



Northern Beaches Interchange

Respite Recreation Support

October 2011 - Issue 29

Welcome to the latest edition of NBI News! Please check out some of the upcoming events and let us know if you are able to join us.

Our AGM held on 25 October was a great opportunity to showcase and celebrate the work and achievements of all of our wonderful staff and volunteers. We were pleased to welcome NBI families, volunteers, staff, community members, service providers and our local member for Pittwater, Rob Stokes.

Some of our outstanding team members were acknowledged on the night with NBI Excellence Awards : Ian and Leanne Jones and the Buckingham family received volunteer awards and Olga Vassarotti and Mauricio Martelli were awarded for their contributions as Respite/Recreation Workers. A particular thank you goes to Laura and Jordan O'Reilly, our fabulous guest speakers who spoke with passion about the work and aims of Fighting Chance.

Pittwater Online covered the event - check out the article and photos in Issue 30 <http://www.pittwateronlinenews.com>.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank our Board members, volunteers, staff, NBI families and our community partners for all your support throughout the year. I look forward with enthusiasm to working with you throughout our 30th Anniversary year in 2012.

Carolyn McKay
CEO

NBI Annual Report

The NBI Annual Report is now available to download from the 'Downloads' section of the website www.nbi.org.au. Alternatively, if you would like a hard copy, please call the office on 9970 0500 to request one.

Peer Support Program Annual Awards Night

A celebration of all the fun that has been had this year by NBI's recreation program for young adults. The Awards Night is the prime family event for all the friends and families of the Peer Support Program to come along, see the pictures and hear the stories of what we have been up to this year.

When : 7.30pm, Saturday 12 November
Where : Lakeview Room, Tramshed Centre, Pittwater Road, Narrabeen
RSVP : to the Peer Team on 9970 0500

Host Volunteer Celebration!

We would like to invite all Host volunteers and the families they support to join us :

On : Sunday, 27 November from 12.30pm - 3.00pm
At : the Flying Fox Park, 2 Mona Vale Street, Mona Vale

A free BBQ lunch will be provided as a thank you to Host Volunteers for their wonderful contribution.

RSVP : to Liz on 9970 0500 or liz@nbi.org.au as soon as possible for catering purposes.

Senior Siblings' Ghost Tour!

NBI would like to thank the wonderful group of siblings, aged 13-16 years, who were brave enough to attend the creepy Ghost Tour at the Quarantine Station. The group began the evening by meeting at the Wockbar in Manly for dinner. It was a dreary, rainy night which set the scene perfectly for our tour. We headed up to the Q Station where we met our tour guide, grabbed our lanterns and then headed out into the night to see some ghosts. Everyone had a fright and we all have spooky stories to tell . . . Looking forward to our next outing!

Ingrid Anderson and Liz Jewell

Siblings' Surf Day

NBI would like to thank all the amazing brothers and sisters, aged 8-12 years, who attended the Surf Day on Thursday, 29 September. The siblings were all extremely cooperative with the crazy weather causing a last minute move from Manly Beach to Long Reef. The weather remained clear for most of the day and we were able to play beach volleyball, have a sandcastle building contest and play lots of other games. After lunch we all got into our wetsuits and had a couple of practice runs on the boards before heading out into the water. Everyone managed to stand up on their boards and a few siblings looked like real pros! The group finished the day trying to keep warm while having group discussions about the sibling experience.

Ingrid Anderson and Liz Jewell

Volunteer Profile

A few months ago we were looking to volunteer with children to gain more experience in the area of foster care.

We contacted NBI and spoke with the coordinator of the Host Program, who arranged to come and see us at our home and let us know more about NBI and what would be involved if we were to become volunteer Hosts. We were inspired to become volunteers and attended a volunteer orientation/training day, which enabled us to meet many other volunteers and learn more about the volunteer role. The orientation/training session gave us great insight into the work that NBI does.

We were matched with our first family soon after and since our first meeting with them we've never looked back. We soon wanted to be linked with a second family and are now having twice as much fun! We have taken the children to the park, the zoo or have simply hung out at home reading stories, listening to music or playing ball. We are looking forward to the summer months so we can catch the ferry, go to the beach, swim and play outdoors more often. We really enjoy observing and being part of the children's progress and development.

As well as being a Host volunteer, Leanne volunteers at the Kookaburra playgroup on Monday mornings. Every week, Leanne looks forward to assisting the staff and helping organise activities and play opportunities for the children.

We have gained so much in such a short time. The simple things that we have forgotten from our own childhood have been brought back to life through our Host links and Kookaburra.

Our relationships with NBI and the families we support have been amazingly positive, and enlightening. We feel privileged to be part of the children's lives. We have learned so many things about ourselves, both as a couple and as individuals. We would say to anyone that is thinking of doing any type of volunteering - don't hesitate, just do it!

Ian and Leanne

NBI Family Fun Day

We hope you and your family can join us for a fun afternoon to celebrate the end of the year!

When : 12-3pm, 3 December 2011

Where : North Narrabeen Public School, Namona Street, North Narrabeen

Cost : FREE!!

Lots of fun activities including : jumping castle, face painting, sausage sizzle, balloons, pony rides and more.

RSVP : by 30 November on 9970 0500

Phone: 02 9970 0500 | Fax: 02 9970 7763 | Email: admin@nbi.org.au

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