



HIPPY Australia Newsletter

ISSUE 2

APRIL 2008

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Our new website is underway
- HIPPY celebrates its partnership with AXA
- Curriculum for HIPPY Age 3 is being developed

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HIPPY forum a success!



Over three days in February the Brotherhood of St Laurence ran HIPPY Australia information and training forums. The first day catered for organisations interested in finding out how to open a HIPPY site in their community, helping to pave the way for the federal roll out of 50 new sites in Australia over the next five years.

This information forum was attended by organisations from Western Australia,



Representatives from organisations interested in running HIPPY, at the information forum in Melbourne

South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, all keen to provide HIPPY to their communities. The forum also provided the opportunity for people from potential sites to meet and discuss the program with current site coordinators and tutors.

The subsequent two days were attended by current site managers, coordinators and tutors from around the nation, and consisted of training and discussion in line with HIPPY methods and ideals. They also provided a good opportunity for discussion about how each site delivers the program effectively to the many different communities they serve, and a great chance to get to know tutors and

coordinators from the different sites.

All in all, the three days were a huge success. Positive feedback included: 'It was a great way of getting together, opening tutors' eyes further, and building a team.'

We would like to say a big thank you to the Sydney Myer Fund for providing such a great opportunity for our HIPPY sites to get together, learn and help make HIPPY a success.



HIPPY coordinators and tutors at the training forum

Maxine McKew visits HIPPY

In late January the Hon. Maxine McKew, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Child Care, paid a visit to HIPPY Australia in Fitzroy. A big supporter of HIPPY, the new Member for Bennelong dropped in to meet some of

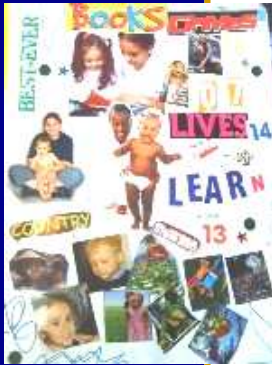
the tutors and children involved in the program.

She made the most of the opportunity to speak with the families about their experiences with HIPPY, and did some activities with the children.



The Hon. Maxine McKew at HIPPY Fitzroy.

International HIPPY conference



A collage by HIPPY tutors, 'What HIPPY means to us' Training forum 2008

In April, Rae Hussey, the National Coordinator of HIPPY Australia, will be attending the International HIPPY Conference in St Petersburg, Florida, USA.

The annual conference is hosted by a different country every year. In 2007, Vancouver, Canada, hosted the event, which was attended by Susan Davies, National Manager of HIPPY Australia.

The conferences provide

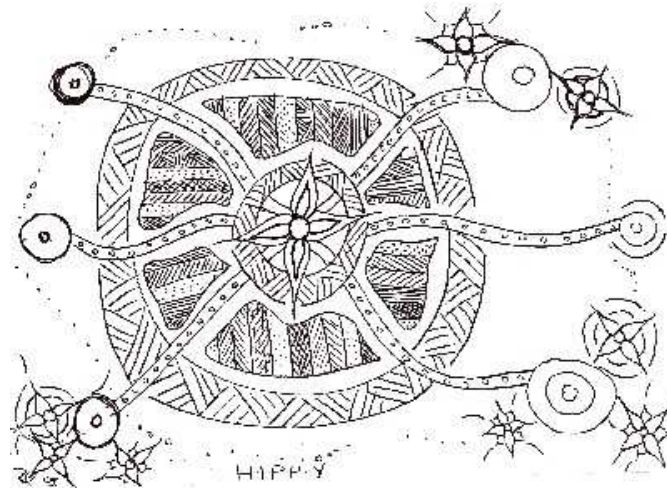
great networking opportunities between programs, and the chance to hear speakers from advocacy organisations, universities, child welfare agencies, the business and philanthropy communities and HIPPY programs internationally.

Building on the successful proliferation of HIPPY programs, now serving over 22,000 families worldwide, the international network strengthens the ties among existing sites, in addition to

supporting the development of new ones. It is a network of professional and paraprofessional staff, researchers, board members, funders, policy makers and advocates for young children and their families, which is able to benefit from the exchange of experiences and ideas worldwide.

We will share the outcomes of the International Conference with you in the next newsletter edition.

