

# THE BRIDGE

## FROM THE CHAIR



Dear friends of Western Chances,

To think two years ago we launched our first edition of the Western Chances e-Newsletter – The Bridge, and even more momentous is that Western Chances is now almost four years old.

Western Chances supports young people with Scholarships as they pursue their individual educational and career goals.

A Western Chances Scholarship can consist of an annual grant which enables a Scholarship Recipient to pursue their career objectives year on year, should their circumstances remain the same.

**Currently Western Chances supports 394 Scholarship Recipients on an ongoing basis, with a total of 919 scholarship grants having been awarded since 2003/04 at an average value of \$1000 per grant per year.**

We are very proud of our successes to date and thank each of you for your valued contribution.

It is extremely rewarding to see our scholarship renewal rate remain, which indicates the value of our scholarships in making a real difference to young people's lives. More importantly, individuals are playing an active role in progressing their own talents. We received **127 new applications for our recent scholarship round**, — a terrific response.

Our many and varied programs will continue into 2008. These include Free Debate, The Siemens Science Experience, Crusaders, Lord Somers Camp, Orchestra Victorias' mOVe program, ACMI digital screenings, and the LINKS program.

The Young Western Leader's Summit (part of our Alumni program) will be conducted again next year which will involve even more interactive and motivational sessions so stay tuned for more information.

All of our exciting programs would not be possible without our many partners so a big thank you to you all. We look forward to continuing to grow our partnerships and build successful journeys for our young people in 2008 and beyond.

Finally, to the Board and team at Western Chances, thank you for your commitment and hard work and here's to another successful year ahead.

Enjoy the festive season and see you in 2008!



Terry Bracks, Chair

Western Stories. Expressions For The Future No. 8.

## Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) A TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Sponsored by:  **servicestream**

**acmi**  
australian centre  
for the moving image

The second 2007 ACMI Digital Storytelling workshop (the 8th since inception) recently took place, thanks to our Sponsor, Service Stream, allowing more students and staff to create an autobiographical 'mini-movie' at ACMI's studios at Federation Square.

Louise Bryant, English and Drama Teacher at St Albans Secondary College participated in this workshop and has captured her thoughts...

In the second week of the mid semester holiday, students and teachers from St Albans Secondary College and Braybrook Secondary College were fortunate enough to participate in the Digital Storytelling program at ACMI.

As a teacher, I couldn't believe my luck when offered this opportunity. This program provided a valuable opportunity for students and teachers to craft their own stories using the wonderful facilities at ACMI. It also provided me with a unique opportunity to work with students outside of the classroom. It was a pleasure to share their stories and ideas, and to be part of the creation of projects that were insightful, interesting and moving.

The Digital Storytelling program gave me the opportunity to reflect upon my first year as a teacher (in fact, my project was called 'My First Year'). Hopefully it will be of some assistance to other graduate teachers as it reveals the things they don't teach you at uni!

The Digital Storytelling program was also a valuable professional development activity. As a graduate teacher I am still developing a repertoire of teaching and learning skills and practices. This activity provided a wide range of activities and storytelling strategies I can now take back to school and apply in the classroom and share with colleagues. The program also provided an introduction to a range of computer software, most of which we had not used before. Thankfully, the staff at ACMI were dedicated, talented, and infinitely patient with all of us.

The presentation night at ACMI, attended by students, parents, colleagues and peers, was a fantastic end to the project we all worked so hard on. The presentation revealed the diversity, creativity and talent of students. The response of the audience was incredibly rewarding for all participants and was a reminder that students have developed skills they can use in the classroom, workplace and beyond.

Programs like this would not be available to students and teachers from schools such as St Albans Secondary College and Braybrook Secondary College if it were not for the assistance of Western Chances and Service Stream. I look forward to seeing the stories that are told in the next round of Digital Storytelling.

# Update: Western Chances partnership with The Crusaders Merv Hughes Foundation 2007



Matthew Marshall and Aaron Alki of Brimbank Secondary College who were part of last year's New Zealand Cricket Tour

This is the second year of an initiative between Western Chances, The Crusaders and the Footscray/Edgewater Cricket Club. The aim of this Western Chances Opportunity Program coordinated by The Crusaders is to provide young men in the Western Suburbs with access to top class cricket facilities and top class coaching. The emphasis is on enjoyment of cricket rather than the promotion of elite players, that is, 'access to all'.

