



Father's Day Cards That Grow!

2015 marks the fifth year of *A Start in Life*'s "Seeds of Hope" campaign, delivered through our Corporate Partner, national menswear retailer, Lowes. However, this year we have changed things up a little.

From August through to Father's Day on 6 September, Lowes stores across Australia will be selling Father's Day cards which are designed by some of our primary school students and which are also embedded with Swan River Daisy seeds.

"The idea is that, when Dad has finished displaying his card on the mantelpiece, he can plant it in his garden and watch it grow. It is a gift that keeps on giving," said *A Start in Life*'s Fundraising & Communications Manager, Lisa Colquhoun.

The seeded Father's Day Cards are available for purchase at all Lowes stores nationwide for just \$5. Congratulations Angie, Angelina, Deanna, Emerald, Jasmin, Madison, Ocean, Otto, Ruby and William on your winning designs.

Get to Know: Angela Floyd Database & Supporter Manager



I have worked for *A Start in Life* for... six and a half years.

The best thing about working for a charity is... seeing the difference that our assistance makes.

In my past life I was... a teacher, then a banker, and then an IBM-er!

Working with my husband is... great because we get to see more of each other.

Being a mother is... challenging, worrying, but so rewarding.

When I first moved to Australia, I was... nervous about travelling across the world to start a new life and worried about snakes and sharks.

I am most proud of... my family.

Recent Grants

A Start in Life is delighted to have recently received grants from the following trusts, foundations and organisations towards our 'Beyond Educational Essentials' program: CLEARbridge Foundation; the RALI Foundation; Lodge Hurlstone Park United; Bennelong Foundation; and Club Totem (NSW ClubGRANTS).

These grants will enable many of our students to access aspects of a well-rounded education, beyond just educational essentials, such as school camps, remedial tuition, computers and extracurricular activities. We are very grateful for the support.

Superpowers!

We recently asked our students, from primary school through to university, what they would choose to have as a superpower. We are delighted to share some of their responses with you:

"Mind reading" (Ange, Year 6)

"A superpower where everyone is smiling and happy instead of grumpy" (Tarren, Year 9)

"Invisibility" (Byron, Tertiary)

"To be a shadow or a fairy" (Caitlin, Year 12)

"I would like all of them" (Elijah, Year 4)

I would like to learn more about *A Start in Life*! Please send me information or contact me about: (please tick)

- ☐ Beyond Educational Essentials
- ☐ Sponsoring a student
- ☐ Leaving a bequest
- ☐ Giving through my workplace
- ☐ Unsubscribe from newsletter

Your feedback is welcome!

DGR No 62593. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

I would like to help by making a gift of \$_____ by: (please tick) ☐ One-off ☐ Monthly

- ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX
- ☐ Cheque/money order payable to *A Start in Life*

Cardholder name: _____

Card number: _____

Expiry: ____/____ Signature: _____

My contact details: Please be assured your details remain confidential.

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Brighter FUTURES

News and Stories from *A Start in Life* | Spring Edition 2015



Where Are They Now?

A Start in Life has for over 90 years supported the education of young Australians in need. In that time we have, with great pride, seen our students go on to build successful, worthwhile careers through which they have and continue to contribute positively to the social fabric of their communities.

For this special edition of our Brighter Futures newsletter, we caught up with some of our former students to learn how the support of *A Start in Life* benefited them at school, university and beyond, and to what extent our investment in their education - and supporters' investment - has paid off. We trust you will enjoy reading their stories, knowing that you have, in some way, helped to get them where they are today.



Warwick Penrose
Company Director

A Start in Life supported my siblings and I in the 1980s and early 1990s, from primary school through to high school. My father became terminally ill, we had lost our family farm and my mother, who was now raising us on her own, had a stroke. Times were tough.

The financial support from *A Start in Life* relieved some of the stress and allowed us to focus on our studies. Without that support, I wouldn't have achieved the marks that I needed to get into the Australian Defence Force Academy.

I studied at ADFA Duntroon and was invited to train as an Engineering Officer, specialising in Counter Terrorism. I did a six month stint in Bosnia where I set

up a charity, later writing a paper on it for my Masters degree in Business Administration.

After Bosnia, I left the military and became Territory Manager for a provider of 'bomb suits'. Eight years thereafter I bought out the Australian distributor of these bomb suits, EPE, and have grown the business into what it is today: a world leader in delivering comprehensive solutions and protections against evolving threats such as Improvised Explosive Devices.

I am very thankful to *A Start in Life* for giving me the opportunity to make something of myself. I honestly do not know where I'd be, or where my family would be, without that support.



Verity Mackay Teacher

A Start in Life began supporting my family in the early 1990s, after my father abandoned my mother, leaving her to raise five daughters alone. I was only 4 at the time, being the youngest of the daughters.

