

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who willingly brought their children to see this special Carnival. It was a delight to see the kids faces light up as we all frolicked our way through 1.5 hours of Carnival antics, juggling and magic. Event organizer, Sylvia Berger, spent months planning this variety event – along with sound engineer Daniel Lebkowski, photographer Danah Gillam and stage managers Wendy Bezinna + Mardi Woodberry doing a fantastic job to ensure each show worked to precision. Frank Bezinna (Koko) you and daughter Caydence, ('Koo Koo') were amazing! Special thanks to Paul Wilde (poster design), SC-TV, Tasmania Police Charity Trust and Tasmanian Alkaloids, Rodney Fairbrother (staging) who made this inaugural event such a success. Appin Hall volunteers Jesse & Jenny Haynes, Suzanne Carpenter and Ros Young rallied together to guarantee everything went as planned. The cast and crew exhibited enthusiasm and fantastic teamwork - that ultimately led to a polished and memorable show.



Cast and Crew of our successful 'Carnival for Kids' event 2012 - Photograph: Danah Gillam

Families on-site – Since September last year, there has been a constant demand for families to spend respite time at Appin Hall. We respond to all enquiries with care and sensitivity in order to accommodate families as soon as vacancies become available. Therefore, we do all we can to find those children who are disadvantaged in our community. To this end, Appin Hall continually maintains communication with hospital staff (children's wards), doctors, social workers, oncologists, psychologists, shelter groups, community welfare groups and more. And, in the background, our growing teams of volunteers maintain and beautify our Respite Centre ensuring a safe environment for children to play and have fun.

Volunteers – We would like to thank a very special woman, Ros Young, who joined Appin Hall last year. Her talents are many. Ros, you have a BIG heart and your kindness benefits us all. Throughout the first half of 2012 many new volunteers put up their hand to support Appin Hall in a variety of ways enabling us to improve administration capability, maintain and upkeep the facility, welcome new visitors, provide talks and presentations statewide - and to meet new challenges in a changing world. We simply could not offer this vital service without the wonderful help of so many caring people. Our Sunday Working Bees undertaken by community organisations (church groups, Lions and Rotary Clubs etc) have become more popular each year as people commit to making a difference in the lives of those families doing it tough. To welcome children, we have an enormous amount of clean-up, weeding, painting, house preparation and tree planting to accomplish – along with a lot of camaraderie, cooperation - and great casseroles on those chilly weekends in winter!



Young Carers on-site

Fundraising Auction - Our 'Rock 'n Roll Heaven' fundraising night at Wynyard RSL was a huge success raising \$10,000 with great auction items being snapped up. Sylvia Berger diligently sourced 'signed' memorabilia from local and international recording artists, sporting personalities – even one of Ronnie's prized guitars. In the following photograph top left: Daniel Lebkowski (performer), Sylvia Berger (event organizer), Ronnie and Maggie Burns, north-coast band 'Kool Daddy's' plus Coast-FM's colourful Mel Metcalf (event organizer).



Auction Fundraiser in March



A Helping Hand, the Aussie Way



Young Carers Camp (January)



Young Carers at Cradle Mt

Young Carers Camps – In the first 3 weeks of January we had the pleasure of hosting 2 Young Carers summer camps at Appin Hall: Community Based Support (South Tas) and Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre (Family Based Care) north/west Tas. Our feet literally hit the ground running as our volunteers swung into action to prepare the facility for their arrival. These organizations provide a wonderful service within the community for young folk caring for siblings or family members. And so this timeout, is not only welcomed, but a necessity so that these kids do not suffer 'burnout' as a result of the remarkable tasks they have to perform for disadvantaged family members. Many have no choice in the matter and it is our great joy to play a part in their respite process. Both camps had fantastic cooks, notably the sensational cooking duo of Claire Taylor and husband Nigel Robinson - plus kitchen hands Geoff & Sophie Herbert and Ros Young. The first camp enjoyed the culinary delights of 'My Kitchen Rules' (Seven Network, 2011) Tasmania contestants Melanie & James Maddock - with children Jack and Bella fulfilling a mighty effort to make the most scrumptious/hearty meals for the kids to enjoy. James brought his shiny saxophone to our Music Night and starred! The food delights will no-doubt be memorable for each participant. The camp coordinators and team leaders (of both camps) are to be commended for their professional expertise, ability to provide activities – and ensure the rest each child required. To watch this balancing act and the love shown to each child warrants praise and admiration. We applaud their aptitude and ability to do the main thing: put the children first! Our thanks go to the camp staff and our own volunteers (incl. kitchen hands) for the supervision and organisation of two very successful camps. 'Junior Master Chef', Finalist, Jack Lark made a special trip from Hobart with Mum Lyn, to whip up his 'Dry Ice Sorbet' demonstration for the kids. He spent 2 hours in our Dining Hall providing copies of his recipe and signing photographs for the group to take home.