In mid 2006 Western Chances promoted the program to all secondary schools in the Western municipalities of Melbourne. Western Chances then collated interested schools and provided this information to The Crusaders who then visited the selected schools. Here the outline of the program was provided and information was passed on to interested participants.

Training and coaching sessions were run by former Victorian cricketer Peter Bedford and a group of coaches from The Crusaders and the Footscray/Edgewater club. These sessions took place in late October and early November at the Footscray/Edgewater facilities. The next phase of the program, the 'Merv Hughes/Crusaders Cup Carnival' was held in December 2006 and was a huge success.

The 'Merv Hughes/Crusaders Cup Carnival' dates for this year are 4th, 5th & 6th of December, at the Trinity and Carey Grammar Schools playing fields in Bulleen. These games involve young men from both the Western Suburbs and the North-East of Victoria to play in over 40 games with modified rules to ensure maximum participation.

A 'Team of the Carnival' is chosen at the end of these games which will see a squad of 14 boys going to Christchurch, New Zealand for 6 days to play against local schools teams in January 2008.

Last year 5 young men from the Western Suburbs made the squad and enjoyed an experience that will last a lifetime. Western Chances Opportunity Program participants, Matthew Marshall and Aaron Alki of Brimbank Secondary College (pictured) were amongst the participants last year.

Western Chances, The Crusaders and the Footscray/Edgewater Cricket Club look forward to many young people from the Western Suburbs participating in the 'Team of the Carnival' for 2008 and being able to provide them with an exciting and memorable opportunity they would not otherwise experience.

## Scholarship Recipient Profile



### Cheyne's Story

The fulltime dance course I have been studying, thanks to Western Chances, since the start of the year, is absolutely fantastic and I am enjoying every minute! I am certainly getting a lot out of it and my general dance technique in all styles of jazz, tap, ballet, acting, and singing have come a long way.

This has allowed me to start auditioning and feel confident in my own ability to perform well. Recent auditions I have undertaken include: "Disney Tokyo Resort" where I made it all the way to the end and was on hold for a position in one of their shows (which was good for the first audition!). The next audition was for "Royal Caribbean Cruises" and "P & O Cruises" where at both of these auditions I made it through the first round of call backs before unfortunately being cut out.

Besides undertaking these auditions I have been continuing to compete in competitions and have performed very well in all of these. I was even placed in my tap solo at "CSTD Comps" and "Ballarat Royal South Street Comps" which was great for me! At the moment I am working as a US Marine on the Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg Mini TV series "The Pacific" which has been a great experience so far and I am contracted with them until May next year which is terrific.

Next year, I am hoping to do another year of fulltime dance to improve my technique and my chances at breaking it into the big league as a 'professional dancer'!

Since I have been able to attend the extra dance classes Western Chances has opened up for me, I have been promoted up two classes! The support Western Chances has given me so far is greatly appreciated and is enabling me to pursue my dreams in performing arts!

## Focus on an Investor: Village Roadshow



John Kirby, Chairman, Village Roadshow

*John Kirby, Chairman, Village Roadshow, recently spoke of their company origins and proud association with us since our inception...*

Village Roadshow is tremendously proud to be supporting Western

Chances. The Company has its origins in the Western suburbs of Melbourne, out of Kirby's Theatres which was based in Sunshine and Maribyrnong. Paradoxically, the Village company began in 1954 with a single drive in in Croydon. It was called Village because Croydon was indeed a village at that time rather than the outer suburb of Melbourne which it is today. Village Roadshow has tremendous respect for the determination and social ethic of Terry Bracks and we were honoured to be invited to support her in advancing the causes of youth in the Western suburbs.

Village Roadshow has been a very large employer of youth in its cinemas throughout Australia and other countries for many, many years. It has created an enormous amount of part time jobs for people who are pursuing other courses and/or full time jobs until they determine a career

choice. Some of these fine, young people have shown great aptitude and enthusiasm for the cinema business and are now represented in some senior positions through the Company. The contribution of youth to the cinema business has been a powerful one indeed and Western Chances provides a tremendous opening to recognise and support that youth contribution particularly in the Western suburbs where Village Roadshow originated.

