

KIDS CAN'T WAIT!

We all have heard the words 'are we there yet?'



They usually come from the back seat of the family car about one hour into any road trip.

KIDS CAN'T WAIT!

The gradual roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, means that children have had to wait.

Children are waiting longer than any other group, because they are the very last to be included in the roll-out of Australia's new, disability funding system.

As I write this, I can hear toddlers crying and squealing downstairs, impatient for their appointments with some of St Giles team. This is our daily

work and children don't like to wait.

Sadly, St Giles has become aware that some of our therapy-rich and most effective, early intervention programs won't fit into the NDIS.

That is why we are running a special appeal – KIDS CAN'T WAIT!

We are running the KIDS CAN'T WAIT! Appeal because we believe in the value and potential of every child and the proven benefit of St Giles services, even when they don't fit into the NDIS.

Let me stress, not fitting into the NDIS doesn't make any child or any St Giles service less relevant or valuable. However, it does put enormous financial pressure onto St Giles.

What it means is that St Giles must raise the money we need to make our life-improving therapies accessible to all

who come through our doors.

These KIDS CAN'T WAIT! The clock is ticking. If they don't get the therapy required, they face years of not fitting in. As you know, too many young Tasmanians get left behind.

In our ideal world, KIDS CAN'T WAIT! will remind our community of how much work is done at St Giles and what a remarkable difference we make to many, many young lives.

I remain proud of this organisation and the amazing effort our teams make to enrich the lives of Tasmanians living with disability.

Ian Wright

St Giles

Chief Executive

KIDS CAN'T WAIT! APPEAL - PLEASE DONATE

Please accept my special gift of: ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$

Name Save us \$1 with your email address

Address State Postcode

My cheque is enclosed, or please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Expires / CCV

Please sign here

Ongoing support

☐ Please charge \$_____ monthly to the credit card details above until I advise otherwise in writing.

☐ Please send me information about remembering St Giles in my Will.

If for any reason you do not wish to receive our appeal information, please write to us at St Giles, PO Box 416, Launceston TAS 7250 or, email society@stgiles.org.au. St Giles Society respects your privacy. If you have any questions about your privacy please call us. (Donations to St Giles Society of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible).

THANK YOU!

What's on...



FASTEST!TOUGHEST!FUNNEST!

I-Know Trivia – June 24 – Book now

society@stgiles.org.au, or, online
www.stgiles.org.au/events or, with an old-fashioned phone call to 6345 7333



Walk With Me

We were joined by cast members from the Launceston production of 'Wicked!' for Walk with Me in February

There was no doubt the jolly green team cast a spell and turned on a terrific day made extra special by the Ascent members from St Patrick's College who contributed a giant pass the parcel, musical chairs and face painting.

We estimated about 200 people joined Walk With Me Launceston and as always, the highlight for many was a simple chance to picnic and catch up with friends in City Park.

Walk With Me HOBART will be held in November this year.



NICHE

We were delighted to get upwards of 2,500 people at Niche on Saturday, March 18.

NEXT Niche is Starry Starry Night Niche – complete with grand piano centrepiece at the Albert Hall, Friday July 7.

The quality of Tasmanian designed and made and the very personal nature of Niche makes it a strong fundraiser and community engagement tool for StGiles.

We are proud to deliver an event that is consistently recognised as having the best (market) feel, premium (item) quality, all coming together in a calm and well organised manner.



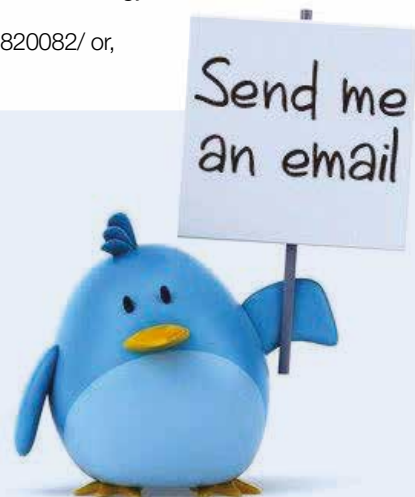
Sam Dart with speech pathologist Peter Hockley and Bec Griffin featured in an NDIS video promoting StGiles assistive technology services for all ages.

www.facebook.com/NDISAus/videos/696740963820082/ or,
www.stgiles.org.au

We'd love your email address

We promise not to bombard you with junk.

If you can help us save precious postage dollars please send your email address to:
society@stgiles.org.au





Challenge Supports Outdoor Inclusion

Runners in the Mount Barrow Challenge raised \$4360 for StGiles to expand its outdoor opportunities for young people living with disability.

Mount Barrow Challenge organiser Meg Culhane presented StGiles Chief Executive Ian Wright with a cheque in January.

The 14km mountain run has been held for six years and Mrs Culhane chooses a different charitable beneficiary each year.

