

New HIPPY locations announced for 2011

On 14 August 2010, the Australian Government and the Brotherhood of St Laurence called for Expressions of Interest from organisations interested in establishing and delivering HIPPY in the following areas in 2011:

- **Ashmont** (Wagga Wagga), NSW
- **Caboolture**, Qld
- **Dandenong**, Vic.
- **Davoren Park**, SA
- **East Geraldton** (catchment area includes Rangeway, Karloo and Utakarra), WA
- **Fairfield** (catchment area extending to East Fairfield and Villawood), NSW
- **Frankston North**, Vic.
- **Manoora** (Carins), Qld
- **Nowra**, NSW
- **Riverwood**, NSW
- **Robinvale**, Vic.
- **Salisbury North**, SA
- **West Ipswich** (catchment area extending to Leichhardt, One Mile and Ipswich City), Qld
- **West Tamworth**, NSW

The program will also commence in Dallas/Broadmeadows Victoria in 2011 and will be delivered by the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations on behalf of the Australian Government contracted the Brotherhood of St Laurence for a period of five years from 2008 to 2012 to establish HIPPY in 50 communities and support around 3000 families.

HIPPY is currently established in 35 communities and the 15 locations to commence in 2011 will conclude the national roll-out.

Organisations interested in establishing and delivering HIPPY in the selected locations have been taking part in the application process over the past month, which closed on 12 September. Applications will be assessed and organisations should be notified by the end of November, 2010.



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Brotherhood of St Laurence
Working for an Australia free of poverty

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia. The Brotherhood is dedicated to an early years strategy that encourages, supports and acknowledges the importance of positive parent child interaction in enhancing children's learning.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.



The wonderful world of HIPPY Whyalla Stuart



Pictured: Mandy Goodand, HIPPY Whyalla Stuart coordinator, with a HIPPY bag

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is now well underway in Whyalla after a delayed start to the year. HIPPY Whyalla Stuart is the only regional site in South Australia so we are very lucky to have it! We have been working extremely hard to promote the program over the last two months and now have 29 families enrolled.

We have successfully established our community advisory group with members from the Whyalla City council, Whyalla Hospital – Early Childhood Intervention, kindergarten directors, school principals, and a variety of other service providers in the Whyalla community. The support shown by our advisory group and all the kindergarten directors and schools has been instrumental in gaining enrolments to the program. They have been a great support and their hard work and commitment in promoting and supporting the program should be recognised. A big

thank you goes out to everyone and to our advisory group.

The program will be starting in late August. Currently we have employed four home tutors from our families who are already enrolled in HIPPY. These tutors actively support the other parents participating in the program. This has been such a positive aspect of the program.

For our tutors this is either their first paid form of employment or chance to re-enter the workforce after having children.

The program model has a cycle of home visits and parent groups. At parent group we offer an opportunity for our parents to meet, practise activities, listen to guest speakers and be involved in training for enrichment. We are also currently looking for any wonderful ideas people may have of activities

for our parent group and any service providers who could offer their time to do an enrichment activity with our parents.

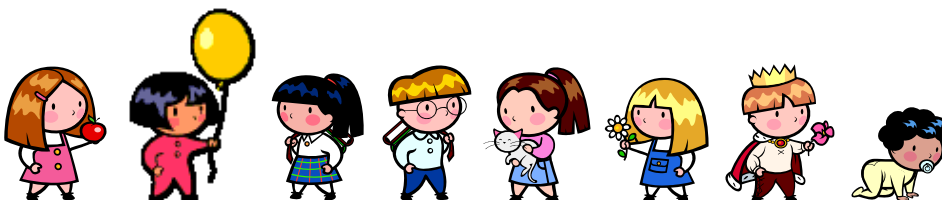
We were also involved in NAIDOC Week on 6 July, which is a coming together of everyone in the community to acknowledge and celebrate Indigenous culture. All the local service providers got together and provided free activities for the children, promoted their programs, and had giveaways. HIPPY Whyalla Stuart had a tent, ran an activity for the kids, and handed out HIPPY balloons. It was a lovely, fun day that also resulted in three enrolments, which is always very positive.

