



# PEBBLE



## NEWS & FEATURES

MARCH/APRIL EDITION

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Mitchell met a friend at the latest Saturday Recreation Program at the Big Goose Farm

# Welcome

## Welcome to the March/April edition of Pebble

We are excited to introduce Marlon Gunatillake. Marlon is an experienced professional who recently joined SASI as Operations Director. With over 8 years of experience in community services as a senior executive, Marlon played a key role in the NDIS roll-out in Melbourne and has successfully established several funded programs across the state and nationally. His experience in the corporate sector also brings



significant value to his role at SASI. Marlon is excited about the opportunity to meet SASI's customers, families, and other stakeholders, and he looks forward to building strong relationships with them. He would like to express his gratitude to everyone who has supported SASI in its mission to provide exceptional services to the community. Marlon believes that by working together, the organisation can achieve its goals and make a positive impact on people's lives.

Please join us in giving Marlon a warm welcome if you see him during one of his site visits!

In this edition of Pebble, you can expect to see a good-news story about one of our SLES' participants, a fantastic Weekend Getaway @ Urban Camp and meet Nickson, one of our valued team members.

We have also launched our Autism Workshops and the first date for this service has been announced! March 28th is our inaugural Webinar, an interactive and informative sessions for individuals.

Our team has been busy organising the second Mornington Peninsula Disability Expo that will take place in Mornington on June 22nd - this time in a bigger and better venue, where providers can meet and connect with our local community.

Watch this space and keep an eye on our Social Media feed for updates and free tickets!

Enjoy the reading,

The SASI Team

**FREE EVENT**



Mornington Peninsula  
**DISABILITY EXPO**

**Linking Community Together**

**Peninsula  
Community Theatre**

**JUNE 22ND**

**10AM - 2PM**



Get your free ticket  
**[www.sasi.org.au](http://www.sasi.org.au)**

- Food • Entertainment •
- Activities • Local Providers •

## Eric's Epic Interview Adventure

The transition from school life to our first job interview can be a path paved in self-doubt, fear, confusion and uncertainty for anyone. The loss of routine and familiarity, can throw young autistic adults in to a spin or often in to the refuge of staying at home. Our SLES program understands this and within a small safe group of like-minded young adults, we practice the skills that allow us to venture out of our safety zones and in to the discomfort of real life armed with resilience and a new-found courage to explore ourselves and our world. Through getting to know our new-found adult selves, public transport training, mock interviews, social connections and goal setting, we see a metamorphosis of diverse personalities and incredible minds as they feel safe and supported to adventure in the joys and challenges of independent living and employment readiness.



Let me share, with permission, the story of Eric ... Eric came to us with a gusto of personality and a bucket full of uncertainty of how his future may look. He had dreams and ideas, but was unsure of how to begin. Now after his first year in SLES he has volunteered with community services, excelled at work experience in different sectors, gotten to believe in his strengths, he has made terrific friends and set new goals. With a passion for the 1950's, this unique young man would very much like to be in the entertainment industry, acting and modeling – a challenging industry for sure!



## SASI SLES Program



He decided he was ready to give his first job application a go ... an online search, a revamp of a resume, some cool photos and a job application. Just to click that button that says 'apply' is a major achievement and very brave. He got a reply almost immediately! An interview offer, no less, and in the city of Melbourne at 2pm the very next day! Google maps research and our travel training was about to be put to the test! An outfit choice, a very groovy hairstyle and this young man was ready to go. He phoned before the interview time ... breathing fast and very heightened; I am on the 14th floor of The St Kilda Building in the city of Melbourne! I can't believe it! He said. I am so proud of myself! Eric rocked the interview, he charmed the panel with his natural personality and his newly gained interview etiquette skills and you may want to keep an eye out for this face, as Eric may just be the next big thing... he has already achieved so much either way. We are so proud of you E!



If you have finished school, are interested in employment, working toward taking the next step and are looking for a likeminded, incredibly supportive community our SLES program may just be for you. As SASI we are proud to offer **School Leaver Employment Support (SLES)** at our Seaford Hub and Moe Hub.

