FITABILITY IS BACK

We are proud to announce that we have just received funding to run our very popular Fitness program for children on the autism spectrum.

This year, it will run at the Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre, with 4 x 10 week programs.

This is thanks to Club Rivers who have already done much to support the work of the ACN.

To apply to join this term’s program please see the Events section on our website.

20 Things I Have Learned Since My Son Was Diagnosed With Autism

By Steve Drakoulis

1. Autism is just one part of who my son is, it doesn’t define him.
2. There is no such thing as normal
3. Surround yourself with people who understand and support you
4. Don’t waste time and energy with those who are a stress in your life
5. My son’s strengths are amazing and make me marvel at him
6. It’s alright to pretend that I’m listening after he’s been speaking about the same thing for an hour
7. Tomorrow is a new day
8. Some people can surprise you with their kindness
9. Some people are just vile and stress me about the future
10. Only focus on today and what’s in front of us. Don’t waste energy on a future that’s not yet written.
11. Doctors are not gods. If your gut tells you otherwise seek other opinions.
12. Join a support group and meet people who totally get you
13. My son is honest and pure and lovely and he is not doing it on purpose to drive me crazy.
14. Use his interests to help him progress.
15. Sometimes the grief of the potential forfeited will still creep in
16. Every child has their own unique potential and I will help my son reach that whatever it might be
17. Pick your battles
18. One good friend can make him happy
19. As long as I am trying then I am doing enough. If I aim to do everything at once I will fail and my son will fail.
20. My son is like a Mac computer in a Windows world. Different way of thinking but ultimately still the same objectives.
The Autism Community Network gratefully acknowledges the support we receive by the following supporters and partners, without whom we could not provide our programs and services to our community.

Disclaimer
This newsletter is for the purpose of providing readers with information and options in their communities. Inclusion of events or information does not imply endorsement by the Autism Community Network (ACN). We have made every effort to maintain up to date and correct information but urge every reader to only use the content as a guide and do their own research before deciding on any course of action.

The ACN reserves the right to choose whether to publish or edit any information provided for distribution to readers of this newsletter or our website. Any dealings with members of this network must at all times be conducted in a manner based on mutual courtesy or respect. Failure to observe this may result in exclusion from this network.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sutherland Laser Tag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Cooking Club for Low Functioning ASD kids</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Northern Beaches Gymnastics session</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Punchbowl Flip Out Trampolining</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Bully Proof Kids 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Sutherland Trampolining Social Day / Hornsby Family Social Day at Bowling</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>St. George ACN BBQ in the Park</td>
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<td>8th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>9th</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Inner West Support Group / Hornsby Family Day</td>
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<td>12th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>13th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>St. George Fitability</td>
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<td>15th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sutherland Evening Parent/Carer Support Group</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Penrith Support Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Northern Beaches Support Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>St. George Art Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Bully Proof Kids 8 / Ryde Area Family Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>24th</td>
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<td>St George Youth Club</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Bully Proof Kids 9</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>St. George Family Day</td>
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TIMOTHY WALTERS
A REMARKABLE MAN
1972-2015

Timothy Walters, ACN Chief Information Officer, Board member and friend passed away on 15 June after a three year battle with cancer.

Timothy was instrumental in the development of the Autism Kids Communicate project which saw 121 non-verbal children receive iPads with P2G software. He initiated the much loved ACN Minecraft server, established our accounting and IT systems and mentored kids that showed an interest in programming.

His quiet generosity and positivity in the face of insurmountable challenges has inspired many.

He will be sadly missed by his wife, Claudia Walters, their six children and all his friends at the ACN.

Rest in Peace, Timothy.

FACTS AND FIGURES 2015
From U.S. stats

1 In 68 children has been Identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder

According to the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates, 1 in 68 children in the United States has an autism spectrum disorder, based on health and education records. That figure represents a significant increase from previous prevalence estimates, released in 2012, which estimated that 1 in 88 have an ASD.

Boys are more likely to have Autism than girls

Autism is roughly five times more common in boys than girls, according to CDC estimates. One in 42 boys have been identified with autism, compared to 1 in 189 girls.

