

HEAR FOR YOU UPDATE

Thursday 14 May 2009



THIS MONTH:

- Latest news on our Leadership workshops
- Daniel's mother gives wonderful heartfelt feedback
- HFY Perth updates
- HFY presentation at the University of NSW
- Coming up . . . Careers workshops

Latest news on our Leadership workshops

Our workshops on 29 March went brilliantly! The teenagers got their first taste of leadership as well as learning how to be a dynamic team player. The three groups participated in the interactive activities which promoted these skills. For example, the Years 11-12 students were given a "Country Card" which gave them an opportunity to act as a leader of their given "country" and give a 1minute talk addressing issues and giving solutions. The teenagers enjoyed it thoroughly.

Two trainers "Chief" and "Gunny" from The Original Bootcamp also kindly gave an inspirational talk to the Years 7-10 students about leadership and teamwork and how the two work together as well as a practical 45 minute session in the local park.

Attached to this newsletter is a collage which shows photos from these workshops.

Daniel's mother gives wonderful heartfelt feedback

Not long after the last workshop, we received a heartfelt email from one of the Year 11 participants' parents, who wrote the following:

*" . . . I just wanted to let you know how much my son, Daniel, has enjoyed the 'Hear For You' workshops so far. Dan was a bit reluctant to go to the first session . . . but came home so happy - it was obvious that he'd had a great day. **When he came home from the second day, he was absolutely exhilarated! I can't wait to see what will happen next! Thank you so much for giving Dan this rare opportunity to see the heights that he can achieve and to see what he can be.** I am very proud of him and so grateful to you and your team for the high quality of the 'Hear For You' program. Can you please pass on to Dan's mentors, Dave Brady and Kate Locke, our appreciation and admiration for their tender loving care, insight and hard work. Many thanks." ~ Clare Harris, parent*

HFY Perth updates

Olivia Andersen and Lizzie Eakin recently went to Perth to meet with Paul Higginbotham (CEO of Telethon Speech & Hearing) and Michelle Ryan-Gittens (psychologist) to discuss the replication of Hear For You in Perth. We are pleased to report that it was a successful trip which exceeded our expectations. ***The enthusiasm and passion that we experienced from the prospective WA mentors was phenomenal.***

The selected mentors will travel to Sydney to observe and be involved in our June workshop. The Perth workshops will be held at Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre commencing in July 2009. We are very excited about this development and the opportunity to take Hear For You not just interstate but to the other side of Australia!

HFY Presentation at the University of NSW

Dr Terry Cumming (Lecturer of Special Education, University of NSW) recently invited Hear For You to speak to their 150 students. On 13 May, Nick Doyle and Olivia Andersen gave a presentation to future secondary teachers about Hear For You. Nick and Olivia also offered them *advice on how to deal with educational and socio-emotional issues* faced by high school students with a hearing loss.

Coming up . . . Careers workshops

Our next workshop is on 17 May and the topics will be Career Exploration (Years 7 & 8), Future Prospects (Years 9 & 10) and Further Study & Employment (Years 11 & 12). Combined with work scenarios and strategies, the mentors will deliver an entertaining Powerpoint presentation to the students about university studies, work experience and job interviews. We will also provide them with tips as to how to cope at university and in the workforce whilst dealing with deafness-related issues. We will also have an inspirational guest speaker *Professor Jennie Brand-Miller*, published author and bilateral cochlear implantee. Jennie will talk to the older students (Years 9–12) about her successful career, and how she managed to get to where she is today. We know she will be a wonderful source of inspiration for all the participants.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to your networks or to any parents / deaf people you may know in particular to anyone who might be interested in future programs.

Thank you and best wishes,

The *Hear For You* team

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