Thanks to everyone who has supported us and we look forward to commencing the program!

*Mandy Goodland,
HIPPY Whyalla Stuart Coordinator



Pictured: Davina and Steve at the HIPPY Whyalla Stuart tent for NAIDOC Week celebrations





Training to training – a consultant on track



As I sat on the train on my way home from Bowenfels (Lithgow) I had time to think about all the different ways I have travelled to HIPPY training. I have walked, driven cars, and caught taxis, small planes, big planes and have now caught the train as well.

This took me to thinking about all sorts of other differences. Each HIPPY training I have been involved with this year has been diverse.

In Dubbo and Mt Isa it was balmy and warm, while in Bowenfels there was snow falling on a tutor's home. In Cabramatta the tutors and families speak many different languages while in Bowenfels, most are native English speakers. I went from training in the middle of cosmopolitan Cabramatta/Fairfield to the quiet country town of Portland and from the ocean views at Warrarong to the Blue Mountains at Lithgow.

On the surface all these sites were different but the important things were the same.

The Bowenfels tutors were just as excited, interested and enthusiastic as all the other tutors I had worked with. The coordinator was as committed to making the program the best it could be. There was as much fun and laughter, optimism and determination. And I felt as

satisfied and proud of everyone by the final day.

Although differences make life interesting I always feel reassured by how much we have in common.

I am now busy planning how to legitimately incorporate a journey by ferry or tuk tuk into my travels!

*Christine Wakefield.

HIPPY Australia Consultant



Pictured: Coordinator, Julie Holmes and the HIPPY Bowenfels tutors during training.

Introducing the new HIPPY Braybrook Coordinator



Since December 2009 HIPPY Braybrook, based at Western Region Health Centre (WRHC), has been coordinated by Sharne Wheaton. Recently Sharne left this position to take up a great opportunity in her chosen area of early childhood education.

The new coordinator at HIPPY Braybrook is Linda Baker.

Some of the existing HIPPY staff

members may already be familiar with Linda, as over the past year she has travelled to a number of HIPPY sites and conducted interviews as part of the HIPPY national evaluation team.

Once settled into this role, Linda is looking forward to meeting and working with more of the HIPPY team from across the nation.

Welcome on board Linda!



Pictured: Linda Baker



The HIPPY Clarendon Vale lending library



Here at HIPPY Clarendon Vale, we're having a fun and busy year! A few months ago, we opened a small lending library at our office. Visiting the library has become a popular and lively event for our HIPPY kids and their mums.

We have sourced a lot of good books for children (and some on parenting) at yard sales and second hand stores, plus some new ones that we couldn't resist!

The children all received a laminated library card with a colourful lanyard and were asked to sign an agreement to return the books on time and, of course, to take special care of them.

We open the library every second Friday for four hours on alternate weeks to our parent group meetings. We hope the families that are unable to attend the parent groups have the opportunity to use the library as well. So far, it's working!

Our home tutors – Sue, Michelle, Karen and Tash – take turns staffing the library. Not only do our little visitors have the opportunity to check out some new books, their mums enjoy chatting with each other over a hot drink and a healthy snack.

On some library days, other activities are offered like a craft project or story time. Families can also check in with their tutor and catch up on their HIPPY activity packs. The atmosphere is more relaxed and casual than the group meetings and has been successful in attracting different families.

The real beauty of our little library is that, for most of our HIPPY kids, it's their first library experience. We hope that it will be only the beginning of a long life of reading, learning and good books!

* Sue McMiles and Diane Brokenshire, HIPPY Clarendon Vale



Pictured: Imogen and Bethany, at HIPPY Clarendon Vale, wear their lending library lanyards

Australia to host the HIPPY international conference

HIPPY Australia is currently preparing to host the 2010 HIPPY international conference to be held in Melbourne in October.