The symptoms of an ASD can present themselves in infancy

According to the NIH, early indicators include: No babbling by age 1, no single words by 16 months, poor eye contact and more. (Click here for more information from NIH.)

Scientists are not certain what causes Autism

According to the NIMH, both genetic and environmental factors could contribute.

There is no cure for Autism, but there are ways to treat it

Autism is treated with therapy, education plans and medication. Doctors and scientists say that early identification and intervention for children with an ASD can help them thrive in academically and socially in the future.

Research shows that there is no link between the onset of Autism and vaccinations

Even when multiple vaccines are given to a child on the same day, they are still not at risk of developing autism.

If a child has an ASD, their sibling has a 2–18 % chance of also being diagnosed

Studies have also shown that if a child with an ASD has an identical twin, the other will be affected anywhere from 36-95 percent of the time.

20 - 30 % of children with an ASD develop Epilepsy

Children whose language skills regress before they turn 3 have been found to have a higher risk of developing epilepsy.

About 10% of children who have an ASD also have another genetic, metabolic or neurologic disorder

These disorders include Bipolar Disorder, Fragile X syndrome and Down syndrome according to the CDC.

Infants and young children should be screened for Developmental Delays at periodic intervals

The CDC recommends children be screened when they are 9, 18 and 24-30 months.

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Online Quarterly Magazine for / by Adults on the Autism Spectrum – ‘In Perspective’

A group of talented adults have developed and released this online magazine covering life, art, photography, music, food, poetry etc in a unique and accessible format.

See https://www.autismspectrum.org.au/content/online-magazine-perspective.

Each download of the app helps adults on the spectrum and supports those on the spectrum who developed it.

To get the 2nd edition on an app, click on www.presspadapp.com/digital-magazine/in-perspective, buy the app ($1.99), and share the link.

The NSW Disability Industry Innovation Awards 2015

These celebrate the innovative approaches by individuals and organisations who improve the lives of people with disability.

The Innovation Awards recognise and reward achievements of non-government, community based organisations and individuals whose creative and innovative approaches to service delivery that help people with disability prepare for changes and opportunities as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) approaches.

The 2015 Awards will also recognise individuals and service providers who lead the disability sector in providing culturally responsive person-centered services.

For information about the Awards, previous winners and finalists and how to nominate, see www.disabilityawards.com.au.

Nominations close 5 pm Thursday 3 September 2015.

How NOT to BEHAVE

Hi Steve, the boys and I attended the recording of episodes 2 and 3 of a new TV show “How Not To Behave” at the ABC studies in Ultimo last Friday. It was a great experience to be part of the studio audience and better still – the show ran just like a “social story” for adults on the Autism spectrum – although it was not designed for this. They supplied Subway rolls for dinner and free refreshments of the alcoholic and non-alcoholic kind. We caught the train to Central and walked through the tunnels to get to the studio- easy.

If you have time and the inclination – tickets are FREE but a booking needs to be made http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/how-not-to-behave-studio-audience-tickets-17145057328

Teresa
July School Holiday Workshops at ARNCLIFFE COMMUNITY CENTRE coming up.

Puppet Making Workshop for 3-7 year olds on Friday 3rd July from 10am – 12pm. The kids will be making Australian native animal puppets using paper, fabric and other materials to create stick puppets, hand puppets and pop up puppets. Parents and carers of 3-7 year olds must stay with the child during the workshop, BYO SNACKS. $12 per child and $6 for concession card holders (extra cost for materials).

Drumming Workshop for 8 – 12 year olds on Thursday 9th July from 10am - 12pm - Our drummer from Wacky Beats has over 10 years' experience as a Drummer, percussionist, dancer, performer, Choreographer and director. He’ll be teaching the kids how to drum using recyclable materials. Check out Wacky Beats Workshops on YouTube! BYO Snacks. $10 per child and $5 for concession card holders.

Karate Workshop for 3-7 year olds on Friday 10th July from 10am – 12pm - Back by popular demand, Sensei Aaron from Key Martial Arts will be here to teach beginners karate workshop. Karate teaches kids self discipline, confidence and focus in a fun and caring environment. *Parents/carers must stay with children. BYO Snacks. $10 per child and $5 for concession card holders.