What is pleasing to Village Roadshow is that Western Chances is not an inward looking organisation like some others which are more focused on self preservation and self promotion rather than getting results where it really counts. The people and the programs in Western Chances have been inclusive of youth and outward looking to give them opportunities in the broader community. At the same time, these programs have been developed and shared with a number of other fine Victorian institutions both academic, entertainment and government.

Village Roadshow is honoured to have the opportunity to play some part in this important progress.

Terry Bracks is a great leader.



VILLAGE ROADSHOW LIMITED

## Focus on a Probono Partner, Video Production Sponsor: DreamPool Productions



Bob Grieve, Director,  
DreamPool Productions



*Dreampool Productions has a 'hands on' approach to the work of Western Chances and has done so since our beginnings. Bob Grieve, Director, Dreampool Productions, recently spoke of how our relationship began, the support they provide, and visions for the future of the West...*

"I was driving back home to Williamstown

when I heard Terry Bracks being interviewed by 3AW's Ernie Sigley about her vision for Western Chances.

Her interview struck an instant chord with me. This support Western Chances was developing was, and is, greatly needed in the West.

I was born at the Williamstown Hospital in 1956, and Williamstown was a very different place back then.

My Mother a young widow in the early 60's with five children to bring up could have used the support Western Chances offers to so many families today.

My business partner Mike Dickinson and our staff saw Western Chances as a great opportunity to assist students in our own backyard. Supporting youth in the local community, a community I grew up in and continue to live in.

Dreampool Productions supports Western Chances by producing videos demonstrating to potential sponsors the great work Western Chances does.

Dreampool Productions has also for many years supported "The Children of Chernobyl Fund" in particular raising funds for equipment for the children's hospital over there.

Dreampool currently produces television programs for the Seven, Nine and Ten Networks, Foxtel and SBS TV. It also produces corporate videos for many Australian companies.

We would also like to, through Western Chances, develop the future Directors, Producers, Editors, and Graphic Artists by exposing them to the film and television industry through our facilities.

For further information on the work that we do, log on to [www.dreampool.com.au](http://www.dreampool.com.au)



## New Initiative for Western Chances NHArchitecture Osso to Broome Sept 2007

In September, 2007, six riders and their support crew realized their dream to travel over some of Australia's greatest outback country, while raising money for the "Chances" programs in Victoria.

'OtoB', apart from the obvious meaning "Oh to be," is derived from the starting point of the journey: Café Osso (O) in Hawthorn, Melbourne, to the finishing point in Broome (B), Western Australia.

Roger Nelson, Principal, NHArchitecture, made comment before taking off on this journey: "Sometimes you need to do something that's completely out of your comfort zone, that really pushes you to your limits. Riding 5,000km across the outback seemed like a perfect way to do that! And the fact that we are helping the 'Chances' Programs and its positive work with young people, makes it really mean something."

Western Chances extends their heartfelt thanks to NHArchitecture, the riders, and all the sponsors for their contributions. We have received \$20,000 as a result of this initiative to invest into our young talented people of the West.

## Business Supporter Network ensuring sustainability for Western Chances' Scholarship Program

One of Australia's most respected and successful businessman addressed 100 western suburbs business people and leaders for our second Business Supporter Network breakfast event held on Thursday 15th November at Williamstown Town Hall's Supper Room .

Ray Horsburgh, Chairman of Toll Holdings Ltd and the Essendon Football Club shared with attendees his experience of operating one of Australia's largest companies while playing an active role in community life.

Our Founding Chair, Mrs Terry Bracks said Western Chances had been overwhelmed with the interest from local business people in attending the events.

"The first two business breakfasts have been fully booked out. We are very excited that local business people have taken the opportunity to hear some of Australia's most successful people speak while supporting young people in the Western Suburbs."

Tigiste Kebede, a senior student at Copperfield College and scholarship recipient, presented her personal and inspirational Digital Story and spoke about the impact



L to R: Ray Horsburgh, Tigiste Kebede, Terry Bracks and City of Hobson's Bay Mayor, Cr Leigh Hardinge JP

on her life of receiving a Western Chances scholarship.

Mayor, Cr Leigh Hardinge JP, of City of Hobsons Bay also spoke.

This Western Chances Business Supporter Network event was proudly sponsored by Plenary Group and Hobsons Bay City Council. A big thank you to both of our invaluable supporters.

Our next Business Supporter Network event is to be held in early April next year so stay tuned for updates.

