



StGiles Events - Growing

Some 12,500 Tasmanians attended or participated in StGiles special events during 2016.



The year was capped with *Walk with Me* at Government House, reflecting our overarching theme of unique and quality community engagement for all Tasmanians.

April, our first event for 2016 was Autumn *Niche Tasmanian Makers' Bazaar* that broke fundraising records and raised \$10,000 at the Albert Hall, Launceston.



MP for Bass Ross Hart and Senator Carol Brown visited StGiles in July.

May, we were forced to cancel *Balfour Burn* due to damaging weather.

June, *I-Know Trivia* was won by the 'Aints, the first team to take out the Cup twice. 200 people enjoyed MC Damien Brown, the famous *StGiles Tree of Glee* (balloon tree lucky dip) and famous sheep auction with Sam Woolcock. Damien and Sam have said they'll be back. Make sure you book early for 2017.

July, and *Black Diamond Biennale* put 180 guests into St John's Church for StGiles super premium fundraiser. Seven courses designed by Nick Hooper of Novaro's and Richard Matson using Tamar Valley Truffle and Tas Saff Saffron as key ingredients. Single site wines were served, again courtesy of Brown Brothers Tamar Ridge Estates. Black Diamond will return in 2018.

September, *Niche* at the Albert Hall was another strong day, with about 3000 patrons raising \$8000 for StGiles from the 59 stallholders.

It's all about RELATIONSHIPS:

When senior occupational therapist Penny Price retired this year she reminded us of our relationship with each other and our community:

"Winding down has made me realise how far our relationships extend, with each other in our beautiful office and throughout this magnificent building, to homes, child care centres, clinics, ECIS, community and CFC's and schools ... it is making those relationships meaningful that makes it all hum and that is the challenge and the great reward."



October, *Balfour Burn* had a successful day when 213 superheroes ran, walked and crawled up Launceston's steepest urban hill. For the first time we had a Hill of Hurt, an obstacle course developed by RAW Challenge Tasmania as the last race of the day. We welcomed sponsors MOTORS, IGA and Harrison Humphreys.

October, RAW Challenge Tasmania held a *Baskerville Burn*, for StGiles organised by Kirri-Lee Brazendale. StGiles fielded a team of its finest (and fittest) on October 25 at Baskerville Raceway.

November, for the first time, we took *Niche* to Burnie. We put 50 stallholders from around Tasmania into the Burnie Town Hall and nearly 2000 shoppers made their way through our first NW Niche.

November, *Walk With Me* Launceston, one of our favourite days with activities in City Park held in perfect weather with activities in City Park from Rotary Club of Launceston City, St Patrick's College and Playgroup Tasmania.

November/December, Woolies came back to run our 2016 car raffle, with 32 stores and more than 3000 staff frantically selling tickets for three weeks selling tickets in-store from November 14 to December 4, aiming to raise \$90,000 for StGiles.

Niche
MARKET
BAZAAR

over 50 Stalls

Saturday 19th November

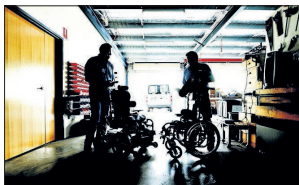
10am - 3pm

BURNIE ARTS & FUNCTION CENTRE

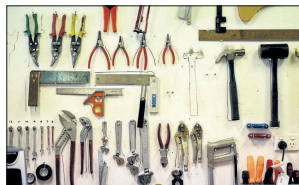
NEWS



COMMUNICATION: Summerhill resident Candice Langshaw with the iPad she uses to communicate at the St Giles Assistive Technology Centre.



FINDING SOLUTIONS: Seating technicians Shaun Lyall and Dave Lowe at the St Giles SEMAT workshop.



WORKSHOP: Due to the complexity of adjusting chairs, an extensive collection of tools is used by the St Giles seating technicians.

Transforming lives

Technology is giving Tasmanians exciting new ways to move, communicate and perform day-to-day tasks at the Assistive Technology Centre at St Giles.

BY TAMARA McDONALD

A FRUSTRATED Candice Langshaw pointed at an alphabet board to communicate for much of her life.

Six years ago, an iPad revolutionised her life, allowing her to communicate by typing.

A month ago, Ms Langshaw, 29, of Summerhill, received her new wheelchair.

It's decked out with features made possible by technological advancements.

Ms Langshaw said her favourites were an option for travelling at a "turtle" pace, an option to raise her height when sitting behind someone tall at events and an odometer to track how far she moves.

Ms Langshaw was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease, Wilson's Disease, when she was 13 years old.

She said her iPad allowed her to dispel the common misconception she had a severe mental disability.

"People think I was born like this when I wasn't, I got sick when I was 13," Ms Langshaw said.

Ms Langshaw said she didn't like the voices of verbal communicative technology so preferred using her iPad.

But there are other forms of burgeoning technology she'd like to embrace.

"I wouldn't mind a chair that goes upstairs," Ms



REVOLUTIONARY: Occupational therapist Ailsa Leslie and St Giles client Candice Langshaw at the Assistive Technology Centre. Pictures: Scott Gelston

Langshaw said.

Ms Langshaw, a talented artist, said technology could be invaluable to people living with disability who needed communication methods.

