

Issue 6

Purple Orange

The e-newsletter of the Julia Farr Association

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What's with the Purple Orange?

The Purple Orange team and Julia Farr Youth used their presence at the Disability and Ageing Expo in August to formally launch [Purple Orange](#) as the shopfront of the Julia Farr Association - giving people 'the good juice' about our work.

We use the Purple Orange brand to promote our work in research, policy, consultation and evaluation. Just like a shop has a front window to show its work, the Julia Farr Association has Purple Orange. Purple Orange is not a service agency providing hands-on support. Instead we try to influence the way things happen in our communities so that people living with disability get a fair go at all the good things life has to offer.

But where did the concept come from? Why a *purple* orange?

An orange is named for its colour. What you see is usually what you get. But if the orange wasn't orange, but a different colour (say, purple), hopefully it would make you pause and take a deeper look.

We believe that it's the same with people living with disability – you need to look beyond what you think you see.



For more information about our work including research, policy, consultancy, training and evaluation, please contact Communication Officer Brigette Elliott on (08) 8373 8333, freecall 1300 857 327 or email brigettee@purpleorange.org.au.

Canadian Families Bring Practical Lessons to Adelaide

“Individualised Funding is a vital and necessary funding mechanism, but it requires extensive individual and systems advocacy, and this will only occur when its strengths and limitations are understood and truthfully communicated.”

Bruce Uditsky and Anne Hughson



Purple Orange recently welcomed a number of Canadian families when they co-presented a self-directed funding workshop, *Practical Lessons from Canada*, with Bruce Uditsky and Dr Anne Hughson in August.

From Alberta, the Canadian families shared their lived experiences of Individualised Funding and the building of inclusive communities with over 50 guests, including people living with disability, families, service agencies and government agencies.

Through their work with the [Alberta Association for Community Living](#), Bruce and Anne highlighted the challenges and triumphs experienced working with self-directed funding in family settings over the last 20 years.

“For Individualised Funding to be helpful, we need to understand its inherent limits; that it does not tap the capacity of community, and that creativity, employment standards and other outcomes are not givens,” Bruce said.

“There are things money just can't buy, and it is important that we focus on people's values, visions, dreams, aspirations, pathways and possibilities.

“We can do this by *first* looking at what natural and generic supports are available, and *then* at what minimal service supports are possible.

“Facilitating inclusion is an art – it requires talent, critical thinking and reflective practice,” Bruce said.

When asked what they would do differently in their lives after attending the workshop, attendees provided a number of responses, a selection of which included;

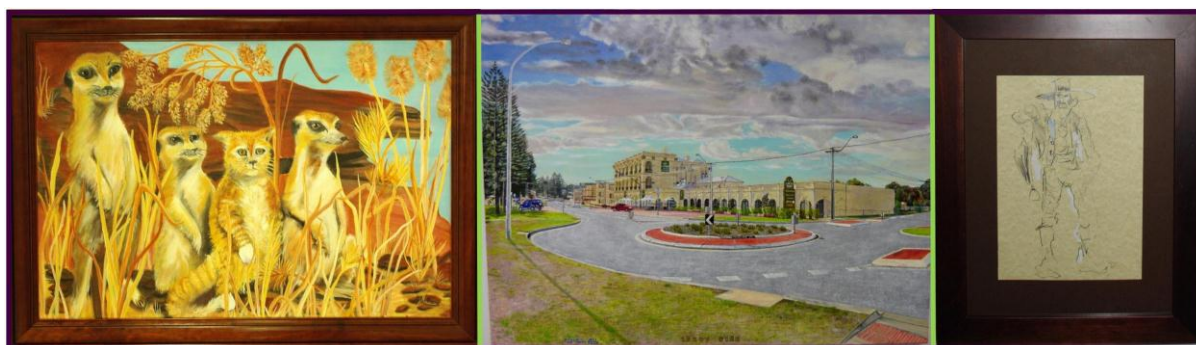
- I will tell other parents with children living with disability that their children have ability and choice.
- I will use these families' real life stories to inspire myself and others towards community inclusion.
- I now realise how important inclusion and capacity building is for self-directed funding to be successful.
- This workshop made me see a bigger picture.
- I have had my thinking challenged – I now no longer see Individualised Funding as a stand-alone situation.
- The Alberta experience has reinforced the need for self-direction, but also for something more basic such as ensuring that belonging is developed.
- I will take away the key message that Individualised Funding does not equal better options unless it is value based and accompanied by capacity building.
- I intend to incorporate self-directed funding into the family plan, rather than anticipate that it will solve all the problems.

