

Damien danced for our kids

Barnardos Ambassador, Damien Leith danced his heart out and his feet off for 10 weeks on Dancing with the Stars making it through to the finale all in support of Barnardos.

“Family is the most important thing to me. My children and my wife are more important than my singing, than Dancing with the Stars, than any success or fame that I ever received – or could receive. None of these things matter at all in comparison to family. And that’s why I danced for Barnardos” says Damien.

Not only did Damien’s appearance on Dancing with the Stars raise funds for our work with Australian children and young people, it provided Barnardos with 10 weeks of prime time national television awareness to the Australian public – something money just can’t buy.

Barnardos kids, staff and supporters got behind Damien’s quest to win Dancing with the Stars all rallying with votes each week.

Thank you Damien for being not only “the nicest man in show business” as you were referred to on the show but also for being our Ambassador and believing in Barnardos.



Yurungai Dance are world class

Yurungai Dance are a group of kids who perform contemporary Indigenous dance and drama, combining modern Australian culture with traditional Aboriginal culture and dance.

Some members of the troupe attend Barnardos’ Yurungai Learning Centre which aims to improve the educational outcomes for kids in the Redfern and Waterloo areas of Sydney giving them better life choices by guiding their paths of education.

Barnardos’ learning centres provide after school education, homework assistance, attention to individual learning needs and a nutritious meal.

In June 2010 the group represented Australia at The 11th World Festival of Children’s Theatre in Lingin, Germany. They have recently returned from performing at the 7th International Ordu Youth and Children’s Theatre Festival in Turkey.

To follow Yurungai Dance visit their facebook page.

Laird made it!

Who is Laird Abernethy? He is an extraordinary individual, who believes in children and believes in Barnardos ability to change the lives of vulnerable children and young people.

The Gobi March is a 250-kilometre 7 day, 6-stage foot race. The course of the Gobi March takes competitors across a wide variety of terrains including dirt tracks, sand dunes, dry river beds, hills, villages and more. Over 140 individuals competed in the 2011 event and Laird who was participating and raising funds for Barnardos crossed the finish line in 20th position – well done Laird!

Laird’s original fundraising target was \$5,000. We are not only in awe of Laird’s physical achievements but the enormous contribution he has made to our welfare services and programs with his current fundraising exceeding \$11,000.

Laird has said of his decision to support Barnardos “After reading about the wonderful work Barnardos do, the decision to sponsor them as part of my Gobi campaign was a simple one. I am delighted that my family, friends and colleagues have also seen this and supported them so generously”

Laird is an inspiration to us all. Thank you Laird and thank you to all those who supported Laird.



News

Greeting cards that really make a difference

Many of our donors already extend their support of our work by purchasing their greeting cards from Cards4Kids. The Cards4Kids range is designed and produced exclusively for Barnardos and offers a quick and easy ordering process.

We have taken the opportunity to enclose the 2011 Cards4Kids catalogue and hope that our supporters choose to buy their greeting cards from Cards4Kids who are truly committed to raising funds to help Barnardos deliver our welfare programs. Please promote the Cards4Kids range to your family and friends. Visit www.cards4kids.com.au or telephone 02 9568 4848.

Barnardos recognises NAIDOC

NAIDOC Week is held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated, not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. NAIDOC originally stood for ‘National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee’ and was established formally in 1956.

Local community celebrations during NAIDOC Week are encouraged and often organised by communities, government agencies, local councils, schools and organisations like ours and many of our programs participated in local celebrations to recognise NAIDOC Week in July.

Interested in foster caring

Have you ever been interested in foster caring kids? We have Temporary Family Care (TFC) programs in Penrith, Auburn, the South Coast, Canberra and Sydney metro that are always looking for carers. Our TFC program in Auburn have created a great DVD that explains the role of foster carers and how to become an authorised carer with Barnardos. Visit our website www.barnardos.org.au and follow the YouTube link to watch the DVD or telephone 1800 061 000 for more information.

Star of Wonder Christmas Gift appeal

The financial support of our donors is invaluable and vital to our ability to provide the services and programs we do to over 6,000 children, young people and their families each year.

There are some special times each year where our supporters can extend their belief in our work and Christmas is one of those times. The Barnardos Star of Wonder Christmas Gift appeal enables the community to give a child or young person the opportunity of experiencing the joy of Christmas.

Visit www.barnardos.org.au to find out how you or your company can buy a gift or gift card and help a child smile this Christmas as part of the Barnardos Star of Wonder Gift appeal.