"I think St Giles always has such a far-reaching effect on so many sectors of the community," Mrs Culhane said.

StGiles Chief Executive Ian Wright said young people living with disability deserved the chance to experience the same joy and achievement that Tasmania's world famous outdoor lifestyle offered people without disability.

"Families want their children to have those opportunities and StGiles is developing a range of camps and experiences to take young people living with disability out into the Tasmanian environment," Mr Wright said.

Liz Strange with Jack Duffy and a stroller designed for bushwalking

StGiles Farewells Physiotherapy Pioneer Maxine Green



Post war physiotherapy had its emphasis on manipulation of injury but Maxine was excited by the potential of neuro-muscular development and what is now known as neuro-plasticity.

"She embraced the evidence-based direction of scientific approaches to her field, but always overlaid was her deepest compassion for those she treated," daughter Prof. Penny Green said.

It was for more than 25 years at StGiles, where Maxine changed many little lives as she fully embraced her true calling – pediatric physiotherapy. This included developing programs of sensory stimulation to trigger capabilities in babies and children who were severely developmentally delayed.

"Children who couldn't jump or skip or hop suffered in the playground – mum's work enabled those children to have a normal life," Prof. Green said.

Maxine was also a great traveler, swimmer, recycler, snow skier, tennis player and bike rider. She could sew, knit and cook, restore furniture, she learned sing in her '70s and even gave the gift of calm, when parents of children with severe disability were overwrought.

She had beautiful friends of all ages and across wide interests through the Launceston School for Seniors, the Sunshine Association and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. She was also a great and generous teacher of younger colleagues at StGiles and the Launceston General Hospital.

And she loved colour.

"Especially fuchsia and never left home without 10 bangles on her wrist, always pearls and silver around her neck ... and a matching scarf. Her life was richer than mountains of gold and more colourful than all of the flowers in the garden," Sally Sauer said.

Maxine Green, AM, a pioneer in the field of neo-natal neuro physiotherapy, will be fondly remembered for the joyous and compassionate way she set about improving the lives of Tasmanian children living with disability.

Married to Geoffrey Green and mother to Prof. Penny Green, Sally Sauer and Tony Green, Maxine Green passed away in Launceston on March 16, aged 88.

Born in WA in 1929, Maxine Miriam McCulloch was the only child of engineer Donald and Grace, a nurse. Her father's work took the family to NSW and Queensland before they settled in Launceston.

Originally wanting to study law, young Maxine was constrained by the social norms of her day and a father who thought law was an unsuitable profession for a woman.

Her great brain was directed to the sciences and physiotherapy, which she studied at the University of Queensland, eventually returning to Launceston after she graduated in 1950.

Workforce Development Plan with Migrant Resource Centre

StGiles has partnered with the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) to address the issue of workforce demand brought about by the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

We were successful in a joint application which was submitted by MRC and St Giles for funding to provide a training program for migrants wishing to work within the disability and broader community services sector.

The funding enabled us to host a number of 13-week programs focused on work readiness and key core competency training.

We had an overwhelming response from active participants of the MRC, who wished to expand their skills and undertake a new challenge.

The program involved being on site one day a week for theory training, combined with work placement within the support services team.

"We are very excited to be able to address workforce issues and provide chances for people wishing to start a new life and be part of the Launceston community," StGiles Director Service Delivery and Development Mark Deverell said.



The Tasmania Police Charity Trust



St Giles behaviour support and REEL coordinator Pam Johns, Inspector Michael Johnston, Tasmanian Liberal Senator Stephen Parry and St Giles CEO Ian Wright.

Sensorium Theatre's Oddysea@Burnie

StGiles' Autism Specific Early Learning & Care Centre and the Burnie City Council presented *Oddysea* theatre production - an exciting deep-sea adventure - in early May.

Oddysea was developed by Sensorium Theatre - dedicated to making magical, multi-sensory theatre for young audiences with disabilities. Children were able to touch, taste and smell different parts of the story.

Oddysea was the company's only Tasmanian production which included a professional development component for StGiles ASELCC teams and others in education and disability sectors.

Fundamental to the integrity of Sensorium Theatre's work is the belief that "all children can be transformed and touched by exceptional theatre experiences. Such experience can generate and stimulate

children's imaginations, enabling greater creative responses in their lives and positively impacting on other learning areas".

The performance was suitable for young people with special needs including autism spectrum disorder, sensory processing difficulties, intellectual disabilities, global development delay and cerebral palsy.



The Tasmania Police Charity Trust has embraced StGiles early intervention programs and donated \$6000 towards our REEL playgroup during 2017.

The REEL (Relationships that Enrich Emotions for Learning) uses multi-disciplinary therapy teams working with no more than six children per two-hour session.

Tasmanian Liberal Senator Stephen Parry (a former policeman and Trust board member) said Tasmania Police was attracted to the project because of its positive impact on children at risk of social alienation and lifelong community dysfunction.

