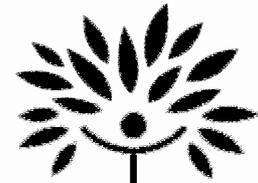


# ChIPS Wrapper



The Royal  
Children's  
Hospital  
Melbourne



## 2010 & 2011

# Editorial 2010 & 2011

It's that time of year where the sun should come out, 50 year old Christmas movies invade the TV and another successful Ref Com wraps up for the year. This year's Wrapper is a combination of two years hard work from two years of Publications Committee's. The result—a special 2010/2011 bumper issue of the Wrapper. Last year 'Publications' had the honour of having first time Ref Com member Luke Tipping as leader assisted by Abbie Kinniburg, Vassie Dandanis, Eliza Masterson, Sharlene 'Shaz' Sturk and mentor Carly Findlay for fresh new ideas.

This trend continued into 2011 with Luke at the wheel again and another amazing Publications Committee consisting of Kevin He, Caiti Martin, Bryce Carrucan, Shaz Sturk, Eliza Masterson and mentor Giles Craig contributing to bring you this amazing Wrapper jam packed with two years of ChIPS news and events.

2011 was a full on year. Eventful, fun and busy as HELL. The team worked well together, special mentions for Eliza as the unstoppable force at work and always reliable backup, along with Caiti from ways-away. We managed to put our heads together, work hours in and hours out, to deliver a Wrapper that is jam packed with TWO years worth of content, one that we are proud of. As you are well aware, the hardest critic is yourself. I could not be more proud of the effort we put in, day in and day out, along with the absolutely magnificent contributions from CHIPERS young and old.

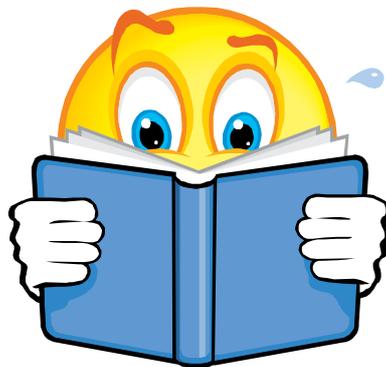
The Wrapper would not exist without the people taking the time to write and send in articles, and therefore the Publications Committee would like to thank every single person who did so. I am sure your words on paper will ring loud and clear to the audience, and help send a message to everyone that ChIPS is an amazing program and one that thrives on member participation.

I thank the staff who constantly strive to do their best in both running ChIPS and interacting with us.

But most of all, I thank the fact that something like ChIPS exists, something that brings us all together to fight our illnesses that many of us would have succumbed to if it wasn't for the help of a few peers.

**On behalf of 'Pubs' I hope you enjoy the Wrapper 2010/2011.**

K.



# Meagan's Musings 2010

Another year flew by in 2010, and what a year we had. We managed a few changes and had lots of victories. At the beginning of 2010 we said hello to Andy Bell who took up the reins of running ChIPS. Andy brought with him great enthusiasm and a fresh start. We said good bye to Andy later in the year as he pursued his career in a slightly different direction.

During this time of change the program didn't falter one bit! The ChIPS team pulled together and throughout the year we successfully ran three 8 Week Groups, two Intensives, Leadership Training and two successful camps AND completed a year of intense ChIPS Program evaluation. Also, not to forget Run for the Kids and the movie fundraisers that happened throughout the year. Phew! I hope I haven't forgotten anything. It was a busy one! We made it to the end of the year successfully, but this was not without the amazing and much appreciated help of some very important people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some particular people who assisted ChIPS to keep the program running throughout 2010 and especially while we went through the ChIPS Team Leader change over and got Jarnia onboard.

Thanks to all the mentors and volunteers who helped out with various parts of the program throughout the year, especially those on camps....you know who you are! I would particularly like to thank ChIPS mentors Jane Franklin and Jessica O'Dowd and manager John Vernon who put in above and beyond to help to the program keep running and recruit a new Team Leader. Thanks to the wider team at the Centre for Adolescent Health for their ongoing support of ChIPS also to Sarah Drew and Jessica Walton for their work and coordination of the extensive ChIPS evaluation.

There were several CHIPERS who put extra time in to help out in the office while we worked to get a new Team Leader appointed, so many thanks to them as well AND to the Reference Committee for their enthusiasm, passion and persistence. It's what ChIPS is all about.

Meagan Hunt  
ChIPS Program Facilitator



# Jarnia's Journal 2011

At the end of 2010 I came onboard the mighty ChIPS ship and have been loving the voyage ever since! My induction was ChIPS Camp 2011 – and what an induction – so many highlights and CHIPERS doing awesome stuff. Awesome stuff really has just continued as a theme in 2011. We have had a great team on Reference Committee this year. They have been dedicated to contributing back into the program and stepping up to plan and organise all the socials, the 2012 Camp, this Wrapper as well as general promotion, involvement in trainings and advocating for the program. So big ups to you guys – thanks so much for your efforts!

Another group that have had a big impact on ChIPS this year and have given so much of their time to ChIPS is our wonderful mentors – Jess, Jane-o, Giles and Leah – where would we be without you? Thank you so much for your passion and dedication to the program – I am sure I speak for members and staff when I say you are super stars.

We can't forget Carly who left us earlier in the year; Carly was a wonderful mentor and advocate for the ChIPS program – THANK YOU Carly.

The year of 2011 has been busy! Following ChIPS Camp we also entered a Run for the Kids team, have held successful 8 Week Groups and Intensives, Leadership Training, our brand new Peer Leader Training and four socials....pew!

High Challenge Camp was again another highlight and a special mention to the Victoria Police High Challenge Program staff for hosting this camp and your support of ChIPS more broadly, you guys are fantastic!

In 2011 we said goodbye to "Number 8" Gatehouse Street. This has been our home for nearly 20 years and holds many memories for a lot of CHIPERS. We are now based in the new Royal Children's Hospital and look forward to bringing you ChIPS from our state of the art new home..

Thanks to everyone in the CHIPS community for making this such a great program (a special mention to the ChIP In Auxiliary for their fundraising efforts this year). Welcome to all the new CHIPERS that have joined this year, it is great to have you in the program.

See you in 2012...bring it on!

Cheers  
Jarnia Cameron  
ChIPS Team Leader



# Chair Person Report 2011

Hi,

I'm Scott Campbell, I'm sure a lot of you would know me by now. But for the sake of the ChIPER's who aren't aware of me; I'm a 19 year old boy, who has had the privilege of being the Chair Person of the ChIPS Reference Committee in 2011.

The Reference Committee meets each month to discuss what is happening in the program, provide feedback to the Team Leader and to organise upcoming socials, camps, publications and advocate for the program. It really is all about ChIPERS getting involved in the program and having our say.

