

Telethon Speech & Hearing

Parentlink

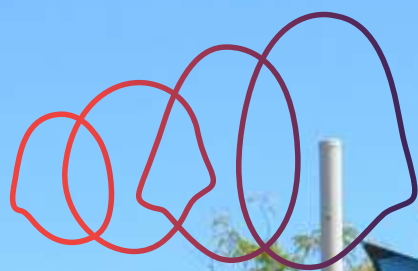
Linking parents & families to news at Telethon Speech & Hearing



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ MEET OUR GET LOUD! AMBASSADORS
- ▶ CONSTRUCTION AT TSH
- ▶ LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM WITH SSEN-S
- ▶ ARTITUDE AMPLIFIED HIGHLIGHTS
- ▶ OUR WORK IN THE PILBARA
- ▶ HBF RUN RESULTS
- ▶ GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM

ISSUE 29 | TERM 2, 2018



Telethon Speech & Hearing

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 03** Dates for your diary
- 04** Message from the CEO
- 05** Construction works at TSH
Lighthouse Program with SSEN-S
- 06** Dockers Family Fun Day
- 08** Get to know our team - Michelle
- 09** Meningococcal catch-up vaccine
Have your say on hearing loss
- 10** Get LOUD! - Meet Leo & Gus
- 12** The Art of Noise *(West Weekend Feature)*
- 16** Talkabout 5 Enrolments
- 17** Get to know our team - Julie
- 18** Our work in the Pilbara
- 19** Outpost Scholarships
- 20** Artitude Amplified Highlights
- 21** Outpost: Courage Award
- 22** Julie's Book Corner
HBF Run results

CONTACT US

Telethon Speech & Hearing Ltd
ABN 73 885 107 614
Registered Charity No:17993
Deductible Gift Recipient

36 Dodd Street, Wembley WA 6014
PO Box 186, Wembley WA 6913

T: +61 8 9387 9804
F: +61 8 9387 9889
E: speech@tsh.org.au

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30 APR	Start of Term 2
04 JUN	WA Day (PH)
16 JUN	Artitude Amplified
29 JUN	End of Term 2
16 JUL	Start of Term 3
17 AUG	POS Rehearsal
18 AUG	Power of Speech (POS)
04 SEP	Dad's Night
21 SEP	End of Term 3

FROM OUR SCHOOL

Eli Yew from Chatterbox Friday's group...This family borrows HEAPS of books and are my best library users... Eli is showing the library so not just books and loves playing with the puzzles sitting in the new quite corner in the library.








ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

**CONNECT WITH US TO RECEIVE
THE LATEST NEWS
& UPDATES AT TSH**

TSH frequently posts updates and news about all of our programs online.



Please **FOLLOW** or **LIKE** our accounts to make sure you're receiving the latest news from us!

   @telethonspeechhearing
 company/telethonspeechhearing
 @_SpeechHearing





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

MARK FITZPATRICK

It is hard to believe that we are at the halfway point of the year again, and what a busy few months it has been. As we head into the mid-year break it is really important that we reflect on some of the successes we have had so far this year and look forward to what is going to be an exciting second half of 2018.

Every day I am at TSH I have the joy of walking through our Wembley campus and interact with a number of the children and parents who access our services.

It is wonderful to see the growth and development of these children throughout the term. You can really see the children's confidence grow along with their skills in a range of areas.

DOCKERS FAMILY FUN DAY

It was really pleasing for us to provide access to some of the Dockers players earlier in the term. It was a wonderful event that saw families from our Chatterbox, Talkabout and Outpost programs come together in an environment where the children had fun and mixed with members of the Dockers team and support staff. We are very fortunate to be one of the Dockers' charity partners for 2018 and the TSH team is glad that we were able to help create some joy for the children and their families. It certainly created a real buzz for all who attended.

RUN FOR A REASON

There is not a day goes by that I am not impressed by the families at TSH. This time it was a group of the mums in our Chatterbox program. Along with all of the challenges that supporting young children with hearing loss brings, we had a group of mums organise to do the HBF Run for a Reason. We had a mix of mums and staff ran the 4km, 12km and even the 21km course (well

done Zita and Melissa!!). The mums were able to raise over \$14,000 towards resources for their program. Congratulations to all involved – you are inspirational.

ARTITUDE

Saturday, 16 June 2018 saw our Artitude Amplified event held at Crown. It was a great event that saw around 300 people hear about the work that TSH does with so many families. While it was nice for the Disability Minister, Hon Stephen Dawson, the most powerful and moving part of the night was when we hear the story of Lylah, told by her mum, Carissa. It was a wonderful illustration of what so many parents go through with a child with a hearing loss. It spoke volumes for our families and the support they get from our team. Everyone in the room was moved. Thank you Carissa for sharing your story.

LOOKING FORWARD TO TERM 3

If we thought the first half of the year was busy, we are ramping it up a notch for the remainder of the year. At the start of Term 3 we will be running a full-day program for our four-year-olds in Chatterbox (for the first time). We will also be launching our Get LOUD! campaign for 2018 (visit tsh.org.au/get-loud for more information) and we will be continuing with our support and advocacy for families seeking to access the NDIS.

