

# VIEW *Matters*

November 2024



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**New VIEW Clubs**

**Member stories**

**Shaping VIEW's future**



## Our Vision

Women creating and leading a more inclusive society.

## Our Mission

As a leading voice and valued support network for women, VIEW actively raises awareness of, and participates in, the work of The Smith Family.

## Our Guiding Principles

Inclusive and welcoming  
Diverse and respecting  
Supportive and caring  
Locally focused while nationally active  
Collaborative and future looking



VIEW is a national women's organisation with over 13,000 members in 260 communities exclusively supporting the education charity The Smith Family. Members sponsor students, volunteer, raise funds and advocate to improve the life outcomes of Australian children and young people experiencing disadvantage.

As The Smith Family's largest community sponsor of *Learning for Life* students, VIEW supports the educational outcomes of more than 1,785 disadvantaged children and young people.

Through its connection with The Smith Family, VIEW is proud to enable young Australians to create better futures for themselves.

National President: Elizabeth Birch  
National Vice Presidents: Sandra Jankovskis and Lorraine Thomson

National Councillors: NSW: Angela Carroll; Pam Evans; Dianne Fiddes; Pat McRae; Jill Mason; Aletia Norman, Elizabeth Terry. QLD: Lyall Aldridge; Jean Jennings. SA: Bernie McSwain. VIC: Hazel Austin, Rosemary Coleman, Janet Park.

National Manager: Maryanne Maher

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Website: [www.view.org.au](http://www.view.org.au)

The Smith Family provides Australian children living with disadvantage with the tools and support to thrive at school. This help extends to the child's family and community with wrap-around support essential to breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Helping a child to do well in their journey through school brings a lifetime of reward for them and their family.

Investing in a child's education today will have a long-term impact that empowers them into their working life. For more information, please visit [thesmithfamily.com.au](http://thesmithfamily.com.au).

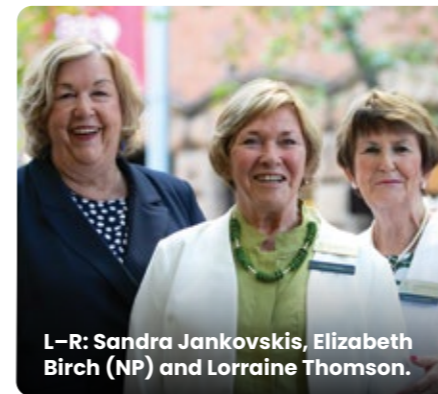
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Front cover: Wodonga VIEW Club members, (seated L-R) Jennifer Hayden, Barb Stieber and Valerie Poppe, with Patricia Gardner (standing).

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## From the Executive

I would like to begin with a message of gratitude for every VIEW member. VIEW has continued to do what we do best – advocate for children and families experiencing disadvantage and support them to have access to vital educational support so they can succeed at school and thrive now and into their futures. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to VIEW and The Smith Family.

In May I was very pleased to attend the inauguration of Lake Illawarra VIEW Club, the first club established in NSW since 2020.

Two members of Illawarra VIEW Club, saw an opportunity for another club in the region and within just eight months, Lake

Illawarra VIEW was born! The event was a wonderful gathering, with women from neighbouring VIEW Clubs joining to warmly welcome the new members. I truly enjoy these VIEW events, as they provide the opportunity to connect and celebrate with members, hear from representatives from The Smith Family, and of course, listen to former or current *Learning for Life* students speak about their journey and the profound impact of support from VIEW and The Smith Family. Congratulations to everyone involved in launching Lake Illawarra VIEW Club. With fundraising already off to a great start and a social calendar filling up, I have every confidence in a bright future ahead. To read more about the event and other new or soon-to-be opened VIEW Clubs, see pages 6-7.

As a member of the VIEW National Executive, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to develop my leadership skills. This year, Elizabeth, Lorraine and I were invited to participate in The Smith Family's Ignite Leadership and Development Program. Through eight virtual interactive workshops with Smith Family team members, we gained practical tools to enhance our relationships, increase our understanding of social and emotional behaviours and manage responses to particular situations. We thank The Smith Family for this insightful opportunity.