Please call them on 9503 9900 or email Marjorie Tenchavez <Marjorie.Tenchavez@3bridges.org.au> if you want to book one or two of the workshops!

Youth Minecraft Workshop

The ACN's Bully Proof Kids Taekwondo program is proving very popular with our kids and it is a great thing to see each week as they are taught about control and self discipline by Instructor Geo. The message below fro one of the mums was wonderful and worth sharing.

Hi Geo, I just wanted to let you know of how 'Bully Proof Kids' has helped Cadel to date.

I received a note from his teacher today (he is in Kinder at a mainstream school) that another student was annoying Cadel last week and he simply got up and walked away. He did this before any of the teachers needed to intervene. A number of them observed Cadel's action and praised him for his stance. So good to hear. So very proud of him.

We have of course been working with him on this for a while however I also feel that the learning from Bully Proof Kids is also helping to reinforce this message.

So thanks again for a fabulous program thus far. Cadel loves it. See you on Saturday.

Jo

Come along to our school holiday program for school aged children with a disability, where you will learn some of the skills involved in basketball and cricket!

No experience necessary! The idea is to have fun while learning some of the basic skills involved in the sports.

Open to school aged children with a disability and their siblings.

Where: Rockdale PCYC, Ador Avenue, Rockdale

When: Monday July 6 and Friday July 10

Time: 10 â€“ 11.30 am Cost: $5 per session

Book: on 9790 5001 or email RSAClub@bigpond.net.au (please book, so we can have an idea of numbers, and plan accordingly)
If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis and need someone to talk to, please see below.

24 Hour Autism Hotline
1300 222 777

Parent Line
1300 1300 52
Call to speak to a professional counsellor for personalised advice.
Mon - Fri 9am to 9pm
Sat - Sun 4pm to 9pm
Parent Line is a telephone counselling, information and referral service for parents of children ages 0 to 18 who live in NSW

Lifeline
13 11 14
Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.
Have your say on a Senate inquiry into the school system for students with disability

The Senate Education and Employment References Committee are conducting an inquiry (http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/students_with_disability) into the school system for students with disability.

NDS is keen to hear from members with experience in the school system.

The scope of the inquiry includes the following issues:

- current levels of access and attainment for students with disability in the school system, and the impact of inadequate levels of support on students and families
- the social, economic and personal benefits of improving outcomes for students with disability at school and in further education and employment
- the impact on policies and the education practice of individual education sectors as a result of the More Support for Students with Disabilities program, and the impact of the cessation of this program in 2014 on schools and students
- the future impact on students with disability as a result of the Government's decision to index funding for schools at the consumer price index after 2017
- the progress of implementing the needs-based funding system as stated in the Australian Education Act
- the progress of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and the findings, recommendations and outcomes from this process, and how this data will, or should, be used to develop a needs-based funding system for students with disability
- how possible changes as a result of the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability will be informed by evidence-based best practice of inclusion of students with disability
- what should be done to better support students with disability in our schools
- the early education of children with disability
- any other related matters.

Please send comments by COB Tuesday 11 August 2015 to Tessa Thompson.

Contact information: Tessa Thompson, National Policy Manager, 03 8341 4305, tessa.thompson@nds.org.au

THANK YOU MICROSOFT

Our great thanks and appreciation to Mr. Glen Daley and his employer, Microsoft.

Glen nominated the ACN as his preferred charity for Microsoft to donate $1,500 worth of programs to help us with our fundraising efforts. Some very impressive software will be added to the mix at an upcoming fundraising event for ACN.
Online Questionnaire Study for Adults with Autism/Asperger’s syndrome

Researchers at UNSW Australia and Autism CRC are seeking volunteer research participants to learn about life in adulthood for people with Autism/Asperger’s syndrome.

Would the research project be a good fit for me?
The study might be a good fit for you if:

- You are an adult and you have Autism/Asperger’s syndrome
- You are a carer or family member of an adult with Autism/Asperger’s syndrome

What would happen if I took part in the research project?
If you decide to take part you would:

- Complete a questionnaire either online or via a paper copy.
- The questions will be about many aspects of life including mental and physical health, employment and other day occupations, behaviour, emotions, coping, memory, friendships and health service utilisation.
- It might take 2 to 3 hours or more, to finish, but you don’t have to do it all at once.
- Complete a second questionnaire about two years later if you want to.

