

Newsletter 16 April 2021



A wonderful month for DSWA with World Down Syndrome Day celebrated on March 21st.

A fabulous picnic on a beautiful day coincided with an award presented to a valued team member passionate about her job. The annual CoorDown video the Hiring Chain was also released around the world sending a powerful message about open employment, the chain of inclusion and capabilities of people with Down syndrome. Commitment to open employment is one DSWA supports wholeheartedly and we profile a number of adults in their workplaces across a range of jobs and work place experiences.

We are also excited to announce a new employment role at the Association and the latest getaway to beautiful Rottnest. Our creative corner will bring a smile to one and all as a talented member of our community shares her vibrant picture book created to support her little boy's journey into Kindy. Check out all the photos and news in our social programs.

There is much to celebrate! 😊

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Congratulations



It was with great pleasure that on World Down Syndrome Day, I was honoured to present Nikki Schwagermann an Appreciation Award agreed upon by the Board and team. This award was in recognition of the amazing work Nikki performs with events such as Step Up, Professional Development for Teachers and many other smaller events, last year raising an outstanding \$33,000 for her community!

Working well beyond her role as Family Support Coordinator, it is a well-deserved award. Thank you Nikki from DSWA.

As one member mentioned *"You are inspirational, awesome and you are our HERO!"* That explains the profound impact as Family Support Leader Nikki gives to new parents. Her ongoing support is evident in the playgroups, with families who cherish the early knowledge, updated information and an opportunity to have a relaxing cake and cuppa with their peers, while their children learn and flourish.

Margaret

[See more photos](#)

What is happening at the Association?

DSWA have moved to Cannington!



DOWN SYNDROME WA HAS MOVED!

You can now find us at:

32 Burton St Cannington WA 6107
PO Box 833, SOUTH PERTH WA 6951

Our NEW phone number:

Phone: (08) 6253 4752





On arrival at 32 Burton St, please go to Nulsen main reception and ask for DSWA. One of our team will come and meet you. 😊



Nikki working from Perth Children's Hospital on Thursdays

Down Syndrome WA are happy to announce that our family support officer, Nikki Schwagermann, will be working from Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) on Thursdays from term 2 (starting 22nd of April). This is a great opportunity for DSWA to be able to network with the medical departments at PCH that our members frequently visit, as well as support any families and children that may be admitted into hospital or visiting for an appointment.

If you are in PCH on a Thursday, be sure to send Nikki an email to let her know so you can meet up. nikki@downsyndromewa.org.au

Read more: <https://www.facebook.com/nikki.schwagermann/posts/10158522587399965>

Pathways to Independence Workshops *Do you fancy being a presenter/ facilitator?*

DSWA is looking for facilitators - people with down syndrome; and family members (over 18 years) to co- facilitate with another facilitator to run a series of Pathways to Independence workshops for their peers.

Guess what?

You will be trained for the role and paid for your preparation and workshop time !!

Could this person be YOU?

Look out for an email telling you more - Or call Anabelle May on 6253 4743; anabellem@downsyndromewa.org.au



Team Rumble Apple Crumble conquer the Rottnest Channel swim

Peter and Anna were fearless as they and their team-mates swam to Rottnest on a day where teams were being pulled out of the water due to deteriorating conditions and two meter swells. They finished in just over 8 hours with triumphant fist pumps and wide smiles. The team achieved a mighty fundraising outcome raising over \$12,000 for DSWA. Thank you to Peter, Anna, Emily and Sophie and to everyone who supported them in this monumental challenge.

Team Rumble we congratulate you.



DSWA is pleased to announce that we are continuing to expand NDIS services based on feedback from our community. We have been asked by many to offer **Support Coordination**, a service which we now plan to step into in the coming months. If you are wishing to access our current NDIS services, please look below to see which bucket of funding to use from your NDIS plan.