As you can read on page 8, the VIEW Geographic Boundaries

project has been in full swing. Many hours of challenging work have been completed by project teams and the VIEW National Office. A huge thank you to everyone involved – we're excited to read and review all feedback on what has been discovered.

Next year marks VIEW's 65th anniversary! Together, we'll be celebrating 65 years of connecting in community, advocating for women and children, supporting education, making lasting connections, volunteering and special friendships. Through the Blue Sapphire Awards, we'll also recognise the most impactful contributions members and clubs have made in recent years. We hope you get involved – see page 5 for details.

Finally, Elizabeth, Lorraine and I wish all members a very safe and happy festive season. We thank you for your continued commitment to VIEW and The Smith Family and look forward to celebrating VIEW's 65th anniversary with you in 2025!

Sandra Jankovskis  
National Vice President 2024-25



# What is VIEW?

**VIEW is a national women's volunteer organisation supporting the education charity, The Smith Family. Connected through a common purpose, VIEW Club's 13,000 plus members:**

- make lasting friendships, share ideas and knowledge and enjoy social activities;
- learn and develop new skills, while giving back to their communities; and
- advocate for and support the educational outcomes of students experiencing disadvantage.

Find out more about VIEW by visiting the VIEW website at [view.org.au](http://view.org.au), calling 1800 805 366 or emailing [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au).

[view.org.au](http://view.org.au) 1800 805 366



## Message from The Smith Family CEO

Congratulations on another impactful six months as part of VIEW! I wish to thank all VIEW members for continuing to support the education of Australian students experiencing disadvantage. Your financial support and advocacy helps to ensure these students have everything they need to succeed at school and beyond.

As a member of VIEW, I know you agree that all young people, particularly those experiencing disadvantage, deserve the chance to make the most of their education. Sadly, however, so many students are still missing out on being able to access the right support at the right time – through no fault of their own. This is impacting their ability to fully participate in their schooling and build a positive future for themselves.

Data shows that students facing disadvantage have a higher risk of falling behind compared with their peers. This year's NAPLAN found one in 10 students need additional support to meet minimum literacy and numeracy standards. For students from low-socioeconomic

backgrounds, that figure soars to one in three. For First Nations students and young people living in remote areas, the figures are one in three and one in four respectively.

I've recently been in the media highlighting the urgent need for an improved response to the education needs of young people who experience disadvantage. While much work has already been done to develop new reforms and a roadmap that is focused on improving educational outcomes for all students, I'm concerned these positive steps forward will be hampered by funding issues. Currently only three out of our seven states and territories have reached an agreement with the Federal Government to fund the reforms. We hope this matter is resolved and that any new funding is used for measures that we know work.

Education is one of the most powerful change agents – it can shape a young person's career, their ability to earn a living, have good health and positive wellbeing. The \$420,000 VIEW has collectively donated so far this year to The Smith Family's Digital Learning Essentials program, plus the sponsorship of more 1,785 *Learning for Life* students and additional donations towards our learning and support programs, are vitally important for students and young people experiencing disadvantage.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our vision of a world where every child has the opportunity to change their future, no matter their circumstances.

Take care over the festive season and I can't wait to celebrate VIEW's 65th anniversary with you in 2025!

Doug Taylor  
Chief Executive Officer



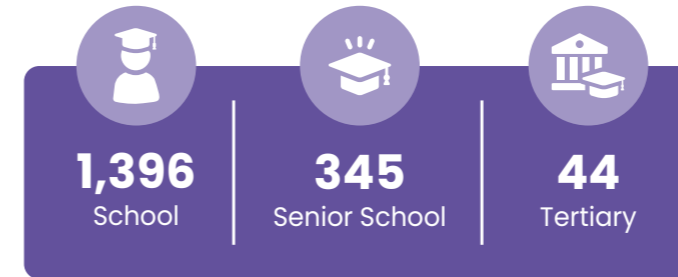
### We're on Facebook and Instagram!