Will I be paid to take part in the research project?
There are no additional costs associated with participation in this research project, nor will you or the participant be paid.

Who do I contact if I want more information or want to take part in the study?
If you would like more information or are interested in being part of the study please contact:

Kitty Foley
e: autismcrc@unsw.edu.au
p: (02) 9385 0620
www.3dn.unsw.edu.au

Autism CRC is the world’s first cooperative research effort focused on autism across the lifespan.
The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing individualised support to people with a disability resulting from an impairment that is, or is likely to be, permanent and results in substantially reduced functional capacity; or for children under 6 with developmental delay. The Scheme is being implemented by the National Disability Insurance Agency. The NDIS has been trialled in several sites across the country, and will be introduced in the Nepean Blue Mountains area for children and young people aged 17 years and under. From 1 July 2015, community engagement forums and assistance with access and planning will occur; from September, up to 2000 children and young people aged 17 years and under will gradually phase into the Scheme, receiving individualised plans. Existing national and state-based services and supports will continue until eligible people start their plan with the NDIS.

To access the NDIS people must:
- Be aged 17 years or under, and have an impairment or condition that is likely to be permanent and stops them from doing everyday things for themselves or need support now that will reduce their need for support in the future OR be aged under six years old with developmental delay.
- Be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident or hold a Protected Special Category Visa.

Get More Skills Workshops:
Are a place to learn & practice new skills to get more Choice, Voice & Control in your life. Think and plan, practice and discuss the NDIS and what you can do now!
We have a fully accessible workshop coming up in Castle Hill, for people with a disability and their families/carers, so make sure you register now!
We will discuss the NDIS and the Good Life.

Where: Castle Hill RSL – 77 Castle St, Castle Hill
When: Tuesday 21st July 2015
Time: 10am – 2pm

or call 1800 144 653

My Choice Matters is for people with disability and their family members.

We will also be discussing:
Run Projects - a way to applying for up to $5,000 to run a project of your own. You can also work with up to 3 others to run a project as a group. [http://www.mychoicematters.org.au/run-your-project.html](http://www.mychoicematters.org.au/run-your-project.html)

- Refreshments & lunch provided from 1pm for those who register
- All workshops are fully accessible

Please contact us if you've got any questions, or just register - we look forward to seeing you there!
**Autism Community Network Inc.**

**Source: Warringah Disability Newsletter**

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**Studio Girls - Art-based Social Program for Girls aged 10 – 18 yrs with Autism Spectrum**

What? This is for mainstream girls with an interest in art/drawing.

When? Meet 2 - 3 times per term, on Saturdays 1 – 4pm.

Where? Aspect Vern Barnett School, 41 Cook Street, Forestville.

Cost? $40 per child per session.

RSVP? Parents can contact Jane Cotter on 0425 287 298 or jcotter@autismspectrum.org.au.

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**Autism Spectrum Australia Northside Social Club**

What? This recreational social club for children and teens aged 8 – 18 years diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (e.g. Asperger’s disorder, autistic disorder, atypical autism, PDD-NOS). With ADHC Peer Support Network funding, the program has mixed boy/girl groups (ages 8-18) for 2- hour sessions to promote friendships while focusing on talents and interests, social activities, opportunities to share experiences. Register before attending. Parent/carer’s own transport.

Where? Vern Barnett School, 41 Cook St, Forestville NSW 2087. (Mail to: Social Club, PO Box 770, Seven Hills NSW 1730).

When? Office Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Sessions alternate Fridays 6:30pm–8:30pm during school term.

Cost? Activity costs as charged by community venue; no registration fee.

RSVP? Parents can contact Beth Del Rosario on 8868 8500 or bdelrosario@autismspectrum.org.au.

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**Aspect Workshops for Parents and Carers of Young Children**

What? Early Days Workshops are designed for parents and carers (not professionals) with a young child aged 0-7 years who has or may have Autism Spectrum. The workshops are part of the Helping Children With Autism package that provides free support and information. All attendees will also receive a range of resources. Workshops may be cancelled due to insufficient registrations.