The Reference Committee meetings are something absolutely remarkable. A group of about 20 young people who haven't seen each other in a month, who all get along incredibly well congregate to discuss serious ChIPS business. The way that everyone just switches on at 6pm after sitting around chatting and eating is pretty special and I'm extremely proud to say I've had the pleasure of welcoming all the guys and girls on the Reference Committee this year as the Chair Person.

My job (if you'd call it that considering it's mainly just enjoyment and a cool title to quote to friends and family) is to keep the meetings on track and more importantly, punctual. Luckily for me the people on the Reference Committee this year were just awesome and understood where myself and Jarnia were coming from whenever they were pulled up for being a little too loud, or straying too far off topic.

On another note being the Chairperson of Ref Com (and also sitting on the Advocacy Committee) has enabled me to make a few public speeches this year. I've given speeches for the Red-Cross Blood Service (as a recipient of a blood product) and at the ATO Disability Day, to increase awareness of 'invisible illnesses'. I'd like to think that the new perspective I've gained this year in my role has transitioned over into daily life as well. I've definitely gained an even deeper respect for not only the people on Ref Com but for the amount of effort put into the agenda and into the work of the sub-committee's.

I just want to say thanks a lot for giving me the opportunity to experience something so amazing and so unique. If someone were to ask me "Do you ever think you'd want to do it for another year?" The only honest answer I could give would be no. The experience isn't something I'd ever want to hoard. I would rather pass the opportunity on to another ChIPER.

Thank you everyone on Ref Com this year; I can't wait to see you all next year.

Scott Campbell  
Chair Person 2011

# Reference Committee - Sub Committees

## **ChIPS Connect: (Advocacy)**

This year has been filled with lots of new and revamped ventures in the life and times of ChIPS Connect. Our initial meetings were on the topics of ward visits (on 3East, to visit potential CHIPERS) and the revamping of the ChIPS pamphlet. We went over what had made ward visits successful in previous years and what was happening now. We were able to make some improvements and strengthen the process. Then we were able to move onto other pressing things like the ChIPS pamphlet and where we wanted it to go (keep an eye out for the new one folks).

As you may or may not know within ChIPS there has always been Leadership Training and this is a very useful tool in the development of the skill sets of CHIPERS. This has not changed... however, we have split up the training and now have proudly added a new type of training which I personally felt really needed its own time slot. Thus PEER LEADER TRAINING was born! This training has been thoughtfully considered and made reality by the passion and power that peer leading has within the ChIPS community. We had the pilot sessions starring yours truly and Meagan as the guiding light for the enlightenment of what and where we would like peer leading to be and go. Just like Leadership Training it has been given purpose and meaning by those who are interested in taking part to increase or revisit their skill sets.

*Felipe Salas, ChIPS Connect, Leader*

## **ChIPS Socials:**

The year kicked off with walking and running at Run for the Kids to support the Royal Children's Hospital and raise the profile of the ChIPS Program. We had about ten members walking and running plus other CHIPERS and parents cheering us on from the sideline. At the end we enjoyed a picnic snack on the grass before going our own ways.

Our next adventure was to Kensington Recreation Centre for a games afternoon where we played a number of games that were both individual and team based, including ball games and having to erect a structure from straws. At the end of the afternoon we gathered for pizza and a chance to catch up on each other's news.

For our third social we went bowling with some karaoke to top it off at Strike Bowling, it was great to see CHIPERS new and old attend.

Our last event for the year was a Xmas themed Mini Olympics day including rock climbing, pool activities to name just a few at Latrobe sport and recreation centre.

We look forward to more opportunities next year to catch up and welcome feedback and ideas for future social events.

*Vassie Dandanis, Social Committee member*

## **ChIPS Annual Camp:**

Camp Committee this year had a million and one things to do (as usual) to set out and plan you all a fabulous camp coming up in January 2012. The first thing we needed was a theme, which surprisingly... one was thought up right away almost unanimously. It's a very exciting theme TOP SECRET of course, which I'm sure you'll all love ;). We visited campsites, which resulted in a good pie and coffee from a local shop, hehe. We scribbled on many pieces of paper (our way of being organized :P) we researched, we went insane? No, just kidding.

We've been busy on camp committee this year, it's been hectic, for want of a better word due to a freezing cold winter, but we've made it and we are right in the thick of final planning stages! We hope you have a fantastic time at camp 2012 :D SEE YOU THERE

*Jemma Young, Camp Committee member*

# Thanks To Our Mentors

## **Jessica O'Dowd**

I would like to say on behalf of the Camp Sub Committee, thank -you to our mentor. Thank -you Jessica (Chopper) O'Dowd. As always you are a great help and comfort to have around in ChIPS and I think I can safely speak for every CHIPER when I say we hope you're around for many years to come. If it weren't for you this year especially I'm not sure anything would have gotten done. You kept us in line and made sure we had everything done on time. Some people say that camp is ChIPS but you are a huge part of camp so in essence you are an essential part of ChIPS and we all love you. Hope you can help us make another stellar camp for next year.

*James Williams, Camp Committee Leader*

## **Jane Franklin**

Thank you Jane for mentoring and supporting the Socials Committee 2011. Jumping in and filling in for members that have been absent and helping the group to make difficult decisions. As always we enjoyed your timely jokes and smile and appreciated your efficient emails keeping the committee up to date and outlining tasks to be completed.

*Vassie Dandandis, Socials Committee member*

## **Giles Craig**

This year the Publications Committee has had Giles as our mentor. Giles has been such a huge help for the committee this year. Writing up our minutes and keeping everything on track, all on his trustworthy iPad. At the start of the year he created a publications email for us and helped ensure we had everything set up for a productive on track year. His creative spark and light hearted attitude was a huge motivating factor for the committee. So the Publications team would like to give a big thank you to Giles for everything he has helped, contributed and organised with us, and just being a driving force this year.

*Eliza Masterson, Publications Committee*

## **Leah Collins**

Hey my peeps this year we have had a new member join the ChIPS family. I'd like to introduce you to Leah, the new ChIPS Connect mentor. Woohoo! With her warm and pleasant demeanor we had an instant connection and she made all that we wanted possible. Its nice when you have a mentor that asks the hard questions, like 'how does that feel?',' is this working?',' how do you want it to look?' Just a few of the things that make it easier to think about the issues that are sometimes missed.

On behalf of all of us in ChIPS Connect, thank you for being our mentor Leah.

*Felipe Salas, ChIPS Connect, Leader*

# Farewell To A Mentor

## Farewell to our mentor Carly

Wow! Where to start? No words that I can say will give justice to just how much Carly has inspired us all within the community and the ChIPS Program.