DSWA service	NDIS Category
Aim High	Core: Assistance with Social, Economic and Community Participation
Friends for Life	Capacity Building: Increased social and community participation
Employment	Capacity Building: Finding and keeping a job
Getaways	Core: Short term accommodation and assistance - Self or plan managed Capacity building: Increased social and community participation - NDIA managed

If you have an upcoming NDIS review meeting, you are welcome to contact me for a **letter of support** to take along to your LAC or planner to support funding for the service of interest. This letter will offer an explanation of our service and how it aligns with individual goals. Line items will also be outlined with associated costs for the service. email: elise@downsyndromewa.org.au

If you have any NDIS questions relating to your plan, I am very happy to assist. I work Tuesday to Thursday.



Next Getaway!

I am delighted to announce that our second getaway for adults will be on **Rottneest Island from Friday 21st May (3PM) to Sunday 23rd May (3PM)**. Registrations are now open so please contact me if you would like to find out more information. Don't wait or you might miss this opportunity 😊

Suzanna (Getaways Coordinator)

Employment news



Employment services at DSWA – we are committed

Down Syndrome WA is passionate about the path to employment and skill building towards open employment. There are many jobs that people with Down syndrome can do. It is a matter of finding the right area of employment, discovering the areas of interest and individual strengths. Work readiness skills are also an important part of the pathway. Work experience provides opportunities to experience different types of work available in our community and an opportunity

to consolidate those work readiness skills.

We are delighted to welcome our new Employment Pathway Coordinator Valeri Ong, who will lead our NDIS employment programs under Finding and Keeping a job.

This is a recent NDIS service for Down Syndrome WA commencing in late 2020. We have easy read materials and resources available to cater to the learning style of people with Down syndrome and those in our community who are visual learners.

We can tailor our program to suit your needs.

- **Are you wishing to improve your skills in readiness for open employment?**
- **Are you a school leaver (year 12- aged 22) with School Leaver Employment Support in your NDIS plan and ready to learn practical skills and engage in work experience?**
- **Are you in supported employment with an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE), wanting to find a pathway to open employment?**
- **Are you wishing to have your own micro enterprise?**
- **Do you work in open employment for less than 8 hours/week and need support in that workplace?**

Please contact us on 6253 4752 to find out more and how we can support your employment goals. For any NDIS queries related to Finding and Keeping a Job supports or if you would like a letter of support to have employment funding in your next plan, please contact Elise: elise@downsyndromewa.org.au

A recent testimonial for our Skills to Employment program and work experience support:

"The work you have done on her Resume was excellent and helped her to make a much better connection with her skills set and to achieve better understanding of how the work experience fits with that. Exploring likes and dislikes in future employment was such a brilliant idea, and doing it hands on while observing and discussing was such an essential and valuable part of it. You managed to move my daughter from vague ideas of what she might like to do, to having clear preferences, finding an excellent place for work experience (after trying a number of different things and places) and starting her on her work there, doing transport training and even practicing ordering and buying her own lunch. She loves her sessions with you!

This program expanded our views on the possibilities out there and really improved our daughter's confidence. Thank you so much for planning and conducting the program"

To learn more about Down Syndrome WA employment services please go to:

<https://www.downsyndrome.org.au/wa/our-ndis-services/employment-support/>

Employment and work experience stories to share

We are profiling stories of people in our community to share what is possible. These individuals are at various stages of their working lives from work experience to being a valued employee in open employment for many years. A common theme is starting with work experience. Some of these roles have been found and put in place by families and others through the support of Down Syndrome WA.



[Read more about our employment profile stories](#)

If you have an employment story and wish to share your experiences and successes in future newsletters, please email elise@downsyndromewa.org.au

To sum up our employment stories, please enjoy this powerful video. Help continue getting the message far and wide by sharing this video.

Thank you!



CoorDown has partnered with the amazing creative talent of the “two Lucas” of the Small agency in New York and the catchy campaign song is sung by no other than world famous award-winning artist, Sting. The campaign also seeks to inform and connect potential employers with Down syndrome associations and employment platforms for people with disability around the world.

We love this campaign! Please share. ❤️❤️❤️

Social Connection

DSWA Playgroups

Our playgroups are up and running again so if you have a child with Down syndrome 0-5 we would love for you to join us.



