



Mirabel Newsletter

June 2022 | Issue 36

Life at Mirabel HQ is buzzing! We are SO back.

With social restrictions lifting, Mirabel is roaring back into its pre-pandemic activities. Camps have resumed, our weekly groups have returned, everyone is invigorated and the energy emanating from our building is palpable. We are loving face-to-face meetings, having visitors come through our office, hosting fundraising events, interacting with our wonderful supporters and we're excitedly planning our calendars.

There will be many new initiatives coming to fruition in the second half of this year while the heartbeat of everything we do is ever constant – that every child deserves a childhood.

Restoring a sense of belonging and hope to these young lives, combined with an education, will uncover their limitless potential and help ensure a brighter future for us all.

My heartfelt appreciation to not just the children's extended families but to the extended Mirabel family who make every aspect of our work possible. Please drop in and visit our office some time – we'd love to see you!

Jane Rowe
Founder/CEO



Matt's Story

Matt is 8 years old and lives with his grandparents. He was only three when his father died and five when his mother went to jail for drug related offences. He has experienced many challenges and trauma in his short life.

Matt has been with his grandparents for three years now and they do everything they can to provide a loving and supportive environment. Mirabel supports both Matt and his grandparents. He receives online tutoring via the Mirabel Online Learning Club, is a member of our southern boy's group and attends regular recreation activities and camps. His grandparents never miss a carer support group.

At a recent Mirabel camp Matt was asked to share his hopes and dreams for the future. He wrote "I wish for my mum to come out of jail and my dad to come back alive again". This is a sad reality not just for Matt but for many Mirabel kids.

In the car on the way home from camp Mirabel staff praised Matt on how brave he was for sharing over the weekend and giving everything a go. 'Mirabel is the only place I can talk about this stuff,' he said, 'Everyone just seems to understand.'

Mirabel provides advocacy, referral, research, practical and emotional assistance to the children and their kinship carers. We lead the way in providing a community response to these families and reducing the stigma and isolation they experience.



Teenagers on Snowy River

Fourteen young people aged 15-17 years recently took off on an eight-day Outward Bound adventure through the Snowy River National Park. After sleeping under bivvies by night and hiking, abseiling, orienteering and rafting through day they formed a greater understanding of their strengths and made strong friendships built on shared experiences along the way.

Feedback from Mirabel carers...

“Thanks to you and everyone at Mirabel for giving Liam the opportunity to attend the recent camp. I was slightly worried about Liam attending as he certainly would have been out of his comfort zone. He does have trouble keeping friends and it was special seeing all the smiling faces when picking Liam up. The other participants coming up and saying good bye to Liam and him responding back. I am sure he has gained some confidence. Thanks again. From our whole family.”

“Jasmine’s therapist has said of her progress, ‘The camp has done what eight months of therapy could have’. Jasmine was unsure about the camp at the beginning but then really embraced it and would go back if it was an option. She had high praise for the three of you, and was amazed that Jacko was ‘happy and full of energy, even in the mornings!’ Classic teenager.”

Falling asleep to the sound of a lion’s roar

On the second weekend in May eight excited girls and four Mirabel staff set off on an epic girls group adventure across the city of Melbourne. On Saturday they explored Scienceworks, played glow in the dark mini golf and enjoyed afternoon tea in the park looking out over the city skyline. They spent the night at Melbourne Zoo, falling asleep in tents to sounds of lions roaring and monkeys chattering. This once in a lifetime experience included a behind the scenes tour with the zookeepers, getting up close with elephants and orangutans and a visit to the butterfly house. This was a weekend of happy childhood memories that the girls will never forget.

Tutoring Program

Mirabel’s Online Learning Club (MOLC) continues to grow and expand with now over 40 young people attending one of the three tutoring sessions held each week. It has been wonderful to see the growing confidence of our young people and the relationships they are building with their tutors. It is testament to the program and to the tireless efforts of our volunteer tutors to whom we are so grateful. Thank you also to those who have donated to our Device Drive, providing iPads to young people across Victoria and NSW to aid in their online learning.



Starting Prep

Putting the ‘Fun’ in Fundraising

UnLtd Cup Soccer Tournament for Mirabel: After a three-year absence, the UnLtd Cup soccer tournament finally returned to Melbourne on 6 May with a bang! It was a cracking day with over 20 teams across the advertising industry kicking goals for good and raising funds and awareness for the Mirabel Foundation. UnLtd is a social purpose organisation connecting the media, marketing and creative industries with charities working with at-risk children and young people.

The wonderful **Mirabel Ladies Lunch** returned to Melbourne and Sydney earlier this year, along with the **‘Thanks A Million’ Grassroots Sports Club Lunch** and the **Crown Mother’s Day Lunch**. Thank you to everyone who attended and to the organising committees who do so much work preparing for these events. Your support is so greatly appreciated and these days wouldn’t happen without you.



Jacob Darkin & Jane Rowe

End of Financial Year

If you would like to make an EOFY donation to Mirabel you know we will put it to good use so please contact us at mirabel@mirabelfoundation.org.au or visit our [website](#).



Mirabel staff at the UnLtd Cup



Ladies Lunch Committee & Jane

Help support the Mirabel Foundation

Donate online at www.mirabelfoundation.org.au/donate

Your donation: \$30 \$55 \$95 \$150 Other: \$

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.
ABN 22 926 759 458

Payment by: Visa Mastercard AMEX Cheque – made payable to: The Mirabel Foundation Inc

Credit Card Number: Expiry: / CCV:

Name on card: Signature:

Your details: Mr Mrs Ms Miss Full name:

Address: Suburb: P/code:

Phone: Email: