



The Organisation of  
Congenital Diaphragmatic  
Hernia Support, Advocacy,  
and Research

# CHERUBS Australia Organisation

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Winter issue

2009

## From the President....

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2009.

We apologise for the delay in getting this edition out. We wanted to include as much detail as possible about the upcoming CHERUBS Australia Annual Forum (CAAF) so held off on producing it.

This year's CAAF will be held over 3 days in Melbourne and should be a wonderful event to attend. You can find all of the relevant information in this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

On behalf of our Board of Directors I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynda Viset for all of her hard work towards helping CHERUBS Australia become registered and for her work as our first Funding/Fundraising Coordinator. Unfortunately Lynda has had to resign due to family and work commitments. She is still volunteering for us as one of the NSW State Contacts and will remain on the fundraising committee.

A special welcome to Margaret Polacska, who has joined our Board of Directors as our new Funding/Fundraising Coordinator. Margaret has already been successful in securing us a grant to help cover the cost of this year's CAAF. As you will see in this newsletter, Margaret also has a couple of fundraisers underway.

We have a lot of hard work going on in the background. We have started processing membership applications and are working on documentation to assist our volunteer State Contacts. We also hope to be able to organise training for our wonderful volunteers in the near future. We are close to printing our Expectant Parent booklet and have 3 other booklets currently being written. Our Card Committee hope to finalise details within the next few weeks so that we can get that project underway.

We have plenty of room left within our group for volunteers. If you are interested in helping contact either our Volunteer Coordinator Jo ([volunteer@cdh.org.au](mailto:volunteer@cdh.org.au)) or myself ([president@cdh.org.au](mailto:president@cdh.org.au)) and we will be able to fill you in on the different roles that are available.

Until our next edition ☺

Danielle Kessner – President, CHERUBS Australia  
[president@cdh.org.au](mailto:president@cdh.org.au)

## Thank You!

The Board of Directors would like to thank the following people for their hard work and support:

Margaret Polacska  
Damon Knott  
Sharon Knott  
Maryanne Reid  
Wendy McKay  
Angela Logozzo  
Alicia Wood  
Kathryn Murphy  
Mel Crawford

**DISCLAIMER:** The information in this newsletter is for education only. It is not meant to be used in the place of proper medical care and advice. CHERUBS Australia Organisation does not encourage or discourage any medical treatments or procedures. Our purpose is to educate families and medical care providers so that they may make the best decisions for the patients' interests. You cannot compare your child to other children born with CDH, they are all different. The opinions aired by contributors to this web site are their personal views and are not necessarily the views of CHERUBS Australia Organisation, or its members or staff.

**Membership**

Membership to our group is separate to membership with the International group of CHERUBS. We charge a membership fee of \$20 per annum to help cover the administrative costs of maintaining our group. We do not want to use donations and fundraising to cover day to day items such as postage – we feel these funds should be spent on supporting families and research efforts. Membership fees are not tax deductible. We can only provide tax deductions for donations under our Deductible Gift Recipient endorsement. Membership fees will be re-evaluated at the end of each financial year by the board of directors to determine if we are able to reduce this cost.

For more information on our membership please email us at [membership@cdh.org.au](mailto:membership@cdh.org.au) or visit our website: <http://www.cdh.org.au/membership.htm>

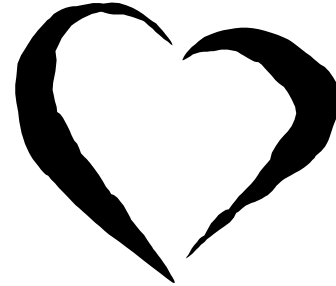
**CHERUBS Australia would like to welcome its new members:**

Angela Logozzo  
 Maryanne Reid  
 Linda West  
 Sascha Wood  
 Kathryn Murphy

Sharon Knott  
 Margaret Polacksa  
 Wendy McKay  
 Joanne Marshall



CHERUBS Australia wishes all our Cherubs who have recently celebrated a birthday or who have an upcoming birthday, a wonderful day!



CHERUBS Australia is thinking of all angel cherubs and their families on their birthdays and anniversaries!

**MEMBER'S PROFILE**

Hello, my name is Margaret Polacska, and I was born and bred in the "rainy" city of Melbourne. Lorre and I have been married for 11 years and we've been together for nearly 20 years having met when I was a young 16 year-old. We are both first generation Australians with Hungarian parents.

I currently work as a freelance bid writer and Lorre is a brilliant special developmental school teacher (the kids love him). We love animals and have two dogs and two cats. We also love to travel to various parts of Australia and Asia. Last year we travelled the long haul to South America and had a great time.



I joined the CHERUBS family a few months after we lost our son Noah (pictured with us in the photo) in Dec 07. I'm very grateful to be part of such a wonderful support group as losing a child is a very difficult experience to face on your own. And I'm very much looking forward to meeting many of you at the CAAF in October.