Connect with more than 2,200 VIEW members across Australia on the VIEW Clubs of Australia Facebook page or follow @viewclubs on Instagram. We've ramped up our social media activity to bring members and others interested in VIEW more news and updates. Share our posts to reach new members!

## News briefs

### VIEW's impact

**1,785** *Learning for Life* sponsorships supported by VIEW (as of October 2024)



### Christmas activities

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. We want to wish all our wonderful VIEW Christmas Gift Wrappers the best of luck this festive season. We can't wait to see photos of the gift-wrapping stalls and hear about the amazing funds raised from this initiative!

This year VIEW and The Smith Family have been invited to join the festive fun at the **Good Food and Wine Show Christmas Markets** in Sydney (22-24 Nov) at Carriageworks and in Melbourne (6-8 Dec) at Jeff's shed. VIEW members will wrap gifts to raise funds for the *Learning for Life* program as well as showcase VIEW in the community. Email [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au) to participate!

### 57th VIEW National Convention is coming!

Registration is now open for the next VIEW National Convention to be held in Brisbane from 5-7 September 2025. Over 160 women have already booked! This wonderful three-day event attracts VIEW members and their friends from across Australia. Attendees come to hear from inspirational speakers, debate issues of national importance, and celebrate VIEW's achievements and contributions to making a positive difference to Australian children experiencing disadvantage. Most of all, our members like to socialise and have fun with VIEW friends. Register at [www.view.org.au](http://www.view.org.au)



### Blue Sapphire Awards



In 2025 VIEW will proudly celebrate its 65th anniversary! That means 65 years of Connecting in Community and Making a Difference! To celebrate, we are shining a light on the brilliance of VIEW members who have made the most impactful contribution to VIEW and The Smith Family at either Area, Zone, Club or individual level during 2023, 2024, or 2025. This could be through your innovative fundraising, impactful volunteering, key advocacy, creative membership drives, or connection with students on the *Learning for Life* program. Across four categories Voice, Interests, Education and Women, we'll be giving Blue Sapphire Awards to members who can demonstrate their radiance. We'd love to hear about your local achievements. Use the QR code to find out how to enter before 1 August 2025!



# New beginnings and exciting developments

The development and creation of new VIEW Clubs is vital for the future of our organisation. We're excited to report on the opening of two new clubs, plus provide updates on other developing clubs.

## Lake Illawarra VIEW Club (NSW)

More than 100 VIEW members, representatives from The Smith Family and guests from the local community celebrated the inauguration of Lake Illawarra VIEW Club (NSW) in May, the 14th in the Illawarra region.

Starting a new VIEW Club often only takes one or two women with the passion, drive and interest to begin investigating the prospect and viability of a new club. In this case, it was Dianne Martin and Vanessa Beattie, members of Illawarra VIEW Club who saw an opportunity to form another club in the region.

Vanessa, (aka "the ideas person") sowed the seed for the new club after forming a walking tribe for local women interested in meeting new people. The connection to community fostered by the walking group gave Vanessa the idea to suggest a VIEW Club. The response was overwhelmingly positive and,

with help from Dianne (aka "the key driver"), interest meetings were hosted to spread the word about VIEW.

As the number of attendees at the interest meetings grew, fundraising activities were introduced to begin attracting donations to support The Smith Family. By the club's opening in May, enough funds had been raised to sponsor two *Learning for Life* students on The Smith Family's program.

At the inauguration, guest speaker Paul Ell, who is a *Learning for Life* alumni and Senior Associate, proudly presented a generous donation from his employer, RMB Lawyers, to fund a third student on the program. With a good base of members and a solid start to its fundraising activities, President Helen Theuns is excited about what's to come for Lake Illawarra VIEW Club!

Contact Dianne at lakeillawarraviewclub@gmail.com if you are interested in joining Lake Illawarra VIEW Club.