With all of this work happening I have no doubt that Term 3 will be a busy and rewarding one. Until then I wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday and look forward to seeing you back in July.



WE'RE WORKING ON A FEW THINGS

CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT TSH



For those families who have walked through our centre, you may have noticed a few changes going on.

We're working on a few updates to our centre including a new outdoor mud kitchen in our playground area!

If you have any questions about the construction work going on at TSH, please get in contact with us.

We're excited to reveal all new changes that are happening soon!



LIGHT-HOUSE PROGRAM

LEARNING, BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS & HAVING FUN

This year we started on an exciting new collaboration with the team from SSEN-S (School of Special Educational Needs – Sensory) providing full-day programs for children across both TSH and SSEN-S.

This gave children from both schools of learning an opportunity to all come together and spend a day making new friendships, building new connections and having some fun!

This year the Pre-Primary and Year 5/6 days have been held here at TSH.

For more information on this program and how to get involved, please contact speech@tsh.org.au or call 9387 9888.



DOCKERS FAMILY FUN DAY

#FOREVERFREO!

On May 24, we had a Family Fun Day with the Fremantle Dockers.

Over 90 families joined **AFL stars Darcy Tucker, Brady Grey and Lisa Webb** for a kick around with the footy.

TSH was able to hold this special fun day for families thanks to our partnership with the **Fremantle Dockers Foundation**.

Our playground in Wembley was filled with smiling children who had a blast jumping up and down on a large bouncy castle, kicking footballs through inflatable goals, and having posters signed by all three players. A surprise appearance by the **Shelford Homes** Bear also gave our children lots to laugh and smile about.

Thank you to **Eurostyle Smallgoods** and **Lawleys Bakery Cafe** who provided sausages and breadrolls for all families to enjoy.

Our families received an extra treat as the Dockers gave away free tickets to the *Fremantle v North Melbourne* game at Optus Stadium on May 26!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for a fantastic afternoon!





GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM PT. 3

MICHELLE JAMIESON, FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER

With a multi-disciplinary team, there are many specialists and team members involved in making sure your child develops and grows in a thriving environment.

Here is some insight from Michelle, our Family Liaison Officer around her role at TSH:

MY ROLE AT TSH

My role is to support families on their journey whilst at TSH and beyond. This includes admin support, sourcing information, guiding families and a listening ear on the good and on the hard days.

THE MOST COMMON QUESTION I GET ASKED IS...

I don't know where to start???

SOMETHING I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2018

I am always looking at ways to support the families more. I also look forward to every term seeing the progress in children and seeing families relax and as they feel more supported and comfortable with their journey.

IN MY WORK, I'M MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT...

I am very passionate about supporting and advocating for parents. (just ask my boss I am always advocating for families)

I understand how hard the journey can be and I am very passionate about making it as easy and accessible as possible. I feel honoured to be able to share in the families' journey's. I am so lucky to have a job I am so passionate about.

MY FAVOURITE WORD IS...

That's hard I have a lot of favourite words but I would have to say HAPPY/HAPPINESS.

I use this word a lot "Happy Friday" etc and I think by even saying it makes you feel happy. Happiness comes from within. You have to learn how to tame negative thoughts and approach every day with optimism.

Behavioral scientists have spent a lot of time studying what makes us happy (and what doesn't). We know happiness can predict health and longevity. But happiness isn't something that just happens to you. Everyone has the power to make small changes in our behavior, our surroundings and our relationships that can help set us on course for a happier life.

Want to learn more about other TSH staff? View **page 17** or past editions of Parentlink online: www.tsh.org.au/about/publications.



MICHELLE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS WHO WANT TO...

SOCIALISE

The **family room** is a lovely place to socialise. I often see parents enjoying a cuppa together after drop off. I also love seeing parents networking and supporting each other. The playground is also a good place to socialise with other parents. And of course our parent evenings are a wonderful time to chat to other parents.

HAVE QUIET TIME

The **family room** is also a nice place to go for some quiet time between sessions where parents can get a cuppa and children get to play.

ASK FOR ADVICE

My office! My door is always open for families to pop in and ask questions or just to chat something over. If I don't know the answer I know who to get the answer from and will get back to them. I always have tissues and chocolates!!!



KEEPING YOUR CHILD HEALTHY

FREE MENINGOCOCCAL CATCH-UP VACCINE FOR CHILDREN AGED 12 MONTHS TO 5 YEARS

On 23 January 2018, WA Health introduced a program to provide free meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) catch-up vaccine for all children aged 12 months to less than 5 years.

This MenACWY vaccination program was initiated because of the rising number of meningococcal infections in WA and last year children in this age group had more than twice the number of meningococcal infections compared to any other age group.

Parents of age-eligible children should not delay because the WA catch-up vaccination program is time limited and will end on 31 Dec 2018.

MenACWY vaccines are safe to administer at the same time as other scheduled childhood vaccines and are available through their child's regular immunisation provider.

Please make sure your child(ren) don't miss out on this important



opportunity to be protected from invasive meningococcal disease.

TSH advises that all parents seek appropriate medical advice from their GP or doctor before having their child vaccinated.