South Metro- Warnbro Community and Family Centre, 1 Moreton Crescent, Warnbro. Mondays during school term, 9.30-11.30am. We hope to see you there. Janette and Claudia.

Perth Metro- Loftus Community Centre (corner of Loftus and Vincent street), Fridays during school term, 9.30-11.30am. We hope to see you there. Nikki and Tracy.



KiDS Club

KiDS Club have some exciting activities and adventures planned for 2021 starting with a fun filled afternoon at Perth's only wave pool and waterslide leisure centre at Bayswater Wave. A trip to Perth Zoo, and celebrating with our wider DS community at the annual World Down syndrome Day, Sunday 21st March, family picnic.

We are looking forward to welcoming some new members graduating from our DSWA Playgroups and catching up with old friends to hear all about their Summer holiday fun!

If you have a child aged 5 to 11 with Down syndrome and would love to connect with other families to encourage peer relationships, social skills and networking for parents, please contact Janette Cook at janette@downsyndrome.org.au for registration details.

FrienDS for Life

We have had a great start to the year with the FrienDS for Life social group transitioning to the NDIS Service. We have so many exciting activities and adventures planned for 2021. We have had two events this year that were attending Capoeira, hosted by the lovely Lee and painted ceramics.



For our April event, we are going to Cicerello's on the 9th of April to interact with marine life.

We welcome any new members to FriendS for Life who have graduated from KiDS Club or who are interested in our group.

If you have a child aged 11 to 17 with Down Syndrome and would love to connect with other teens to encourage forming friendships, having fun and developing skills within the community. Please contact Lakeiya Flynn at friendsforlife@downsyndromewa.org.au for registration details. 😊

[See more photos](#)

Aim High Club

I hope you enjoyed a restful Easter period. Aim High is going full steam ahead, having had our first getaway last month around the time we relocated to our new premises in Cannington and with many exciting event opportunities this month and beyond! These include mini golf, barefoot bowls, a disco with *FriendS for Life*, ferry ride on the Swan River, and high tea.

Here are some photos taken at our events in February and March. Enjoy! ❤️❤️❤️



[See more photos](#)

Members profile

In case you missed our February e-newsletter, we started featuring member profiles in the edition and will continue to do so throughout the year. This month, I would like to introduce you to:



[Read more](#)

We welcome new members year-round so please send me an email if you or someone you know might be interested to join. We offer two groups; one for 18- to 30-year olds and another for those above 30.

Suzanna (Coordinator)

Save the Date!

Saturday 7 August 2021



[View PDF brochure](#)

Community News



"be the best you can be"

No Limits (disability) netball program

Please come down to WANNEROO
District Netball Association this Tuesday
20th April at 5:30pm at gate 5 and 6!

[Find out more](#)

Holiday accommodation in Albany



A member of our community has shared with us a holiday accommodation option run through Rotary International. For those who know Albany, Friendship Cottage is located at Emu Point and there are now 2 units for holiday rental. The units are available for disadvantaged, or disabled people and their carers to enjoy a week near the ocean. Cost is at a very discounted rate.

For bookings please go to: <http://friendshiphouse.com.au/booking.htm>



Art + Wine Fundraising

Natalie D'Abrew Art has teamed up with Scott Yelland who is the owner of the Franchise WACellars Doubleview to help raise funds for Down Syndrome WA.

Natalie has an 11 year old son Samuel who has Down syndrome and has created these beautiful Australian Animal Illustration labels for a selection of wines. These wines are for up for purchase and with each bottle sold, \$2.50 will be donated to DSWA or \$30 per case.

“March 21st Down Syndrome Day was approaching and thought it was a great opportunity to highlight that and raise money for DSWA. But really it's also a perfect example of community and supporting each other”.

Scott Yelland not only is the owner of WA Cellardoor Doubleview but also a neighbour to Natalie and knows Samuel and the family well! He is also an active member of his local community and was so excited to team up and help Natalie to do this fundraising.

