

Our Mission

To provide support services to children and young adults with physical disabilities and their families to assist these children and young adults to achieve their maximum individual potential for participation in the community.

Thank you to our Sponsors & Supporters

Department of
Natural Resources
and Water



Ms Lauren Jordan

Tattersall's Bowls Club

United Way
Queensland

Mr Bob Crawford



Christmas on the Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast Office is organising a Christmas Party for clients and their families living on the Sunshine Coast and surrounding area. Christmas on the Coast will be held on Saturday 8 December at Cotton Tree, Maroochydore. For more information, please contact the Sunshine Coast Office, 07 5444 2225.

Making Tourist Destinations Accessible

A new website has been set up to help tourists with disabilities obtain accessibility information about places they want to visit.

The site, www.australiaforall.com.au, provides information relevant to travellers with physical, visual and hearing impairments.

While the main focus of the website is to help people with disabilities find out about the accessibility of tourist destinations, it also aims to help those in the tourism industry improve their services and therefore encourage more tourists with disabilities to use them. Courtesy of www.ourcommunity.com.au.

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Young Adults Lifestyle & Leisure Programme

Early this year MontroseAccess received funding from Disability Services Queensland to provide the Lifestyle and Leisure Programme for young adults aged up to 25 years old.

The programme aims to enable young adults with physical disabilities to identify and achieve their lifestyle and leisure goals as they establish adult roles.

The programme can assist clients in the areas of:

- Learning new skills for independent living
- Developing friendships & social networks
- Accessing the community for education, work & recreation
- Strengthening community connections

Social group activities and holidays are offered, where appropriate, to assist in reaching the goals of individuals.

The Lifestyle and Leisure Programme is initially being offered in the Brisbane area only.

There are vacancies currently available for clients to enter the programme. For more information or to apply please contact Lyndal McCasker (07) 3717 1141, lmccasker@montroseaccess.org.au.

MontroseAccess Participates in Research Projects

At MontroseAccess, we believe in further education, staff development and fostering great relationships within the community. We are often involved in various research programmes and studies to further develop our skills and strengthen our relationships with stakeholders. We are very excited to be involved in two research projects.

The first research project is titled "Perceived social-emotional competence for girls with physical impairment involved in exploratory dance." The project is designed to capture changes in the social-emotional competence of a small group of physically impaired girls aged between eight and ten years. Dance classes will be conducted on a fortnightly basis for around six months and the girls involvement will provide a positive activity for our Girls Group on the Gold Coast.

The second research project is titled "Quality of life in boys ages 9 – 18 with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy." The aim of the study is to better characterise quality of life in boys with DMD and look at the impact of assistive devices on daily activities. We look forward to assisting with the research and reading the final reports.

Internet Safety for Children



The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), who are responsible for regulating broadcasting, radio communications, telecommunications and online content, have developed a community awareness project called Cybersmart Kids Online.

Cybersmart Kids Online provides parents and children with information and tools to help them have a rewarding, productive and safe experience of the internet. To find out more visit <http://www.cybersmartkids.com.au>



Helpful Hints — Childs Play

We often view play simply as fun, but for children it is so much more. Play is childrens' work and is essential in early development. It allows children to learn about their environment, use their bodies and develop thinking skills. These are the building blocks of the skills children use in their school years, during adolescence and beyond.

Every child is different with respect to the skill set they possess. It is important to be aware of the skills your child demonstrates in play so you can:

- Provide your child with toys that suit them best and know how to adjust activities to match their skills.
- Be aware of the best seating position for your child to allow them to play effectively.
- Provide the most appropriate assistance within each task as needed.
- Have an appropriate expectation of what your child is likely to achieve next.

For more information or to receive a fact sheet on Child's Play, please contact your MontroseAccess therapist.

Every Child Matters

National Disability Service and Families Australia are excited to be co-hosting "Every Child Matters" national conference of children and young people with disability and their families, on 14 and 15 May 2008, at Melbourne Park Function Centre, Melbourne Olympic Park.

The aim of this inaugural conference is to identify issues, share solutions and celebrate successes. Additionally, discussion will focus on enabling services to better respond to children's and families' needs by focusing on family wellbeing, all-inclusive communities, policies, practice and priorities, and the voice of children, young people and families. For more information, please visit www.nds.org.au.

What is Lookle?

There is a new Australian based internet search engine that hopes to help charities by harnessing consumers need to browse the web. It's called LOOKLE.com and every time someone searches on the internet on LOOKLE, one cent goes to a charity or school of the donor's choice.