For vaccination information you can contact your local immunisation provider or public health unit.

To learn more about where to get immunized, visit www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/immunisation.

HAVE YOUR SAY

INVITATION TO RESEARCH ON SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS AND NDIS

TSH is supporting a research project conducted by Dr Kerry Dally, Dr Jill Duncan and Megan Barr (School of Education, the University of Newcastle).

The researchers would like to hear about the services children with hearing loss are able to access all across Australia and families and professionals' thoughts about the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

We think this topic is important, and have invited parents or caregivers of 0-12 year old children who are enrolled with the TSH Chatterbox or Outpost programs to consider taking part in a survey via email and post.

To start the survey, click:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BQ9RWGD>

To watch a 90 second Youtube video to find out more about this study, click:
<https://youtu.be/hmTicuzbvRQ>

If you have any queries, please contact Yuriko, Research Coordinator at Telethon Speech & Hearing (08 9387 9862; ykishida@tsh.org.au).

The survey will close on 31st August 2018.



HELP GET LOUD!

WILL YOU HELP OUR 2018 AMBASSADORS, LEO & GUS?

Meet **Leo Ellis**, a happy and energetic child who has been with Telethon Speech & Hearing since 2017. Enrolled in our Chatterbox Program, mum Natalie first had concerns about her son's hearing when he was around nine months of age.

"Leo would never startle to loud noises like other babies his age," Natalie said.

"He was very much in his own world and not too interested (or not noticing) what was going on around him."

One year since joining the Chatterbox Program at TSH however, Leo's parents have noticed a dramatic improvement in their son's development both at school and within their family home.

"Leo is a completely different child since starting TSH," Natalie said.

"When we first started, Leo didn't know how to listen and couldn't understand much at all, so his behaviour was a real struggle.

"One year on and his listening skills are amazing. His speech is going from strength to strength and he is following instructions and joining in with his peers, which is really lovely to see."

"Since we have joined TSH a weight has been lifted off my shoulders knowing that we are getting the best help available."



**REGISTER FOR
#GETLOUD ONLINE:**

TSH.ORG.AU/GET-LOUD

OR EMAIL

GETLOUD@TSH.ORG.AU

Angus 'Gus' Kerns first arrived at Telethon Speech & Hearing when he was just three years old. Enrolled in our Talkabout program, Gus joined TSH after his parents were made aware that their normally happy, passionate child was unable to verbally communicate at a similar level to his peers.

"Gus was frequently frustrated by this which we noticed had some impact on his ability to regulate his emotions," said mum Stephanie.

Twenty months on, with the support of staff at TSH and Gus' participation in the Talkabout Program, parents Stephanie and Mark have noticed a huge improvement in their son's speech, communication and behavioural skills.

"Mark and I are both physiotherapists and understand the importance of early intervention when it comes to the treatment of medical and physical conditions," said Stephanie.

"[TSH] recognises the challenges families face when supporting and educating a child with delays in development."

"There is no price you can put on giving your child the opportunity to be the best he or she could be. We are grateful TSH has given Gus this opportunity."



Parents Mark and Stephanie



Gus in the classroom



Ideas

Funds raised will support children and families at



Telethon Speech & Hearing

Get LOUD! Day

Hold a Get LOUD! day in your school and encourage children to wear their loudest shirts, socks or hats! Ask participants to bring along a gold coin donation to the event.



MUSIC & SOUNDS

Hold a music class and let students play on the instruments to make noise as loud as their shirts!



FRUIT DAY or BAKE OFF

Ask people to bring in delicious fruit or baked goods to sell. Invite everyone for a healthy morning tea or lunch, with a donation to join in.



5 SENSES

Create a lesson plan around the 'Sense of Hearing'. Ask children to name parts of the ear or build a science project related to sounds.



COLOURING IN COMPETITION

Let children colour in T-shirts as bright and colourful as their imagination allows. Have a vote in the classroom to pick the Top 3 designs!



BOOK CLUB

Gather together a collection of books around hearing or that promote good literacy. Visit the Get LOUD! website for a recommended book list!



FAVOURITE SOUND/WORD

Ask students to draw their favourite sound or word. Display their colourful creations around your classroom or school!



HAMPER RAFFLE

Collect items for a hamper or two, then sell raffle tickets to students, families, friends and the community.



More ideas and inspiration at www.tsh.org.au/get-loud | #getloud

Get LOUD!

TO HELP KIDS HEAR & SPEAK



WORDS KATHERINE FLEMING
PICTURES IAIN GILLESPIE

What if your child can't hear or speak clearly? We visit the clinic helping young people build a brighter future — one word at a time.

When Bridget Gilmour stands up in front of her photography class at university to do a presentation, she is reminded of a time when such a thing would have seemed impossible.

When Bridget was three, her mother Siobhan became concerned her speech wasn't progressing. They bounced between specialists, including a developmental paediatrician and speech pathologists, who offered possible explanations, including that perhaps her little girl was autistic.

Finally, they found the problem – while the clever toddler was obscuring it by reading situations and responding accordingly, Bridget couldn't hear.