### Key benefits for Business Supporter Network participants include:

- Exposure to broad business contacts & opportunities
- Hearing from high profile speakers & taking part in specially tailored events
- And of course the important benefit to our young people of building a large group of committed long term supporters

To find out more about our Business Supporter Network, feel free to contact Betty Klonaris on 8345 1850 or visit our website [www.westernchances.org.au](http://www.westernchances.org.au)



John O'Rourke,  
Principal, Plenary Group

## Profile of a 'Business Supporter Network' Sponsor



*Plenary Group recently became part of the Western Chances Business Supporter Network,*

*also sponsoring the November breakfast at which Ray Horsburgh was the guest speaker.*

*Principal, John O'Rourke, spoke to us about the reasons behind their involvement...*

Established in 2004 as an independent public private partnership business, Plenary Group is an investor, developer and operator of public infrastructure. Based in Melbourne, it now also has offices in Sydney, Adelaide, Vancouver and Toronto, and an Edmonton office opening soon.

The company's name emerged out of the approach it applies to the development and delivery of its projects.

"Community expectations of public infrastructure are rightly high and our approach has been to commit jointly to quality as well as value for money."

A 'plenary' approach is absolute; comprehensive and complete, so it describes the qualities we bring to meeting public expectations in the delivery and management of public infrastructure over their long term operations.

Plenary understands the need for strong partnerships. Our largest project in Victoria, the Melbourne Convention Centre Development at South Wharf is a \$1billion precinct development and simply wouldn't be possible without strong partnerships with clients, consortium members, project sponsors and the community.

This is the appealing aspect of Western Chances; the similar emphasis it places on creating strong partnerships with schools, community organisations, local businesses and young people.

"We think it is a compelling model and our new partnership with Western Chances provides us with an opportunity to link with Melbourne's West. I'm also a Council member of Victoria University which has established strong links with Western

Chances as one part of a range of fantastic community engagement initiatives."

The scholarship recipient who spoke at the breakfast, Tigiste, was a wonderful story of talent and personal capacity overcoming the difficulties of migration from war torn Sudan and we were very impressed at the impact the Western Chances scholarship had on her personal situation.

Plenary Group also sponsors Australian Women's Wheelchair Basketball team "Glider", Kathleen O'Kelly-Kennedy, in her efforts to represent Australia at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

The company also recently sponsored current Young Victorian of the Year and director of the Oaktree Foundation, Tom O'Connor, to travel to East Africa to look at partnerships with the UN and various aid agencies there.

"We think our growing list of sponsorships plays an important part in linking into a range of communities and we look forward to hearing more of the work of Western Chances."

## Business Supporter Network Company Profile

*Olex Cables is one of the newest companies to become part of Western Chances' Business Supporter Network. Managing Director, Andrew Stobart spoke with us about who they are, what they do and why they support us.*

### Olex Cables

Olex is pleased to be a part of the Western Chances Business Supporter Network by assisting the youths in the West reach their full potential.

Olex is an Australian manufacturer of electrical cables with more than 65 years of experience servicing the Australian and Asia Pacific energy sectors. Olex has two manufacturing plants in Victoria, located in Lilydale and Tottenham. Employing more than 700 staff around Australia and New Zealand, with sales offices and distribution centres throughout the Asia-Pacific Region.

This program is an opportunity for Olex to get involved and make a difference to the lives of our young people in our local community.

One of my senior executives recently attended the November Business Supporter Network breakfast event and found it to be extremely worthwhile in terms of the networking opportunities as well as hearing from a scholarship recipient. It brought home for him what can be achieved when businesses work closely with Western Chances.

For more information about Olex Cables, visit [www.olex.com.au](http://www.olex.com.au)



Andrew Stobart,  
Managing Director,  
Olex Cables

**Donate Online** Make your tax-deductible donation to Western Chances by credit card on the secure online donations service [www.ourcommunity.com.au/westernchances](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/westernchances). You can donate as a one-off payment or a monthly credit card payment or telephone us direct 8345 1850.

## Upcoming Events Dates for the Diary in 2008



### Scholarship Round 1

Open Day 1, Term 2

### Scholarship Round 2

Open Day 1, Term 4

### Orchestra Victoria's mOVe Program

Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th March

### Young Western Leader's Summit (2 days)

Friday 14th & Saturday 15th March

### 3rd Business Supporter Network Event

Early April (date tbc)