

Issue 1, May 2005
Sorry it's so late

INTRODUCING EMILY SIMPSON

Welcome!!

Emily Simpson is the new Co-ordinator of the ChIPS Program, we thought we'd introduce her with one of Kimmy's fabulous Interviews . . .



1. **What grabbed your attention when you heard about ChIPS?** *The idea that young people get to make decisions as capable human beings*
2. **Describe yourself in 20 words or less!** *That's a hard question – I'm nice and friendly. That's less than 20 words!*
3. **What's your favourite vegetable?** *Zucchini*
4. **So, you've been involved with ChIPS for 5 month or so, but does any particular moment stand out to you regarding ChIPPER experiences?** *Not really, but I did have a great day hanging out at the tennis and going all over the country side looking for next years campsite and I look forward to many weirdo moments that you guys come up with.*
5. **Do you have any fears?** *Wasps, bees and situations where it's possible for a soccer ball to fly at my face.*
6. **You've been given enough money to buy one item at Ikea - what is it?** *I actually went to IKEA recently and I couldn't go past the ice cube trays they have for 95 cents. They come in all different shapes and they're made of rubber for easy dispensing. Now I have quite a collection – hearts, plus signs, long sticks, arrows and little doughnut type ones.*
7. **Are there any strange food combinations you've experimented with and wish to share? Such as peanut butter & vegemite, BBQ chips and soy sauce?** *Depends on whether you think biscuits with tomato sauce is weird I guess.*
8. **How old are you?** *Ah, a nice easy one after that last one. 22*
9. **Do you have any qualifications or other important miscellaneous stuff you'd like to add?** *I have just finished my social work degree and as for the miscellaneous stuff I like to sleep a lot.*
10. **Do you have a favourite TV show?** *I really like Macleod's Daughters and I don't care if people think I'm sad because of it.*
11. **What's your worst memory from Primary School?** *In Grade three, in front of the whole class, I sneezed and farted at the same time.*
12. **Are you a fan of accessories, and do you buy them religiously?** *I do love accessories, they really can make or break an outfit. Unfortunately, I don't pay enough attention to accessories anymore, except for special occasions and handbags – I love handbags and I have way too many pairs of shoes.*
13. **Can you dance, and have you ever taken lessons?** *I can, but it's not a pretty sight. Matt and I had lessons before our wedding, so that when had to get up and do the traditional dance, we didn't look like total unco's.*

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Special points of interest:

- An insight into the wonderful world of Emily Simpson
- Socialising with Alicia Molik
- Purple Soup
- Grease Lightning
- Public Speaking



PUBLIC SPEAKING

One of the strongest forms of communication is speech. Speaking to a large group of people can convey a message easily, and can have a huge and instant impact on the audience. ChIPS is often invited to inform people of the program, and of the members' journey. In the past we have spoken at Health Conferences, Teaching seminars and Rotary Meetings. ChIPS members have travelled near and far to tell their story and to have members voices heard, such locations have included Carlton, Brighton, Geelong, Shepparton, Sydney and, New Zealand. Presenting to audiences can not only inform them about the wonderful program that is ChIPS, but can also allow them insight into the lives of adolescents with a chronic illness. Once you have delivered a speech it's hard to forget the positive response from the audience, and the knowledge that some of those people have just been opened up to new ideas and thoughts.

The courage which members displayed as they told their story was said to send shivers down some people spines.

In term one ChIPS had it's first workshop for 2005. The workshop aimed to further members' abilities in speech writing and delivery, as well as give them an insight into communicating with the media.

The workshop ran over three consecutive weeks during which we were fortunate enough to have Julie Webber, Public Affairs coordinator and Angela Hassett, Centre for Adolescent researcher share their expertise. Each workshop focused on a different area of skills. Week one was taken up with speech writing and presentation, in week two we covered conquering nerves and media communications and during week three, delivering a speech. The weeks also contained some classic ChIPS moments such as during a game of charades when Glen Bowyer gave us his best interpretation of ChIPS camp or should we say a funky looking tent and some talented guessing by his audience.