The diagnosis of moderate to severe hearing loss was a frightening one, full of uncertainty about her future and how best to help her. Bridget received hearing aids and the family was referred to a then-small operation in Wembley, sandwiched between picturesque Lake Monger and bustling local primary schools.

There, at what was then called The Speech and Hearing Centre for Children, Bridget started kindergarten, with five deaf children and several kids with no hearing problems. She received intensive, individual help from specialist teachers, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, psychologists and mentors. By Year 1, even though she was shy, Bridget started in the public speaking program.

"I hated it at the time but it has really helped me with things like presenting in class," the now 21-year-old student says. "It just means I know I can do it. It doesn't make it less nerve-racking but it boosted my confidence hugely."

Since then, Bridget has been the 2007 Telethon child, participating in interviews and television

Talking tough
Bridget Gilmour
is now an
accomplished
public speaker.



THE ART OF NOISE

broadcasts, spoken at Parliament House and been an MC at a speech competition.

Today, on the same site where Bridget learnt so much, sits Telethon Speech & Hearing. From humble beginnings as a five-student school started by parents of profoundly deaf children, it now helps about 1500 kids a year, including through school programs (involving 61 students), occupational therapy, audiology services and speech pathology.

Along with Talkabout classes at the centre for kids under five, TSH has outreach programs in nine Catholic and independent primary and high schools, providing specialist teachers of the deaf, note-takers, assistants and health workers to help hearing impaired children in mainstream classrooms.

Its regional ear-health program, supported by Chevron, sends specialists to far flung communities such as Tom Price, reducing the prevalence of otitis media, or glue ear, in children under seven from 51 per cent in 2011 to 33 per cent in 2016.

But despite this expansion in services, the centre's core is still centred around the "tenacious" spirit and values of its founding families – early detection, including hearing-impaired children in mainstream education, using the latest hearing technology and qualified specialists, involving parents at every level, and focusing on developing spoken language.

Chief executive Mark Fitzpatrick (who, incidentally, lost the hearing in his right ear after a fall from a pergola at nine) says the integrated model is unique in Australia and vital to looking at a child's needs – and that of their family – as a whole.

"We focus on helping children with hearing impairments learn to speak early in life, then we support their learning through partnerships in schools," he says. "We also support children with delays in their speech and language development, which is a lot more common than people think."

"And we need to support parents because they are the ones who do the heavy lifting. We can provide help and reassurance that everything is going to be OK, that we will find a way through."

"I put myself into the shoes of those parents, who have the most wonderful day of their lives having a child then find out something is wrong. The emotive side of that, for parents, is massive."

For Bridget and Siobhan, who had already been through the amputation of Bridget's right leg when she was one as a result of a hereditary condition, it was a godsend to not have to navigate the health system alone when it came to her hearing loss.

"Getting all your help in one place was huge," Siobhan says. "With the prosthetic leg, you're chasing up physiotherapists and other places and while everyone is helpful, there is no one place for all of it, to help you or make sure you are doing the right thing."

"The best thing about this place was when you had a problem, you could come here and they would give you guidance on what to do or where to go. Without that, I would have been floundering. I'm sure we would have sorted it out but it would have been much more stressful ..."

"They made the point of saying that they were there to help the parents as much as, if not more, than the kids because they only see the kids for half an hour a day, whereas you have them for the other 23.5 hours, so you have to be on top of the equipment, of teaching them, of going over all these things. At first you just don't know what to do – should she learn sign language, which they don't do here at all? That's controversial to some people."

"People hear about the prosthetic leg and think 'Oh my God', but in reality, that's nothing compared to the hearing impairment. There are physical things to sort out but once it's done, it's done. The hearing loss impacts on education, social life, confidence, so many different things."

"It took a long time to realise everything was going to be OK. When you don't know anyone with hearing loss, it's an unknown journey, and no one is the same so it's not like you can find someone else with hearing loss and think: 'That's what the outcome is going to be like.'"

Bridget thrived at the centre and then at a school with a TSH outreach program, with help from expert teachers and equipment, including a radio system to help her hear the lessons. In high school, she had note-takers for whichever subjects she needed (it is often extremely difficult for hearing impaired students to focus on the lesson and take notes at the same time).

For Bridget, it was just part of her reality. "It was just normal, it wasn't like 'Oh you're deaf'. Because it was mixed with mainstream schools and students, you learnt how to live and work with hearing people, so it was good in that sense ... They made us talk to teachers so you learnt to do things for yourself, so that helped me to be independent and not to rely on other people so much."

At 12, Bridget was offered a cochlear implant, a device that bypasses the damaged parts of the inner ear by electrically stimulating the hearing nerve, sending a signal to the brain where it is interpreted as sound.

It took her six months to decide she wanted to go ahead – there was a chance that the implant would make things sound different and she was terrified she might lose the familiar sounds of loved ones' voices and music (she played violin in the school orchestra –

"amazing, when you consider she couldn't hear some of the sounds she was making", Siobhan points out).

After a five-hour operation under general anaesthetic to implant part of the unit inside her

skull, the outside portion was attached via magnet and turned on.