Camp Organisers Comments - 11 Young Carers + 3 support staff from the NW stayed at Appin Hall for a 5-day camp from 30th January. Some of the Young Carers had been to Appin Hall before on other camps and some were new for this camp. At the start of the camp one of the new boys was quite negative about attending and stated he didn't particularly want to go and he wasn't looking forward to it at all. This boy's expression was quite sad. However, after arriving at Appin Hall and settling in, the change to his demeanor was quite noticeable. His expression was soon a happy one and at the conclusion of the camp he informed me he had a fantastic time and enjoyed it completely. He stated he had made some good friends and was extremely pleased to have the opportunity to go on the camp. As Appin Hall is situated in a serene country setting with Mt Roland as a backdrop, it is a peaceful and

relaxing environment for this group of young people. It is an ideal environment for Young Carers to relax and have a rest from their caring role along with all the responsibilities that come with it. There is an abundance of activities and equipment to keep the children entertained and happy. The newly acquired Malvern Star bicycles, the completed tennis court and the addition of the Alpacas kept us entertained and busy. The Music Night is always a favorite - with most of the Young Carers and staff members eagerly participating. Food for the camp is of high quality with 2 chefs providing sumptuous food to tempt all tastes and appetites. Thank you to Ronnie and Maggie for making our stay a truly memorable and happy experience - Judy Sturzaker (CC&RC)



Maggie, Melanie, James, Jack & Bella



Men and boys singing 'Dancing Queen'



Jack Lark Desert Demo

The Young Carers Respite & Information Service (funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and managed by The Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre in Southern Tasmania) provided 20 young carers with a 5-day getaway at Appin Hall in January. The Young Carer's program supports young carers to complete their secondary education or vocational equivalent while dealing with the demands of their caring role. The camp at Appin Hall resulted in new friendships being formed for these young carers and strengthened the support networks in their lives. The getaway provided a safe and peaceful environment where the young carers were able to enjoy the

wilderness of Cradle Mountain, take part in activities incl. circus skills workshops, Taiko drumming, a music night, meeting some celebrities, playing cricket, tennis, art and crafts and bike riding. It was a wonderful, enriching experience, not only for the young carers but also for the support staff who attended. The staff gained insight into the importance of respite for young carers and the benefits for the young carers of linking with others in a similar situation. We thank Ronnie and Maggie from Appin Hall for making all the young carers feel supported and for taking the time to listen to each of their stories – Cassie Hosking, Family Based Care camp coordinator

Workshop facilitators – Throughout the duration of regular camp visits, Appin Hall engages the services of workshop facilitators to entertain and educate visiting children. We thank all the amazing people who have given their time to showcase their talents incl.: snake/reptile handler, musicians, martial arts, Taiko drumming, Animal Dreaming (archetypes), circus, celebrities, artists, gonging and bell sessions, magicians – and more.

Vital Buildings – As Appin Hall gears up for the next stage of its building development program, Tasmanian civil engineers Pitt & Sherry, remain committed to building CGI's (computer generated images) for us to install on Google Earth – and to also use as a selling tool of the proposed self-sustainable model. The French design has been chosen so that elements of fantasy can be prominent to stimulate and challenge the imagination of all who visit our facility. The world populace is gravely sliding into a dependency as a result of electronic gadgetry whereby our young people are being robbed of their imagination and creative ability and they are losing their sense of self-worth and self-esteem. The following CGI's are a guide as to how we can best workout the mass (occupancy) within a large structure – along with an understanding of principles such as: a tangible village model, traditional architecture, self-sustainable prospects, quantity and costing scales, implementation to build themes that connect through design – but also to bring a degree of magic to the project. The proposed Main Children's Accommodation Building will hold 130 children and 20 staff – while the Recreational Building will have two shops at ground level and snooker table/table tennis/musical equipment on the first floor – with meeting room above.



Main Children's Accommodation Building



Recreational Building

Appin Hall's aim is to create unique 'playful' buildings that surprise, intrigue, excite, uplift the human spirit - and provide a welcoming environment

Photographers: We would like to acknowledge all the photographers who have helped compile the most amazing pictorial storyboard of the Appin Hall journey to-date. In particular, we would like to thank Danah Gillam (Burnie) and Steven French (Launceston) for their fantastic digital photos captured at fundraising concerts and random snaps taken at Music Nights. Steven and Danah have done themselves proud by helping to build a photographic record through their inspiration and talent.

Fundraising event coming up in 2012

Saturday 27th October 2012, Burnie Town Hall, 7:pm. Appin Hall will again stage its annual 'Celebrate the Child' fundraising concert on Tasmania's north coast. The line-up (TBC) will see the return of popular operatic singer David DeVito ('Australia's Got Talent Finalist' 2011), The Old Fella (Runner up 'Australia's Got Talent' 2011, our own 'Mo Fellowship Award 2012 winner: Ronnie Burns, local electronic violinist Peter Shurley and The Shurlettes, local female singer Leah Woodberry, Cody Bell ('Australia's Got Talent' 2012), Taiko Drummers (Burnie) and possibly 'Young Talent Time' creator Johnny Young. Hosted by Brett Whiteley and SC-TV's Jo Palmer. All performers are giving their valuable time to help Appin Hall. We want EVERYONE on the north/west coast to book early to help Tassie kids! Tickets available at Burnie Arts & Function Centre (Wilmot St) 6430 5850 or Website: www.burniearts.net/ For an electronic Flyer contact: Sylvia peridot4@hotmail.com or write Sylvia Berger Post Office, Penguin, 7316. Last year we had a full house (808) and this year we want 809! We plan to have a special 'one-off' DVD on sale of last year's performance (unedited) for \$20. Ronnie Burns will be selling his latest publication 'The RONNIE BURNS Colour Picture Book' for \$25.



Chook House ready for business



Roast dinner on the way



Hawk the Wonder Dog left us this year



Ros Young serving Fish 'n Chips

Isolation, helplessness and loss of control are the most common feelings experienced by children affected by serious illness. The best way to help them cope with these feelings is to create an environment where they feel accepted, safe and supported when they are at their most vulnerable. Supporting families whose children have physical disabilities or complex medical needs is a sign of a caring community.

“Ronnie and I are delighted with what has been achieved throughout the first half of 2012 especially having two camps on-site - and to see the kids darting around the site, having fun and taking day trips to nearby attractions. I have been deeply moved by the courage and grace I see in our visiting families. The loving support they show each other is how they survive another day” - **MAGGIE BURNS**

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