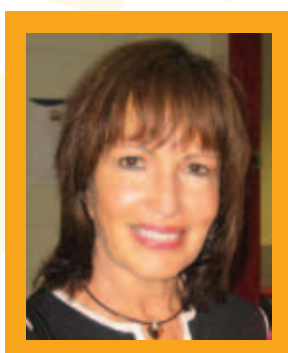


Ardoch

Youth Foundation

Level 1, 3-232 Carlisle Street, Balaclava VIC 3183 Ph: (03) 9537 2414 Fax: (03) 9537 3211 Email: info@ardoch.asn.au Web: www.ardoch.asn.au



Christmas in January

Kathy Hilton OAM, Founder and Director of Ardoch reflects on the challenges for our community and Ardoch in the year ahead.

After a luxurious three weeks holidaying in Queensland it took just the first day back at work to be reminded of, and shocked and humbled by, the effects of the growing divide in our community, situations like:

A single mum with a six year old daughter delighted and relieved after accessing our very basic, Basic Needs Program, exclaimed that her little family would now be able to celebrate a delayed Christmas;

Another single mum with six children thanked us over and over again for our help with food, clothing, toiletries and access to support that would enable her children to continue their education and would prevent, or at least delay, her eviction from their family home;

A single dad, suffering from a terminal illness, so grateful for the "real help" we provide to him and his son who is just starting year 8;

The growing demand from individuals, families, schools and other agencies all over the State for things like stationery packs, school shoes, help with school fees, books and uniforms;

The shock of seeing the price of school books, as high as \$400.00 at year 7 level;

The shock of seeing the pitiful resourcing of some

of our smaller schools and teaching units, the cost of childcare and so on; and

Hundreds of families and young people grappling with the effect of our social context with severe barriers to accessing the help and support needed in order for them or their children to start the school year.

Ardoch has a huge task ahead. Our aim continues to be to touch as many lives as possible, with positive opportunities, to be effective, efficient and strategic. To be a professional organisation with heart, modelling respect for each other, our partners, our clients and our community.

Our next stage of development will involve a larger staff than ever before and a move to larger premises. It will see Ardoch as a national entity working in NSW, Queensland and WA with our current Education Support Centre as the Head Office. It will see Ardoch continue to develop our current school partnership projects as best practice demonstration models. It will see Ardoch roll out through Local Education Support Centres in Geelong and Frankston.

This next stage will also see Ardoch more actively involved in Advocacy and looking forward to the positive impact we will be able to affect for a growing number in our community. We will need your support more than ever.



".....As a father and single parent I am especially grateful not just for the practical help we have had from Ardoch, but also the unique Ardoch way of giving it: real help which is as professional and effective as it is friendly and encouraging, and never patronising or judgmental...."

Jeremy & Marcus

What would it be like if Ardoch wasn't here?

We posed this question to the Principals of schools who are working with Ardoch. In the first of a series of articles, Gayle Yardley, Principal of Stonnington Primary School explains what it would mean to her school community if Ardoch wasn't here.

Ardoch is part of the fabric of Stonnington PS. We have many valuable Ardoch programs in place to support student learning and wellbeing. But often there is no definitive line between what is 'school' and what is 'Ardoch' at Stonnington and therefore we have a true 'partnership'. I believe this is what makes the whole connection so strong and meaningful for our students. Ardoch is not just another 'add-on' it is in fact integral to the very basis of our teaching and learning.

the need of the child at any given time and place. What would it mean if they were not here? Such a gap would leave an extremely large void!

What would lunchtimes feel like without our lunchtime activities program? Our Ardoch trained and supported student volunteers from Presentation College Windsor plan exciting activities to which our children look forward with great excitement when it's their turn. The structure the girls provide, the role-modeling, the fun, the social interaction, the skills that are taught or reinforced.

Ardoch is responsible for acquiring funding for a myriad of causes (also known as children)! No child now misses an educational opportunity because they don't have the money. No child misses camp. No child misses an excursion. No child misses swimming. I for one don't want to choose which child should find out what it would be like if Ardoch were not here as our partner!

I had a visit during school time yesterday from a year 7 boy who proudly graduated from Stonnington Primary last year. He was proud and we were proud! He was one of our year 6 leaders who had blossomed during his years at Stonnington.

Right: It's smiles all round with Linda and Noblesse enjoying lunchtime activities



Left: Gabby proudly displays his Play Doh carrot!