"It changed my life," Bridget says. "(The sound) turned out to be perfectly fine, even better. When I first got it, I could hear footsteps, keys in the lock, keys jangling, everything seemed so loud. But it was still the best decision ever." She still attends TSH for regular audiology appointments to fine-tune the implant.

But while advances in hearing devices have changed many lives, Mark says there are limitations if they not accompanied by other speech therapy.

"The challenge at the moment is technology is great in providing devices that support hearing but they don't replicate normal hearing and they also don't help with how kids mimic speech and language behaviour," he says.

"We are seeing kids who might have had devices early, who are now three or four years old, about to go off to school with a delay in their language skills. If we can get those kids and support them and their »

*I could hear
footsteps, keys
in the lock ...*



« families from day dot, we know we have great success in preparing them for the future.”

While about one in 1000 children is born with hearing loss and the prevalence of deafness roughly doubles by the time they reach school age, Mark says research shows up to a quarter of children experience delays in speech or language development. The pathways to help can be difficult to navigate and misdiagnoses are common.

“We had a kid here who started with us at three years old and couldn’t say his name,” Mark recalls. “His mum is a teacher and his dad is a policeman – a wonderful family. He had been diagnosed as autistic but he wasn’t. The team here was able to help unlock the language barriers for him and he is now in Year 1, doing brilliantly.

“I’m not having a go at GPs at all, they are busy enough as it is. But when parents think “That doesn’t

Little star
Claudia Bertorello-Kell says Allegra has come a long way.

seem right’, by the time you go to a doctor or a developmental paediatrician, if you can get into one, and get referred to a speech pathologist, you see there are more than 500 of them registered, so how do you know which ones are good and which ones aren’t? And if you are paying \$150 to \$200 a session, it becomes expensive very quickly. Here we can integrate that with the classroom, have briefings for parents, individual plans for the kids, so by the time they get to school, they are pretty well prepared.”

But Mark says early and intensive intervention is not always well catered for by the National Disability Insurance Scheme – a source of obvious frustration, even though TSH is a registered NDIS provider.

“If you have a loved one with an acquired brain injury, maybe they were in a car accident, where there might be some progress but that intensive care is needed all the time, the NDIS is good at that,” he

‘To hear Allegra read is such a joy ... to have her be capable of that.’

says. “We provide a service where, if we are successful, the needs for that child as they grow will be less; early intervention is not funded well under the NDIS.”

•••••

Claudia Bertorello-Kell first noticed her daughter Allegra’s speech was delayed when she was about two. There were no issues with her hearing, so they began seeing a speech therapist. When progress was too slow and the therapist suggested Allegra needed the specialist attention that TSH could provide, Claudia remembers feeling “shocked”.

“Certainly when I was growing up, that was really for the severely affected children,” Claudia says. “But now we know there are lots of different kids on that range of developmental needs ... I think it was because we didn’t know where she sat on the spectrum and really, as a parent, you just want to hear that your kid is normal and everything is fine.”

But in the end, it was “nothing but a positive experience for us”. Allegra, one of the youngest in her Year 2 class, now reads at her age level and is keeping up with her classmates, thanks to teachers both at TSH and her school. She still sits at the front of the classroom and needs help with reading and maths but it’s more progress than Claudia had dared hope for.

“It took some time and obviously every child is different and develops at their own pace but the approach the teachers (at TSH) use is very one-on-one and I think that’s what made the difference,” she says.

“While Allegra didn’t have severe issues, she would have gotten lost in a big classroom and the reality is that most classrooms now have 28 kids-plus. In pre primary, she attended mainstream school most of the week, then had that concentrated approach at Telethon a couple of days a week. The classes were small and really focused so she was being heard and she was listening and really able to focus on her speech development.

“To be honest, it all worked a lot better than I thought it would. You can overthink these things – I wondered if she would be ostracised. But she seemed to feel special in a good way. Early intervention was so important and now, to hear Allegra read is such a joy. I think, as a journo who loves to read, I just always assumed my children would love it too, but to have her be capable of that, whether or not she embraces it, we all want to give our children the best start.”

On June 16, the former television journalist will MC Artitude Amplified, Telethon Speech & Hearing’s major fundraiser. The lavish cocktail event exhibits and sells rarely seen work from leading international and national artists, as well as showcasing emerging local artists.

This year, the high-end “Museum Collection”, curated by Paul Gullotti of Gullotti Galleries, is headlined by Mr Brainwash, a provocative street artist. The New Works, New Faces exhibition features local street artist Drew Straker and other urban artists, plus pieces from WA students.

Claudia says hosting the event and sharing her family’s story was part of saying thank you to the place that helped them so much.

“It’s not until you go somewhere like Telethon

Speech & Hearing that you realise the intricacies of speech and all the small pieces of the puzzle that need to be in place for it to work," Claudia says. "A problem that a lot of parents have is that we just don't know what to do. You can google something but that's not the same as being told these exercises are helpful or these are the sorts of things that help encourage the pieces to connect. We weren't severely affected but I can only imagine how grateful those parents are because I know how grateful we are."

For Mark, the impact TSH can have was demonstrated at an event last year, when he ran into an acquaintance he hadn't seen since his appointment as chief executive.

