

# PEBBLE



November 2023

## NEWS & FEATURES

Welcome

**PAGE 2-3**

Art Show

**PAGE 4-5**

Support Services

**PAGE 6**

Latest Adventures

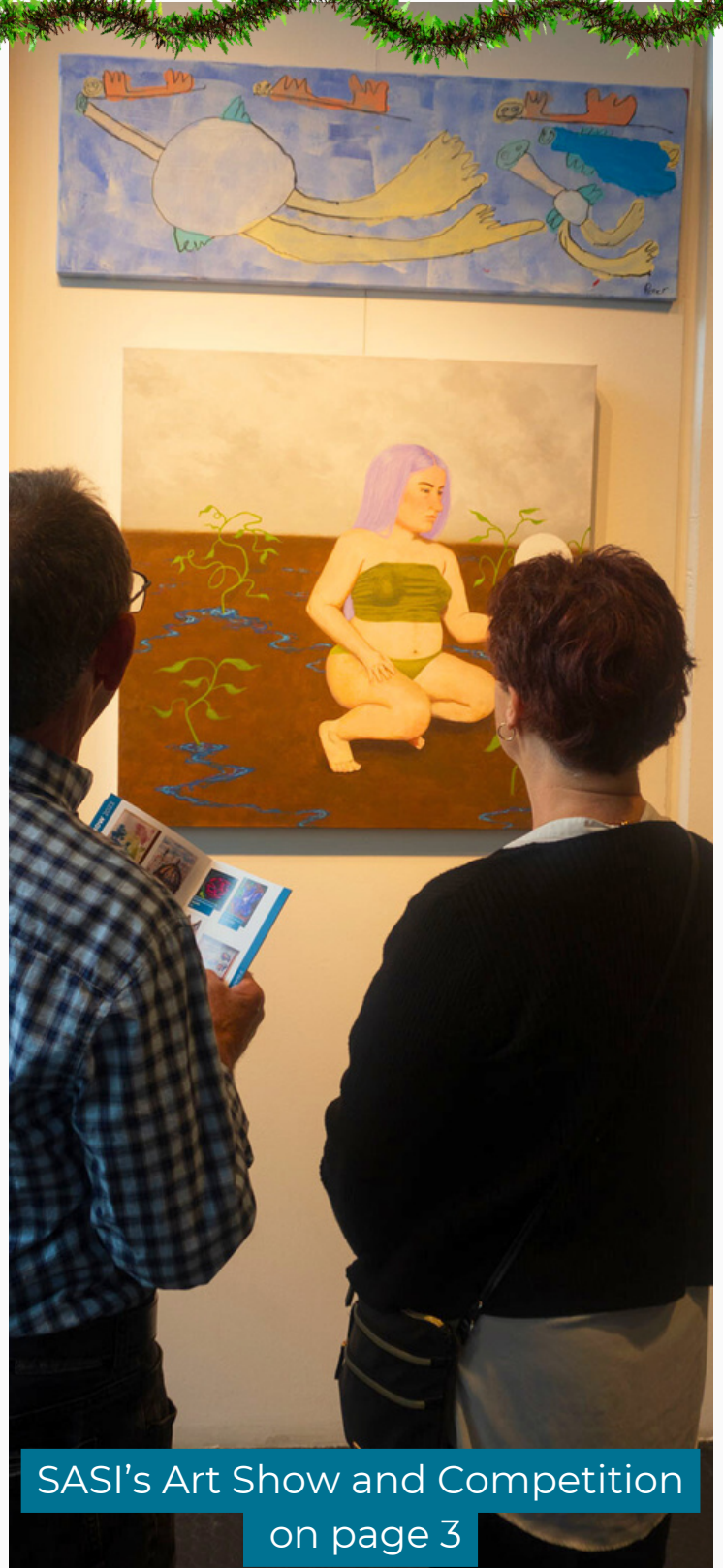
**PAGE 7-9**

Recipe of the Month

**PAGE 10**

Employee Feature

**PAGE 11**



# Welcome

## Welcome to the November edition of Pebble

We are delighted to welcome you to the last edition of Pebble for 2023 and hope that this finds you doing well. Throughout this year, we have worked together as a collective to provide support for autistic individuals and their families. Our focus has been on achieving our strategic priorities, ensuring safe and quality services for those accessing them. We are proud of our growing workforce and remain dedicated to recruiting exceptional individuals who embody SASI's values.

In response to recent recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS review, we are committed to continuously improving and transforming our services to better meet the needs of those we support and to providing an greater opportunities for an inclusive community



Today, I share with you all that after careful consideration, I have resigned from my role as Operations Director with IAG and SASI. It has been an incredible experience working here over the last almost 5 years, however, it is time for me to embark on new challenges and I have recently accepted a new position which makes for a very exciting 2024. I am working with all the Leadership teams in relation to handovers and everything that needs attention in light of this change. Before leaving, rest assured that I will do everything possible to complete ongoing projects and assist in any way needed for a seamless transition.