HIPPY Tutor Vicky Doyle's representation of the recent training forum



'Through HIPPY my child learnt counting, colours, shapes in an interesting way. It made learning fun!'
2007 parent feedback

A sneak peek at the HIPPY Australia website



HIPPY website

The staff at HIPPY Australia have been busy collecting information and designing the new HIPPY website. Once complete the website will be viewable at

www.hippyaustralia.org.au and will feature event information, downloads, and pictures from many of our HIPPY sites. Enquiries about the program can be made via the website, which will be maintained and updated on a regular basis by HIPPY Australia.

We hope that the website will be an information resource for all current and potential HIPPY sites, and a good public face for HIPPY in Australia. At this stage, the website should be complete and ready to launch by the end of this month.

The HIPPY and AXA partnership



support and an employee workplace giving program. Last year AXA committed to a three-year partnership with HIPPY, which is helping to ensure the growth of HIPPY Australia. To show our gratitude for AXA's overwhelming support, HIPPY, with the Brotherhood of

Chief Executive of AXA, Paul Williams, National Manager, Charter Financial Planning at AXA (and a familiar face at many HIPPY events), Brotherhood of St Laurence Executive Director, Tony Nicholson, and board members, HIPPY site representatives and Susan Davies, National Manager of HIPPY Australia. (pictured left)

Through their Hearts in Action program, AXA Australia has supported HIPPY since 2005, not only through corporate funding but also volunteer

St Laurence, hosted an evening event to celebrate this three-year partnership. Among those attending were Andrew Penn,

The entertainment was provided by Sudanese-born singer, Ajak Mabia.

'HIPPY works with my culture. They understand my culture, accept and support. HIPPY works with my culture well.'

2007 parent feedback

Welcome to our HIPPY family

Winchelsea

With Kim Coulter taking up the position of Coordinator of Early Years Programs with Glastonbury Child and Family Services, we now welcome Megan Fitzgerald as the new Coordinator at HIPPY Winchelsea. Megan attended her first HIPPY Australia training forum in February this year.

Fitzroy

Marisa Pizzini has been working with HIPPY Fitzroy since the beginning of 2007. Originally employed in a temporary leave position, she has now been re-employed permanently as Coordinator of the HIPPY Fitzroy team. Welcome back Marisa!

HIPPY families

We would also like to welcome all the families that have joined HIPPY this year. We hope that HIPPY helps your family find enjoyment through teaching and learning with your child.



Rae Hussey visits HIPPY New Zealand

Our National Coordinator has recently had the experience of visiting our close friends at HIPPY New Zealand. Rae visited HIPPY sites throughout New Zealand with the guidance of their National Director, Jane Hall. Through this exercise, she was able to gain insight into the way the program runs within similar

communities to those in Australia, and observe the strong network that has developed between all 21 sites throughout New Zealand.

We'd like to thank everyone at HIPPY New Zealand for welcoming Rae on her visit.



A collage by HIPPY tutors 'What HIPPY means to us' Training forum 2008



We recently asked our new parents for 2008 to complete a survey for their ideas and interests to be explored at parent group meetings.

This year we have two CALD mothers (one is Malay, from Singapore, and the other is from Papua New Guinea). One of our Anglo-Saxon Australian mums said she'd love to learn another language and some of that culture.

A word from HIPPY Burnie ...

We know it's not possible to do this in hourly/fortnightly sessions, so we asked our two ladies if they'd work with a small group of interested people, sharing simple conversation, information about their cultures, and their cuisine. They both agreed, so we look forward to some wonderful exchanges in our group meetings.

A few other ideas are:

- 'Savers Club' savings tips – everyone has some good ideas to share. We will collate these and distribute to all attendees once complete.
- 'Teddy bear hospital/check-up' – children bring their special teddy/doll for a check-up. Child safety in the home will

be discussed.

- We will also have a children's PJ party again – we'll discuss 'dental hygiene' and send home some information. Our lucky door prize for this meeting will be a toothbrush set.

HIPPY Burnie families really enjoy group meetings, helping families build networks in their communities and learning at the same time.



Pictures from the 2007 HIPPY Burnie group meetings



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The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program targeted at disadvantaged families in our community.

HIPPY empowers parents as their children's first teacher and fosters parent involvement in school and community life, to maximise the chances of a successful early school experience. For some parents, it also offers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

HIPPY Australia would like to thank all of its funding bodies and individuals for their support. We couldn't do it without you.