## Seaford Hub

13 Sir Laurence Drive, Seaford

## Moe Hub

25C Moore Street, Moe

If you are interested in choosing SASI as your preferred SLES provider, please feel free to contact us:

T – 1300 577 305

Email: [enquiries@sasi.org.au](mailto:enquiries@sasi.org.au)

## SASI Autism Workshops

At SASI we have been very busy working on a new service to offer the wider community. We are so excited to have recently launched our very own Autism Workshops and Webinars. Our key message is 'Celebrating Different Kinds of Minds'. Because difference and diversity are truly valued at SASI.

We have had some incredibly generous input from staff, our customers and the wider Autism community when creating and finetuning the content we will be delivering. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that has been involved. It has been a wonderful display of teamwork at its best!

Our workshops go beyond conventional approaches, focusing on building meaningful connections, tailoring supports to individual needs, and empowering participants with valuable insights. Join us in creating a space where diversity is celebrated, strengths are recognized, and everyone can thrive. These sessions are designed for anyone that wants to learn more about Autism. From Educators, Allied Health Staff, Disability Providers, Health Care providers, the general community to a range of organisations that want to ensure their staff have the necessary skills and understanding to provide inclusion for all.

For  
individuals



### 1.5 hours delivered online

Join us online for our "Celebrating Different Kinds of Minds" webinar where we explore the diversity of minds on the autism spectrum. This interactive webinar aims to celebrate individual strengths, foster connection, and provide valuable insights for a more inclusive society. Discover the beauty within neurodiversity as we embark on a journey of celebration and learning.

For  
Organisations



### 3 hrs delivered in person

Elevate your organization's understanding and embrace inclusivity with SASI's tailored Autism Workshop. Our workshop is crafted to empower your team with the knowledge and tools needed to create a supportive and inclusive environment for autistic individuals. We cover topics ranging from fostering communication to implementing sensory-friendly practices. Our expert facilitators provide practical insights, ensuring your organization becomes a leader in diversity, understanding, and acceptance.

## Why is understanding Autism important?

The Charter of human Rights states that “a person with a disability must be ensured full and effective participation and inclusion in society” and through the NDIS, participants are engaging with their local & outer communities, taking advantage of new and exciting opportunities.

- Therefore, as our communities widen so does the need for autism understanding.
- With that in mind, SASI Autism Workshops will ensure;
- Equality – to allow everyone to be included in & have access to the same opportunities as those around them
- Effective Relationships – with agencies/organisations and individuals with society, ensuring positive experiences for everyone
- Enhanced Service Delivery – knowledge brings improved understanding, greater involvement and successful outcomes
- Knowledge & Understanding – to support individuals in achieving their dreams & aspirations and to share knowledge with others, to ensure difference and diversity is celebrated
- Greater Outcomes for society as a whole

**Join our next Autism Workshop Webinar on  
March 28th @ 10am**

[Tickets](#)



# What's On

@ SASI

## March

- 08/03 International Womens Day
- 11/03 Labor Day Public Holiday - Active Choice sites closed
- 14/03 12:30 SASI will be at Lunch & Learn @ Amity Care
- 14/03 4:30 SASI will be at Southern Autistic School for their 2024 Expo
- 18/03 St Patrick's Day Celebration - all sites, don't forget to dress up!
- 20/03 5:30 SASI Gippsland Team will be at the Post School Options Expo at Warragul and District Special School
- 24/03 Good Friday - Active Choices sites closed
- 31/03 Easter Sunday

## April

- 01/04 Easter Monday - Active Choices sites closed
- 02/04 World Autism Acceptance Day!!
- 25/04 Anzac Day - Active Choices sites closed
- 26/04 Anzac long weekend - Active Choices sites closed

Happy Easter





# Latest Adventures



Ben

## Urban Camp - Weekend Retreat

SASI organised a fantastic weekend getaway in Parkville, where both staff and clients enjoyed exploring everything Melbourne has to offer. The itinerary included a visit to the Skydeck, a delightful River Cruise, and various activities, ending with a memorable BBQ under the starlit sky!