On the final evening, members bravely applied skills learnt during the workshop and gave a speech to other participants and discussed with them how they would tell their own personal story to an audience. The courage which members displayed as they told their story was said to send shivers down some people spines. We look forward to members now making the next move as they present these stories and others to the wider community. Thanks to all who were involved.

Bring on Workshop 2!!

By Emily Hewett and Elisha Mont

Pizza Night with Alicia Molik

Well, how many people can say they've had pizza with Alicia Molik? All 18 people in the Reference Committee (plus Mark of course) that's for sure! When the Reference Committee met Alicia Molik at the tennis and Mark asked her if she'd like to join us all for pizza.... how could she refuse?!

So it all happened one typical rainy day in Melbourne's "summer". Committee members arrived at number 8 to be summoned upstairs to play "The Dice Game". I promise you it's not as scary as it sounds! Basically there were questions written on a board with numbers 1 through to 6 next to them, if you rolled a 3, then you had to answer the number 3 question – simple as that! Though one must wonder if questions like 'do you scrunch or fold you toilet paper?' were really appropriate with the No. 10 Female Tennis Player in the World present. So we all had turns at rolling the dice and introducing ourselves. Anyway, as the questions continued soon we had Alicia Molik asking us all for advice on how to get to sleep!

We eventually got sick of the game, and started asking Alicia questions, and heard some strange stories about her very admiring fans... (some of those fans were even want-to-be Mr. Molik's!) In no time the pizza had arrived, so we all bolted downstairs to get a good feed. We were lounging around the pool table sipping coke and stuffing our mouths full of pizza when Mark approached us all with funky looking Adidas hats! So, one by one we got Alicia to sign them, and we all got individual photos with her. All in all it was a great night! I mean honestly, not many people can tell the story that the No. 10 Female Tennis Player in the World knows whether or not they scrunch or fold their toilet paper! That's certainly a tale to tell if you ask me!



Grease Movie Night

On Thursday the 2nd of June, ChIPS had their quarterly movie night. The movie was Grease. I can say many things about Grease and one thing is that it is not one of my most favorite movies. But one thing above Grease is whether you like it or not, you know the songs on it.

When we arrived at the Ella Latham Theatre we all started talking because for some of the ChIPS members it had been a while since they had seen everyone. There were also a couple of new ChIPS members, which was good. At first we started to watch the movie, then the time came... the first song was coming and of course, Big Tim made sure his voice was heard as well as some others yet even with Tim serenading us, ChIPS singing musicals didn't work out that well. Half way during the movie we had an intermission in order to eat the pizza that had just arrived. As we scoffed down the pizzas the routine ChIPS talking and bonding occurred. After that it was back to watch the end of Grease. The only thing that really happened after that was Tim decided to take his singing to the next level and during Grease lightning made his way to the front of the stage where he performed the song...but was quickly put back in his place by Lauren who without any hesitation threw her phone at him or some solid object. Don't worry it didn't hit him. Anyway soon after this the movie ended, but the one thing about Grease is those songs are catchy, so I think many of us left humming the words to them, I know I was. So thus ended the second ChIPS movie night so far, with hopefully more on the way.