Where? Building 1, Level 2, 14 Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086.

RSVP? To register, contact Early Days on 8977 8353 or edworkshops@autismspectrum.org.au, or see www.autismspectrum.org.au/events.

**Early Days Progression to School** • Pennant Hills (Bowling Club, 52 Yarrara Rd) on 22 June, 10am-1pm • Frenchs Forest (Building 1, Level 2, 14 Aquatic Drive) on Monday 20 July, 10am-1pm

Early Days Introduction to Autism: Frenchs Forest - Monday 10 August, 9:30am to 2:30pm.


**Early Days Play & Social Learning:**

Frenchs Forest - Friday 21 August, 10am-1pm.


**Understanding Behaviour** Workshop:

Frenchs Forest – Wednesday 9 September, 9.30am-2.30pm.

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**We live on Autism time.**

**We get there when we can and we leave when we need to.**
Aspect Vern Barnett School: Term 3 Parent Information Session

What? Parents, caregivers and professionals can learn about the Aspect Vern Barnett School, its application and enrolment process, Comprehensive Approach for Education (A CAE) and Aspect Programs. This information session is limited to 20 attendees.

When? Tuesday 28 July, 9:30am to 11am.
Where? Aspect Vern Barnett School, 41 Cook Street, Forestville NSW 2087.

Event on Planning for the Future

What? Hear from Ashurst Law Firm on the legalities of will, trusts and more! This day is exclusively for families, siblings and other adult family members.


Whole Family Activity Camps

What? ASPECT invites families with a young person with autism to attend this autism-friendly camp where staff and other guests understand your needs, and all children in the family can enjoy activities.

Fishing, volleyball, flying fox, archery, paper airplane throwing, campfire.

A. Family Activity Camp - Central Coast / Hawkesbury

When? Friday 26 June 5pm to Sunday 28 June 2.30pm.
Where? Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre, Hawkesbury River NSW 2083 via Brooklyn Wharf.
Cost? $210 per adult, $148 per child – includes all accommodation, meals, activities.

B. Skiing and Snow Play - Families and friends can enjoy a two day skiing or snowboarding weekend camp in

lodge style accommodation with one family per room. Two packages are available:

1. Ski Package includes assistance from experienced staff, professional graded lessons with Blue Cow Snow Sports School, evening recreational activities, lift and lesson ticket including ski tube*, breakfast, lunch and dinner (with lunch provided at Blue Cow on Saturday and Sunday).

2. Snow Play package: 2 night stay in lodge style accommodation with one family per room, all meals, bus and ski tube transfers each day, base room access at Blue Cow, 2 evening activities

When? Friday 4 September 5pm to Sunday 6 September 4.30pm.
Where? Southern Highlands: Jindabyne Sport and Recreation Centre, 207 Barry Way, Jindabyne 2627.

C. Camp for the Whole Family

Where? Friday 25 September 5pm to Sunday 27 September 2.30pm.
Where? Berry Sport and Recreation Centre, 660 Coolangatta Road, Berry NSW 2535
### EASTERN SUBURBS SUPPORT GROUP
**When:** First Wednesday 10.00 am to Noon  
**Venue:** Juniors at The Junction - in the Board room  
Corner Anzac Parade & Haig Street, Maroubra  
**Facilitator:** Steve Drakoulis  
**Provided By:** Juniors on the Junction & Maroubra Seals

### HILLS DISTRICT SUPPORT GROUP
**When:** TBA  
**Venue:** Elena’s Place, 239 Excelsior Avenue, Castle Hill  
**Facilitator:** Elena Barnes

### HORNBY FAMILY DAY
**When:** First Sunday 10.30 to 12.30  
**Venue:** Bobbin Head — in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park - meet next to the playground on the water's side  
**Facilitator:** Caroline Nicholson  
**Cost:** $11 per car entry—buy your own lunch and drinks  
This is run as a social skills group for children with an ASD, their siblings and their entire family. There is a lot to do there, they have a fenced park, bush walks, you can feed the fish, there are BBQ's and a café

### INNER WEST SUPPORT GROUP
**When:** Second Sunday 2.00 to 4.00 pm  
**Venue:** Canterbury Leagues Club—26 Bridge Rd Belmore  —In the inner section of the bistro  
**Facilitator:** Jan Wright  
Children always welcome, we sit them at a table beside us so that they can socialise together

### NORTHERN BEACHES SUPPORT GROUP
**When:** Third Thursday 7.30 to 9.30 pm  
**Venue:** Encores Annex on the ground floor—Manly - Warringah Rugby Leagues Club  
Corner Federal Parade & Pittwater Road Brookvale  
**Facilitator:** Judi Huxedurp  
**Provided By:** Our meeting room is kindly donated by Manly Leagues Club.