## Busselton VIEW Club (WA)

In July, VIEW members and Smith Family team members gathered to mark the inauguration of Busselton VIEW Club – the 8th VIEW Club in Western Australia. Seventy women from VIEW clubs across WA attended a wonderful celebration. Demonstrating VIEW's strong connection with The Smith Family, Leonie Green, Head of State and Territory Operations and Julie Walker, General Manager WA, spoke and thanked all VIEW members in Western Australia for their ongoing support.

The first interest meeting for Busselton VIEW Club was held in February. It took just five months to attract enough women to officially open the club! It was truly a team effort of local VIEW members and interested women, helped by the skills and expertise of Wendy Lewis, WA Development Team, the Capes VIEW Club Committee and Zone Councillor Mary Deakin.

Since the event, President Pauline Rockley, her committee and the new VIEW members have been hard at work organising outings, finding guest speakers, and planning fundraising initiatives to ensure they can make a difference to children experiencing disadvantage. The club has 42 members and has started fundraising with the goal of being able to support their first *Learning for Life* student next year.

While celebrating the new club, VIEW members acknowledged a true VIEW pioneer of Western Australia, Past Zone Councillor Barb Colson, who was represented at the event by her daughter Peta, an inaugural member of Busselton VIEW Club. Barb was instrumental in the establishment of VIEW in Western Australia in 2000 and an inaugural member of First Wave (Western Australia VIEW Evening) Club, now a day club. It was great to see Dawn Gillis, an inaugural First Wave member, attending the Busselton VIEW Club inaugural together with other First Wave members. Barb, along with those early 'VIEW pioneers of the West', explored many regions and venues, promoting VIEW and helping to establish the WA clubs we have today.



Busselton VIEW Club inaugural Committee members

## More new clubs on the way

At the moment, there are several VIEW Clubs in development mode or attracting interest across the country, including Adelaide East VIEW Club (SA), which will be inaugurated in November, Kyneton VIEW Club (VIC), Bunbury VIEW Club (WA) and Rockhampton VIEW Club (Queensland).

Nothing beats a personal invitation to VIEW! Do you have friends in any of the areas where VIEW is establishing clubs or where a club already exists? Tell them about VIEW and why you love being a member.



Lake Illawarra Committee and club members



Margaret (left) and Sandra from Kawana Waters VIEW Club (QLD) are virtual volunteers.

## Become a virtual volunteer!

The Smith Family is calling for registrations for its 2025 Virtual Volunteering Administration Team. From the comfort of your own home, at a time convenient to you, you can assist The Smith Family to understand how to support sponsored students. Working on your own internet-connected device, you will review student profiles for child protection and privacy concerns in a secure online system which is easy to use. Volunteers are supported by training, videos and task sheets. The activity runs from April to September and volunteers can work whenever it suits them. To find out more, email [virtualvolunteer@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:virtualvolunteer@thesmithfamily.com.au)

This year, 19 VIEW members volunteered online via the Virtual Volunteer Activity Centre. Collectively, these members reviewed and processed 14,800 documents and contributed around 740 volunteer hours to this task! What an amazing effort!

# Securing VIEW's future

## Our Geographic Boundaries project is uncovering a wealth of information about VIEW.

In the April 2024 issue of VIEW Matters, we told you about the Geographic Boundaries project underway to secure a sustainable future for VIEW. It's been a busy six months for VIEW members who are involved in this important work.

Project teams in all Areas were briefed and have been researching historical and current information about VIEW and their local area. Through completing seven templates, the project teams are investigating the current Clubs and Zones, ways to promote and grow VIEW in their region and ways to work with The Smith Family. They are also connecting with Local Councils to join events which engage prospective members, collaborating with other service organisations and talking with local businesses who may like to be partners of VIEW.

Project teams have until November to submit their research, findings and recommendations. All recommendations will be reviewed and discussed before further actions are phased and implemented.

As part of the project, VIEW National President Elizabeth Birch has been visiting clubs and members in regions including the Central West, Riverina and South West Slopes of NSW, accompanied by VIEW National Manager Maryanne Maher.