Users select a charity they wish to support using the selection box which is located on the front page of LOOKLE. Once an organisation has been selected by a user every search performed by that user will earn 1 search point for the organisation. For each point accrued, LOOKLE will convert the point to cash at the applicable rate and donate to the chosen charity. One cent may not sound like much, however when considering that using a search engine is one of the most popular activities on the internet, and search engines can generate millions of searches per year, the search points accrued could translate into literally thousands of dollars going to worthy organisations. Now everyone can make the world a better place every time we search, for more information visit www.lookle.com.

MAO

MONTROSE ACCESS QUARTERLY

VOLUME 2 — ISSUE 1



Above: Big smiles from Kaitlyn and Santa.

Message from the President



2007 has been a wonderful year of growth for MontroseAccess as we introduced three new programmes (Lifestyle and Leisure, Early Childhood and Over 18s Respite), we opened a new office at Strathpine, introduced a new Quality system, received funding to support various programmes and buy equipment, and held our first charity race day at Doomben Race Course — just to name a few!

The introduction of our new programmes increased our services to several new and previous clients. I welcome all of our new clients and their families to MontroseAccess — we are looking forward to working with you.

Speaking of client families, I would like to thank Lisa and Kaitlyn for participating in our Community

Service Announcement, which can be seen on Channel 7 and features Sharyn Ghidella. Lisa was able to speak from her heart about MontroseAccess and the benefits we provide to our clients and their families.

MontroseAccess has been given a funding grant of \$23,491.00 to assist with our water saving programme. The funding received from the Lifestyle WaterWise Grant will be used to install water tanks, as well as water saving devices on taps, showers and toilets and modifying bathrooms in the accommodation units. It's another step closer to saving water and helping the environment.

The festive season is just around the corner — let the celebrations begin! At MontroseAccess we are getting ready for the festive season by organising a number of small events, recreational camps, and school holiday activities. So keep an eye out for forthcoming events which will keep the children entertained over the school holidays. In this edition of the newsletter you can find helpful tips for internet

safety for children and making tourist destinations accessible — very important information for the school holidays.

I would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who have given their support to MontroseAccess throughout the year. It is heartening to know that we are well and truly supported within the Queensland community. I urge you to consider supporting our Christmas Appeal enclosed with this newsletter or through voluntary activities during 2008 — our Diamond Anniversary year!

We wish you and your family all the very best for the holiday season and 2008. We look forward to working closely with you in the coming year.

John Kennedy
President



MontroseAccess

Strathpine Office Update

In recent years the Narangba, Mango Hill and outer northern suburbs of Brisbane have experienced huge growth with many new young families moving to the area. With the ever-increasing number of referrals to the Pine Rivers team it was recognised that there was a need to provide more accessible services for children, young people and their families on the Northside of the city. Following the establishment of the Early Childhood North team at the beginning of 2007, this dream was finally realised in August with the opening of the new office at Strathpine.

Our Strathpine office is now up and running with staff of the Early Childhood North and Marchant programmes settling in to the new facilities. Both teams have been busy since the opening, particularly the Early Childhood team who have already been away on outreach trips to Hervey Bay and Cairns.

The new office provides a fantastic treatment area and a resources area with shelves quickly filling up with books, toys and equipment. We are keen to start new and exciting programmes for Northside clients and their families. Not only has the new office provided us with a great working space it is also a bonus to be so much closer to our clients' schools and homes.

With this exciting extension to MontroseAccess' services, we are looking forward to being a greater part of the Northside community!



Above: Say a big Hello to the new Strathpine Team.

Dates for your Diary

AGM

15 November

Bribie Island Bowls Day

11 November

Bayside Kids Club (Tuesday)

27 November

Christmas Holiday Activities

Tuesday 18 December – Thursday 24 January

Moreton Boys Group (Wednesday)

14 November

12 December

My Time Corinda (Friday)

9 November

23 November

7 December

My Time Gold Coast (Monday)

5 November

19 November

3 December

17 December

Office Closure

Friday 21 December – Friday 4 January

Sunshine Coast Christmas Party

Saturday 8 December

Respite Closure

Friday 21 December at 2pm – Friday 4 January at 3pm.

St George Foundation

MontroseAccess has again received a generous grant of \$11,944 from the St George Foundation. The grant will assist many of our client families to fund the gap between the cost of their child's wheelchair and the MASS subsidy. This will be a blessing for many families as the money eases some of the financial costs associated with their child's wheelchair. MontroseAccess would like to thank the St George Foundation for their ongoing commitment and support of our organisation — we truly appreciate your generosity!

Neuromuscular Clinic

Since 2005, the Neuromuscular Clinic has been providing coordinated care and support of children with neuromuscular conditions using the principle of family-centred practice. This means the family, doctor and therapists work together to negotiate support services that meet the needs of the entire family unit.

We are very privileged to have access to great doctors who are willing to come out to Corinda to attend our Neuromuscular Clinics. Our clients have free access to wonderful specialist doctors, which is not only beneficial for our clients, but helps foster greater awareness amongst the medical profession of conditions like Muscular Dystrophies.