For me personally Carly has been someone I look up to and who I have the upmost respect for. I take my hat off to her for everything she has done for us in ChIPS. Carly, you have taught us (me especially) to see the humorous side of having a disability or chronic illness.

I have to thank Carly because High Challenge Camp was my first ever Camp with ChIPS and I was struggling. Carly helped me realise that in ChIPS we are all the same, all willing to help one another.

So Carly before I close this off, thank you for all your support in the ChIPS Program your passion for helping us is infectious. I will miss you a lot, as we all will. We all wish you the best with your future, because I know it is bright. So thanks again for helping me take a step in the direction of accepting that I have a disability. You will never be forgotten at ChIPS, your passion for helping us and having a laugh with us will always be remembered.

Best of Luck.  
We love you!

*Sharlene 'Shaz' Sturk*

# Reference Committee 2010

## Sub Committees

### Socials

Karen Lay—Leader  
Sarah Menta  
Rohan Knowles  
Daniel Oakley  
Jessica Marshall  
*Jane Franklin—Mentor*

### Camp

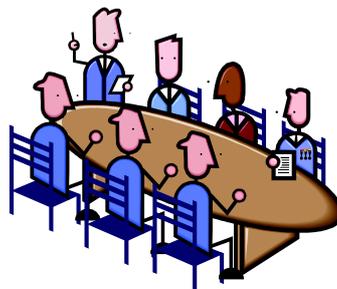
Jordan Hammond—Leader  
James Williams  
Michaela Gunn  
Jemma Young  
Bryce Carrucan  
*Jessica O’Dowd—Mentor*

### Connect (Advocacy)

Felipe Salas— Leader  
Tamara Myors  
Beth Sleeman  
Kris Hoen  
Louise De Pino

### Publications

Luke Tipping—Leader  
Eliza Masterson  
Vassie Dandanis  
Shaz Sturk  
Abbie Kinniburgh  
*Carly Findlay— Mentor*



# Reference Committee 2011

## Sub Committees

### Socials

Rohan Knowles—Leader  
Vassie Dandandis  
Sarah Menta  
Uli Kaplan  
Nick Williams  
*Jane Franklin—Mentor*

### Connect (Advocacy)

Felipe Salas— Leader  
Scott Campbell  
Danni Faour  
*Leah Collins—Mentor*

### Camp

James Williams—Leader  
Jemma Young  
Beth Sleeman  
Tamara Myers  
Kris Hoen  
*Jessica O'Dowd—Mentor*

### Publications

Luke Tipping—Leader  
Eliza Masterson  
Kevin He  
Bryce Carrucan  
Shaz Sturk  
Caitlin Martin  
*Giles Craig — Mentor*



*Ref Com 2011; absent from photo— Shaz Sturk, Caitlin Martin, Bryce Carrucan, Sarah Menta, Jemma Young, Scott Campbell, Kris Hoen*

# 8 Week Groups & Intensives 2010

## 8 Week Group Term One

Well it was my first group that I ever peer led and boy was it an experience. I met lots of great people and got the chance to share in their stories and even give them a glimpse into mine.

I really enjoyed being a part of this group and it was fantastic to see how much we all bonded over only 8 short weeks. I always find it amazing how much one single experience can bring together 7 people. We shared stories about medication, hospital, missing out on stuff and many other things across the hour and a half each week we would spend together. It was always a little sad when the time flew by so quickly.

It has been great to see some of the group on High Challenge Camp and even at a few socials. I hope to see them out and about in the ChIPS community a lot more in 2011. I extend my most sincere thanks to Sam, Claire, Jess, Jayden, Grant and De for an experience that I will never forget.

*Jordan Hammond, Peer Leader*

## Intensives Overview 2010

Here are our new ChIPERS from this years Intensive Programs:

Faith, Jess, Brodie, Brett and Adam, Danni, Bec, Tyrone, Jessie, Dylan, Talia, and Liam.

We would like to welcome you all to the ChIPS family and hope to see you around ChIPS events soon.

Peer leaders from 2010 were Felipe, Tamara, Louise, Sarah and Jordan.

Also, a thank you to all the ChIPERS that came along to the second day of the Intensive Programs to meet the new ChIPERS and give a little more insight into ChIPS.

*Felipe Salas, Peer Leader*

## Intensive, Term Two

Hey Guys,

The Term 2 intensive was a great experience. I was lucky enough to be with an amazing group of young people. On the first day we did a lot of group activities and really got to know each other. We wrote a rap about how we felt with our illnesses and hospitals, it was absolutely terrific!

On the second day we shared more about ourselves to each other which was lovely to be able to do. We also did some art activities, showing how we feel about our situation which was a really good activity.

It was an extremely fun experience that I don't think any of us will forget.

*Rebecca Tipping, Intensive participant*

# 8 Week Group & Intensive 2011

## 8 Week Group , Term Two

I thought that the 8 Week Group was a great opportunity to open up to people other than your friends and family. At first I wasn't sure about what I should expose about myself, but then I got more confident and realised that they felt the same way about it. I was able to talk to them about pretty much anything. Even after talking to my mum, dad and friends about this I still didn't feel like I got the annoyance and frustration off my chest, but when I spoke to the ChIPS people, I actually felt relieved!

8 Week Group is a great way to get newcomers to get a feel of the ChIPS vibe and meet some of the people who are involved in ChIPS, and also to get used to talking to someone other than family and friends openly. I think 8 Week Group should be continued for years to come! Eight week group gives you a pretty good idea of what the real deal ChIPS is going to be like. Keep it up!

*Eleni Avgoulis Coates, 8 Week Group participant*

## Intensives, 2011

This year we had two very successful ChIPS Intensives in July and October.

The first went off with a bang and a few surprisingly loud new ChIPS members were found during a role play! The second Intensive provided a whoop of fresh energy. The newbies came at full force into all the aspects of the Intensive and I proudly welcome each and every one of them to ChIPS...Bek, Holly, James, Rory, Charlie, James, Jessica, Rebecca, Jamie, Kris, Taylah, Emily and Will.

The Intensives as always were heaps of fun and like with anything the adding of a little personal touch really made all the difference. One of the highlights is always the group song which is created which is always excitedly approached by the group members and Peer Leaders.

I approached Meagan and Jarnia about adding a little more of me into Peer Leading. I love drama and acting in all capacities, as it is where I can be the centre of attention in a purposeful way. Working closely with my co-facilitator (Meagan) we organised a way to fit the role playing in with one of the group topics and this added another level of responsibility for me as a Peer Leader. Hopefully more of the new Peer Leaders will do just as I have done and add a little more of themselves to the Intensive Program.

Thanks for the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful and exhilarating part of ChIPS. I know that Intensives will just keep getting better and better [bowing bear and happy waving bear].