This was an opportunity to meet many wonderful VIEW members and hear about progress and discoveries.

"Maryanne and I have enjoyed connecting with so many members on these trips. The VIEW spirit of connection has been evident in every conversation we've had while on the road," said Elizabeth.

VIEW's warmth and welcoming sense of community was everywhere they travelled, with members generously offering hospitality, friendship and tips along the way.

"It was inspiring to meet women who had recently joined VIEW and to hear about the special rituals clubs have for welcoming new members," Elizabeth said.

"No matter where you go, there's an unspoken commitment among VIEW members to ensure newcomers feel welcomed and connected. We truly felt this warmth from the clubs we visited."

Women who had joined their club's committee shared how they have been mentored by another member, describing this generous act as 'wisdom sharing' which had given them much-needed confidence in a new role. Others described joining VIEW as one of the best things they had ever done.

"I don't know where I would be without my VIEW friends," one member said, "I'm definitely in the right place because I really feel I belong."

In Parkes, some members came to the venue well before the meeting laden with table cloths, vases and lovely flowers from their gardens to decorate the room so that it was more inviting.

A member in Wagga Wagga said, "Thank you for making the time and effort to come down our way. We often feel far removed, out here in the country. We all appreciated putting faces to the names and meeting you both personally. You've inspired us and we have all learned a lot."

Maryanne and Elizabeth were also delighted to see the ways VIEW members connect with each other. While attending the 40th luncheon for Wodonga VIEW Club (VIC), they met Karen Tsapazi, a member from Melville City VIEW Club (WA). Karen travels to Wodonga several times a year to visit her daughter and grandchildren. While there she catches up with her VIEW friends. "I have made two very good friends," she said. At the event, Karen shared her amazing biscuit fundraising story (see Baking for a cause on page 11), saying, "I would love to see other clubs doing something similar."



Club President Helen Rhodes (R), with Gail Brown, Secretary of Mudgee VIEW Club.

### VIEW Club Spotlight: Mudgee VIEW Club (NSW)

Mudgee VIEW Club, in the beautiful central west wine region of NSW, has been a strong presence since its formation in 1970. With 146

members ranging in age from early 60s to 99, the day club supports 30 *Learning for Life* students.

While most members are long-term, the club welcomes new members each year, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm, explains Helen Rhodes, President. "This keeps the club vibrant and they are welcomed with open arms."

Helen attributes the club's success to its dedicated committee members whose varied skills ensure tasks are completed efficiently. Luncheons feature entertaining guests and effort is spent creatively decorating the room and tables. Members also

receive a detailed sheet every meeting with information including updates about their sponsored students, details about upcoming events, raffles and fundraising, brainteasers, and even a thought for the month.

The club's most successful fundraising activities are raffles, held for Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas. Generous members and businesses in town donate significant prizes ensuring all the money raised is profit. Over \$2,000 is raised each time.

"What's the secret to our success?" Helen says: "It's a combination of many things, but I think it comes from a great, hardworking committee."

### A 90th celebration!

On Saturday, 7 September, 133 members donned pearls and feather boas in Junortoun, Victoria, to celebrate a combined 30th birthday for Bendigo Evening, Keilor and Shepparton VIEW Clubs.

Together, over the past 30 years these VIEW Clubs have raised combined funds of close to \$300,000 for The Smith Family. Currently, they support 32 students on the *Learning for Life* program. What an incredible effort!

At the celebration, eight inaugural members were honoured with 30-year service badges presented by National Councillor Janet Park. Each of the three current presidents shared highlights from their clubs' histories, and a display of memorabilia showcased the evolution of VIEW logos and attire over the past three decades.

Members from VIEW Clubs throughout the region attended. The event



L-R Susan Wright, President of Shepparton Day VIEW Club, Susan Middleton, President of Bendigo Evening VIEW Club, Janet Park, VIEW National Councillor and Lesley Marburg, President of Keilor VIEW Club.

featured entertainment from Elana McKinley, a former showgirl, who shared lively stories from her career and taught the audience a fun dance routine.