# Welcome

I am grateful for meaningful work that positively impacts people's lives every day. I trust my colleagues and teammates, knowing they will fulfil their responsibilities just as they trusted me with mine. My heartfelt appreciation extends to our exceptional teams who tirelessly support SASI clients.

To all clients, families, carers, support workers, team members, suppliers, contractors, and community partners - enjoy this precious time with loved ones during your well-deserved break! May gratitude fill your hearts as we bid farewell to this year.

**Reminder that Active Choice Hubs : Gippsland, Mount Martha & Seaford will be closed from 4pm on Friday 22nd December and re-open on Monday 8th January at 9am.**

Best wishes for the festive season,  
wishing you happiness and health in 2024

Melissa



# SASI Art Show & Competition

## Art Show 2023

Another successful Art Show and Competition, showcasing a vibrant display of contemporary art, celebrating the exceptional work of the autistic and disabled community.

It was a great night full of amazing talent, great catering and smiles all around. Thank you to all the artists that entered this year, we hope to see you all again next year!



Cube 37's Milla receiving flowers from Eric

Dome of Florence - Piroska Varga  
Winner of the Alfred Murfey



No Name Skull - Connor McGurk, winner of the Packer's Prize



Lost and Found - Tate Gavin, winner of the People's Choice



Continued...



Tane receiving the bonus prize for the Youngest Artist of the exhibition



Sunset by Tate Gavin

## ***Vale Peta Murphy***

The SASI family is deeply saddened by the recent passing of Federal Member for Dunkly, Peta Murphy MP. Peta was not just our local member; she was a true warrior and an incredibly empowering human being. Her tireless efforts to promote community inclusion made her a valuable supporter and advocate for SASI and our annual Art Show. Our hearts go out to Peta's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. We will always cherish her memory. Thank you, Peta, for everything you did.



Peta's last visit to SASI with NDIS Minister Bill Shorten and Stacey



L-R: Bill Shorten, Troy and Peta Murphy

## The Victorian Early Assessment Clinic

Such exciting news! A new initiative managed by OTARC (Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre) and supported by the Victorian Government is the opening of The Victorian Early Assessment Clinic (VEAC). VEAC specialises in providing a cost effective, assessment and differential diagnosis for families that have questions regarding their child and autism.

Through a neurodiversity-affirming model the team manages a 5-step assessment program. At the completion of the program families will be provided with a detailed report as well as a pathway plan for their child.

VEAC provides assessments for children under 36 months in Victoria with a multidisciplinary team.

Families can be referred through the Maternal Child & Health Care Nurse however, referrals are not essential. Families are welcome to self-refer and contact VEAC on [veac@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:veac@latrobe.edu.au)

The Victorian Early Assessment Clinic is located on Level 2, George Singer Building, La Trobe University, Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora Victoria 3083. The Clinic operates on Wednesdays and Thursdays only, between 9am – 5pm.



# Latest Adventures



Seaford Hub



Nicole



## Baking Gingerbread Men with Nicole at Seaford Hub

The Seaford Hub is buzzing with pre-Christmas activities and there's nothing more festive than baking gingerbread men! Nicole was enthusiastic about getting involved in the process. Who knows, maybe a gingerbread house is in the works too!



## Crazy Hair Day

Another fun client celebration day with lots of color and creativity displayed on the hair-dos. 😄 😄 😄

We had some staff members joining the fun - even those without any hair!



Aisha



Staff Member Cliff

Don't miss out on future events - keep an eye on our Client Celebration Calendar by [clicking here](#).

# Latest Adventures

School Leavers to Employment Support (SLES) have worked hard on their interview skills this year which led to our mock interviews this month.

We started with getting to know ourselves, building our confidence in learning new skills and being comfortable with discussing our strengths. Fine tuning resumes with existing experience, plus our new found industry skills - we have job ready resumes and we are now interview ready too!



L-R: Eric and Alana

The SLES group took a trip to Springvale Markets (Melbourne's best Asian markets) to learn about the culture and cooking with Asian ingredients - they have sampled some of the most authentic Asian food available!



Moth



Tane



Eric and Ellie



# Latest Adventures



Luke

Luke out and about, going for a bush walk on a cool day. With the Luke's goals in mind , staff encourage different activities and for Luke this means time spent in nature.

Below, Richard is helping to prepare the food that him and his housemate will enjoy later. Promoting life skills and sharing the chores around the house it's an important aspect of Independent Living.



Richard



Connor

Connor is making the most of his community access by taking a stroll in the nearby park and stopping for a quick bite to eat.

# Recipe of the Month

## GINGERBREAD MAN



### INGREDIENTS

- 125 g butter room temperature
- 1/2 cup CSR brown sugar firmly packed
- 1/2 cup CSR golden syrup
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1 tbs ground ginger
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 egg white
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 1/2 cups pure icing sugar sifted
- Smarties for decoration

### DIRECTIONS

- Beat butter and sugar in a small bowl with an electric mixer until combined. Beat in the golden syrup and egg yolk.
- Transfer mixture to a large bowl, stir in the sifted dry ingredients. Turn the dough onto a floured surface, knead until smooth. Divide the dough in half. Enclose in cling wrap. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
- Preheat the oven to 160°C (140°C fan-forced). Grease and line two oven trays with baking paper.
- Roll each dough half between sheets of baking paper until 5 mm thick. Using a 13cm gingerbread man cutter, cut out shapes and place on trays about 2.5 cm apart. Bake for 10 minutes, or until lightly golden. Remove from oven and cool.
- For icing, lightly beat egg white and lemon juice in a small electric mixer. Gradually beat in sifted icing sugar until firm peaks form.

