



## Chances Coordinator Update

Welcome to the latest edition of the Chances for Children newsletter.

The Chances team have been on the go for the last couple of months leading up to the close of our latest funding round in October. It was fantastic to receive 37 applications from young people of the Southern and Northern Mallee, the quality of which was outstanding. We have so many young people in our communities that have amazing aspirations and goals, it is fantastic to read their stories and meet them and their parents/guardians.

All applications have now been reviewed by our District Selection Committee's and have been ratified by the Mallee Family Care Board. Now for the most rewarding part, we get to meet with the new recipients and work with them through their Tertiary journey.

This year the Chances Recipient Support Officers – Bianca and Kim, have been working with 79 recipients who are undertaking tertiary studies either at University, TAFE or other registered training organisations. We work with each recipient through their student budgets twice a year at the beginning of each semester to determine what assistance they require to pay their living and study costs.

None of this would be possible without our generous supporters and assistance from Mallee Family Care. Chances does not receive any Government funding and even the smallest of donations goes a long way to enabling a young person from our community to dare to dream. If you would like to know more about how you can help I have included a copy of our Sponsorship Prospectus.

If you would like to talk to me about what you could do for the Chances program please contact me on 5023 5966.

Warm regards

Jackie Heaysman

## A Chance to Connect – Chances for Children Business Dinner

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Chances Business Dinner. We had an awesome evening and the event was a huge success. Those that attended got to hear from our three Chances Alumni Erica, Jenna and Paul, thank you for sharing your Chances stories and inspiring all of us to 'Dare to Dream'. Thank you to our keynote speaker Mark LeBusque, a Harvard trained consultant who donated his time to talk to us about 'making every human belong, taking chances and realising your potential'. We enjoyed an amazing seven course meal catered for by Yigal Kitchen catering and were entertained by Alumni Erica Graf and her award winning nationally acclaimed blues band LazyEye, who travelled from Adelaide to be part of our event.



## Community Partnerships - Some memories from 2018



### **ANZ Women Empowering Women event – Swan Hill**

Thank you to Angela and the staff at ANZ Swan Hill for choosing Chances as the recipient of the funds raised at their Women Empowering Women event. It was a fantastic night where we heard from Eden Zanker – AFLW player for the Melbourne Football Club, Katherine Bissett – Exercise Physiologist and Maria Noble-Hayes from BPW Australia

### **Morning tea with Prestige Staffing**

The Chances team were recently invited to morning tea by Grant Beggs – Managing Director of Prestige Staffing. Grant booked a table at our Chances Business Dinner and brought several of his staff and friends along to the event. The Alumni stories resonated with Grant and he commented at the morning tea that he didn't realise the great work that Chances does until he attended our event and heard Erica, Jenna and Paul speak about the opportunities that Chances had given them.



### **Uteznvanz at Mildura Show**

Once again Uteznvanz held their annual Auto Show at the Mildura Show in October. Uteznvanz are great supporters of ours and all proceeds from this event go to Chances.



### **Mildura Fruit Company, Wakefield Transport and Nangiloc Colignan Farms Annual Charity Golf Day**

This year saw 180 golfers participate in the annual Charity Golf Day. Chances was one of 11 local charities that shared in the \$110,000 that was raised. Chances team member Bianca accepted a cheque for \$18,000 which will go a long way to enabling young people from our community to dare to dream.

Chances for Children relies heavily on the generosity of our local community to enable forward financial planning. This makes it possible to accurately assess our ability to assist young people through our funding rounds and make a real difference in their lives.

Partnerships can take place in many different forms. Refer to the enclosed Chances for Children Sponsorship Prospectus to learn more about our program and what you as a business or an individual can do to help us support the young people of our community.

## **Mallee Family Care AGM**

Mallee Family Care held their Annual General Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> October at the Mildura Art Centre.

We were very fortunate to have guest speaker Saroo Brierley share his autobiography 'A Long Way Home' which was developed into the successful film 'Lion'.

You can view the Mallee Family Care 2018 Annual Report on the website. Make sure to check out the Chances Recipient stories on pages 16 to 19.

If you would like a hard copy of the Mallee Family Care 2018 Annual Report please contact the Chances team via email [chances4children@malleefamilycare.com.au](mailto:chances4children@malleefamilycare.com.au) or telephone 5023 5966 and we will arrange to send one out to you.

## Recipient Stories

It is always great to hear from our Alumni and current recipients and we love sharing their stories with you.

### **Jordyn Ashenden – current Chances Tertiary recipient**

"Without Chances for Children, I wouldn't have been able to follow my dreams. Moving to the city of Melbourne and completing a Bachelor of Criminology and Justice seemed impossible".

Full story on page 16 of the MFC Annual Report

### **Liz Hender – Chances Alumni**

"Throughout my final year of high school, I was granted a scholarship from *Chances for Children* and given the opportunity to fly to Melbourne for lessons with well-known Australian concert pianist Caroline Almonte. In 2009, I successfully gained entry into the Conservatorium of Music at The University of Melbourne and completed my Bachelor of Music Degree with Honours (Performance) under the tutelage of Janine Sowden. In 2016, I completed a Masters of Music (Performance Teaching) at The University of Melbourne and a Diploma of Education (Middle Years) teaching degree at La Trobe University.

I aim to develop more performance opportunities for young musicians and hope to bring quality music and education to country towns around Australia".

Full story on page 17 of the MFC Annual Report

### **Russell Lamittina – Chances Alumni**

"In terms of donating and contributing to our community, Chances provides an excellent platform to do so due to the strong local ties they have with the Mildura region. You'll find that if students are being sponsored from a local program backed by local business then they'll feel better about our region and will be much more encouraged to return here and give back to our region in their field of work. The more locals we can bring back here after their studies, the more our region will grow economically which will have a flow on to you as an individual or business".

Full story on page 18 of the MFC Annual Report

### **Jodie Langford – Chances Alumni**

"When you donate to Chances you are helping young people get that head start in life they sometimes don't have. Your support means there is one more doctor in the world saving lives, one more tradie building houses for families, one more singer bringing joy to their audience. Everyone's opportunities are endless because the financial barrier is removed".

Full story on page 9 of the Chances Sponsorship Prospectus

### **Stacey Pringle – Chances Alumni**

"Your money goes towards great kids who often have nowhere else to turn and are trying so hard to be the best they can be".

Full story on page 10 of the Chances Sponsorship Prospectus

To read more of our recipient stories head to our website

Merry Christmas from the Chances Team  
 Bianca - Kim - Jackie



We would like to thank and acknowledge the local business that sponsored our Chances Business Dinner.



Stay up to date with Chances by joining us on social media.  
 Keep informed about scholarship opportunities, upcoming events, recipient stories  
 and much more  
 #daretodream