

Welcome to 2017 an exciting year ahead

Gloria, Toni and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you were able to spend quality time with your friends and family and are now feeling refreshed and ready for another great year in VIEW.

I would like to thank all of the busy and hard-working VIEW (pre) Christmas wrappers who, tirelessly raised funds and raised awareness of VIEW and The Smith Family in their community while also providing a valuable community service.

Thanks also to all the members who supported **The Smith Family Toy and Book Appeal** and **Christmas Appeal**. As of 5 January, this appeal has raised \$4.06m exceeding The Smith Family's goal! These funds will help to provide 8,715 disadvantaged students with the extra learning support they need to make the most of their education!

2017 promises to be a busy and exciting year and I would like to share some the upcoming events with you.

International Women's Day (IWD) events throughout Australia

We will not be hosting an International Women's Day luncheon in Sydney in March 2017. However, please do not feel disappointed, there are a number of VIEW International Women's Day events being held close to the Sydney City region and throughout NSW - Peakhurst, Bateau Bay, Yamba, Wollongong, and Tamworth, that we are aware of and I'm sure there will be others.

I encourage clubs to support these functions. For updates on events in your Area, contact your National or Zone Councillor or check the website (your Club page has a list of all advised events).

We look forward to hearing about and seeing all the wonderful photos taken at the VIEW events in 2017, including State and regional IWD functions in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

New VIEW Clubs...

We are thrilled to be welcoming three new VIEW Clubs in 2017: **Woollahra** in Sydney in March, **Dingley Cheltenham** in Victoria, in April and **Capes VIEW** in Dunsborough WA in May. It doesn't stop there, Interest meetings are scheduled for Mawson Lakes, SA; Bathurst, NSW; Springfield, QLD and Bairnsdale VIC. - an exciting time ahead.

More positive news - VIEW was approached by Mosman Municipal Council late last year who are keen to lend their support in establishing a VIEW Club in Mosman. **An Interest Meeting for Mosman VIEW Club will be held on Friday 24 March at 2pm in the Mosman Square Centre.** If you would like to be part of the development team, or require further information contact NC Jeannette Cassidy 02 9144 6108 or pjcass@tpg.com.au

Please take this opportunity to share this information with any of your friends, relatives, living in these areas as this could be a great way to introduce them to our wonderful organisation.

Yee Har! National Convention Tamworth 15-17 September 2017!

Of course, this year is a Convention year and I hope you are making your plans to travel to Tamworth in September. If you have never attended before, this is your chance to: hear from enriching guest speakers, talented authors and from an inspirational *Learning for Life* student, as well as receive updates from The Smith Family and the VIEW Executive.

National Convention means you have a chance to use your voice and debate/vote on Resolutions and you don't want to miss out on the announcements of the National Awards, the Executive team for 2018/19 or the location of National Convention 2019.

Most of all, meet up with old friends, make new ones – share the fun and enjoy what it means to be a VIEW member.

Making a Difference Award

Nominations are now open; for the first quarter 2017. If there is a member in your club living the VIEW values/guiding principles, then consider nominating them. Simply complete the nomination form and send a photo to view@thesmithfamily.com.au. We are keen to recognise these worthy VIEW members who will join the Honour Roll for the Making a Difference Award on the VIEW website and will be celebrated at National Convention.

Fabulous Fountain Photo Competition

Have you found your local Fabulous Fountain and purchased a VIEW umbrella? If so, then all you need is a photo and you are ready to join the Fabulous Fountain Photo Competition. We have had a number of excellent submissions, some funny, serious, individual and team entries, and even some international fountain entries! We encourage you to be creative and make sure your entry is in by 30 June 2017. FFP Competition winner will be announced and all entries displayed at National Convention. Don't forget to send in your Fabulous Fountain Photo to view@thesmithfamily.com.au.

Have a look at our VIEW Website... it's a terrific resource

Have you updated your VIEW Club page? Are you looking for a specific form or information, then we encourage you to take a look at the website. It is such a valuable resource and we all need to be using it and keeping it up to date. www.view.org.au

New Year's Challenge

Do you have a New Year's resolution? If not, you may like to consider this - Have you thought about taking on a role in your club's Committee, or stepping up to a leadership role in the organisation as Zone or National Councillor role in 2018.

New Committee members bring new ideas and learn new skills. It's a fun and rewarding experience. You meet more wonderful VIEW members and gain the satisfaction of *making a difference* in your community.

If you don't want to give it a go, or already have, then encourage someone else... they may just be waiting to be asked. Healthy clubs have new members who join their committees regularly... to share the love! Go on give it a go!

As you can see 2017 promises to be an exciting year and Toni, Gloria and I look forward to sharing these and other experiences with you throughout the year.

Best regards

Gwen Wilton
National President