The atmosphere buzzed with laughter and connection as members caught up with old friends and made new ones. An extensive buffet lunch was enjoyed by all, and a generous donation of \$770 will be sent to The Smith Family.



Keilor VIEW Club member and Past National Councillor, Kath Chapman was a driving force behind the joint event. Sadly, Kath was unable to attend on the day. Despite her absence, her VIEW friends made sure she was there in spirit - as a photo cutout!

# Inspiring stories of VIEW members

## Pauline's story: Coming full circle

When Pauline Rockley learnt about the connection between VIEW and The Smith Family, she knew she was destined to become a member. Earlier this year, Pauline shared her motivation for joining VIEW and becoming the inaugural President of Busselton VIEW Club in Western Australia.

It was 1968 when Pauline first learnt about The Smith Family. At that time, Pauline was a young single mum with two small children. Without a job, life for Pauline and her children was tough. With Christmas approaching, Pauline was filled with worry about her children missing out.

"I was on my own. I had very little money and no job," Pauline recalls. "I had heard that if you contacted The Smith Family, they would help with Christmas presents. So, I made the call."

We all know The Smith Family's focus is now education, but back then they provided welfare support and basic essentials to families in need, just like Pauline and her children. The organisation had a warehouse in Surry Hills stocked with gifts and items for struggling families.

"My father took me to pick up toys for my girls. It was a decent walk from Central Station, particularly when carrying two old brown suitcases. When we left the building, the suitcases were filled with Christmas gifts for my girls."

Many years later, Pauline has never forgotten how important that goodwill and support from The Smith Family was.

"To now be part of VIEW, and the President of a new club, is my way of giving back in some small way," she says. "I'm pleased that VIEW and The Smith Family's focus is now on supporting the education of Australian children experiencing disadvantage."



Leonie Green, The Smith Family, Head of State and Territory Operations and Pauline Rockley, Busselton VIEW Club President.

## Karen's story: Baking for a cause

Melville City VIEW Club (WA) member Karen has turned her passion for baking into a lucrative monthly fundraiser! When Karen joined VIEW in 2017, she brought along homemade biscuits to share with her new friends. The biscuits were a hit and Karen was quickly encouraged to continue baking as a fundraiser for the club.

With her goodies in such high demand, Karen now sets aside three days to bake creations for 'Karen's Cookies and Cake Corner'.



Each month members eagerly flock to her table, searching for their favourite treats.

This year, Karen set a target to raise enough funds to provide a

student with a Digital Learning Essentials pack. With help from her VIEW friends, she reached her goal of \$1,285 by September and is now aiming for another pack!

## Did you know that...



If a student on The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program moves to a school or community without The Smith Family's presence, they will continue to receive support from a Remote Family Partnership Coordinator. This means the student can remain on the *Learning for Life* program and the family will be supported to overcome barriers impacting their child's educational journey. Additionally, students can access digital programs like *Student2Student* and *iTrack*, as well as other online activities.

The Smith Family is currently witnessing an increase in transience, with more families moving from metropolitan areas to regional and rural communities more than ever before, primarily due to ongoing cost of living pressures.

Lily Nguyen, Remote NSW Family Partnership Coordinator, explains: "Some families are relocating for work, financial reasons or personal issues. In some cases, these families move to areas with

poor phone reception and internet, and even accessing doctors or the local shops can be an hour's distance away."

Programs, such as Digital Learning Essentials are vital for supporting these students to make the most of their education – despite the challenges they may face due to location. The Smith Family will be investing in recruiting more Remote Family Partnership Coordinators to work nationally and continue to support these families and students.

## Narelle's story: Purpose and community

Bundaberg VIEW Club (QLD) Secretary Narelle Finn describes learning about VIEW's connection with The Smith Family as a "sign from the universe". After surviving a life-threatening reaction to anaesthetic during the birth of her second child in 2015, Narelle feels she has been given a second chance at life.