Stretching, training, running

Getting out and getting active for charity is now a big part of community fundraising and Barnardos is gaining great support from individuals who not only want to take part in the many community fundraising events available but who are encouraging their family, friends and colleagues to financially support their efforts and Barnardos as their chosen charity. Visit www.barnardos.org.au and head to our event section for more information.

Barnardos News

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Donate today. Call 1800 061 000 or go to www.barnardos.org.au

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Celebrating Sophia's birthday

Sophia's 16th birthday party is certainly a cause to celebrate. Her life has been turned around with the guidance and support of her long-term carer Dawn and respite carers Becky and James.

Sophia first came to Barnardos when she was nine-years-old after a horrific upbringing. She had been known to DoCS since birth after suffering severe neglect and sexual abuse. Both her parents were chronic drug addicts, leading a chaotic and criminal lifestyle. As a result Sophia displayed extremely aggressive behaviour towards anyone she perceived to be in authority, self-harmed, lied and stole.

During a period of 10 months, Sophia and her brother Reece had seven different placements. The damage done to children who experience so much trauma and instability so early in life can be irreparable. Our Find-a-Family team found her a stable permanent home with Barnardos carer, Dawn. For a long time Sophia struggled to cope and needed significant support from Barnardos and Dawn to enable her to develop into a more confident and secure young person.

When Barnardos decided to separate Sophia and her brother, Sophia felt guilty but also relieved. While living with their parents, she had taken on a parental role as Reece's protector. The lifting of this burden allowed Sophia a catalyst for change and Reece his chance to grow independently. Reece, now 11, has formed a bond with his carers. He and Sophia are closer than ever. The two speak every night on the phone and spend time together most weekends.

Under the care of Dawn, and with extra tutoring Sophia has managed to pass Year 10 and is looking forward to completing her HSC. Barnardos are now working closely with Dawn and Sophia to start implementing a plan for the next stage of Sophia's life, when she turns 18 and leaves care.

Barnardos have provided Dawn and Sophia with guidance and supervision to plan and prepare a pathway for Sophia's future. The plan sets out what help and support are needed including finances, employment, accommodation and the importance of continuing counselling.

Recently Sophia attended a weekend away with a group of other young people who are in Barnardos permanent care. The group had to take responsibility for booking accommodation, planning meals, organising activities and working together as a team towards the success of the weekend. Sophia has struggled with socialising in the past, but during this weekend formed strong bonds with a couple of the other young people and the pictures she took were used in a presentation the group made to their case managers.

Respite foster carers, Becky and James, have played a pivotal role in getting Sophia to where she is today. Being a photographer herself, Becky has inspired Sophia to explore a career in the same field. It was on one of her weekends away with Becky and James that Sophia discovered she had a great talent for photography and now spends many hours quizzing Becky about cameras and different photography techniques. She hopes to go on to study photography at TAFE.

Sophia now has a wonderful group of girlfriends who are coming over to Dawn's to help celebrate her 16th birthday. Although there are still some challenges that lie ahead for Sophia in making the transition to adulthood, Dawn, Becky and James, are all proud of what Sophia has achieved to date. With the assistance of the team at Barnardos they are looking forward to watching her grow into a confident young woman, and continuing to play a role in her life for as long as she needs them.

Is it possible to make friends when you've only known ENEMIES? We believe it is.



Eight-year-old Gemma has been known to DoCS since very early on in her life after being born to a young mother, Crystal, whose issues with drugs and alcohol, at times, raged out of control.

Crystal, whose living situation included a mix of homeless shelters, squatting and couch surfing had fallen pregnant at 20 but did not know who Gemma's father was.

Long estranged from the rest of her family after running away from home at 16, Crystal had escaped an abusive, alcoholic step-father who had left her with deep emotional and physical scars which she dealt with by using a concoction of drugs and alcohol. Out of fear of her step-father, she never attempted to reunite with her mother after the birth of Gemma.

When Gemma, at two-years of age, was found wandering around the caravan park where she lived with her mum, who at the time, was too affected by drugs to know where her little girl was neighbours contacted DoCS. With no known immediate family Gemma was placed with a Barnardos temporary foster carer, Kelly who quickly realised the little girl was malnourished. Having spent most of her life with only her mum Gemma was terrified and withdrawn.

Gemma's grandmother Cheryl was located by authorities and didn't even know she had a granddaughter. Cheryl had left her abusive partner some time ago and whilst she had tried many times, had not been able to locate her daughter.