### PENRITH SUPPORT GROUP
**When:** Fortnightly Tuesdays during school term 9.30 to 11.00 am  
**Venue:** Mission Australia Building—46 Bringelly Rd Kingswood  
**Facilitator:** Christine Smallwood  
**Provided By:** Autism Community Network (ACN) and the Luke Priddis Foundation (LPF)

### RYDE SUPPORT GROUP
**When:** Second Thursday 7.30 to 9.30 pm  
**Venue:** Eastwood Rugby Club  
146 – 150 Vimiera Road Eastwood NSW  
John Haynes Room  
**Facilitator:** Andrea Lee
RYDE AREA FAMILY DAY
When: Third Saturday 3.00pm to 5.00pm
Venue: Blenheim Park in North Ryde—16 Blenheim Road North Ryde
Facilitator: Andrea Lee
The Blenheim Park has play areas that suit kids with a wide range of age from toddlers to teenagers as it has sand pits, scooter and bike paths, play equipment suited to a wide age range, flying fox, an enclosed dog park and a remote control car track. Check out this website http://www.weekendnotes.com/blenheim-park/
We will be meeting at one of the sheltered pagoda near the toilet facility. Come join other families at the park for a play and a chat.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE DAY SUPPORT GROUP
When: Second Wednesday 10 am to Noon
Venue: Tradies Club Gymea 57 Manchester rd Nth, Gymea
Facilitator: Alex Baltins
An opportunity to meet other carers who understand you. We share experiences and new information.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE TRAMPOLINING PLAY DAY
When: First Sunday 10.00 to 11.00 am
Venue: Flipout Caringbah—12 Parraweena Rd Caringbah
Facilitator: Alex, Laureine or Judy from the ACN
Cost: $14/hr—All families pay own costs to venue
Carer can participate free if you advise venue that child has disability.
A chance for the kids to have some fun while parents socialise together
Notes:
A) Parents or carers must remain on site to supervise their children.
B) Venue requires all to complete a waiver before using trampolines.
C) Socks are compulsory for all jumpers.
Organised By: ACN

ST. GEORGE FAMILY DAY
When: Last Sunday 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Venue: Smith Park—30 Morgan Street Kingsgrove (behind Kingsgrove Community Centre)
Facilitator: Liz from the ACN
This is a group for all ACN families
This is run as a social group for children with an ASD, their siblings and their entire family. The park has an enclosed playground, bbq facilities and suitable areas to bring bikes and scooters along.
Note: Parents or carers must remain on site to supervise their children.

ST. GEORGE INFORMATION DAY
When: First Thursday 10.00 a.m. to noon
Venue: Kingsgrove Community Aid Centre—30 Morgan Street
Facilitator: Steve Drakoulis
Provided By: Kingsgrove Community Aid Centre
Guest speakers monthly

ST. GEORGE AUTISM SUPPORT FOR CHINESE FAMILIES
When: TBA
Venue: Club Central Hurstville
Facilitator: TBA
Provided By: Club Central
COMING SOON
ST. GEORGE KIDS ART GROUP
When: 1st & 3rd Friday 4.00 to 5.30 pm
Venue: George River Life Care—in rooms upstairs—23 Stanley Street, Peakhurst
Facilitator: Steve Drakoulis.
This is run as a social skills group for children with an ASD and their siblings are also encouraged to attend. We have painting, drawing and craft activities and a chance for kids to make friends.
Note: Parents or carers must remain on site to supervise their children.
Provided By: Georges River Life Care

ST. GEORGE FITABILITY CLUB
When: Weekly Wednesday 4.00 to 5.30 pm
Venue: Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre
King Georges & Forest Road, Hurstville
Host: Warren Thompson.
Provided By: Club Rivers
We aim to give children with autism an opportunity each school term to participate in a fitness program run by the team at the Hurstville Aquatic Centre. Parents must remain on site
We aim to give as many children an opportunity so new kids will be given priority each term.
Note: This group is expensive to run, if you book a spot please make every effort to attend as it costs to run and others are missing out.
Closed shoes must be worn to participate.