Resources about capacity building and Individualised Funding can be accessed on Purple Orange's website www.purpleorange.org.au, calling Purple Orange on (08) 8373 8333 or freecall 1300 857 327, or emailing admin@purpleorange.org.au.

Art Exhibition People's Choice Award Winners Announced

Since its launch in July, visitors to the Purple Orange Art Exhibition have cast hundreds of votes for the People's Choice Award.

Purple Orange is pleased to announce that Amanda Williams's piece *Something Odd* was the 2011 People's Choice, closely followed by Paul Aldis's *Largs Bay Hotel* (second) and Stewart Daish's *Bushman with Saddle* (third). Amanda, Paul and Stewart will receive a gift certificate for art supplies.



From left: *Something Odd* by Amanda Williams, *Largs Bay Hotel* by Paul Aldis, *Bushman with Saddle* by Stewart Daish

The 2011 Exhibition explores the theme of Personal Leadership. Amanda's work features a "stranger" who has been adopted into a family of inquisitive Meer cats.

Speaking about the inspiration for her painting Amanda said: "It was my intention to convey a message that just because someone looks different, it does not mean that we should not be accepted for who we are, even if we live with a disability."

Amanda lives with acquired brain injury after being kicked in the head by a horse ten years ago, and started painting as a component of her home-based therapy.

"I call it my gift, because I had never painted prior to the accident and now I have a part-time job teaching painting.

"I exercise personal leadership by pushing myself to overcome obstacles that I know will help me gain confidence, and hopefully in that way I can be a role model to others," Amanda said.

Purple Orange would like to congratulate Amanda, Paul, Stewart, and all the artists who submitted artwork to this year's exhibition. The exhibition is open to the public at Purple Orange, 104 Greenhill Road, between 9 am and 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday. All artwork is for sale.

Tellus Survey iPad Winner

More than 880 people responded to Purple Orange's second national *Tellus* survey, developed to gather information from people living with disability about their lives.

All participants were entered into a draw to win an iPad 2, and Purple Orange is pleased to announce that Michele Threadgold from Adelaide is the lucky winner.

Michele is an accomplished musician and performer. The prize will help Michele, who lives with a vision impairment, to write and record music.

The results of *Tellus* are currently being analysed and we will communicate the findings in upcoming newsletters and e-mail alerts. *Tellus* findings will be used by Purple Orange to identify areas where positive change is required, and to inform future policy submissions, training and consultation.

Findings from the first *Tellus* survey informed a number of policy submissions and produced three reports; *Having Choice and Control*, *Accessibility*, and *Disability Funding – Where should it go?*

If you would like a copy of any of these reports, please contact Purple Orange by calling (08) 8373 8333 or freecall 1300 857 327 or emailing admin@purpleorange.org.au.

Young Leader Jarad is the Pride of Australia

In the last edition of this newsletter we announced that Julia Farr Youth (JFY) group member Jarad McLoughlin was a finalist for the Pride of Australia's Young Leader Medal.



Purple Orange would like to congratulate Jarad on being named the winner of this category at the awards ceremony in August!

Jarad is a founding member of JFY, and is involved in a number of other initiatives that help assist young people living with disability including the JFY Mentoring Program and the SA Minister's Youth Council.

We Value Your Feedback!

At Purple Orange we are working hard to make our communications as accessible as possible.

If you have trouble accessing any part of this e-newsletter please contact our Communication Officer Brigette Elliott at bridgettee@purpleorange.org.au, phone (08) 8373 8333, or freecall 1300 857 327.

Additional information on the work of Purple Orange can be found on our website www.purpleorange.org.au, and in Robbi's [Purple Orange blog](#).

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