Gemma, who had been constantly left alone, bonded quickly with her grandmother. Although Cheryl had endured her own battle with alcohol, she had overcome her addiction many years ago and was now in a position to provide Gemma with a stable environment where she would feel wanted. Gemma was now receiving a nutritious diet, regular bath times and being read to at bed time.

Barnardos provided support and assistance to Gemma and her grandmother whilst Gemma's mum remained in rehabilitation. When she turned four, Cheryl put on Gemma's first ever birthday party, decorating the house and baking a cake. Gemma had

Is it possible to feel wanted, when all you REMEMBER is being alone? We believe it is.

never seemed happier. For the first time in her life this little girl wasn't alone.

In a few short weeks Gemma's world turned upside down, again. When Gemma was heard crying by neighbours they rushed over to find Cheryl passed out on the floor. Cheryl was admitted to hospital where doctors found she had suffered a stroke. Incapacitated she could no longer care for Gemma.

Gemma was again placed with a Barnardos temporary carer. During her time with her grandmother Gemma had met her 76-year-old great grandmother. Whilst it was going to be difficult, Lynne knew her great granddaughter needed her. She was now the only family who could provide Gemma with a loving home and sense of belonging the little girl needed.

Gemma now eight, has started school and has no trouble making friends. She loves her regular visits to her grandmother in the nursing home she now lives in after her stroke.

The grief Gemma experienced in her young life severely impacted on her relationship with her great grandmother. Gemma took a long time to bond with her great grandmother, fearful that she would lose her as well. Our worker has assisted to widen Gemma's support network to her extended family and her community. We are seeing improvements in the little girl's development and she is growing more confident day by day.

There is still a long way to go for little Gemma, but with Barnardos on-going support we believe she will never feel alone again.

Every year 32,000 children in Australia are found to have been abused or neglected. That's nearly 100 children a day, every day of the year. *

* Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009. Child Protection Australia 2007-2008.

Implementing real change for NSW children

Our ongoing commitment to advocating for children and young people remains a priority in all that we do.

In the lead up to the NSW state elections in March, 2011 we were heavily involved in campaigning for the NSW government to implement the changes recommended by the Special Commission Inquiry into Child Protection Services in New South Wales, headed by Justice James Wood AO QC which was published in 2009.

Many of our supporters will be pleased to learn that Barnardos is actively working with the NSW Department of Families and Community Services (FaCS) as they commence the planning and implementation of these recommendations.

We are now working alongside FaCS through this transition period, identifying how we can assist the process, how our expertise and knowledge can

Service expansion in areas of greatest need

In March 2011, the NSW Health Department announced as part of *Keep Them Safe* initiative Barnardos would operate a new Family Referral Service in the Illawarra region of NSW.

Family Referral Services are a key part of *Keep Them Safe*, the Government's \$750 million five-year plan to improve the wellbeing of children, young people and families, developed in response to the Wood Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW.

Helping local families and improving the safety, health and welfare of their children the Illawarra Family Referral Service (IFRS) will provide services to both the agencies supporting families in need, and directly to families. The IFRS intent is to prevent difficult situations a child, young person or family may be experiencing from escalating to a crisis where a statutory response from the child protection system may be required.

Making the announcement in March, Member for Wollongong, Noreen Hay welcomed the establishment of the service in Wollongong.

"The role of Family Referral Services is to connect families to services in their local area. They support families who make direct contact asking for help and

ensure the best possible results for children and young people.

In the past we have campaigned to our supporters and the public to join with us in advocating for real and permanent change for children.

It is this commitment and the united voice of our supporters that has contributed significantly to our ability to find forever families through adoption for children in our permanency programs.

Not only have our supporters helped provide a chance at a normal life for these children they have contributed to considerable financial savings to public expenditure.

Independent actuary advice based on Barnardos data shows that when a child comes in to our permanency program age 3 there is a 60% chance of the child being adopted.

they will also support families who have been referred by others in the community such as schools, hospitals and childcare facilities," she said.

With workers based in Wollongong, Nowra and Bowral the service provides both a telephone support for straightforward referrals and face-to-face support within the community.

With Aboriginal children over-represented in the child protection system, the referral service has ensured indigenous workers are employed so that Aboriginal children and families will have access to culturally appropriate services in response to their specific needs. Barnardos' own funds will contribute to additional services.

Barnardos' corporate plan defines the results we seek for Australian families. We strive to ensure that services provided to disadvantaged children give them the best possible chance in life and we do this by involving ourselves in active partnerships with communities, governments and other agencies. Working in these active partnerships also ensures our donor's dollars go further.