"That experience changed me. I decided I would make the most of everything and live a life full of gratitude and kindness. I believe my purpose is to be of service to others," she explains.

The mid-forties small business owner and mother of two boys (15 and 9) knew about The Smith Family through her husband Damian's experience of receiving Smith Family Christmas gifts during his childhood.

In 2019, a 120km fundraising group trek on the Larapinta Trail for The

Smith Family felt like the perfect challenge Narelle needed to boost her physical health and fundraise for an organisation she was personally connected to.

"We raised over \$30,000 as a group. It was life-changing and made me realise I could push myself physically and emotionally more than I ever thought I was capable of."

As is often the case, Narelle learnt about VIEW through word of mouth via a client at her beauty and wellness studio.



"Sandra is a long-time member of VIEW and mentioned it to me. I attended my first interest meeting with Bundaberg VIEW Club in July 2022 and hoped that my previous

experience as an Executive Assistant and Event Coordinator would be beneficial for the committee so nominated for Program Officer and Assistant Secretary."

Bundaberg VIEW Club was inaugurated later that year and already sponsors five *Learning for Life* students.

With members keen to do as much as they can to support The Smith Family and their local community, Narelle initiated a book donation project between VIEW, local schools and publisher Ethicool Books.

"I was blown away when 150 books arrived. We decided to donate the books to all our local primary schools and early learning centres as well as share with our sister clubs in Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Fraser Coast."

Narelle and other VIEW members were delighted to deliver the books during Book Week in August.

# Around the clubs

## Blue Illusion National Shopping Day

Well done to VIEW members across the country who helped to ensure this year's Blue Illusion National Shopping Day for The Smith Family was a roaring success. More than \$33,000 was raised! It was wonderful to hear about VIEW members visiting their local Blue Illusion stores on the

day for special fashion parades and get togethers. As well as being a successful fundraiser, the National Shopping Day was an opportunity for clubs to reach a new audience of prospective members through the sharing of VIEW brochures and information.



## VIEW and the Taiwanese community

VIEW National Manager Maryanne Maher and Sydney-Western Suburbs Zone Councillor Sandra Fong attended the 113th R.O.C (Taiwan) National Day dinner event in Sydney in October. VIEW was invited by General Convenor Sophia Huang to collect a donation from the Taiwanese community for The Smith Family. With 400

attendees including the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office David Cheng Wei Wu, Member for Ryde Jason Lane, Angela Peachey from the Australian Taiwan Women's Association, other special guests, business people and families, this was an opportunity to promote The Smith Family and VIEW in the Taiwanese community.



Maryanne (left) with VIEW member Sandra Fong (right) and members of the Taiwanese community.



## VIEW on the airwaves

Macarthur Evening VIEW Club (NSW) took over the airwaves of Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly recently with an in-depth interview on The Sounds of Macarthur radio station. President Trish, Vice-President/Learning for Life Liaison Officer Denise and member Narelle were in their element talking about all things VIEW and The Smith Family with presenter, Lina.



## Birthday gifts for others

Giving is always better than receiving! At the celebration of their 23rd birthday, First Wave VIEW Club (WA) was thrilled with their donation of \$2,570 to fund two packs in the Digital Learning Essentials Program. Members also presented knitted beanies, hand-made patchwork and crochet rugs and dolls' clothes to Westminster Child & Parent Centre, run by The Smith Family. The members were told how much their donations will be appreciated by the families and children who access the centre.



Glenda and VIEW members Janine and Kaye (pictured left to right).

## From rubbish to riches

Led by member Glenda, Geelong Day VIEW Club (VIC) has raised nearly \$2,000 for The Smith Family by collecting discarded bottles and cans and returning them to the recycling centre. For every bottle or can returned, the club earns 10 cents. Recognising the potential for fundraising, Glenda recruited fellow VIEW members, the caretaker of her residential complex and her neighbours as her trusted team of collectors. One VIEW member's husband is so invested in the initiative that he actively searches recycling bins while walking his dog! Keep up the good work!