"I asked how she was going and she told me about her daughter, who is 12 now and doing really well at school, she's a deputy prefect," he remembers. "I said 'That's great', and then she just started crying. It turns out her daughter had been to TSH when she was five, so seven years earlier, but her mum was still brought to tears. I think that shows that getting the support they need is a massive relief, a massive burden on them that is lifted."

For all the work it does, Mark says he knows there are still people in need who fall through the cracks. With often long waiting lists in the public sector, he believes private providers like Telethon Speech & Hearing have an important role to play.



"Our message to the community is largely that if you have a concern, give us a call," he says. "We can work out if one of our programs can help you or not and if not, we will help you find one that does. We can work out the problem and tailor an approach to help."

"No parent with any form of challenge for their child wants to be in that situation. We are trying to raise awareness and remove barriers that people might have in talking to us."

"If you have a newborn who has a problem identified through the hearing test, the next step is to go to Australian Hearing and get support, but what

happens after that? What choices do I make as a parent? Do I want my child to learn to speak? Do I want them to learn sign language? That system is not easy to navigate and it's a hell of a lot harder again if there is a speech or language delay. We are just trying to cut through the noise, pardon the pun, and make access easier for people." www.9news.com.au

Sounding off
TSH chief executive Mark Fitzpatrick wants the organisation to reach more families.

Telethon Speech & Hearing's fundraising event, Artitude Amplified, is on June 16 at Crown Perth. Tickets \$185, via tsh.org.au/event/artitude-amplified.

© WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS LIMITED. Republished with permission.



HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS OR WHAT WE DO AT TSH?

Send an email to speech@tsh.org.au or call 9387 9888. Our friendly staff would love to have a chat with you!

HOW ARE WE DOING?

It's important for us to know how we are doing to meet your needs. Please leave a review of TSH online.

Your review will help ensure that **all** our programs continue to run for children and families who need our support.

Search "Telethon Speech & Hearing" on Facebook or Google/Bing and click "**Write a review**". Thank you!





Telethon Speech & Hearing



Talkabout 5 Program

Telethon Speech & Hearing's Talkabout Program is a specialised language school; it's Talkabout 5 class aims to support Pre Primary students who:

- Have difficulty following instructions in class and learning new concepts
- Have difficulty using language in play, to share their ideas, and in more formal learning (e.g. sharing "news")
- Have difficulty developing phonological awareness skills, letter sound identification, and other early literacy skills.

Pre Primary students attend Talkabout 5 for 2 days each week, alongside their mainstream Pre Primary for the remainder of the week.

The language program is developed and delivered by a team of specialists including: Specialist teacher, Education assistant, Speech pathologist, Occupational therapist and Psychologist.

Places are available now for our mid-year intake. For more information please contact **Michelle Jamieson**, mjamieson@tsh.org.au.

To ensure all children have the opportunity to attend the Talkabout program, fee relief is available for eligible families.



Learn more about us: tsh.org.au

    @telethonspeechhearing

GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM PT. 4

JULIE COX, SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

With a multi-disciplinary team, there are many specialists and team members involved in making sure your child develops and grows in a thriving environment.

Here is some insight from Julie, our school librarian, around her special role at TSH:

MY ROLE AT TSH

I am the librarian. I look after all the resources for TSH and love watching your child's face when we read books together 😊

SOMETHING I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2018

I read every children's book that I catalogued and find additional ways to use these titles... our Speech Pathologists and Auditory Verbal Specialists need to find books quickly that supports their roles. Books with conjunctions, pronouns or books that concentrate on particular sounds. Using props to help tell the stories also extends the life of the book and your children will love them even more because it's FUN!

WHAT ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE AT TSH ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I'm passionate about many things however, passing my knowledge on to teachers/specialists/parents and most of all your children. Recognising good books, what

works and what doesn't. Helping your child speak! Most of all giving our children the "Library Experience" and a LOVE of books ❤️

A HIDDEN PART OF THE LIBRARY THAT NOT MANY PARENTS KNOW ABOUT IS

The blank questions are designed to read a book together (the same title a few times a week) ask appropriate questions to help with your child's comprehension and follow your child's lead. Full instructions are given and great way for Dad's to help and feel a part in their child's journey.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SOUND/WORD?

I love the sound of the waves (when I can hear them!) I also love the words "See you later, Alligator", Chop Chop Lollypop!, Out the door dinosaurs! The Talkabout 5 children know why... 😊



TSH's library is open to all children and families.



It is a fantastic resource for those seeking books for their children to practice their reading skills, or parents looking for more information about their child's development.

Julie is available to help during 8:45am to 3:15pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Julie dressed as 'Cat in the Hat' during Book Week!





OUR WORK IN THE PILBARA

HELPING PILBARA CHILDREN OVERCOME CHRONIC EAR PROBLEMS

Hearing difficulties are one of the biggest health problems in the Pilbara.

Aboriginal children have the highest rates of otitis media — middle ear infection — in the world, according to the World Health Organisation.

Since the Chevron Ear Health program started in 2011, hundreds of children have been tested — and treated.