*xoxo Felipe Salas, Peer Leader*

# 8 Week Group & Intensive Song Lyrics

## Good Day

Lyrics composed by participants of July Intensive 2011  
(To the music of *Bad Day* by Daniel Powter)

How many times have we been misunderstood  
People keep staring as they walk through our hood  
We're not all that different or the same  
But not that that matters anyway,  
Judgement always carries on

Are you kidding me I'm not contagious  
Your expectations are so outrageous  
We're more than you see  
We're more than you are  
We're more than you care  
We're the best by far

We've had a good day  
We've had a good day

## ChIPERAZI

Lyrics composed by Tash, Eleni and Emma—8 Week Group, Term 2, 2011  
(To the music of *Paparazzi* by Lady Gaga)

I feel so worn out  
It's so difficult  
I just wanna go out  
Even go down to school  
Its so boring  
Glued to my couch and snoring

I may not look ill  
But I'm popping my pills  
I just wanna be normal  
Being happy and floral  
Don't assume you know  
What its like to not grow

And then ChIPS came along,  
I'm so relieved I can talk to people like me  
ChIPER, ChIPERAZI  
I'm surrounded by the people who understand me  
ChIPER, ChIPERAZI  
I promise I will try, to get better at this life of mine  
I know that I'll be ok with CHIPERS round me  
CHIPER ChIPERAZI

# Socials 2010

## Chill out session

We had our first Chill out session this year in September. It was a fun night with food, movies, art and plenty of socialising.

The night began at 5pm, we got the food out and began preparing pies, chips, sausage rolls, chicken nuggets, and snacks as well, lollies, pop corn, fruit, lollies, drinks galore and did I mention lollies... hahaha! Sugar highs all over the shop.

The movie debacle as always was another fun part of the evening we decided to limit the amount to choose from as it would have been disastrous if we had had too many to choose from. Once chosen the group separated and people went to do their own thing either having a chat or watching the movie or even doing a little art, we ended up making a painting on a huge canvas and all of our hand prints on it, it looks great and very colorful.

Catch you all at the next one :-)  
*Felipe Salas*

## M.C.G Legendary tour

The day was a sunny one- yes I remember it well because my eyes were burning from the ridiculous light coming from the concrete. We camped out the front checking out the snacks and drinks on offer for lunch. We made our way down to the fun and games, passing many photos and cups from past Grand Finals.

Cricket Footy Netball! I was in sporting heaven. First pick was the Footy game. We had 60 seconds to handball as many footys as we could into the designated holes-yeah I wasn't too good on that one!

Cricket next, basically the ball would roll to you, you had to pick it up and throw it and try and hit the stumps in some ridiculous time. I personally believe I am awesome at cricket, so of course I was awesome at it (\*cough\*) still I hit the wickets a few times and had some laughs.

Last of all was Netball. That was probably the most fun BECAUSE you took on your friend to see how many passes/shots you could get in 60 seconds. I was surely going to win that right? NOPE. I wasn't having much luck.

We strolled around and had a look at James Hird's auditorium, very interesting, I would definitely be keen to have more of a look at that.

Lastly we walked through the hall of fame, Carlton players everywhere (*because they are clearly the best team!!*)

Then it was time to part with the M.C.G.. I would like to thank all that came to make it a successful day, hopefully we score some ground passes next time ;)

*James Williams*

# Socials 2011

## **Run for the Kids, Term One Social**

Sunday the 17th of April was the ChIPS Run for the Kids (R4K) social. What is that you may ask? Well for the past 5 (ish) years the ChIPS Reference Committee has put together a team to participate in the Run for the Kids, a charity event in which all proceeds go to the Royal Children's Hospital, pretty cool eh?

This year the Social Committee decided to shake things up a bit and make it a social for all CHIPERS. Just let me break it down like a fraction for ya. On an average R4K we turn up just before 8am at a pre designated point for the ChIPERS to meet so we can start the run/walk together, we do the event and go home pretty much. This year we had heaps more people there to give support and then to tie it into a social we had a nice picnic at the end of the race.

By the time we finished the picnic it was about midday and everybody was so knackered from being up so early that we decided to call it a day. All in all it was a very enjoyable day and well done to the Social Committee for an absolutely fantabulous day, hope it's even more packed with people next year.

*Beth Sleeman*

## **Strike Bowling and Karaoke, Term Three Social**

On Monday the 7th November some ChIPERS got together at Strike Bowling Bar on Little Lonsdale St. The alley was all ultra violet and we had our own little section just for us to bowl in, it was really cool.

Everyone did really well, it was very interesting to see all the different techniques, some people liked to sit on the floor and others liked to see if their ball could bounce! The shoes were so cool and I really wanted a pair for myself! I was in the best team with, Meagan, Holly, Ty and Zak! :)

We all sat in lounge booths and they had big TV screens at the end of the lanes! After almost two games it was time to move to our own private karaoke room, which had lots and lots of yummy food waiting for us. There was lots of pizza and chips, my favourite was the meat lovers .

It didn't take long for Justin Bieber to come on to karaoke and Kevin and Scott took to the floor. Everyone who sang Karaoke did a really good job and it was really fun to watch whilst singing along! We finished the night off with "A Land Down Under".

It was really nice to be in the company of other ChIPERS and just enjoy the time out! Thank you to everyone who was involved in organising this night, it was really a lot of fun.

*Alycia Mack*



# Camp Reflections 2010

## January Camp

In January 2010, I was privileged to be able to attend my first ever ChIPS Camp. I didn't know quite what to expect. However, it quickly became apparent to me that this camp would be all about team work and communication. The camp would require us to encourage our team mates and require us to step out of our comfort zone. The idea of stepping out my comfort zone was quite a daunting concept for me. However, it was the encouragement and continued support of my team mates nicknamed the 'Red Devils' (as we were team 'red') that allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and achieve many new things.

On the last day of camp, I went on the giant rope swing and for me that seemed impossible- as I had never been given that opportunity. But I knew that if it was possible, it would be possible with ChIPS. With this belief that anything is possible, I was able to go to the top of the giant swing. Something that prior to my involvement in the ChIPS Program I never dreamt of doing. I also became the recipient of the 2010 ChIPS Camp Rising star award. This was an absolute privilege I was honoured to receive such an award.

Overall camp was amazing, it was great to see so many amazing and inspiring people take the courage to step outside of their comfort zones and achieve so many amazing things. Thank you to all the nurses, volunteers, mentors and ChIPS staff who attended, without your help it might not have been as amazing as it was!

*Sharlene 'Shaz' Sturk*

## High Challenge Camp, September

The camp was at YMCA Anglesea and was run by Victoria Police (in partnership with ChIPS) over 3 days. There were times when we had fun but other times when we were challenged in one way or another.