"If they are switched on upstairs and can't express it through words it helps big time," Ms Langshaw said.

Clients like Ms Langshaw have their wheelchairs customised, maintained and created at the St Giles' Seating and Equipment Modifications Assessments Team (SEMAT) workshop in Newstead, which is part of the St Giles Assistive Technology Centre.

Two seating technicians work customising the chairs, which have vastly different requirements depending on the complexity of the client's disability.

Wheelchairs are so much more than just a way to get around for people living with disability.

They host "control centres" which allow clients to turn on electronic devices around their homes, often allowing them to live independently.

"[Wheelchair modification] is time consuming ... but it's worth it. What price do you put on someone being able to be independent?"

Occupational therapist Ailsa Leslie

In the same workshop, the technicians work to customise beds to help people with disability sleep.

They were behind the modified pack which Chris Duffy carried his son Jack Duffy, or "Overland Jack", in during an epic journey across the 65-kilometre Overland Track.

SEMAT seating technician Dave Lowe said technology was often used to customise wheelchairs to facilitate independent living.

Seating technicians adjust and adapt chairs depending on the client, and implement new technology as it evolves.

Mr Lowe said the chairs often required work due to clients' bodies changing.

"There's a lot of aspects to it, quite often [clients]

will change in body size and weight ... through surgery or whatever, so they have to come in again and be redone," Mr Lowe said.

"It depends on the complexity of the person ... a lot of it is to do with the retaining of the client as well."

Senior occupational therapist Ailsa Leslie said SEMAT works with technology to assess clients and prescribe them the best technology possible.

Ms Leslie said some clients were eager to embrace technology, but often older clients were comfortable with their existing chair.

"It depends on the client," Ms Leslie said.

"Some people might go, 'that's really interesting but I'm actually really happy,

I've got it down pat, I know what I'm doing, don't mess with it'."

Younger clients are often eager to embrace developments, like eye gaze technology, which allows people with disability to communicate.

"They were just, as soon as we had access to [eye gaze technology], they were banging on the door and they ... have their own devices now, so it depends on the person really," Ms Leslie said.

Mr Lowe said learning to control and move in a new chair required careful guidance from occupational therapists.

"When kids are training, the idea is to get them independent but in a safe manner," Mr Lowe said.

"So the occupational therapist will carry [a remote control], that's just an automatic stop, so they can be 30 metres behind or whatever keeping an eye on [the client]," he said.

St Giles' Participate Assistive Technology division also provides services to clients looking to utilise

technology.

PAT's three main areas are access to electronic communication devices, computer access and environmental controls.

PAT and SEMAT both make up the Assistive Technology Centre.

St Giles receives technology and seating equipment from suppliers around the world, in order to give their clients options.

Referrals to SEMAT and PAT can be made by anyone, including clients, online or through phoning St Giles.

Ms Leslie said that implementing technology and supporting clients was incredibly rewarding.

"It's time consuming ... but it's worth it," Ms Leslie said.

"What price do you put on someone being able to be independent?" she said.

"That's what these people are after, the independence to be able to have what's deemed as a standard, happy level of wellbeing in your life.

"We all take it for granted because we don't have to think about it."

AGM

Guest speaker at StGiles AGM at the Launceston Town Hall on October 27 was Kathryn Fordyce (pictured) the manager of Burnie's innovative Autism Specific Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ASELCC).

A year ago, StGiles successfully tendered to provide the service and Ms Fordyce told the 60 people who attended the AGM at Launceston Town Hall, why the ASELCC model of early intervention for Autism one of the most highly regarded in the country.

Awards were also presented to significant benefactors and donors as well as our grass roots volunteers and supporters.

Outgoing board member Justice Robert Pearce (pictured) was honoured for his 20 years of voluntary service.

Chairman Martin Rees enters his second term with deputy Ben Coull.



Allan Roark held a Rock and Roll Night at Archers Manor for StGiles.

World class

StGiles Occupational Therapist Katie Greatbatch is now one of Australia's few accredited providers of LAMP training, a resource for clinicians, therapists and parents who are working to improve the language and communication skills of children with autism.

Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) aims to help nonverbal people communicate spontaneously in any environment.

Katie's video application was highly rated by her assessor from the Center for AAC&Autism John Halloran and she and Peter Hockley began offering training during October in Hobart, Launceston and Melbourne.

"It is the best overall combination of videos and written work I have had the pleasure of reviewing," Mr Halloran said.

"Katie models vocabulary and uses aided



Senior Speech Pathologist Peter Hockley and Occupational Therapist Katie Greatbatch

language input very fluidly. The young man she works with shows pride in communicating and she is patient with him giving him extra time to reply. She generalized language and reinforced other forms of communication. She stresses core vocabulary and accepts all forms of communication. She replies to the little girl's verbal speech and seeing it improve over a short period of time is amazing... and was some of the best exchange I have ever watched. I believe the quality of the exchange is the most important variable and all three children were engaged and at the perfect readiness to learn."



A \$10,000 grant from the Commonwealth Bank Staff Association will allow StGiles Little Car Yard early mobility project to be trialled in Launceston during 2017.

Newstead manager Angelique Sanders presented the cheque in June.

st.giles CHRISTMAS APPEAL

If not claimed within 7 days please return to
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