(L-R) Risper, Avishka, Malcolm and Ben



(L-R) Ben and Malcolm



L-R: Ali, Bryan, Ben and Jenna

The weather in Melbourne was ideal for strolling and enjoying the sights. Our campers gave us wonderful feedback, and because of popular demand, we will be organising this adventure again. Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming calendars!

# Latest Adventures



(L-R) Malcolm and Mischa



Mischa and Malcolm (left) spent time focusing on exercise and fresh air. These are essential aspects of their goals, and the staff is supportive and encouraging in helping them achieve these objectives.

Today, Conor and Richard (pictured right) visited Sage Cottage as part of their community engagement and skill development goals. They began their trip with coffee at the cottage, followed by a tour of the water body where they watched ducks and other animals. The experience appeared to be quite relaxing for them. Despite feeling a bit anxious in a new place, they enjoyed the visit, which is now a regular Monday activity for them.



(L-R) Richard and Connor at Sage Farm



Joe

Joe (left) has become quite swift at recycling and eagerly anticipates it every Monday. He is usually content to wait his turn, while other customers watch with smiles as the team carries out their tasks.



# Latest Adventures

The painting of an old shed required some cleaning, planning, purchasing and painting of a gorgeous mural. A true team effort with all abilities celebrated.



Mich



L-R: Eric and Sebastian

Tane

School Leavers to Employment Support (SLES) understand the path from school life to thinking about our career choice can be filled with self-doubt and anxiety.

This is why we recommend trying some different industry experiences, kind of a taste tester, to find out what we might like, what we don't and to learn from experiences on the way. Sometimes the search for

online for jobs might be overwhelming, but, with support, industry experience can ease that anxiety and may even urn up a new passion, a new found confidence or perhaps a job that suits us and we enjoy. Our resumes are filling up and we are feeling more confident about what we like, love or what is not for us. SLES have been learning barista skills serving staff and clients a range of drink preferences, doing some hard physical work experience on a local vegetable farm and stay tuned for our next adventure as we volunteer at a lolly factory!



Remy and Steph



# Recipe of the Month

## MOLTEN CHOC CHUNK



### INGREDIENTS

- 1 Cup(150G) Plain (ALL-PURPOSE) FLOUR
- $\frac{3}{4}$  CUP (75G) Cocoa
- $\frac{3}{4}$  CUP (130G) BROWN SUGAR
- $1\frac{1}{3}$  CUPS (290G) CASTER (SUPERFINE) SUGAR
- 250g UNSALTED BUTTER, MELTED AND COOLED
- 1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT
- 3 EGGS
- 125G DARK CHOCOLATE, CHOPPED



### DIRECTIONS

- Place the flour, cocoa, both the sugars, the butter, vanilla and eggs in a large bowl and mix until smooth.
- Add the chocolate and stir to combine.
- Preheat oven to 160°C (325°F).
- Lightly grease a 20cm square tin and line with non-stick baking paper.
- Spread the mixture into the tin.
- Bake for 50 minutes - 1 hour or until the brownie is set+.
- Allow to cool in the tin for 5 minutes before slicing into squares and serving warm, or allow to cool completely in the tin.

Makes 16

## Nickson Support Worker

**How long have you worked for SASI?**

Over one year.

**What does your role at SASI involve?**

My role involves providing assistance and support to individuals with disabilities. Which involves a wide range of responsibilities, such as with daily activities, facilitating social interactions, offering emotional support, and ensuring the overall well-being of the individuals under my care. I strive to promote independence and empower those with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives.

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

Continue being myself, living my ordinary life and experiencing the world through my own eyes. However, if the opportunity arose to be a spy for a day, it would be an intriguing adventure. Being able to see the world from a spy's perspective, with its blend of danger and intrigue, would provide a unique and unforgettable experience.

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

I have a soft spot for "Fireproof" and, of course, "Fast and Furious." These choices provide a mix of emotional depth and adrenaline-pumping action that I find captivating.



**Three words that best describe you?**



Nickson

Open-minded, kind, and persistent. I value a broad perspective, kindness in my interactions, and a determined attitude to overcome challenges.

**What is the one thing you cannot resist?**

Cadbury Old Gold Roast Almond Dark Chocolate (70% and above). The rich combination of dark chocolate and almonds proves irresistible, making it a delightful treat that I find hard to pass up.