Some of the activities included rock climbing/bouldering, high ropes (with a down pour of rain), inclusive games in the gym and on the basket ball courts, brain teasers and warm fuzzie books.

Some of the highlights for me were the rock climbing and bouldering . Even if people did not have the strength to climb high we could be pulled up high and still have the experience of coming down. Another was when we all were in the gym and were using a line on the court as a beam to walk across in all different ways.

The last day was full of presentations and more warm fuzzies . There were tears shed and hip hip hoorays shared as well as hugs. Overall it was an opportunity to be with ChIPERS and to get to know police and health professionals as more than just people that keep the law and order or do medical stuff.

On behalf of the ChIPERS that attended High Challenge I would like to say a sincere thank you to Jane Franklin for instigating High Challenge Camp for ChIPS yet again.

*Vassie Dandanis*

# Photos 2010



# Photos 2010 January Camp



# Photos 2011 January Camp



# Photos 2011



# Camp Reflections 2011

## January Camp

As usual I woke up early in the holidays, except this time I actually had to get up and finish packing for ChIPS Camp. Two hours after waking up I arrived at the ChIPS office and was starting to catch up with friends and meet new ChIPERS. After a bit of catching up it was apparent that the bus wasn't around (and wasn't going to be for a bit) but it was all good, the High Challenge staff improvised and organised some icebreaker and name games in the park behind Gatehouse St .

The bus finally arrived and we were on our way for ChIPS Camp 2011! The bus trip wasn't long but it doesn't mean it didn't live up to standard. There was the usual chit chat between friends old and new.

Once we arrived at the campsite (Cave Hill Creek) we got straight into our teams and the theme was announced, which was \*drum roll\* Cowboys and Indians! After introductions we headed straight into our first activity which was totem making. Before long we had dinner and headed over to play some tee-ball which was heaps of fun. There were some really good hits as well as an amazing catch. After tee-ball we headed back to the dining room for some trivia and snacks then headed for bed.

Day two was great, awesome weather, some great activities including canoeing, archery and low ropes, also an awesome party in the evening. All the costumes were fantastic!

One the third day after lunch the "official camp traditions" took place. To start off we did a warm up activity that I can't remember for the life of me, but then we did magic moments, which as always was beautiful. You can't really explain the exact atmosphere that this activity brings, it is just pure love respect and magical.

After the magic moments exercise the awards ceremony was held along with farewells. Many certificates were given out The team that won was Cherokee, with first time team leader Shaz leading the way to victory. James was deservedly awarded the Chris Balnaves award for most outstanding camper in memory of much loved CHIPER. Felipe and Vassie gave heartfelt speeches for ChIPERS who were graduating the program and then it was onto the bus and home to sleep!

*Eliza Masterson & Luke Tipping*



# Camp Reflections 2011

## High Challenge Camp September

On Wednesday 28th September the ChIPS Program set out with the Victoria Police for High Challenge Camp. And it began - that is the rain began, I'd estimate that it rained for about 90% of the time we were at The Alpine Ash Mountain Retreat out Kinglake way. just because in those 3 days we had the most rain in September for 90 years it didn't ruin anything!

The whole camp was a very positive experience for me and it was my first one! We had four great High Challenge staff running the show: Jane, Patty, Nicole and Liz and they pulled off a pretty awesome camp, if I do say so myself.

Jane and the gang came up with so many activities to keep us amused we were never bored. We were just all together doing the same things and having a jolly old time. We did a couple of activities with a partner. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day we were divided into pairs and had to come up with a hand shake, and that same night we had to tie our hands together with rope and run around the room pretending it was Melbourne – how hectic was that eh? People running everywhere, I was surprised there was no accidents! Luckily we had a good medical team: Jess, Pete, Charlie and Amanda thank-you for making sure we came home alive.

The highlight of camp was clearly the pyjama party on the second night. I even won a prize. I think that was just because I had an awesome cape! Congratulations to Dan T who took home the top award - for best costume and overall performance. We also had a battle of the wits with over 20's competing against the under 20's in a competition of acronyms.

It was also great to meet and get to know so many new ChIPERS including James, Rory, Steve, Tash and Kris just to name a few. I hope to see you guys and more new young ChIPERS at future camps.

It was a good break away from regular ChIPS Camp. No teams or points or anything like that. In conclusion I had an awesome time even though I was in a moon boot, for anybody who wasn't there I strongly recommend that you come along to the next one!

*Beth Sleeman*



# Youth Forum 2011

On the 8th August 2011 young people from around Melbourne who have an association with the RCH attended the RCH Youth Forum.

The day began really early, but it was great to see a lot of familiar faces around. Everybody was placed into one of three groups; music, drama, or writing. My group's activity was to write one verse to a song which would be put together at the end of the day with other groups verses. The song was about what we thought were important issues for young people.

Eventually we all headed back to the Ella Latham theatre to listen to some special guest speakers. Luke Ryan, Nick Mandie and Tim Matthews all spoke and brightened everyone's day. Their enthusiasm and positive outlook in life left a smile on everyone's faces. There were heaps of freebies, which is always a positive and heaps of cool prizes were won.

All up the 2011 RCH Youth Forum was a great day, and I was so glad I got the opportunity to participate, have my voice heard and to meet heaps of new people!

*Natasha Payne*

## Leadership Training 2011

On the 7<sup>th</sup> July 15 ChIPERS had their first day of Leadership Training, held at the Flemington Community Centre. We played some games so everyone could get to know each other and have some fun. After that we received our Leadership Training Manuals and Jarnia and Felipe helped us set some goals for what we wanted to achieve from the 2 days of training. Jarnia then taught us about what leadership is and what makes an effective leader.

We then looked at the different leadership styles and we tried to figure out what type of leader we were out of The Thinker, The Director, The Relater or The Socialiser. We then separated into groups and discussed different types of leaders and how effective they were. Felipe did some energisers with us which was really fun and we talked about the positive aspects and challenges of being a leader.

On the second day we were all excited to meet Greg Cooper who was going to teach us about public speaking. We learnt that glossophobia meant fear of public speaking which a few of us had. We got tips on how to be a good public speaker and played some games to practice the tips.

Before lunch we broke up into groups and had to create a product of our choice and think about how we could sell it to the group. After an enjoyable lunch and creepy stories of encounters we had with people on public transport, we then divided back up into our groups to finish our products. We had so many laughs from the presentations. The products groups came up with were a wrist band that gave you anything you wanted in life, a four pen that you could put sauce flavours in and my group come up with a necklace that repelled creeps. To end the day we said thanks to Greg, Jarnia and Felipe who did a fantastic job of running the Leadership Training.