The annual conference will bring together HIPPY directors from around the globe to discuss the unique challenges faced in their own countries, and the strategies being developed to meet these challenges.

In addition to the conference, HIPPY Australia will be hosting a discussion forum to give our international colleagues a chance to present to a

larger audience (including to our own coordinators) on a variety of subjects relevant to HIPPY. Those attending will also have the opportunity to hear about the advancements being made into researching the effectiveness of HIPPY, presented by Brotherhood researcher, Tony Barnett.

HIPPY Australia is honored to have the opportunity to host the 2010 conference and is looking forward to meeting with our international colleagues in October.

We will share the outcomes of the

international conference in the December edition of this newsletter.



Pictured: HIPPY Australia Consultant, Nicola, shares information with international colleagues at the 2009 conference in Vienna



HIPPY Pioneer families have life-size fun



HIPPY was established in Pioneer six months ago. During this time we have worked through a number of challenges engaging with the community, and have made many adaptations in the delivery of the paper-based activities to the families.

We have found that the most rewarding experience for the families – who visit the centre weekly for the paper delivery – is an extension activity that is kinetic and involves both parents and children. These extension activities must be fun, focused and have an early development component to it. The coordinator discusses this component with the parent while they are taking part in the activity. These messages, and the fun activities, are building an atmosphere of enjoyment for families and engendering a feeling of comfort and ownership over their space at the Pioneer centre.

The photo accompanying this story is of an activity undertaken by the group over two days of family visits. Each child lay on a piece of paper

and their mum or nanna drew around them. The child and parent then sat together and talked about all the wonderful and special things the little person can do with their hands and feet, their favourite food that goes into their bellies, the things they love with their hearts, what amazing things they can see with their eyes, what great knowledge they have in their heads, and so on.

The focus of this activity is to recognise each child's strengths and abilities, and labelling the part

of the body that enables this to happen. Also, this activity particularly acknowledges the uniqueness and identity of each individual child.

This activity created laughter, conversation and much colour. We photographed the session and placed a photo in each child's special graduation folder. The children's art works were taken home to put on their walls to discuss with the rest of their families.

* Julie Hill,
HIPPY Pioneer Coordinator



Monster Signs supports HIPPY North Dubbo



HIPPY North Dubbo is one of many exciting new sites this year. We wanted to spread the HIPPY word wide and fast using flyers and plenty of word of mouth promotion. With limited funds for advertising, the HIPPY team brainstormed what we could do to get the word out to the whole North Dubbo community.

One of our home tutors knew Dave Petty who runs his own sign making

business, 'Monster Signs'. Driving past his business, the whole HIPPY North Dubbo team dropped in for a visit.

We told Dave the story of the excellent benefits of the HIPPY program and he was keen to support us. *Well what could he say with four women looking anxiously at him?* Dave has young children but they are not in the HIPPY program. So every

opportunity we can, we proudly display this magnificent banner. Thanks Dave!



HIPPY Moreland children share their activities



HIPPY Moreland has had some very enthusiastic young children participating in HIPPY and having lots of fun while learning! Here are some activities they wish to share.

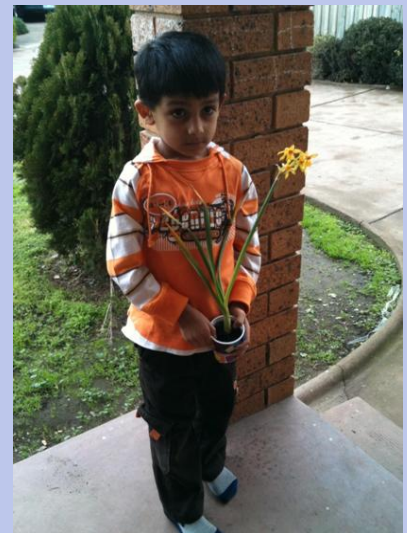
Hammad is doing the age 5 program and he made an icy pole construction: Pack 9, activity 2. He told Homairah his family home tutor:

- I love to make new things and I planned in my mind to make a garage
- I asked for my elder brother's help as I've seen him making one
- I had a package of icy-pole sticks
- I counted the sticks first and there were 100 icy-pole sticks
- Although I planned to construct a garage for car I ended up making an airport with garage for aircrafts
- I'm planning to make something on my own soon.