**What do you do when you are not working?**

I find joy in spending quality time with my family.

I enjoy walking as a way to relax and stay active. It provides a perfect opportunity to clear my mind, appreciate nature, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. I find pleasure in cooking, it's like a therapeutic experience for me.

**Why do you enjoy working at SASI?**

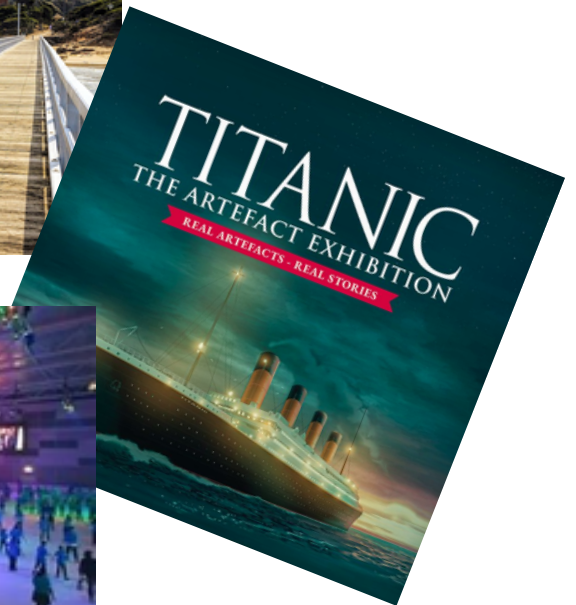
The sense of purpose and satisfaction that comes from knowing I've played a role in enhancing someone's well-being is incredibly rewarding.

# Latest Programs

## We are planning new exciting activities for you for the April to June term

SASI are excited to be offering a wide range of Recreation programs including School Holidays Programs, Friday Night Social Club, Saturday Recreation Programs as well as Weekends Getaways . This term we will be going to the Footy, having a High Tea afternoon, playing Mini Golf, going to Comic Con and many other fun and dazzling activities.

To secure your place and view our full calendar click on the link below !!



[CLICK HERE FOR UNDER 18yrs](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR OVER 18yrs](#)



# Seaford Hub Can Drive

## What can I return?

Most aluminium, glass, plastic and liquid paperboard (carton) drink containers between 150mL and 3 litres are eligible. You can keep the lids on, we recycle them too.



## Check for the 10c mark

Look for the 10c mark on the drink container label. It is often located near the barcode.



Bring your eligible containers to Seaford Hub. We will take a trip to the nearest collection centre to raise funds for our programs!



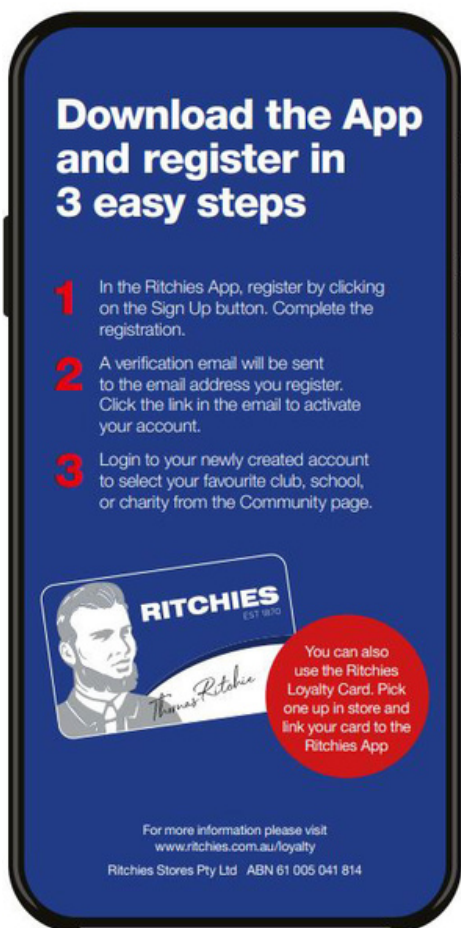
**Did you know that you can support SASI while you shop?**



## 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 Ritchies 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.**