Natalie and Scott have raised just over \$1000 so far! The fundraiser is still ongoing so please let your friends, family, colleagues know and contact Scott for purchasing. The wines make lovely gifts and postage can be arranged if required.

WA Cellar Door Doubleview

Hilltop Shopping Centre
257 Scarborough Beach Road Doubleview
T: [9204 5853](tel:92045853)
Scott's Mobile: [0401 676 950](tel:0401676950)
E: doubleview@wacellars.com.au
<https://wacellars.com.au/doubleview-store/>

[Order online and support](#)

Creative Corner



“Daisy meets Toby at Kindy” - by Ji Min, illustrated book introducing Toby and Down syndrome to Kindy kids on World Down Syndrome Day

My Toby started Kindy this year and after searching endless hours and days for the perfect book to introduce little kids about Down syndrome, it was evident, there was no such perfect book for Toby on the market. With that in mind, I decided to write and illustrate this book to introduce Toby to his classmates and simplify Down syndrome to help him forge friendships.

Here is a video of how Toby's kindy celebrated World Down Syndrome Day 2021. All the kids and teachers were wearing wacky socks and enjoying this book. Hope everyone had an amazing World Down Syndrome Day and Easter break!

❤️ Ji Min -Toby's mum.

Good News

DSWA Ambassador and children's author Naomi Lake represents WA in our nation's capital for World Down Syndrome Day. Congratulations Naomi, we are so proud of your achievements!

Naomi flies WA flag in capital

SARAH MAKSE

Albany children's author Naomi Lake flew to the nation's capital this month to represent her home State for World Down Syndrome Day.

Ms Lake was recently selected as WA's Health Ambassador for Down Syndrome Australia, the nation's peak body for people living with Down syndrome and their families.

Joining nine other representatives from across the country, Ms Lake helped launch the organisation's Inclusive Communications Health Ambassador Program at Parliament House in Canberra on March 22.

The project aims to advocate for quality health care and independence in the health system for the 15,000 Australians living with Down syndrome.

As a passionate community leader, Ms Lake was picked to advocate for the people of WA.

"It was very exciting going to Canberra to meet the other health ambassadors face-to-face and not on the computer," Ms Lake said.

During her trip, Ms Lake enjoyed a tour of Parliament House and an inside look at question time inside the House of Representatives alongside Federal Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson.

During a speech to Parliament, Mr Wilson

It was very exciting going to Canberra to meet the other health ambassadors face-to-face and not on the computer.

Naomi Lake

congratulated Ms Lake on her "can-do" attitude, which has seen her pen three children's books and travel across regional WA speaking to school students.

"Her most recent book, Naomi's World, tells of her experience growing up with Down syndrome and her road to success," he said.

"The book focuses on the ability of people with disabilities and what they can do."

Ms Lake said it was a proud moment to be acknowledged in Parliament.

"It was great too to meet Rick Wilson and to hear his speech," she said.

"I also got to see the other politicians like Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese."

Ms Lake was also treated to afternoon tea with the Governor-General of Australia David Hurley at Government House.

"He said please feel free to explore downstairs and we got to see his office and all the beautiful artwork," she said.



Let's Shine Productions co-director Jill Larson, left, author Naomi Lake, Carers WA's Andi Duckins, and co-director Janet McCartney. Picture: Sarah Makse



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UPCOMING SHORT COURSES

● Skid Steer	20-21
<small>RJIMPO318F - Conduct civil construction skid steer loader operation</small>	
● First Aid	27-28
<small>HLTAID003 - Provide first aid</small>	
● Chainsaw	28
<small>AHCMOM213 - Operate and maintain chainsaws</small>	
● Barista	5-4
<small>SITXFSAD001 - Use hygienic practices for food safety</small>	

[Read more](#)

Stay well everyone and please contact us if you have any questions. We are here to support, inform and connect our Down syndrome Community.



If you know anyone who can benefit from this newsletter, forward this email and ask them to subscribe. Thank you!

[Subscribe now](#)



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