Bilal is doing the age 4 program and he is describing an activity from a parent group meeting on how plants grow:

- At the group meeting I put potting mix in the cup then put bulb
- Then watered the bulb, and I took it home to look after
- Put out in the sun so that it will grow because plant needs sunlight to grow big
- But when it rained I bring the plant in the house because too much water and plant will die
- Even when it's too windy I'll bring it in the house because wind will blow it away
- Watered the plant regularly then it's started to grow
- Yellow flower ...
- I showed to everyone who came to my house
- Planted more seeds and waiting for it to grow [chilli and tomatoes]



Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) families: a trial project

To support parents from a CALD background, challenged by the sound awareness activities and concepts, HIPPY Australia is conducting a trial project with three sites: Moreland (Vic.), Cabramatta (NSW) and Girrawheen (WA). These sites have a high percentage of families whose first language is not English. The project aims to increase parents' participation in the sound awareness activities; the project takes into account the parents language background and literacy levels in both their first language and English.

An independent report in June 2010 on the 'Phonological awareness component of the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters' by Dr Susanne Dopke, Consultant on Bilingualism and Speech Pathologist, noted the following:

- 'The program provides a rich mixture of strategies for reading to children, concept teaching and sound awareness.
- Parents need to be literate in English to follow this program.
- Activities can easily be presented

in languages other than English, although parents would need to make their own material.

- Suggested extension activities provide ideas on how to do this'.

The trial will be conducted with sensitivity to the fact that there is considerable variation in the extent to which people can participate in HIPPY. We look forward to an outcome which will further enhance our support to all our HIPPY communities.

* Rae Hussey

National Coordinator, HIPPY Australia

HIPPY West Coast tutor tells her story



I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Michelle and I have been with the HIPPY program for about five months, for two-thirds of that time I was a parent in the program. I met Jo, the West Coast coordinator, at the birth to four session at Mountain Heights School in Queenstown, with my four year old son Joseph. She introduced me to the HIPPY program and I signed up without hesitation.

I am a firm believer of home teaching and helping your child to explore their surroundings.

In my previous life I was a ranger with the Parks and Wildlife Service on the West Coast. We had the fantastic opportunity to be based on Green Island (east of Cairns) at the Parks and Wildlife Ranger base for 10 months before returning to Tasmania early this year. (My fiancé Ben is also a ranger.)

I took time off work to be with our two boys, Luka (6) and Joseph (4). During our time on Green Island I home schooled both boys, and fell in love with the concept of home schooling. So when Jo approached me on that day I was very excited.

Luka is now in school full time and Joseph was starting to struggle at home (as was I). Living in a remote

mining town is a real challenge if you have a child who does not go to school. There is limited community-based child development stimulation, and living in an area that has an annual rainfall of 2.5 meters often makes playing outside very difficult.

As a parent I find the HIPPY program extremely beneficial to both myself and Joseph. What a fantastic opportunity to teach my own child. Since starting the program I have been privileged to watch Joseph grow week after week as he completes his activity books. It has been a wonderful experience watching him gaining more self-esteem as he develops further skills in language, listening, numeracy and literacy. It has been magical to see his tiny face light up each time he completes a task. Not to mention how much our communication has grown and the special bond we have developed through our HIPPY lessons.