## A lasting connection

Members of Gawler VIEW Club (SA) had the privilege to celebrate their club's 21st birthday at the South Australian Parliament House, thanks to their long-term supporter and friend, State Member, Tony Piccolo MP. Tony invited members to an informative tour of Parliament House, followed by a delicious three course meal in the Speaker's Dining Room. Tony was Mayor of Gawler 21 years ago and attended Gawler VIEW Club's inauguration. It's wonderful to see this enduring connection!

## From little things big things grow

What began as a small idea to run a pop-up stall selling hand-made products in the local shopping centre has snowballed into a successful fundraising initiative for Newmarket VIEW Club (QLD). When VIEW member Margie floated the idea of the stall in 2023, she could never have imagined the club would receive requests from local public schools to provide home-made

goodies for regular school stalls. But that's exactly what eventuated. Newmarket VIEW Club now provides hand-made products for gift stalls

at two local schools, including for Christmas, Mother's Day and Father's Day. All members are involved in preparing the products



which include jams, pickles, cakes and handicrafts on an ongoing basis! Through the initiative, members are connecting to the wider community and raising more awareness about VIEW and The Smith Family. It is also a great opportunity to attract new members. Funds raised from the stalls go towards supporting the Club's eight Learning for Life students.



## 31st birthday!

Members from Tuggeranong Day VIEW (ACT) celebrated their club's 31st birthday, with two new members in attendance, a 10-year badge awarded and two nonagenarians cutting the beautiful cake!

# VIEW photos!

A selection of photos from recent VIEW activities



Camden Haven Day VIEW Club (NSW) 32nd birthday



Yamba VIEW Club (NSW) 30th birthday



VIEW members from clubs in Central West NSW



Members from Eugowra Evening VIEW Club (NSW)



Wodonga VIEW Club members at 40th birthday celebration



Members at the Bendigo Evening, Shepparton and Keilor VIEW Clubs combined 90th celebration



Batlow VIEW Club members at Wodonga VIEW Club's 40th birthday celebration



VIEW Club members at NSW South Coast Gala



Members at the Spring High Tea hosted by Tamworth Peel Evening VIEW (NSW)



Shellharbour VIEW Club (NSW) 50th birthday



Members at the Bendigo Evening, Shepparton and Keilor VIEW Clubs combined 90th celebration



Parkes Day VIEW Club (NSW) members who have already booked for National Convention in Brisbane 2025!



# view merchandise

voice, interests and education of women



**Our Christmas sale is now on until 17 January 2025! VIEW gifts make great stocking fillers!**

Bum bag .....	<b>\$15</b>	Key ring .....	<b>\$5</b>
60th fan .....	<b>\$3</b>	Travel pack .....	<b>\$5</b>
60th spectacle cleaner .....	<b>\$3</b>	Beanie .....	<b>\$20</b>
60th pin .....	<b>\$3</b>	Backpack .....	<b>\$3</b>
Pen .....	<b>\$8</b>	Apron .....	<b>\$15</b>
Lapel pin .....	<b>\$2</b>		
Shoehorn .....	<b>\$2.50</b>		
Hairbrush .....	<b>\$3</b>		
Nail file .....	<b>\$2.50</b>		

**Not pictured but still available:**

Poncho .....	<b>\$10</b>
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All money raised from the sale of VIEW gifts helps children in need to succeed at school.  
To order any of these VIEW gifts, please email [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au)



# There are many reasons children fall behind in their learning.

## Poverty shouldn't be one of them.

All children deserve the chance to be rewarded for all their hard work.

Yet, no matter how hard they try poverty can push a child's chance to achieve their best at school out of reach.

### VIEW Club members can give children like Owen\* an equal chance to thrive at school.

\*Names, location and associated images have been changed to protect the identity of Owen and his family.

## Please donate today.

[Q The Smith Family](#)

[☎ 1800 024 069](tel:1800024069)

CHRISTMAS  
APPEAL  
2024



The Smith  
Family

Learn today, change tomorrow.