By Louise De Pino

Creative writing





A day at the tennis . . . How civilised



The Australian Open is something that unites the nation as one, as we get behind the Aussies as they strive to bring home the trophies. For the Reference committee we were lucky enough to be part of the action. On the 25th of January, with tickets generously donated by Alicia Molik, we attended the tennis. We met on a scorching summer morning, at the ticket collection office excited with anticipation of watching Alicia play, especially me. As I had not been to the tennis before. As well as being given ground passes; we got four centre court tickets. Bree, Lauren, Amber and myself headed to Rod Laver Area and watched the screaming Maria Sharapova play Svetlana Kuznetsova (Alicia's doubles partner) for a place in the semi-finals. Fixated by the atmosphere and deafened by the screams of Maria and the crowd, I can't remember how long the match went for. Whilst we were watching Sharapova and Kuznetsova battle it out, Mark was waiting for late arrivals and the rest of the group were minding seats at Margaret Court, where Alicia Molik would play to advance into the next round. Whilst waiting for Alicia we watched Sam Stosur and Scotty Drapper advance into the next round, which I saw as a good omen for Alicia. With about half an hour until Alicia we were told that the match had been moved to Vodafone Arena because of the heat (it has a retractable roof). And so we began the pilgrimage to Vodafone Arena. I say pilgrimage because there were so many people and in the heat it felt like it took an eternity. We reached Vodafone and met up with Emily Hewett and Co., who had saved us seats and waited. Then the moment came when ChIPS's own Alicia Molik took to the court with her partner Svetlana Kuznetsova and faced the greatest all time Martina Navratilova and her partner. Alicia and Svetlana were spectacular they pulled out everything they had. A couple of breaks of serves later they had won the first set. Another couple of brakes of serve they had progressed to the next round. I must admit there were a few times where I didn't quite know what was going on, but I am certain that Alicia is the next big thing in women's tennis. After the match Peter Smiley (Alicia's agent) came and took us to meet Alicia. When Alicia came out of the lift she seemed surprised probably because most of the Reference committee is new and she didn't recognise anyone. Then she spotted Mark, probably with a sigh of relief and realised that she was in the right place. When Alicia walked out of the lift all I remember thinking was "oh my god she's so tall". Mark began talking to Alicia and then Emily gave her a birthday card from the Reference committee. Showing how we cheered her on Stacey showed Alicia a sign that was made especially for her by the one and only kimmie. We all began talking and the main topic on conversation immediately became camp, specifically would Alicia be coming to camp. And I am happy to report that if she is home Alicia will be coming. As we discussed camp and the various details, no one could forget to mention clancy the clown (AKA Glen). But the question of the day belonged to Lauren with "what was it like kicking Venus's ass?" Meeting Alicia was definitely the highlight of the day and worth sweating it out for. Alicia, I along with the rest of the Reference committee look

Best Word Search Ever- Words that Describe ChIPS

S Y R A E T G Y Y C H I P L S
 P S G E A M O R O T F U E N D
 I I E E T U O N O G H A O M T
 H I R N N H A S R U D U O M S
 S G V G D S G T E E P J D K R
 D D V H B E S U R W N S I O E
 N D E Z Q U T S A U A L A K E
 E P V L P U H C F L L N C A P
 I P F P P I S C E S P M A C W
 R Z O P P O R T U N I T I E S
 F R A O C I E N C T N U A W S
 T F Y I Y P C P T N F O K Q P
 V B A L A C X F D A U Z C Y N
 S L D Q F O W A R P T O N R V
 S N E L U H O V H Y G X W J W

Secret Message

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|---------------|---------------|
| AWESOME | LEADERSHIP |
| CAMP | OPPORTUNITIES |
| CONNECTEDNESS | PEERS |
| FRIENDSHIPS | PEOPLE |
| FUN | SKILLS |
| GREAT | SOCIALS |
| GROUPS | SUPPORT |
| LAUGHTER | YOUNG |
| PEERS PEOPLE | |
| SKILLS | |





Purple Soup Anybody?



On the 11 of July the reference committee participated in a workshop at the RCH run by an organisation called purple soup. The workshop was all about bringing a group of strangers together and teaching us how to work together as a team to achieve an objective. The people from ISAP joined ChIPS people. ISAP is an organisation that brings American kids on their summer-break together with Aussie kids in conjunction with the YMCA for five weeks of fun. Tim, the founder of purple soup and Jy one of the leaders from the camp ran the night.

After the initial introductions, ISAP finding out what ChIPS was and ChIPS finding out what ISAP was; we got straight into it. First, we learnt a bit about each other, names and stuff. Then we were given a scenario of dodo eggs that had fallen out of their nest and needed to be put back in, without us touching the bucket. We had a time limit of 1 minute, it was really table tennis balls and a bucket hanging from some string, but we got involved and worked together. After two failed attempts, we got them into a bucket in 28 seconds, which we were quite pleased with, until we found out that grade six's did it in 8 seconds.