If you get a chance to do Leadership Training I definitely recommend it. It was so much fun; I learnt loads from the two days and had a great time catching up with other ChIPERS. (:

*Holly Duffy*

# ChIP In Auxiliary Report 2011

ChIP In has been going very well in 2011, thanks to the support of the various skills and attributes of our members.

We started off slow in 2011 but then got off to a roaring start mid-year holding a movie fundraiser at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville. We invited some key supporters to see Horrible Bosses and all who attended had a fantastic time. So thanks to everyone who could be there to support the ChIPS Program and raise money to help fund their annual camps.

We've also raised a fair amount of money thanks to Cadbury Chocolate Sales. ChIPERS also 'chipped in' helping us sell about a third of all the chocolates. So a huge thank you to those members who took a few chocolates home with them in the hopes of raising some money. I'd also like to thank the members of ChIP In and their friends and families for their tireless efforts selling chocolates on behalf of ChIP In. In particular I would like to extend a warm thank you to the RAs from Richardson Hall at Monash Residential Services for their efforts selling seven boxes to residents!

Lastly I would like to thank Jill O'Dowd who has kindly donated several items to be raffled off in 2012. My warmest admiration is lovingly projected in her direction.

2011 has been a very exciting year for everyone and we look forward to 2012 and all that it brings for fundraising efforts.

I'd like to acknowledge all the members of ChIP In:

Jenny Balnaves  
Di Fincher  
Jessica O'Dowd  
Stacey Cumming  
Loretta Bellato  
Jarnia Cameron

I couldn't do it without your support and guidance.

If you have any questions about how you can get involved in ChIP In please get in touch with Jarnia, ChIPS Team Leader and she'll happily forward your information on.

Jordan Hammond  
Chairperson

# Sydney ChIPS 2011

The ChIPS year of 2011 started with a bang as the newly appointed leaders of the reference group James and Kylie kicked off the new year with the organization of many outings, meetings and an eventful year that was to follow.

The outings that were planned for the year helped the members of ChIPS to gather together, catch up and reconnect with each other. Some of the many outings included a visit to City Extra in Parramatta which was full of food, laughter and exciting news. The visit to Sydney Aquarium in Darling Harbour was thrilling for many as they encountered sharks, sting rays and the exotic fish of the sea. Our latest outing was a fun-filled event full of laughter and the occasional food fight as we had dinner at a Teppanyaki restaurant in Parramatta. The food was amazing, when it landed on our plates or in our mouths. Otherwise, our lack of coordination saw our rice and egg land on the floor or in our laps!

The outings were not only for existing members but for the many new additions to the ChIPS Program this year. New ChIPS Coordinator, Katie Wagner was introduced to the position and the program on the 12th of June and since then has undertaken the role as coordinator with great enthusiasm and excitement. Although, most of us would agree that her greatest challenge would have been getting to know all of us and adapting to our outrageous and exuberant personalities.

One of Katie's main roles since she became Coordinator was to organize the leadership workshops for the ChIPERS. These workshops are organised to help and inspire the members as individuals, despite their illnesses. These workshops were organized in conjunction with Starbucks and Ottomin. The day was a great success and each person left the workshop with a new way of thinking.

One main highlight that was towards the end of the year was the 2011 NSW Youth Health Conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour. It was there that 3 ChIPS members, Renee, Michael and myself, along with Katie and Elizabeth Harnett (Head of Service Improvement Unit) gave a presentation about our views and experiences of being an adolescent in a Children's Hospital and giving a voice to adolescents in the State's Health System.

So much has happened in the past year and to write about them all would take pages. It has been an awesome year so far in the ChIPS Program. However, for now our main focus is to organize and enjoy our second annual ChIPS Camp out at Vision Valley and our annual Christmas Party in December.

The near future of the ChIPS Program is looking very bright and hectic! To kick off the New Year we will be starting our 8 Week Group program open to all new members and people wanting to join the program. Also, hopefully our first outing of the year to Circus Oz will invigorate each member and spark the energy needed to have an amazing year in ChIPS.

*Michelle Ibrahim, Sydney ChIPS member since 2010*

# One Year On From ChIPS

**Jordan Hammond**

It has been a year since my last involvement with ChIPS; the 2011 Annual Camp. I felt honoured that Caitlin asked me to write a piece for the 2011 Wrapper, having been the leader of the sub-committee in 2008-2009 I know how labour intensive the Wrapper is and how wonderful it feels when someone follows through with your request. So I dedicate this piece to Caitlin. I am sure there have been many changes at ChIPS in the past year; new ChIPERS coming through, younger ChIPERS stepping into leadership positions, new processes, new activities, new ideas. I am always excited to catch up with ChIPERS through my work at the Royal Children's Hospital, there is nothing more thrilling to hear that the legacy of ChIPS lives on through its newer members.

I thought I would take this time to reflect on my life post-ChIPS. There are a few things that I took from the ChIPS Program. I took skills and knowledge; how to work with other young people, communication, the power of the written word, organisation, non-judgemental listening, how to get along with people of different experiences to me, how to get along with people with similar experiences to me, how to create a positive impact on other young people, running a camp, editing a Wrapper, creativity, different ways of expression.

I took some very powerful personal experiences; running an 8-Week Group, running a camp, attending three High Challenge Camps, being inspired by people, having other people tell me they are inspired by my actions, jumping off the leap of faith, leading a camp group, winning two camps, chairing Ref Com. These personal experiences go on and on.

I also developed and continue to develop relationships with many people involved in ChIPS; I developed relationships with Jess and Jane two ChIPS mentors who will always inspire me. I grew to trust and develop working relationships with adults of many backgrounds, whether they be police members, hospital staff, camp staff, volunteers and more. I developed relationships with members of ChIP In. I've even become friends with past ChIPERS who were never in ChIPS at the same time as me, its amazing where you'll find an ex-ChIPER.

I took everything that I could possibly take from the ChIPS Program with me and for that reason I don't miss ChIPS. But I could never say that I don't miss coming to camps or chatting to ChIPERS about a myriad of topics. I miss the people but I don't miss the experience, I'll always have that with me. Take what you can and don't look back unless it's with a smile of remembrance.

*Yours with a smile, Jordan Hammond, ChIPER Aug 2006—Jan 2011*

# One Year On From ChIPS

## Karen Lay

Since leaving ChIPS in January I have achieved many things I have been dreading but am glad to have done them. Two major pillars in my life over the last few years have been ChIPS and Rovers. Both of these organisations are similar but very different at the same time. The time had come to say goodbye to both.

I have overcome my fear of applying for Nursing by knowing my friends and family supported me. Over my years in ChIPS I had made many friends who have encouraged and helped me see I can work in this very rewarding area in the Healthcare Industry. In July last year I started a Diploma of Nursing at Box Hill TAFE and have just finished my last day of classes. Now I have 1 exam, a practical assessment and a 2 week placement at the Alfred Hospital in December. I have learnt so much I never knew I could comprehend so much in such a little amount of time but I have. By February next year I will be an Enrolled Medically Endorsed Nurse. Scary!!!

