

DESERT 2 SURF



“Making desert dreams come true”

June 2010

Newsletter

Photo Voice Program



After receiving a Connecting Communities Grant from Optus for a PhotoVoice Project, Steph and Sunny put all the plans into place in order to head to Minyerri before the rains started in late 2009.

PhotoVoice projects span four continents, assisting refugees, street children, orphans, people affected by HIV/ AIDS and special needs groups by encouraging them to share their story through taking photographs. These photos are then generally exhibited in a variety of mediums as a way to communicate and address serious issues faced by those who are disadvantaged.

‘PhotoVoice involves enabling those who have traditionally been the subject of such work to be the creator – to have control over the rest of the world while simultaneously learning a new skill which can enhance their lives’ (www.photovoice.org.au).

Facilitating a PhotoVoice project in Minyerri provided isolated and disadvantaged youth with an opportunity to share what living in Minyerri means to them through the medium of photography. It was also a way for Desert2Surf to identify any felt needs within the community and address these needs in future programs.

The project was a huge success. The joy the kids took in taking photos and describing these in scrapbooks was incredibly moving. The underlying theme in the photos taken was family – the most important thing in the lives of these kids.

A collection of photographs will be exhibited in Melbourne as a way of sharing these stories and to raise funds for Desert2Surf.



PhotoVoice Exhibition
June 6th to July 4th
Three Bags Full Cafe
Corner Nicholson & Mollison Sts, Abbotsford.
Open: Weekdays 7am-4pm &
Weekends 8am-4pm



Desert2Surf crew and kids surfing
Anglesea 2009

www.desert2surf.org

Click here to
learn more about
Desert2Surf

On Sunday 28 June 2009 the Desert2Surf Team participated in Run Melbourne's 5km Run/Walk. 22 of us completed the picturesque course in beautiful winter sunshine.

It was a fantastic atmosphere and everyone rose to the physical challenge. We especially enjoyed brunch in Richmond afterwards.

RUN MELBOURNE



Our fundraising effort, co-ordinated by Everyday Hero, exceeded our expectations and we thank all those friends and family members who so generously supported us. The money raised will go towards our 2010 Desert2Surf trip when kids from the remote community of Minyerri fly south for some serious surfing on Victoria's West Coast.



D2S BIO

Deb with Sheilah a Minyerri parent

DEB OLIVER Co-Founder

Deb is a co-founder of the Desert2Surf Initiative. Returning to Melbourne in 2006 after a teaching appointment in Minyerri, she was highly motivated to maintain contact with the school and families and do something for the kids which might 'make a difference'. After talking with her partner, Robbo, they shaped the Desert2Surf Initiative, which would build the capacity of the kids from Minyerri through participation in outdoor experiences with a focus on surfing.

They realized the idea really had potential when family members and friends totally embraced the concept and joined in the planning. A pilot trip ran in 2008 in conjunction with an exhibition of artists from Minyerri and surrounding communities. Deb's photographs of the Alawa land and people featured in the exhibition.

As well as taking photographs of the natural world and its people, and doing her job as a health and physical education teacher, Deb liaises with the Minyerri parents, works on the Desert2Surf website and manages the Initiative's administration. She participates in all the Desert2Surf trips and her personal goal is to progress from surfing the shores to surfing the breakers.

MEMBERSHIP

\$25 - BODY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Gets you invited to our members only events & the good karma from supporting something inspiring

\$50 - LONG BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Invites you to enjoy our members only festivities and a D2S t-shirt to showcase your generous side

\$100- BIG KAHUNA MEMBERSHIP

Not only will your karma reign supreme, but you will receive invites to all members only events, a t-shirt AND a surfing lesson with one of D2S's wonderful supporters.

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