Telethon Speech and Hearing's Pilbara ear health coordinator, Amelia Scheele, said hearing problems at a young age could have adverse effects on a child's speech and language development and their overall learning in the classroom.

"Our attendance rates at clinics have been great — a great increase from when we first commenced with the program to now," Ms Scheele said.

"It's steady at probably about an 85 per cent attendance to clinics.

"And almost 100 per cent for our ENT (ear nose and throat specialist clinics), which is absolutely amazing."

Roebourne school principal, David Paine, said the program had a positive impact on school attendance, behaviour and learning.

"A lot of the issues in learning, a lot of the issues with behaviour is just down to they can't hear the instruction properly," he said.

"So if we can alleviate that concern, we can alleviate and address other concerns too.

"We have a lot of students who do not get those regular checks and they have a lot of middle-ear issues, that if not picked up at the early stages easily become into a permanent damage that impacts their entire life.

He said the hearing improvements had changed lives.

"Since I've been here, the rate of learning growth has been high progress, high achievement," he said.

"[That] makes a huge difference to their lives."

He highlighted one student who was tested and fitted with a hearing device, inserted into a baseball cap.

"When she first came back in, just seeing her smile, it was really probably her first time when she could really focus in on someone who was speaking and actually hear them," he said.

"Not just what they're saying but their tone, their expression, the difference between one person speaking and another, and seeing that light all across their face was truly special and truly amazing."

Read the full ABC article:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-06-01/hearing-clinic-helps-kids-in-pilbara/9822380>

Learn more about TSH's work in the Pilbara on our website.





OUTPOST SCHOLARSHIPS

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS HEAR FOR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

TSH have partnered with the **Knights of the Southern Cross** to establish a school support scholarship program.



The Knights are a Catholic organisation in WA, comprising of generous, good willed volunteers who aim to support those experiencing hardships in the community.

The **Hear for Education scholarship** provided by the Knights, will support children with a hearing loss who are seeking to continue with or commence their Catholic education. The scholarship is targeted at families who are experiencing financial

hardships and will support five children, for the duration of one year, to continue to receive a Catholic education.

These scholarships will cover the school tuition and capital levy fees for families faced with financial hardships.

Eligible families will include:

- ▶ Parents who are seeking to enrol their child at an Outpost unit but view the tuition fees as a financial barrier.
- ▶ Students currently attending or seeking to attend a Catholic primary or high school who would like to maintain TSH's support but may need to transition to a public school due to the increasing cost of tuition fees.

- ▶ Students at prospective Outpost schools who are in need of TSH's support and whose parents are struggling to pay the yearly tuition fees.

The Knights of the Southern Cross Hear for Education Scholarships will provide temporary financial relief to parents so that their child can continue to access the support of the highly skilled TSH team of professionals. This is an extremely generous offer of support from the Knights of the Southern Cross and will greatly assist some of our families to continue their full access to the Outpost programs offered in Catholic schools.

If this is of interest to you, please contact our Deputy Principal, Geoff Reader at greader@tsh.org.au or 9387 9835.





ARTITUDE AMPLIFIED

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR!

On June 16, Telethon Speech & Hearing held its premier fundraising event, Artitude Amplified, at Crown Perth. Over 300 guests attended our lavish stand-up cocktail event which raises much needed funds for families at TSH.



The Honorable Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Environment and Disability Services helped open our event, while journalist and presenter Claudia Bertorello-Kell did a magnificent job as the night's MC.

Claudia holds a personal connection to TSH as her daughter Allegra attended our Talkabout program - [read more on her story on pages 12-15.](#)



As well as featuring a gallery of highly unique and dramatic pieces of art, TSH collaborated with five talented jewellery and fashion designers to create a range of designer hearing accessories.

Each stunning design was modelled at Artitude Amplified by young individuals who have hearing loss - including former Otupost students Kate Sutton, Andie Walsh and Bridget Gilmour.



Thank you to everyone who joined us on the night, purchased tickets in our Major Raffle Draw and helped support Artitude Amplified!

For more highlights of Artitude Amplified, visit our Facebook and Instagram pages!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 SPONSORS:



SATTERLEY

The West Australian

ST LIOS
JEWELLERS



GULLOTTI GALLERIES



GRAND CRU
WINE & SPIRITS

OLD YOUNG'S
Hand Crafted Spirits

GRANGE
INSURANCE SOLUTIONS

Total Travel



AVPartners™

HIRE+SOCIETY

MARKETFORCE

operc

MICHELLE PIKE
ILLUSTRATION



COURAGE AWARD

FOR OUTPOST STUDENT LEON DEAN

On May 20, Leon Dean from Outpost unit St Luke's received a **2018 Lions Children of Courage Award for Facing Life's challenges with exceptional courage.**

The award was presented at a special ceremony attended by Leon's family and TSH staff.

Currently in Year 4 White, Leon received his award for his courage in facing two operations for cochlear implants and for his resilience, positive attitude and for his academic achievements despite the challenges he has faced. Leon also had eye surgery around the same time he received his first implant in 2011.

We're so proud of you Leon, well done!