Now I also have the opportunity as a HIPPY tutor to help other parents become just as involved with their children as I am with Joseph. Working with them closely through the program I am able to watch as their relationship with their child is also transformed week after week. It is

very easy to hear the pride in their voices as they inform me of their progress and show me the drawings of cats and traffic lights and how their child has grasped the concept of a matrix or how they were able to glue pictures together to complete a Rebus story. I especially enjoy listening to how the parents are beginning to incorporate their HIPPY lessons into everyday activities inside and outside the home.

It's been five months since I started with the HIPPY program and I am as enthusiastic now as when I began. I am looking forward to continuing with the program both as a parent and as a tutor.

*Michelle Sorenson
HIPPY West Coast Home Tutor



Getting started in Mount Morgan



HIPPY Mount Morgan commenced on 19 July with 10 families enrolled. A successful afternoon tea was arranged at the Hub at Mount Morgan to introduce Tabatha Byrnes, our home tutor, to the HIPPY parents. Tabatha has a wealth of knowledge in the childcare field.

Some HIPPY parents were excited while others were quite nervous at the beginning of the program. The parents have now relaxed and families are enjoying the program.

This program has bought the parents and children closer from spending 15 minutes a day doing the activities together. The HIPPY children are very keen and enthusiastic about the program.

In early July Sherri Longbottom, HIPPY consultant, visited Mount Morgan. Sherri coordinated the home tutor training over three days. The sessions were very informative. A big thank you to Sherri and we look forward to your next visit to Mount Morgan. We are in the process of

taking enrolments for 2011 and hope to have a greater number next year. HIPPY Mount Morgan would like to thank HIPPY Australia for its support over the last eight months.

* Margy Coppe
HIPPY Mount Morgan Coordinator





The latest news from HIPPY Cabramatta

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of our second term of HIPPY. We now have 33 families participating in the HIPPY Cabramatta program.

Our parent groups have been fun, sociable and informative. The attendance has been between 11 and 17 families. The parents are enjoying the 'make and take' activities and experiences that are related to the enrichment topics.

Our partner agency Learning Links, and our advisory committee have been very supportive in providing speakers for our parent group enrichment activities, so now all our

sessions are booked to the end of the year.

The enrichment topics include: the 'big school' environment, speech &



language development, parents' self care, behaviour management, developing children's self-esteem, first aid and safety in the home.

It is exciting to see both parents and children learning from the program.

One parent took her son's HIPPY activities to the local school to

support his enrolment. The school was impressed with the family's involvement in the program and the child's development.

It has been encouraging to hear positive comments from coordinators of several of the local preschools and supported playgroups about the progress of children on the HIPPY

program. (Well done HIPPY Cabramatta!)

* Isobel McKay
HIPPY Cabramatta Coordinator

Officeworks supports HIPPY Charnwood



HIPPY Charnwood is proud to announce a new partnership with Officeworks in Fyshwick. Jocelyn and Aaron, coordinators at Officeworks in Fyshwick have kindly offered to supply the HIPPY boxes for our program, helping up to 35 families per year.

This greatly assists with the running of the program and the families involved have been very excited to receive their HIPPY boxes.

Each HIPPY box includes a plastic tub, four folders, crayons, a lead pencil, an

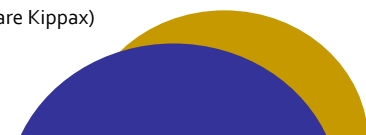
eraser, scissors, a glue stick, some paddle-pop sticks (150 pack), textas, paperclips, a pencil case, a paintbrush, a box of thick coloured chalk, sticky tape, coloured pencils and a sharpener.

UnitingCare Kippax and HIPPY Charnwood would like to thank Officeworks in Fyshwick for their contribution to the program and for helping community members of West Belconnen.

*Warrick Eppelstun
HIPPY Charnwood Coordinator



Pictured: Gordon Ramsay (Kippax Uniting Church), Jocelyn Wilson (Officeworks Fyshwick), Sue Gore Phillips (UnitingCare Kippax), Aaron McNeil (Officeworks Fyshwick) and Warrick Eppelstun (HIPPY Charnwood Coordinator – UnitingCare Kippax)



Easy to make recipes from HIPPY Warrawong



HIPPY Warrawong has had a busy few months since the last newsletter. We had a visit from our HIPPY consultant Christine Wakefield, who spent time at a parent group, went on a home visit, joined in our team training and explored the sights of our local area. It was a pleasure to host her visit and a great excuse for a team lunch at a local Thai restaurant.