My time in ChIPS gave me the courage to say goodbye knowing someone else would now experience what I have experienced and I have many lifelong friends. It is a life changing time in ChIPS. I would definitely not be who I am today without ChIPS. Keep up the great work ChIPS.



## Carly Findlay

It's been a busy time since I finished being a mentor at ChIPS. I have moved jobs, I'm still at the ATO but now I am doing work on a big project for the move to the new ATO building which we will move to next year. I've also been writing a lot on my blog and for other outlets. And I took part presenting in another season of No Limits on Channel 31. The highlight of filming was definitely having the ChIPERS come in to talk about how great ChIPS is.

I have started to do a few more public speaking events, this year I've spoken at a blogger conference and also a Girl Guides group. I hope to do more speaking in the future and I'm slowly saving up for a trip to New York next year, for a writing conference. I always tell people how ChIPS made a difference to my life and I am so glad I was a part of it for three years .

# Personal Story One

*I want you to know, it wasn't supposed to be like this. Or at least, this is what I tell myself.*

Every story has its big bad wolf, the dragon guarding the castle. As a little girl, I was always scared of the monster hiding under the bed. But I should have known better. Monsters shade themselves where you never think to flick your lashes. Mine was inside all along. Severe Myalgia Encephalomyelitis. Also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Severe fibromyalgia. They are my monster, my poisoned apple. But they are just words, letters thrown together carelessly to create tragedy.

There was never any sign, no Wrong Way Turn Back. One day I was Jess. The next morning I woke and simply couldn't walk. People, they ask me, *Did you Know? Could you tell you were getting sick?* If I had of known, I wouldn't be there to answer their well meant bullets. I would have started running, not looking back. I would have reached the edge of the earth, and it still would not have been enough. I would never have stopped.

Sometimes, people ask me. *What's it like, to be Sick?* I want to tell them, I really do. Sick is when micro shield smells like home. Sick is your Mummy spoon feeding you, sick is droplets racing down Daddy's cheeks as he mows the lawns, the click of more tablets in colours of the sickest rainbow. Sick is when you know that Fairytales lied. I really do want to tell them. But I can't. I guess that sometimes words can only say so much.

One, two, skip a few, two hundred. This was the number of tablets coating my insides when we realised I was dying. I guess, we are all dying. I was just doing a better job of it than most. This fact would have been the elephant in the room. I was too young for the world to be so heavy. I was crumpled, wheelchair bound and fifteen years old. Mum would have to carefully remove my clothes, each article another piece of dignity lost, and lay my broken wings in the bath. And then a doctor was stupid enough to do what no other White Coat would. He took on my case. And he saved my life. Day after day, week after week I fought for something which I wasn't even sure existed. Life, *real life*. Inside the yellow bricks that are the Royal Children's', I took wobbly fifteen year old first steps. My body faded its own story. So, I picked up a pen, and traced the dots. How to walk, feed, shower, dress, step. It was all there, if I stared long enough.

Some mornings when I wake, my heart hurts. Mum thinks it's my blood pressure. I know differently. There are just too many bruises on my soul. The friends who said they would be there, walking away while the promise still echoed in the air. The roommates slowly coughing to their goodbyes while I clawed my way back. The friends with pointed tongues, the cruellest of words dancing from their lips. The girl I had lost and the one who had been sent in her place. The aching disappointment.

I once knew a little girl who believed the future was printed on her palm. That was before she met the night of disease, the in between of life and death. Five years ago, had you told that girl that this is how things would be, she would have shook her blonde locks. *That's not how it goes*, she would have said. But that is the beauty of it. Everything is exactly as it should be.

I am in love. Madly, hopelessly, can't-catch-my-breath in love. With life. People, they don't understand. *You are sick*, they say, as if that settles the matter. But they only see so much. The rot

of my muscles, the mucus coating my bleeding lips, my heart humming to a beat too quick. The white of my toes, the jellyfish scars dancing across my spine. They hear the notes, not the song.

Everyone has their own beliefs, their religion. I believe that stars can sing, butterflies can whisper and kisses are made of fairy dust. I believe that sometimes the wrong words become a perfect match. *Me and Disease, Tayla and Heaven, Results and It's Spread*. I believe that sometimes it will never make sense, scars long gone can ache your heart, and it's never going to be fair. I believe that whether the White Coats find Cure or not, it will still be ok. I believe I will continue to lose, smile during the day, and sob under the whisper of the stars. I believe.

Maybe my body will heal, maybe it won't. Whatever happens, there will always be bullets and butterflies. As long as you know that one can kiss the other better, it will be ok. My name is Jess. Once upon a time I thought things were never supposed to be like this. But then I fell in love with life. Can you love something which has nearly taken you?

Always, infinitely  
Jess

## Personal Story Two

Well here goes, this will be the first time I've ever put myself down on paper (so to speak). I am (and have always been) relatively short of stature. This was my first issue at the age of six I was not growing at the regular pace. I remember heading to the chiropractor with my mum (this was great because it wasn't often that I got to have one on one time with her) and having him finagle me into really awkward positions and pushing down on me making me feel as if I was being squashed. These sessions went on for quite some time until I began to show growth.

At about the same time as my growth issues I also had quite serious asthma problems. I was able to deal with it pretty well except for bed time and after strenuous activity (which for me was a double edged sword as I loved to run around, play and yes even then I loved to make a fool out of myself!). I remember once at Easter our family and family friends rented out a house, one night at bed time I began to cough and gag. It was horrible, no sleep for me. After a couple of hours I finally conked out. Luckily asthma wasn't going to trouble me for very long. It dissipated when I was about 9 years old.

Being the middle child in my family I have always looked for ways to make myself stand out. No matter how hard I tried to find an identity for myself people knew was that I was Rodrigo's little brother or Carla's older brother. Grade Three arrived and along with this came the notion that I was finally on my way to achieve my own identity. Boy was I wrong!! The year was going moving along fantastically and I was a vibrant, energetic and charismatic young boy (according to my teachers). Then came November, the month in which my life was about to change.

I got sick (now for me getting sick was and is something that happens often enough to leave me used to it) coughing, cold sweats, all on a fortnightly basis. You see I was sick so often

## Personal Story Two ...

that this time we all thought it was my usual time for it so I did as I always did for the first couple of days, then I noticed that I wasn't improving and was in fact worsening.

