you think would be suitable – visit our website <https://www.sasi.org.au/current-opportunities/> to begin your journey or contact us on Human.Resources@sasi.org.au

[Click to view our latest opportunities](#)



Brent Hub Practitioner Seaford

How long have you worked for SASI?

2 Years

What does your role at SASI involve?

Leading the day to day activities at Seaford Hub. Ensuring both staff and clients are supported in a safe and inclusive environment.

If given a chance, who would you like to be for a day?

A PGA golfer.
Because who wouldn't want to play golf 24/7 ?



What TV Show/Movie is your guilty pleasure (yes, time to admit you love it)?

The Office

Three words that best describe you?

Sarcastic (I'm told)
Consistent
Inclusive



Brent with his wife Laura and their kids Frankie and Donnie

What is the one thing you cannot resist?

A good Fish and Chips.



What do you do when you are not working?

Enjoying family time, playing golf, watching sports.

Why do you enjoy working at SASI?

I enjoy the clients I support and the staff that I work with. I enjoy the opportunities for growth in my career. I feel seen, heard and valued.

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Want to share your ideas?

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