Right: Hamza & Cian from Stonnington love making snakes



It's hard to imagine life here without these Ardoch education angels! They are teacher, helper, friend, parent, listener, motivator, encourager, supporter, mentor, shoulder to cry on

What impact would such a loss have on relationships in our playground? Literacy is enhanced by our Grant Thornton Literary Buddies who give such meaning to the

children's reading and written work as they correspond with one another. Again we have the adult role-modeling that is provided, the motivation, encouragement and a 'real-life' learning opportunity for our children. Which child might wish to give up their buddy? Which teacher would like to find a replacement 'enhancement' literacy activity?!

I was very pleased to think the fondness and connection he felt to us would prompt him to travel all the way from his new home to visit on what I assumed was a Curriculum Day. As we chatted, I became aware that it was in fact a school day but his year level was at a swimming activity for which his dad couldn't afford to pay. I asked if he had spoken to anyone at his school about this and he replied that he had. A little embarrassed he looked at the floor and told me his teacher knew but... "...they don't help you there. You're not allowed to go if you can't pay". They obviously don't have our teachers and they don't have 'our Ardoch'. I'm wondering if his resilience will be strong enough to get through those teenage years as he approaches them if he doesn't get that nurturing for just a little longer.

Our fabulous Ardoch Coordinator, Di Richter manages our volunteers who are absolutely invaluable to our school. It's hard to imagine life here without these Ardoch education angels! They are teacher, helper, friend, parent, listener, motivator, encourager, supporter, mentor, shoulder to cry ondepending on

Grange Securities Investing in the Community

Rachel Shirley, Director of Grange Securities took time out to speak with Katharina Hedi, Ardoch's Corporate & Community Relationships Manager, about Grange Securities' volunteer involvement at the Albert Park Secondary College Breakfast Club.

Kath: *How did Grange Securities first become involved in Ardoch volunteering?*

Rachel: We heard of Ardoch through our charitable partner organisation United Way and The Lord Mayor's Fund. We quickly realised that what Ardoch was striving to achieve was well matched to the social responsibility goals of Grange Securities' community involvement program, Grange Opportunity (GO).

Our Ardoch Project Coordinator Joelle has been a great link between the Grange team and the students. She has helped us to tailor our volunteer involvement program, and the Ardoch programs provide us with flexibility.

Kath: *Tell us about how you feel volunteering has impacted your staff and how your staff have impacted students.*

Rachel: There have been a number of benefits for the Grange team with working with the students of the Ardoch program. Firstly, the students have been wonderful – we have the chance to chat, share experiences and stories – and both the students and the Grange team get the chance to see a different perspective (hopefully the kids think that's a good thing too!) Secondly, I know each of us have wanted to become involved in some kind of community service effort – it's been great to do that as a group, and to be focused on supporting youth. And thirdly, our time at Ardoch brings different Grange staffers together which contributes to our team building efforts.

The program has extended beyond the school too. We have had students visit our offices, and we've had the opportunity to offer mentoring skills to help them focus on their futures - opening up options and possibilities for that student.

Working with Ardoch has been inspiring and rewarding and we're very excited about Breakfast Club 2006 and developing a student mentoring program. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved.

Volunteer Profiles

An Ardoch Driving Force

Graeme Ainscough and Alec Lindsay are a vital link in the Ardoch family. Graeme and Alec jump in Alec's trusty station wagon and travel from Glen Waverley to Yarraville to Balaclava collecting and delivering all manner of items for Ardoch.



Above: Graeme Ainscough, Ardoch volunteer

It's a regular occurrence to see them ferrying trolleys loaded high with donated goods to re-stock our Basic Needs area or collecting hundreds of boxes of cereal from school drives.

Graeme's involvement with Ardoch stretches way back to 1989 when he was inspired to help after hearing Kathy Hilton speak about the needs of our young people and how we can all make a difference.



Above: Alec Lindsay, Ardoch volunteer

Graeme and Alec are making a real difference through their practical help for Ardoch and their involvement is an inspiration to others.

Now it's your chance to get involved There are so many ways...

Join in a cooking lunchtime activity or a soccer game, help us pack newsletters at Ardoch's Head Office, share your life experience and become a mentor for a secondary or primary student, help sort and stack our basic needs donations, work with students on enrichment programs, support a student with literacy and numeracy skills or help out at a Breakfast Club. Ardoch volunteers are all fully trained and supported. There are so many more opportunities - these are just a few.

Ardoch is now running programs in schools in the Cities of Port Phillip, Stonnington, Bayside, Frankston and Geelong and we'd love your support for these programs.