Then we got into teams and had our own version of 'the amazing race', we had to get over things without touching them, walk through areas flooded with minds without our eyes closed, whilst being directed by a team member, fake of course. The most entertaining part of the night was when we had to make up a team jingle, with actions and perform it to the rest of the group. My group name was 'rejects' so our jingle was 'I'm a little reject' to the turn of 'I'm a little tea pot'. The jingles brought out the best in all of us and definitely got rid of any nerves. We then did some theatre sports where we got up and made a scenario out of someone's stance. After that we called it a night and went home to our warm beds.

Unfortunately we won't be seeing the people from ISAP again since some of them have to go back to the US. It was a marvellous experience and I enjoyed meeting people from other walks of life. And I look forward to the next purple soup experience.

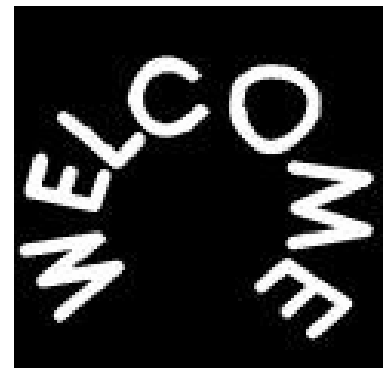
By Heather Trewin

New CHIPPERs- WELCOME

New recruits

A huge welcome to the newest ChIPS member; Rose, Josh, Simone, Abbie, Jayden, Michael, Jesse, Ivano, Megan, and Julia.

Hope to see you around at up and coming event.



ChIP In Update . . .

Keep your eye on this spot!

Hi everyone – What a start to the year!!!!

Though we haven't had any major events this year, through the sales of Tote Bags, Kids Art Smocks and Adults Aprons we have raised Nearly \$4000!!!! If you are interested in theatre or Sherlock Holmes come and join in the fun of "The Real Sherlock Holmes" on Sunday the 31st July at 2pm, Ella Latham Theatre Royal Childr'ns Hospital.,

Tickets \$20 Bookings 9370 3696

Soon we will be advertising our Trivia Night which is set to be a fantastic night for all. So make sure you keep your eye on this space for more exciting upcoming events.

CHIPS REVS IT UP!!!

"Well it was an eventful day at the Motor show where some lucky ChIPS members got treated like royalty. While there were queues waiting to have ago . . . We got to race against each other in the rally art cars, playing Grand Turismo 4, which hadn't even been released yet!! We got to stay there racing cars at our own pace and they even gave us stickers, hats and other cool stuff. The Rally art people then decided to change the scene a bit and make us all race against each other for a competition. The times came down to only a couple of seconds between players. The fantastic prize for the winner was, a Grand Tourism 4 limited edition game, of which very few have been made . . . and of course, as you can imagine Big Tim won it!! I guess it pays off sometimes to play playstation all the time. I don't even think Big Tim will use it, as it was so special that it came in this lovely white case with shiny metal stuff on it. I guess I was just a tad jealous; actually I guess I wasn't because Lauren, Philippe and I all got extra special care... as we were the lucky ones that went in the car with Russ Swift, the Stunt car driver from England, while he was doing his stunt performance. In front of the whole crowd, we had to have a dance off to decide who was going in the car first . . . as per usual, no one could beat Philippe's dancing performance. It was crazy, he was doing stuff I have never seen before! Soon after, Lauren and I got to saddle up in the back- (Going up on two wheels is so much fun-although I think Lauren almost had a heart attack as there was about 30cms between her and the car.) After we Stumbled out of the cars and shook all the shock out of each other. We got to play at our own leisure looking at cars that will be coming out in the future. Which look like there from there out of this world. All in all I think it was another great day had by the ChIPS members.



We're on the Web
www.rch.org.au/chips

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*“It’s not just about Chronic Illness –
It’s about getting on with life!”*



As a thank-you to Mark Boyce for all his work and un-dying support of ChIPS we would like to compile a Scrap Book. If Anyone has any stories/photos/memories/thank-yous they would like to be included please contact the ChIPS office over the next two weeks. Thanks.



NEWS FLASH!!!

**ChIPS has
Funding for
Three Years
!YAY!**



chronic illness peer support