## Penelope Lifestyle & Community Support Manager

How long have you worked for SASI?

2 years, 3 months. (Returning after maternity leave)

What does your role at SASI involve?

I am the Lifestyle and Community Support Manager – basically, all of the fun stuff! I plan and coordinate all of our Recreation Programs and Weekend Getaways, and I also manage our Home to Community program, which provides 1:1 support to people within their home and community.

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

I have always said that if I am ever reincarnated, I would like to come back as my Aunt's cat, because boy oh boy, does she spoil her cat?! Lap snuggles and lazy days by the sun – sounds like a dream come true!



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

I am ashamed to admit it, but I am a total sucker for a good reality TV show. Love Island is my current favourite. I call it “mental chewing gum” after a long day of work and kid wrangling!

Three words that best describe you?



Penny

Patient, Kind/Soft, and a bit of a dork!

What is the one thing you cannot resist?

Anything sweet (especially chocolate), or cheese! Of-course it had to be food related! I am a bit of a foodie! 🍫

What do you do when you are not working?

I am mum to a 6-year-old son, and a 3-year-old daughter. They keep me very busy outside of work, however, I love spending family time with them and my husband, from day trips, adventures, and travelling. I am also a football (AFL) fanatic, and try to get to as many Hawks games as possible throughout the year.

Why do you enjoy working at SASI?

SASI is a fantastic place to work! I enjoy everything about it! From the flexibility, progressiveness, the amazing clients, and my fabulous co-workers, who are all so very dedicated and supportive.

## Latest Programs

Click below to book these exciting programs

[CLICK HERE](#)



REGISTERED  
NDIS  
PROVIDER



Geelong

You're invited to the  
*Having A Say*  
event with us!

Feb 4th -6th

Be supported as you attend this important event plus have plenty of fun along the way.





Come join SASI at the...

# MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH

When: Sunday 4th Feb 2024

Where: St Kilda

If you would like to join please email  
[enquiries@sasi.org.au](mailto:enquiries@sasi.org.au)



**FREE**

# PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Starting Friday *October 13th*  
10am-12noon (fortnightly)

We want to welcome you to the SASI Parent Support Group, in collaboration with The Peninsula Autism Friendship Group. Here, parents of children with autism can come together to share experiences, find answers and build meaningful connections. We understand the journey can be both challenging and rewarding, and we're here to support you every step of the way. We hope to see you there.

**750 Nepean Hwy Mt Martha**

Visit us online [sasi.org.au](https://sasi.org.au)

Ph **1300 577 305**

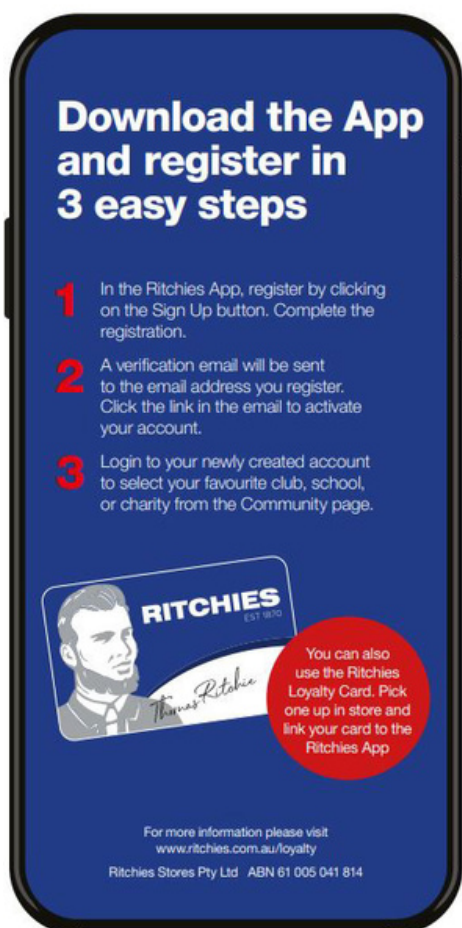
**Did you know that you can support SASI while you shop?**



## Support your local community

Donate to SASI through your weekly shop

Ritchies has been running its successful Community Benefit program since 1993. Over many years it has proven to be the easiest, simplest method to support your favourite club, school or charity.



### How do I donate to SASI?

#### STEP 1

Download the Richies App, register by clicking on the Sign Up button. Complete the registration.

#### STEP 2

Click the link in your email to verify and activate your account.

#### STEP 3

Nominate SASI as your favourite charity from the Community page.

**Thank you so much for your support.**