Make a difference today. Call Brooke on **03 9537 2414** and join Ardoch's Volunteer Army.

A Taste for Living Festival 2006 supporting Ardoch



Come down to the Gasworks Arts Park on Sunday 5 March 11am-5pm and enjoy **A Taste for Living Festival 2006** a community festival of food, wine and arts supporting Ardoch. Taste the delicacies from over 20 stalls; enjoy live music and great children's entertainment. See the Can Do sculpture by Julie Squires, made at the Festival entirely from cans of food donated by Heinz, you can even bring a can of food with you to donate which Julie will include in the sculpture. All cans of food will be donated to Ardoch at the end of the Festival. **Gasworks Arts Park is at 21 Graham St, Albert Park (Melways 2J H7) entry by donation.**

Meet the 2006 Ardoch Team

Ardoch Head Office

Kathy Hilton, Founder and Director
Mandy Burns, Deputy Director, Projects & Innovations Manager
Danny Schwarz, Assistant Director, Programs & Operations Manager
Andrew Mamalis, Bookkeeper
Brooke Brophy, Volunteers Coordinator
Dianne Richter, Team Leader & Project Coordinator, Stonnington Primary
Jane Balme, Administration
Janet Inglis, Marketing & Fundraising Manager
Julie Rosenbloom, Administration Support
Katharina Hedi, Corporate, Community Relationships & Events Manager
Suzi Finkelstein, Training Manager

Project Coordinators

Antonella Batrouney, Support & Referral Service
Bec Young, Mahogany Rise Primary, Frankston
Cynthia Rosen, TRY South Yarra Kinder
Eva Thieberger, St Kilda Primary
Joelle Chaperon, Albert Park Secondary, TRY South Yarra Kinder
Kaylene McKay, Port Melbourne Primary
Nuala Cassidy, South Melbourne Mission Kinder
Sally Sudweeks, Rosewall Primary, Geelong
Bishi Leathem, Volunteer Coordinator, LINC'S Geelong

Daystar Foundation, NSW

Costa Demos, Chief Executive Officer
Kingi Williams, Community Relations & Program Manager
Tania Ward, Project Coordinator



Special Thanks... To These People for Making a Difference

Thank you to the following for your generous donations of clothing, food, toiletries, linen, blankets, towels and toys over the past few months.

Alan Freedman
Amber Fleming
Bade, Kyler & Tyce Hilton
Bra World
Brody Rosenbloom
Burcu Gurax
Carman's Muesli
Carol Gordon
Carol-Ann & June
Ainscough
City of Port Phillip
Danny & Jan Goldsmith
Dianne Picco
Dick Honor
Fiona Stevenson
Gavin Blue
Georgie Cloke
Helen Vangrove
Isabella & Gabrielle
O'Brien
Jane Lyons

Joanna Fulop
Joanne Tametty
Justine Kelly
Kali Tsousis
Kassidy & Kailey Silver
Loris Grote, Zonta
Melbourne on Yarra
Louise
Lynne Weeks
Margaret Kernich-Drew
Marilyn Braun
Marilyn Williams
Melanie Lipson
Melody Curtis & family
Michael Dickinson
MLC Staff & Students
Nadia Robertson
Nicole Austin
Paulette Frank
Pauline Gum
Penny Stephens

Peter Horwood
Raie Lee
Rita Bastin
Ros Rogers
Ruth Webster
Sai Baba Organisation
Sandy Anderson
Sarah Castillo
Scott Fish
Sebastian Martinez
St James Apartments

St Kilda East Pharmacy
Steve Wall – United
Healthcare Group
Susan Kawadlow
Suzi Finkelstein
Tammy Feldman
Vicky Susskind
Vivian Meerman
Vivienne Neak
Wesley College
Zara

Thank you to all who supported Ardoch with donations of money, goods, services, and time. Special thanks to Penfold Buscombe for generously sponsoring our newsletter.



Penfold Buscombe
PRINT COMMUNICATIONS

Remember - we need your help to spread the Ardoch message...everywhere!

Help us raise awareness in the community about the vital work of Ardoch and generate funds to maintain, grow and develop Ardoch programs throughout Australia.

Together we can make Education a Reality for all young people.