I can remember several days later I felt like I had all the life sucked out of me and had only the strength to go to the loo and try to get rid of the feeling that my body was drying out on me. Then I proceeded to drink water until I felt that I was going to explode. This vicious cycle felt like it went on forever. My mother took me to the Royal Children's Hospital Emergency Room. It was late, about 11pm and I didn't want to move. At this point my mother already knew what was wrong with me because she had been through all of this before. Three years earlier to be exact, with my older brother Rodrigo.

I awoke several hours later with a hunger and thirst that made me feel alive again. The nurses could only give me ice so I sucked on ice for the next couple of hours and complained about not being able to eat all in a very me type of fashion of course! The next morning a doctor and a nurse came to my bed and told my Mother and I exactly what my Mother told them the night before. I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Knowing this didn't bother me as much as I thought it would, all I thought was

*“Are you friggin' kidding me? There's no way that I have the exact same condition as my brother.”*

The little hope that I was achieving my goal of having my own identity had vanished, evaporated into thin air and was laughing at me. I was in hospital for a week or so, during which time I was being taught how to live with Diabetes and adjust to the change. It was fun, but not during the night as I would have to get my blood sugar checked. You can imagine what it's like, trying to sleep, then having a nurse come in and shine a massive spotlight in your face.

It came time to return home and go back to school. Luckily for me my teacher's husband also had Diabetes. I was a celebrity and that was great because everyone wanted to know what happened to me. It was fantastic all of this attention on me and only me, no brother no sister just me, I loved it.

My biggest fears came to life with my hypos (sugar levels become dangerously low). Mine came on so quick that I never knew when they were coming until it was too late to avoid it. The only memory I have is a scream that to my knowledge I only make during my hypos. On the days of my hypos it was like my body hit the reset button and all the days events were lost. Scary.

High school arrived and along with that my identity reformed... and vanished. Fumbling to find my feet, I made friends, and began to build a new Felipe. Everything was going fantastically until Year 10. I felt that I was falling, falling down a rabbit hole into a world that I didn't understand and where I didn't fit. I couldn't grab a hold onto anything, everything seemed to be falling apart and there was nothing that I, or any of my friends could do. I was alone and it dawned on me no one understood, really understood what it was like to be me. I created the facade that is now one of my greatest assets—my humour, and bubbly-ness. My life had frozen, become motionless and each movement, word, conversation and action seemed monotonous. I had effectively given up on trying to live and was going through the motions. No one knew, I was alive but not living anymore.

The day this all changed was when I went for my 3 month check up at the RCH. I told my doctor that I wasn't doing too well and she recommended that I see a psychologist. This was weird because never in all my life had I pictured myself seeing one. I lasted three sessions and it didn't help much because it was too clinical, too proper, too organised. I really didn't feel comfortable talking about myself so I was then suggested to try one of the programs for young people with chronic illness. This would be the beginning of my journey to finding myself, once again. I received a call on the Monday before the 8 Week Group started. On the line I was told a little about how the evening would run and that there was about eight young people in the group. It was starting that very Wednesday, promptly starting at six pm. This was perfect, as on Wednesdays I had class nearby and was no problem for me to get there. Since I finished a little early this Wednesday, I decided to walk there. I didn't want to seem too eager so I hung out at the park just behind the Centre for Adolescent Health. At 5.45pm I decided to head on down to Number 8. I tentatively rung the bell, a few moments passed and a tall bald man opened the door and said

*"Hi, you must be Felipe."*

My family had no part in my joining ChIPS that made me feel great because I knew that I was doing something for myself and no one else. That feeling could not be taken away from me. I had found this all on my own. It was mine, all mine. During the eight weeks I realised that ChIPS was something that I had been searching for and needed. It forced me to take a proper look at myself and see that I was heading down a dangerous path towards my own ruin. Luckily for me I found this information just in time and thus brought forward my healing and recuperation of my loneliness. Being with other people that were thinking and feeling the same things helped me see the glimmer of hope (in that endless abyss that I was in) that light at the end of the tunnel.

Joining ChIPS really helped me see that I am someone with a chronic illness and that I have to give into it every now and again. I realise that it is a part of me, and that it will be hanging around for as long as I live. Reminding myself about it helps and heals me as a person. With this I now have something to offer others; my knowledge, experiences, and all the characters I've met so far have taught me to look past the facade and look deeper in order to see the real person.

Throughout my time at ChIPS my involvement has increased and along with that my confidence, time management, and sticking to my commitments among other skills I am constantly discovering and improving. After all that I've been through I know that I've grown and am continually learning more about myself. I also know that none of this could have been possible if not for the constant help and support from my family and friends. Whether they are friends who have known me all my life, friends who are known to many as the "Pimpin' Yuppies" or the people at ChIPS. I'm still searching for myself and I now know that I will not now or ever be alone again.

Cheers,

coolies later.

Totes Awesome

don't forget that my peeps

xoxo gossip boi

# Farewells

## The home of ChIPS—Number 8

As the new RCH gets ready to welcome ChIPS on 24<sup>th</sup> November ChIPS held an official farewell party to the beloved ChIPS office of 18 years.

The night started off with some small chit-chat and music, ChIPERS past and present arrived to farewell the “home of ChIPS”. There was a banner laid out on the pool table with the words “memories of Number 8” for everyone to write, or paint their memories. It was lovely getting to know and catch up with past ChIPERS.

At 6pm everyone was ushered out the back of Number 8 to reminisce and have a barbecue dinner. Jemma got the roll balling, welcoming everyone and opening the speeches. It wasn't long after that, that everyone shared their own favourite stories of Number 8 and what ChIPS means to them. Many described Number 8 as a “home away from home” and everyone agreed in their own way that no matter where ChIPS is located the atmosphere will never change.

After many laughs, lots of barbecue food and a rather interesting debate on whether a drink was mineral water or lemonade, the spectacular cake that Beths' Mum made was cut. The cake was decorated into the Number 8 house. It looked as amazing as it tasted and was very quickly demolished. It was a beautiful night filled with laughter, food and memories. Hopefully the new ChIPS home will have just as many memories in 18 years time.

*Eliza Masterson*

## Felipe Salas

When people say to me “Who do you believe is the heart and soul of ChIPS?” It doesn't even take me a second to think of an answer, it is so clear. Though all of us ChIPERS combined make ChIPS what it is, there is one person that has always been the one who can make a ChIPS event that little bit more special. Not only is he a brilliant young man who has made an impact and led ChIPS down a positive path, but he is a mentor to all. He can be often described as “part of the furniture”. He is known for his addiction to anything orange and his crazy but entertaining attitude on life. He is the person you go to when in trouble or if you're just in need for a chat. He is Felipe Salas and though he is leaving ChIPS his positive outlook and crazy laugh will always be remembered in the community. We thank him for everything because we all know ChIPS wouldn't be what it is today without him.

*Sarah Menta*

