

Give where you live

“Way To Go”

United Way Geelong Region's Newsletter

In focus: Keeping Families Strong

Winter 2010



United Way Geelong Region

PO Box 351, Geelong VIC 3220
248 Malop Street, Geelong VIC 3220

tel 03 5229 4364 fax 03 5221 2630

admin@uwgeelong.com.au

www.uwgeelong.com.au

About United Way Geelong Region

United Way Geelong Region is a volunteer led philanthropic organisation that mobilises resources and builds capacity to strengthen our community and improve lives of disadvantaged people in the Geelong region.



**United Way
Geelong Region**

Our Community Impact



From the CEO
Adam Charleston

Keeping Families Strong

When a parent is told their child has a disability they enter a whole new world filled with assessments, specialists, therapists and programs. Understandably this is overwhelming for most parents but for Debra-Lee Miraglia this was the beginning of a journey to a happier life.

Debra-Lee first learned her son Jacob (now 5) had autism after Jacob's kindergarten teacher referred the family to Gateways Support Services.

Gateways Support Services is a responsive community organisation that empowers and supports children and adults who have a disability or additional need and their families. Each year Gateways Support Services assists more than 1000 children and adults, and their families, in the Barwon South Western Region.

Debra-Lee describes the Gateways staff as quick to respond to both her and Jacob's needs.

"Before Jacob was diagnosed with autism, the Gateways staff prepared me by giving me information and talking about the possibility of Jacob being autistic. Once the diagnosis was done, they suggested the Gateways Autism Early Learning Program (an intensive program for kindergarten-aged children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and very high needs). In just a few short months Jacob has made great gains and we even go shopping together – something that wasn't possible before," says Debra-Lee.

United Way Geelong Region has financially contributed to Gateways' Autism Early Learning Program (AELP) for the past 13 years. It is thanks to this support that children and parents like Jacob and Debra-Lee receive the responsive and innovative services of Gateways.

Did you know?

Your donation has enabled United Way to give **\$130,000** to Gateways so they can continue to deliver their Autism Early Learning Program!

For Debra-Lee this means peace of mind, the support and friendship of other parents of children with autism and a much happier Jacob.

“If I was left to do it all on my own, I wouldn’t know where to start,” admits Debra-Lee. “The Gateways staff taught me to deal with Jacob’s problems in ways I would never have thought of and the change in Jacob is just tremendous.”

Recognising the need to support the family as well as the child or adult with an additional need or disability, Gateways developed a committed approach to ‘keeping families strong’. Through this focus, Gateways aims to develop each child’s potential while strengthening family confidence and resilience and promoting much needed understanding and support in the community.

Gateways Support Services provides a responsive range of services and support for families with a child with a disability including:

- An assessment of needs, appropriate information and assistance, referrals and links to programs
- Early intervention services
- Support for children to participate successfully at kindergarten
- Assistance when making the transition from an early intervention program to school age services
- Funding to develop individualised flexible support including case management, therapy, respite etc.
- Parent education and support programs and workshops
- A range of respite care options for children and young people with a range of disabilities and/or complex medical health needs
- Social groups and holiday programs



With United Way’s support, children such as Albert Hall (pictured) receive responsive and innovative services from Gateways.

For more information please visit:

www.gateways.com.au or www.autismhelp.info

or phone Gateways on: (03) 5221 2984.

United Way Events



australia's aluminium

Alcoa Australian Corporate Head of the River

You're invited to participate in the 2010 Alcoa Australian Corporate Head of the River! Now in its 13th year, this event is on track to raise over \$1 million dollars for United Way Geelong Region since it first started in 1998. That's \$1 million dollars towards making a real difference in the Geelong community.

The Alcoa Australian Corporate Head of the River is a unique opportunity for businesses and corporations to strengthen their team spirit, their community spirit and, of course, get fit by rowing. As the Event Patron and Triple Olympic Rowing Gold Medallist, Drew Ginn says, "By participating in this regatta, barriers will be broken down, friendships will be formed and your organisation and our community will benefit off the water."

No experience necessary. All equipment and personal rowing coach provided.

Key Info:

Welcome party: Tuesday 7th September

Training starts: Sunday 12th September

Regatta Day: Saturday 9th October

Ford Otway Cycling Classic

Promoting drivers and riders respecting one another



The Ford Otway Cycling Classic is on!

United Way are pleased to announce we will be running this fabulous event this year. Last year it was under threat of extinction but thanks to the support of Ford as naming rights sponsor, the ride will go on. In its 30th year the ride will explore 137kms of countryside, seaside and Otways, as it winds it's way from Moriac Reserve, to Bells Beach, along the Great Ocean Road, over the Otway Ranges, through farming country and back to Moriac.