Due to the high number of last minute cancellations over the year, the clinic may be in danger of being permanently cancelled. Last minute cancellations cause great stress on the doctors attending the clinic, staff members and other clients who miss the opportunity to attend the vacant appointment time. This is compounded by the fact that many of our clients travel from all over Queensland to attend the Neuromuscular Clinic at Corinda.

We understand that situations arise and appointments may have to be cancelled, but please contact David Sparks on 3717 1150 at least 24 hours in advance so we can contact other clients who may want, or need, to attend the Neuromuscular Clinic.

MontroseAccess Goes Waterwise

As we all know Queensland is suffering from one of its worst droughts on record, and everyone must work together to save every last drop of water. Thanks to the Department of Natural Resources and Water, MontroseAccess has been given a grant of \$23,491.00 to assist with our water saving programme. The Department of Natural Resources and Water has introduced the Lifestyle WaterWise Grant which is aimed at assisting not-for-profit organisations to be part of Queensland's endeavours to be more water efficient — especially in the time of drought.

The funding received from the Lifestyle WaterWise grant programme will assist MontroseAccess to install rainwater tanks and pumps associated with the hydrotherapy pool and scout hall, water saving devices on taps, showers and toilets and modifying bathrooms in our accommodation units. Our goal is to save over 200 kL of water per year. With the help from the Department of Natural Resources and Water, and our water savvy staff members and clients, we are well on our way to achieving this target.

Charity Art Exhibition



Above: Darrel Bouke (CEO) thanks Lauren Jordan for her generous donation to MontroseAccess.

Art critics, collectors and musicians came together on Saturday 4 August at Brisbane's Verve Café & Bar to view paintings by Brisbane artist, Lauren Jordan. The opening night of the exhibition featured an auction of Lauren's paintings with 100 per cent of the proceeds being kindly donated to MontroseAccess. The auction raised an exceptional \$12,915.00 for MontroseAccess — a fantastic effort for Lauren's first exhibition!

The exhibition titled "4givr" Charity Art Exhibition" was held throughout August and featured 19 original paintings. Lauren describes her style as explosive. From initial sketch to finished canvas it's a fast, high-energy process that delivers surprising results. To view Lauren's art, visit www.artbylon.com.

We sincerely thank Lauren for her thoughtful and creative donation to MontroseAccess. We also thank Verve Café and Adrian Kirwan who helped raise the funds through his lively auctioneering skills.

Spring Fashion Show

Six models took the runway on Saturday 8 September 2007 to raise money for children and young people with physical disabilities. Over 50 people gathered at the Concert Hall at Corinda to witness new spring fashions from Target, Katies, Millers and Cosmopolitan Boutique. After the show, guests were treated to a variety of sandwiches, cakes, scones and delicious treats, providing the perfect opportunity to discuss the latest fashions and write a shopping list. There were plenty of giveaways, raffles and lucky door prizes.

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in the fashion show, especially Anne Potts and Annette Forrest who organised the event. A special thanks to our sponsors Target, Katies, Millers, Cosmopolitan Boutique, Nutrimetics, Soul Pattinson Chemist Redbank, Woolworths and guests for making this event a wonderful way to celebrate spring.



Above: Spring fashion at MontroseAccess.

Off and Racing!

MontroseAccess took to the race track on Saturday 28 July 2007 at Doomben Race Course for our inaugural Charity Race Day.

Sponsors were treated to a lovely buffet lunch followed by a game of heads and tails, fashions on the carpet, business card draw, raffle prizes and an auction. Ben Davis, 7 Sport Reporter, attended as MC of the event and provided some useful tips throughout the day. Phil Black, the famous Singing Auctioneer, had the crowd in fits of laughter with his rhymes and amazing ability to make a sale.

Our volunteers worked tirelessly on the course selling raffle tickets, charity pins and having a friendly chat with punters. As MontroseAccess was the chosen charity to sell the Winter Racing Carnival's Charity Pin, many of our volunteers attended a number of the race days throughout the carnival.

Overall, we raised over \$35,000 for MontroseAccess — a fantastic result for our first charity race day!

We would like to thank our sponsors Channel 7, Ownit Homes, Meridien Retirement Living, ABEE Promotions, Ray White Real Estate, Windsor Recruitment, BDO Kendalls and Laser Antenna for their commitment and involvement with the charity race day. We would also like thank our volunteers who so graciously gave up their time to raise money for a worthy cause. We must thank the staff, members and punters at Brisbane Turf Club for your wonderful hospitality and support of MontroseAccess.



Above: It's a photo finish at MontroseAccess's Charity Race Day.