We are running parent groups fortnightly and these are generally a very busy time. We had a guest speaker give a presentation on 'school readiness and transition to school', and our last few meetings have focused on nutrition and healthy eating, packing healthy lunch boxes, making economical snacks and cooking with kids.

At our last group we had our budding junior 'master chefs' making their own 'LCM' bars, baking muffins, creating mini pies and a tasty pasta bake slice.

Here are some of our recipes:

Basic muffin mix:

- 2 cups wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons oil

Place all ingredients in a bowl and mix to combine. Basic mix can be made into sweet or savoury muffins; we tried the following variations.

Apple, carrot and sultana muffins

To basic mix add ¼ cup sugar, grated

apple, carrot and sultanas. Spoon into oiled muffin pan and bake in moderate oven for 15–20 minutes.

Carrot, zucchini and cheese muffins

To basic mix add grated carrot, zucchini and cheese, season to taste with salt and pepper. Spoon into oiled muffin pan and bake in moderate oven for 15–20 minutes.

Cheese and herb muffins

To basic mix add grated cheese, chopped herbs of your choice (we used basil and chives), an extra tablespoon of oil and season to taste with salt and pepper. Spoon into oiled muffin pan and bake in moderate oven for 15–20 minutes.

Sweet mini pies

You will need:

- fruit bread
- apples
- vanilla yoghurt

Roll slices of bread with a rolling pin to flatten, then trim off crusts. Oil a muffin tin and press bread into muffin tray holes. Spray lightly with oil and bake in a moderate oven until golden and crisp (about 10 minutes).

Peel and chop apple into a microwave dish with a little water and cook in microwave until soft, then mash with a fork (our microwave took 2 mins for 1 apple).

Spoon apple mix into fruit bread cases and top with a spoon of vanilla yoghurt and enjoy!



Savoury mini pies

White bread or wholemeal are suitable, you can also use day-old bread for these cases. Simply prepare the cases as for the sweet mini pies by rolling, trimming and baking the bread, then fill with your choice of savoury fillings.

Some savoury filling suggestions:

- baked beans and grated cheese
- creamed corn and cheese or cooked chicken.

Mix filling together in a bowl and warm in microwave (making sure not to overheat), spoon into cases and eat!

After our cooking we were all hungry and enjoyed a yummy morning tea!

* Jackie Brizga

HIPPY Warrawong Coordinator





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About HIPPY Australia

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program that targets families with young children. It supports parents who may not feel confident to prepare their children for a successful early school experience.

HIPPY builds upon parental strengths and empowers parents to take an active role in their children's education, development and overall wellbeing. For some parents, it also offers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

HIPPY helps to develop stronger and more confident families, with an increased capacity to make the most of opportunities provided by mainstream education.



Brotherhood of St Laurence

Working for an Australia free of poverty

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is licensed to operate HIPPY in Australia.

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is funded by the Australian Government.



redefining / financial services

HIPPY Australia is proud to acknowledge its partnership with AXA.

The views expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Contributions for the HIPPY Australia newsletter

If you have a story you'd like to share in the HIPPY Australia quarterly newsletter please don't hesitate to send your ideas to ncrew@bsl.org.au.

We are happy to consider stories from any of our friends from across the globe. In the past stories have come from:

- parents
- children
- tutors
- coordinators
- partner agencies
- HIPPY Australia staff
- HIPPY international programs
- other early childhood services
- community supporters of HIPPY
- Researchers.

A big thanks to those who contributed a story for this edition. We have received such a great mix of articles and are grateful to you for sharing your story with us.