We've kept the original 1980 route and direction, with small modifications for rider safety and enjoyment. You'll have the opportunity to test yourself on Cadel Evans's favourite training hill, or simply take it easy and enjoy the scenic ride with friends and family.

With recent accidents between riders and motorists still fresh in our minds, the Ford Otway Cycling Classic has a very important message to get across to the community - 'Drivers respecting riders and riders respecting drivers.' Mark Winterbottom, Ford's number 1 V8 driver has joined the ride, and along with cyclist Cadel Evans will promote this very important safety message. Be there on the day to meet Cadel and Mark.

This event aims to raise over \$100,000 in much needed funds for those in need in the Geelong Region.

Key Info:

Date: Sunday 7th November

Time: Riders briefing at 7:15am

Ride starts at 7:30am, riders will be released based on speed classification.

Cost: \$130

Enter now at uwgeelong.com.au or call 5229 4364. Hurry, the field is limited to 1,000 riders



BIKE SAFE CODE #1.

Ride no more than two abreast*

*...unless overtaking other riders. Under the Road Rules cyclists are allowed to ride two abreast to ensure they are visible. We recommend single file when busy.



Corporate Update

Loaned Executives celebrate a great campaign

For the 45th year, community-minded companies have nominated motivated staff to be part of United Way Geelong Region's Loaned Executive Program.

The 2010 team of 40 individuals from 33 different businesses accepted the challenge of promoting payroll contributions in workplaces across Geelong. In factories, offices, tea-rooms, board rooms and even an elevator, these ambassadors took opportunities to share their knowledge of United Way and the diverse needs in our region. On behalf of the community, United Way would like to thank these wonderful people for their efforts and commitment.



Executive Excellence

At the conclusion of each Loaned Executive campaign, Team Leaders nominate team members for the Gordon Murray Award. Gordon Murray was a local business man (Murray's Menswear for those old enough to remember), a prominent Apexian and one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Geelong & District Community Chest (now United Way Geelong Region). The award is presented in recognition of excellence in the role of Loaned Executive.

At the Awards Function, Belinda McPherson (Dept of Justice, Barwon Prison) and Tim Currie (Ford Australia) were dual recipients of the Award. United Way congratulates them both on this achievement.



Belinda and Tim were exemplary in their roles as Loaned Executives representing United Way.

e&s trading
kitchen, bathroom & laundry

\$1500 store voucher promotion – it's not too late!

For the fourth year, E & S Trading has generously supported the Workplace Giving campaign by providing a \$1500 store voucher for their Moorabool St showroom.

Any person who commences or increases a Workplace Giving contribution is eligible to go in the draw which will take place on November 1st 2010.

To enter, simply contact your payroll department and arrange to commence or increase and then contact Leigh Johnston at United Way to ensure your registration. Contact Leigh by email at leigh@uwgeelong.com.au or phone 5229 4364 ext 2. **Remember – all donations stay in Geelong and are tax deductible.**

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Peter Maxwell**, Director Maxwell Collins Real Estate, for his recent Community Service Award acknowledging 30 years of involvement in the Geelong Community. His long association with United Way has also seen him awarded Life Governorship.

Congratulations to **Judy Richards** from C J Keane who was recently presented with the REIV Community Award for her longstanding support of the community through United Way. Commencing as a 2007 Loaned Executive, Judy has continued involvement since as an Allocations Panel Member. She is a very passionate advocate of Workplace Giving amongst her staff at C J Keane.

Thank you to **Ben Brand** from Evologic Technologies. Following a presentation from work colleague and 2010 Loaned Executive, Rob Morris, Ben joined the rest of the Evologic staff as a Workplace Giving contributor.

“I am more than happy to make my regular contribution to United Way’s Workplace Giving program because I know that the benefits will go directly to the region. Just as United Way has partners which it provides funding to, I’m joining that partnership to make that bond with the community that little bit stronger.”

Thank you to **Peter Gaylard** and his company, Geelong Business Equipment. Like many United Way Community Partners, Wombat’s Wish struggles to afford office equipment most of us take for granted. Hearing of the organisation’s need for a fax machine, Peter immediately said, “Leave it to me!”

And before she knew it, Wombats Wish Co-ordinator, Jill Crookes was down at Geelong Business Equipment in South Geelong collecting the much needed fax machine.

“It’s such an important communication tool for us – this will make a great difference,” said Jill as she loaded it into her car.



Going, going, gone!... Peter in action raising more funds for United Way.



“This is my bit to help the community” says Ben Brand.



United Way Geelong - helping to connect generous businesses with real community needs.

Thank you for helping build a better Geelong community

Your generous contributions go towards the following 9 social issues:



To find out more about United Way and how else you can help visit uwgeelong.com.au

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