We Remember

MontroseAccess was saddened by the recent passing of businessman and past MontroseAccess President Mr Alan White. Alan was the son of Ray White founder of Ray White Real Estate. Alan followed in his father's footsteps and drove the business to leadership in the industry — firstly in Brisbane, then via branch networks throughout Queensland and across Australia.

Not only was Alan a successful businessman he was also involved in a number of community organisations, particularly MontroseAccess. Alan was a director of the Society from 1955 to 1990. Throughout his time on the Board he was President from 1980–1983, Vice President 1972–1972 and Treasurer 1963–1972. Past and present Director's of the Society and MontroseAccess would like to pass on our deepest sympathies to Alan White's family, friends and colleagues.

Community Service Announcement

For the past few months Sharyn Ghidella, Channel 7's weekend newsreader, has been informing viewers about the importance of MontroseAccess by appearing in our Community Service Announcement. The Community Service Announcement can be seen on Channel 7 and features our very own client family members Kaitlyn and her mother, Lisa. The purpose of the Community Service Announcement is to inform the community about MontroseAccess, what we do, the services we provide, and how we help children and young adults with physical disabilities living throughout Queensland. Channel 7 has donated the airtime to MontroseAccess, together with an exceptional crew who produced the advertisement.

We would like to thank Channel 7 and Sharyn Ghidella for your ongoing support and commitment to MontroseAccess, and a special mention to our very own super stars Lisa and Kaitlyn for appearing in the commercial — everyone did a fantastic job, thank you!

Tattersall's Bowls Day

It was a wet and windy day at Balmoral Bowls Club on Tuesday 14 August, and due to bad weather conditions, the Tattersall's Charity Bowls Day had to be cancelled. Although the weather was miserable, the bowler's spirits were high and many decided to stay around for afternoon tea and the auction, as all monies raised were going towards two worthy charities — MontroseAccess and Greenslopes Hospital. Overall the afternoon tea and the auction was a great success and provided a wonderful opportunity for many players to catch up and have chat. We would like to thank Tattersall's Bowls Club for your ongoing support of MontroseAccess.

Can We Fix It? Yes We Can!

Wheelchair maintenance is crucial for optimal running of wheelchairs and minimises breakdowns at the most inappropriate times, such as late Friday nights or weekends.

On Monday 24 September 2007, MontroseAccess held a powerdrive wheelchair maintenance clinic for clients on the Gold Coast. The clinic was organised by MontroseAccess staff in assistance with MASS and GS Electronics (MASS contracts to GS Electronics for Powerdrive wheelchair repairs).

Neil and Darren Schuler (from GS Electronics) were hard at work doing major service on the MASS powerdrive wheelchairs and made repairs as necessary. John Atkinson and Stephen Hales (from MASS) also attended and provided invaluable information about registration, insurance and other MASS related enquiries. Lastly, Naomi and Tina (MontroseAccess physiotherapists) assessed their clients in the wheelchairs and made adjustments as necessary and/or recommendations.

Thank you to MASS, GS Electronics, staff, clients and their families for making this clinic such a success. We are planning more clinics in the future — so stay tuned! For more information on wheelchair maintenance, please contact MASS on (07) 3250 8555.

Windsor Recruitment Charity Golf Day

On Wednesday 5 September 2007 over 80 golfing enthusiasts gathered at Indooroopilly Golf Club to participate in the Windsor Recruitment Charity Golf Day, with all monies raised being kindly donated to MontroseAccess and Deaf Services Queensland.

Players were treated to a scrumptious BBQ and a free gift bag filled with lots of goodies before heading out onto the golf course. After the round of golf and plenty of laughs along the way, the play finally came to an end. The players met inside the club house for the raffle, speeches and a cool drink — a perfect ending to a wonderful day.

MontroseAccess would like to thank Windsor Recruitment for their generous donation and continued support of MontroseAccess.



Above: Having ball at Windsor Recruitments Charity Golf Day — representatives from Deaf Services Queensland and MontroseAccess

A Day of Family Fun on the Gold Coast

The Gold Coast Office held its annual Family Fun Day on Saturday 18 August 2007, and what a FUN day it was! All the kids got involved in art and crafts and games to start the day, while the parents got chatting. Once the Starlight Captains arrived at 11am in their Starlight Express Van, the focus turned to them. They made great balloon animals, which varied from fairy wings and wands to aliens and spiders, and their fantastic face painting kept the kids and parents intrigued. When it was time for the Starlight Captains to leave, the BBQ lunch was ready. After lunch, each child painted a tile which they could take home to remember the day. But the entertainment didn't stop there — two very special and talented dogs came along to show their clever tricks. It was a great way to wrap up such an eventful and positive day. Thank you so much to all the families that attended — it was a fantastic day and we hope to see you all next year!



Above: It's all fun and games at the Gold Coast Family Fun Day! Georgia and her Dad, Andrew enjoy the entertainment.