Sen Parry said the Trust's Board could see how such a program could change anti-social behaviours when children are very young and ideally keep them out of the Youth Justice system.

"The program aims to teach children with behavioural challenges and autism how to play so they can go to school and learn," StGiles behaviour therapist Pam Johns said.

Each group of six children has a high staff to child ratio with its own speech pathologist, occupational therapist and behaviour support person.

Before the playgroup starts the children participate in an individual session to allow StGiles therapists to meet the family and explain how REEL works.

"We show parents ways to understand their child's unique developmental differences and develop home programs for play. They also learn how to extend their child's ability to regulate their behaviours through play and we celebrate successful engagement with shared attention and circles of communication," Mrs Johns said.

Want to know more about REEL? Phone Pam Johns at StGiles, 6345 7333.

Did you know?



In some areas of Tasmania as many as 48 per cent of children don't know how to play outdoors?

StGiles wants to develop a vacant block of land at its Amy Road Newstead campus into a Wild Space to provide developmental playgroups for children at risk of social alienation.

"Ideally, we would like landscape work to start in spring/summer, later this year."

The total cost will be \$103,000.

The project, the idea of StGiles senior behavioural therapist Pam Johns, is a nature/bush/outdoor extension of three established StGiles (indoor) programs - Ripples, Footsteps and REEL - and will contribute towards addressing the consistently high number - up to 25 per cent (Dept. of Education) of Tasmanian children whose behavioural challenges put them at risk of poor educational and social outcomes as well as lifelong, economic and social alienation.

Childhood Consultancy (NSW) developed the landscape design and all Wild Space elements are based on best practice, nature-based teaching.

The Wild Space project plan incorporates a very small orchard, community space, recycled brick paths, a small shed, a trickle stream, edible garden, native grasses, wheelchair accessible pathways, full boundary fencing, a fire pit and eventually, a billycart track (referencing StGiles history of billycart derbys) where children will be able to build and race billycarts.

Can you help? www.stgiles.org.au/donate

Other ways to donate

Make a donation over the phone.

To make a donation to StGiles over the phone, call our Fundraising Team on 1300 278 445 Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm.





StudioSpace



Studio Space initiative

Launceston College and StGiles are working together with a new project called Studio Space.

StGiles has engaged a highly regarded arts facilitator Gerard Lane (pictured), who will lead the program from the LC Drama Department.

Studio Space aims to give people living with disability the chance to be part of Tasmania's amazing performing arts and theatre communities.

"Launceston College Head of Drama, Liz Bennett and her team have welcomed us and see the potential of this program," Gerard said.

WANT TO KNOW MORE about Studio Space? Contact: gerardlane@stgiles.org.au, or 6345 7333.



Out and About - Leisure and Inclusion Seek Funding for Wilderness and Outdoor PEEPS programs

We have applied for funding from the Community Support Levy (State Government) to purchase durable equipment to expand our Wilderness and Environment programs offered via PEEPS:

PEEPS - OUTDOOR and WILDERNESS PROGRAM for YOUTH with DISABILITIES

OVERVIEW: StGiles identified that little has been done in Tasmania to adapt outdoor adventures for young people living with disability.

During 2016 StGiles piloted, examined and verified the benefits of providing traditional outdoor programs for young people living with disability because of the recognised holistic advantages in wilderness/outdoor education, recreation and health and generally helping youth acquire leisure and social skills and interests.

We held four camps where we trialled program development, operation, staffing, communicating with parents and carers.

OUTCOMES: Our aim was to positively and progressively contribute to participants lives by providing outdoor experiences – contact with beaches, wind, mountains, animals, rocks, streams, trees - which they are currently deprived.

The belief is that outdoor pursuits can

contribute greatly to the growth and development of participants with disabilities

"There is no place she can be a typical child, except at this camp. It is always hard for her to relate to anything in her environment. Yet at camp, she is in an environment where she is a regular child with a few extra differences and different sides of her come out – like dancing at the campfire" (Source: Including Youth with Disabilities in Outdoor Programs).

COMMUNITY LINKS: PEEPS - OUTDOOR and WILDERNESS PROGRAM for YOUTH with DISABILITIES will be incorporated into our Ability PEEPS (statewide inclusive sporting and recreation) programs; supported by CSL 2015 grant round as well as offering the program to Southern and Northern support schools.

We will encourage interdisciplinary cooperation among disability sector professionals collaborating with occupational therapy, physiotherapy, mobility and communication equipment engineers and adaptive outdoor equipment with groups like TadTas.

SCOPE: Our pilots proved demand for inclusive wilderness adventures.



KIDS CAN'T WAIT! APPEAL

If not claimed within 7 days please return to
StGiles Society
PO Box 416 Launceston TAS 7250

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