## Calling all volunteers!!!

CHERUBS Australia Organisation is run by volunteers. Sometimes the work is quite heavy but when shared by many, it becomes light. It's a wonderful and inspiring time to be involved in such a community group. Some of us have been brought here by grief, others by community spirit. It doesn't matter what inspires you to assist, the important thing is that you give of yourself to help support others. If you can find some spare time to give to our group, please contact Jo at [volunteer@cdh.org.au](mailto:volunteer@cdh.org.au).

Joanne Kjaersgaard  
Volunteer co-ordinator

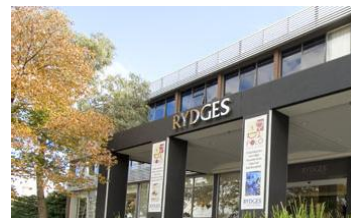
If you have sent in a donation but have yet to receive a receipt, please email [treasurer@cdh.org.au](mailto:treasurer@cdh.org.au) and we will arrange for your receipt to be sent.

## 2009 CHERUBS Australia Annual Forum

### CAAF planning is well underway!

I am pleased to announce that CHERUBS Australia has been successful in obtaining a \$3,000 grant from the City of Melbourne to help fund this year's CHERUBS Australia Annual Forum (CAAF), which will be held at the Rydges Hotel in North Melbourne on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>, with a family day on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

Rydges North Melbourne was chosen for its competitive pricing, standard of rooms and convenient location—just a short tram ride from the heart of Melbourne and close to the Royal Children's Hospital and the Royal Women's Hospital..If you would like to book accommodation at Rydges, please go to <http://www.rydges.com/cwp/cherubs> or call Alex Jonas on (03) 9329 1788. I inspected the recently refurbished hotel guest rooms and found them to be spacious, clean and comfortable, and they catered well for families.



CHERUBS Australia would like to sincerely thank the following people for their contributions:-

Jaana Rosenlund in honour of Gabriel  
Chris & Leanne Quirk in memory of Alyssa  
Barry & Gae Quirk in memory of Alyssa  
Brenda Murphy in memory of Jessica  
Danielle & Julian Kessner in memory of Alyssa  
Anthony & Tanya Quirk in memory of Alyssa  
Angela Logozza in memory of Max  
Margaret Polacska in memory of Noah  
Linda West in memory of Emma  
Fiona Rice in memory of Leon  
Sabine Kingston in honour Dain  
Kathryn Murphy in memory of Jessica  
Caitlin and Simon Robilliard in memory of Rhian  
The Staff of AIG Life Australia

We would also like to thank those who have contributed and wish not to be named.

## Calling all Victorian members!

In addition to the grant, we have also set a fundraising target of \$3,000 to raise the balance of the conference budget. The total budget will cover the cost of conference facility hire and catering (morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea).

The conference program will incorporate medical workshops on Friday and support workshops on Saturday. Speakers are yet to be confirmed, however, we already have commitment from Dr Michael Stewart (Consultant Neonatologist—Royal Women’s Hospital and the Royal Children’s Hospital) and Theresa Lynch (Bereavement and Support Counsellor from the Foetal Management Unit—Royal Women’s Hospital) to facilitate workshops.

In addition to the workshops, two social events will be organised. There will be a family dinner on Saturday night at a suitable restaurant close to the hotel, and a family day on Sunday at the Werribee Open Range Zoo, which is full of amazing African animals living in a wide, open savannah—the kids (and adults) will love it!



We are expecting this year’s CAAF to be as successful as past CAAFs and look forward to meeting up with new and old CHERUBS friends. We hope you can join us here in Melbourne.

Margaret Polacska

In order to make this year’s CAAF a resounding success, we need the help of as many Victorian members as possible to help reach our \$3,000 fundraising target. The pride of our state is on the line!!

We hope to raise the majority of our targeted amount by participating in the Run Melbourne event on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and holding a cinema night in conjunction with the event.

We need people to join our team to walk or run and raise money by getting people to sponsor you for any amount they wish. You can do a 5km walk/run, 10km run or half marathon (for the fitness fanatics out there). We welcome participation by members, their families and friends; basically anyone willing and able is welcome to join our team. You can even bring kids in a pusher along so the whole family can join in.

To join our CHERUBS Australia Run Melbourne Team and start fundraising go to:  
[http://runmelbourne.everydayhero.com.au/cherubs\\_australia\\_organisation](http://runmelbourne.everydayhero.com.au/cherubs_australia_organisation) and click on the “Join this team” button near the top of the webpage and complete the registration process. Our team name is “Friends of CHERUBS” and our team password is “CAAF2009”.

In addition to joining our fundraising team, you will also need to enter the Run Melbourne event itself to be registered and receive your number bib and timing device. Go to: <http://runmelbourne.com.au/home.php> and click on “Enter here” and complete the registration and payment process. Entry fees depend on which event you want to participate in

Last year, my friend and I organised a Run Melbourne team for SANDS and held a cinema night with a raffle on the night and we managed to raise \$2,200 in total, so our \$3,000 target isn’t too optimistic if a few of us get onboard.

If you still need motivation, my friend’s nana did the 5km walk with us last year and she was 89 years-old! Now if she can do it, so can you.

Margaret Polacska



## STATE CONTACTS – GRIEVING

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