The support from *A Start in Life* was vital in allowing my sisters and I to have an equal opportunity to a decent education. Not only did the organisation provide financial support for items we needed for school, but they also provided emotional support for all of us. We were in regular contact

with the charity and they were always keen to know how we were getting on. It meant a lot that the support was there and that someone outside the family cared so much about us, at a time when we could have felt so abandoned and alone.

I know for sure, that without the support of *A Start in Life*, I would not have been able to follow my dreams. The educational opportunities that *A Start in Life* allowed me take on enabled me to choose a career that I love. I believe there is so much to get out of education and am thrilled to admit that I am and will be a life-long learner.

A Start in Life started supporting me and my family back in 2003. The assistance that was given, not only in monetary value but in people, words and practical support, helped me to become the man I am today. It helped me complete my studies in Bathurst and my HSC. It helped me through one of the toughest times of my life, when my father passed away. It helped me in getting a spot in my dream course, studying computer game programming. It helped set the foundation for my future achievements.

Today, I work for the Department of Defence as the Manager of Virtual Worlds, which I think is one of the greatest jobs in the world. I have just had a son with my partner, and we are also in the process of building a house for our small but growing family to live in. My siblings have all completed their studies and are now working as a nurse, a high school teacher and a fitness instructor. They are with me in thanking *A Start in Life* for the opportunities which might have been denied to them without the support.



You can change a child's life.

Sponsor a student & help build a brighter future for a young Australian in need.

(02) 9264 3017
www.astartinlife.org.au



Adrian Webb
Management - Govt.



Peter Woulfe
Barrister

I was supported by *A Start in Life* from Year 8 right up to the end of my undergraduate studies in Law. After completing my undergraduate studies in 2000, I worked as a solicitor for Sparke Helmore Lawyers. 15 years on, and I am now a barrister at Blackburn Chambers, which mostly entails appearing in court and providing advice to clients.

I believe that the support from *A Start in Life* was essential in getting me to where I am today, as even though the costs of an education were not as high in the 1990s as they are today, I doubt very much that I would have been able to afford to study Law without it.

The support also gave me a reason to keep studying when I could have taken jobs that might ultimately not have been as satisfying or interesting. In fact, I chose a career in Law primarily to fulfil a strong sense of community service, which was in part fostered by *A Start in Life*.

If I could give some advice to the students currently supported by *A Start in Life*, it would be this: there will always be someone who thinks they are better than you, so please keep trying, no matter what! And to all others: please get behind *A Start in Life* because it gives support and hope to those who may have neither of those things.



Racing to Give Back

The *A Start in Life* team is delighted anytime a member of the community chooses to fundraise for our charity. When it is one of our students who chooses to fundraise for us, hopeful that they can in some small way give back, it is especially delightful.

On 20 September, UNSW university student, Mikaela, will be racing in the Blackmore's Bridge Run in Sydney. Supported by *A Start in Life* since 2009, Mikaela is reaching out to friends and the public to sponsor her in the hope of raising \$300 for our charity.

To sponsor Mikaela and help her reach her fundraising target, please contact us on (02) 9264 3017 or email communications@astartinlife.org.au. We wish Mikaela the best of luck on the day.

University student, Mikaela, will be participating in the Blackmore's Bridge Run on 20 September.

The Road To Independence

In 2009, NSW Riverina family, Warren and Iris Hislop and their four children, were forced to move away from the family farm, where they had lived with Iris's parents. The beef cattle farm had been declared in drought and so the family relocated to town to pursue other employment opportunities. Warren found casual work as a storeman and Iris worked a maximum six hours a fortnight in the local grocery store. With the costs of rent and raising four children putting too much pressure on the family's already tight budget, they turned to *A Start in Life* in 2011 for help.

A Start in Life initially provided financial assistance towards the two eldest children's schooling, with the support extending to the youngest two children, Lucy and Edward, once they each started school. The children were also provided opportunities to participate in a number of school excursions, which they would have otherwise missed out on.

"*A Start in Life* values the education of young people and understands that sometimes it's the extra things associated with school and education that can make the biggest difference," said Iris.

With the support of *A Start in Life*, all of the children demonstrated significant improvements in a range of subjects, with their teachers regularly commenting on their diligence and effort. The eldest daughter, Kara, was even awarded Dux of her grade last year, an achievement of which Warren and Iris are extremely proud.

After being assisted by *A Start in Life* for four years, Iris phoned us earlier this year to advise that the



After four years of support from A Start in Life, Iris Hislop and her husband are now able to support their children's education independently.

family no longer required our support. Warren was able to secure more work, and the eldest child, Tate, had graduated from school and was now himself employed, which provided some financial relief.

"Without *A Start In Life* I do not know how we would have got through the last few years. Because of [your] support, all four of our children really have been given a start in life and look forward to a brighter future!" said Iris, pleased that another struggling family will now benefit from our support.



Your contributions to our 2015 Tax Appeal helped to raise a record \$30,000 which will allow us to increase our support to students this year. Thank you for your support!



"There is just no way our children would be able to take advantage of many, if any, of the opportunities they have had without your support." (Iris Hislop, mother of four)