Here are some of the other ways you can support Ardoch:

- Become a Friend of Ardoch - donation form below or make a secure online donation at www.ardoch.asn.au
- Volunteer your time, – Melbourne and Frankston volunteers call Brooke 03 9537 2414
– Geelong volunteers call Bishi 03 5275 3986
- Purchase a gift that makes a difference from our Gift Catalogue - call Jane 03 9537 2414
- Make your next event an Ardoch fundraiser
- Include Ardoch in your organisation's payroll giving program
- Donate goods or services
- Make a bequest to Ardoch

Become a Friend of Ardoch

Yes I wish to become a **Friend of Ardoch** and make a tax deductible donation each month.
Please debit the credit card below each month until further notice with:
 \$10 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 Other _____

Yes I wish to become a **Friend of Ardoch** and here is my single tax deductible donation of:
 \$10 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other _____

Your credit card details: Visa Mastercard

Cardholder's name: _____ Cardholder's Signature: _____

Card No: - ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ Expiry Date : __ / __

Please complete all details so we can forward your tax deductible receipt

Name: _____ Company _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email: _____

Post your donation form to: Ardoch Youth Foundation Level 1, 3/232 Carlisle St, Balaclava VIC 3163

Fax your donation form to: 03 9537 3211 **Phone** donations on 03 9537 2414

Make your secure **online** donation at www.ardoch.asn.au

Diary of a Project Coordinator



Ardoch mobilises resources such as volunteers, agencies and corporate interactions and connects them with schools.

This year we will take a look at what this means through the eyes an Ardoch Project Coordinator. We will share the experiences, the expertise and the exhilaration not to mention exhaustion that fills a PC's day!

Meet Kaylene McKay, Ardoch Project Coordinator at Port Melbourne Primary School. Kaylene has been a part of Ardoch since teaching at Port Melbourne between 1994 and 1997 and then becoming an Ardoch volunteer in 2002. Her talent for connecting people has resulted in outstanding projects being created providing opportunities for students, staff, families, the local community and corporate involvement. Kaylene is a true 'people person' and says the highlight of her job is "getting to know people and hearing their stories". Now it's time for us to hear the first installment in Kaylene's story.....

Week Three, Term One and we've been off and racing since Day 2. My job is about relationships so that means a lot of talking to people! Catching up, connecting with new students and parents, organising volunteers, reconnecting with community agencies and working out what the Principal needs for the school. Meeting and planning with our corporate supporters to plan our 2006 projects like the new vegetable garden watering system with GE Water and Literary Buddies with GE Fleet and GE Water. Speaking with White Lion to organise role models to visit our Grade 5 & 6 and then of course, there's letting the school community know about all these exciting things ahead.

My mind is always racing and I love to solve problems. I am exhausted when I get home but I do yoga 3 times a week to help stay calm!! And believing that everything I do has the potential to have a positive impact on the lives of the children at our school makes it all so worthwhile.

Kaylene

PROJECTS & INNOVATIONS UPDATE



Ardoch Projects and Innovations is the area of the organisation that is dedicated to the strategic development of Ardoch Youth Foundation. In 2006, the key development areas are around supporting the rollout of Ardoch programs and strategies to enable Ardoch to provide support to more children, young people, families and their schools. Notably there is a 3 pronged approach:

1. Ardoch is establishing Local Ardoch Education Support Centres to replicate the work of Ardoch's Head Office to other geographic locations. In 2006, a Local Education Support Centre will be started in Geelong.
2. Ardoch is developing opportunities to support schools nationally by developing strategic alliances and enabling the expansion of programs interstate. Excitingly, this has meant that national firms have been able to replicate Ardoch's programs.
3. Ardoch has a Training and Consultancy Service that can skill schools and organisations to replicate Ardoch programs and processes.

Ardoch Advocacy Team

Ardoch Youth Foundation is passionate about making education a reality for children and young people. We recognise that when students experience poverty, learning difficulties, homelessness, poor self esteem and abuse as well as drug abuse, mental illness, unemployment and breakdown in the family it is difficult to learn, difficult to stay in school and difficult to reach potential.

However, often the real barrier to education is systemic. In these instances Ardoch works to advocate for the changes in policy that are required to make a difference.

In 2006, Ardoch will be increasing its efforts to raise awareness of the impediments facing children and families in their efforts to get an education as well as lobbying for change. A new advocacy team with staff, Committee of Management members and volunteers is starting with Kathy Hilton, Mandy Burns, Laini Liberman, Sylvia Walton and Leith Young. If you are interested in being involved as a volunteer on this team please contact Ardoch Volunteers Coordinator, Brooke Brophy **(03) 9537 2414**.