SOCIAL CATCH UP

Do you have a story you'd like to share with us? We'd love to hear from you! Message us through social media, or email Marketing & Communications Officer, Christina Ng at cng@tsh.org.au.

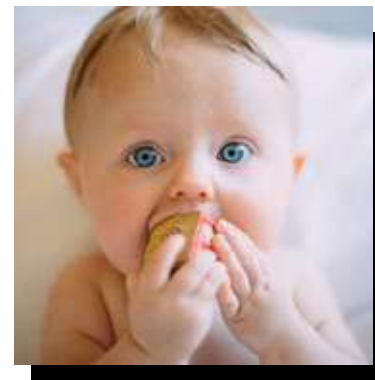
Connect with us online @telethonspeechhearing



Goldstyle Homes donates play equipment to TSH.



Automatic doors fitted thanks to DSC and WALGA.



TSH presentation in Kwinana hosted by KEYS.



JULIE'S BOOK CORNER

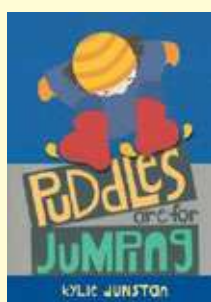
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TSH LIBRARIAN, JULIE COX

Here are some books about the wintry weather and of course during the holidays its good to plan for "No Plans" and have a pyjama day instead :)

Please remember if you need any help with selecting books or resources for your child or yourself you can email Julie at jcox@tsh.org.au.



Today We Have No Plans
Jane Godwin



Puddles Are for Jumping
Kylie Dunstan



The Rainy Day
Anna Milbourne



Ollie and the Wind
Ronojoy Ghosh

LIBRARY REMINDER

RECYCLING

TSH is a drop off place for batteries to be recycled!



We have two battery bins, one at main reception in the Bendat Parent and Community Centre, and another in the library. Please encourage this initiative and help look after the environment.

THANK YOU!

\$14,070 RAISED BY CHATTERBOX FAMILIES

Last term we wrote about a group of families from our Chatterbox program who created a **HBF Run for a Reason** fundraising team.

On May 27, a group of Chatterbox parents took to the pavement to walk 4kms in the HBF run for a reason. This incredible group of parents were brought together by "someone we love with every inch of our heart has permanent hearing loss, OUR CHILD."

Even though it was a wintry day, it

didn't dampen their spirits. They took to the course with pride and enjoyed a few giggles along the way. There was dancing, lollies, pit stops for the kids, photos, catch ups but most of all a fun day enjoyed by all.

The families from the Chatterbox grow and connect groups raised over \$14,000 and in doing so became the 4th highest fundraising team in the state. This is an incredible achievement and we are so thankful to each and

every person for contributing and fundraising. With this money we will be able to purchase a new soundfield system and many more resource to help children to learn to listen and speak.

On behalf of the entire Telethon Speech and Hearing community we say a massive "Thank you" to these remarkable parents.

The fundraising page is still open until June 28. If you know someone who may like to make a donation, please direct them to the '**Telethon Baby Grow and Connect Playgroup**' online: <https://hbfrun2018.everydayhero.com/au/telethon-baby-grow-connect-playgroup>.





KNOW A FRIEND WHO COULD HELP?

As a not-for-profit, TSH relies on the generosity of our supporters to ensure we meet every child and families' needs on a yearly, weekly and daily basis.

Please help us get in touch with friends or businesses who could help support us in our efforts to improve the lives of children all across WA. TSH has opportunities for sponsorship, corporate volunteering and workcover hearing tests.

Email fundraise@tsh.org.au or call 9387 9888 for more information.



Telethon Speech & Hearing



Help us, Help them

Telethon Speech & Hearing (TSH) is committed to helping children reach their full potential in life despite the hurdles they face due to hearing loss or speech and language delays.

As a non-profit organisation, TSH relies on the generosity of our supporters to ensure we meet every child and families' needs on a yearly, weekly and daily basis.

If you would like to help us in our mission to help all children live fulfilling lives, please complete and return the donation form below to Telethon Speech & Hearing. Your generosity can help create a world where every hearing, speech and language impaired child can look forward to a future of limitless potential.

You can also make a donation online at www.tsh.org.au or call (08) 9387 9888.
Thank you for your support!

YES! I'll help give the gift of speech and hearing to a child in Western Australia.

I wish to donate: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: _____

Organisation / School / Full Name: _____

Contact Number: _____ Email Address: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS (Please select ONE payment option below)

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD NAME ON CARD: _____

CARD NUMBER:

EXPIRY DATE: / CCV: SIGNATURE: _____

☐ CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER TO TELETHON SPEECH & HEARING
Payable to Telethon Speech & Hearing

☐ YES, I would like to know more about Sponsorship opportunities and the Benefactor program at TSH.

COMPLETE & RETURN TO: TELETHON SPEECH & HEARING LTD
PO BOX 186, WEMBLEY 6913

ABN 73 885 107 614 ACN 607129180 Registered Charity No. 17993

Telethon Speech & Hearing is an endorsed tax deductible gift recipient. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.
You can also make a donation online at www.tsh.org.au or call (08) 9387 9888. Thank you for your support!