ST. GEORGE YOUTH CLUB
When: 2nd and 4th Friday 4.00 to 5.30 pm
Venue: George River Life Care—in rooms upstairs—23 Stanley Street, Peakhurst
Facilitator: Geoff Marks
This is a social group for teens between 13 and 18 years old who have high functioning autism
Note: Parents or carers must remain on site and will be seated in an adjoin room to enjoy a coffee together. Any younger children must remain with the parents all times and cannot participate with the teens’ group.
Provided By: Georges River Life Care

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Provided By: Georges River Life Care

WESTERN SUBURBS SUPPORT GROUP (BLACKTOWN)
When: First Wednesday 10 am to Noon
Venue: Blacktown Workers Club - 55 Campbell Street, Blacktown
Facilitator: Briana Blackett
Provided By: Junaya
COMMON GROUND GROUPS
The ACN provides opportunities for our members to connect with others who have similar experiences to their own. Be they language based, health issues or other aspects of their autism world, you can connect with people who share a Common Ground with you.

Many of our members have joined some of these groups, but as there have been more created since then, we are sending out this update.

You can choose to join any of these groups or suggest another.

We will then add to that list:
- your first name and initial
- Your suburb
- Your child’s gender and age where relevant
- And your email address

You can then in your time contact others who may live near you for a chat or mutual support. Updated lists are sent out monthly.

In addition to the lists, we also invite you to join the Facebook page set up for your Common Ground group as well as the page for your area. These are Secret pages, meaning no outsider can search for them or see what is written, and require us to invite and then accept you. It allows our members to speak in as private a forum as the internet allows.

Note: If you are using a different name on Facebook than with the ACN please let us know, if we don’t recognize the name we will not give you access.

If you would like to be added to any of the following Common Ground groups and aren’t already, please provide the following details.

Name / Suburb / Child’s Gender / Child’s Year of Birth / Your email / Groups You wish to Join / Do you also wish to be invited to the group’s Facebook Page? / Provide Name used on Facebook

For Fathers to connect to Fathers of an ASD Child group, please provide contact details if not already primary details.

Father’s Name, Father’s email

AGE/GENDER
FAMILIES WITH:
- ASD CHILD UNDER 7
- PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED ASD KIDS
- YOUNG DAUGHTER ON THE SPECTRUM
- TEENAGERS WITH AN ASD
- TEENAGE DAUGHTERS WITH AN ASD
- TWINS ON THE SPECTRUM
- MORE THAN ONE CHILD ON THE SPECTRUM
- ADULT CHILDREN WITH ASD

ADULTS WITH AN ASD
WOMEN WITH ASD
FATHERS OF AN ASD CHILD

MORE
- HOME SCHOoled CHILD WITH AN ASD
- SAME SEX FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILDREN
- TEACHERS WHO ARE PARENTS WITH ASD CHILD

FURTHER ISSUES / CONDITIONS
FAMILIES OF A CHILD WITH AN ASD:
- PLUS ADD/ADHD
- PLUS ANXIETY ISSUES
- PLUS CHROMOSOME ISSUES
- PLUS VERBAL DYSPREXIA
- FAMILIES WITH NON VERBAL ASD CHILDREN

LANGUAGE/CULTURAL
(These are not available on Facebook)
- ARABIC SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- CANTONESE SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- HINDI SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- INDIGENOUS FAMILIES WITH AN ASD CHILD
- ITALIAN SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- JAPANESE SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- KOREAN SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- MANDARIN SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- SPANISH SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- VIETNAMESE SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD
- THAI SPEAKING FAMILIES WITH ASD CHILD

If you would like to have a group which is not shown here, please suggest. The criteria is it must be for Autism. For example, a group for non ASD kids with ADHD is outside our criteria.