

Judy & Nicole Jongebloed

Life Member & Committee Member

We started meeting in the front room of Dorothy Francis' place and we'd talk about how we could raise money to get ahead and see if anyone wanted any help. We'd been there and done a lot of it on our own, so we could help people.

When you've got a child with a disability you've got to stick to your guns and be there for them. I always joined every committee. If someone didn't want your child there because they had a disability, you'd be there to speak up for them.

It's good to have support for new born babies with Down syndrome or any disabilities.

I hope people appreciate that Mpower has done a lot for everyone in the community.



Judy Jongebloed was on the first committee and later was awarded life membership.

Tom Bertrand

Active Oceans Dis Row volunteer

We first saw it when we went to Queensland for our daughter Kirsty to row in her first national titles. There was a boat set for people with disabilities to the point that it was un-tippable. I had a talk to my sister Val and a few others and thought we could do this; we could make it work in Warrnambool.

It was a great success. It's just a program that works. When they go up the river it's freedom.

We've had six Australian championships from two rowers, Chris Murray and Aaron Skinner.

It's really rewarding to be involved. If they don't like it they tell you, but when there's a smile and a twinkle in the eye you know that it's good.

I'm still involved in helping the program but not to the extent I was.

We still run it right through the summer with Active Oceans.

You couldn't imagine life without Mpower being there.

Everyone should be on an equal footing and that's what Mpower helps to achieve.



Oceania Henry - High Flyer Youth Group Participant

As everybody is in the same boat with their Asperger/Autism-ness, I was never made to feel like the odd one out, like what can happen at school.

High Flyers has been a great social outlet from school, as year 12 can be very stressful, and I didn't have any respite. As I have a very small network of friends, having a place to go every two weeks to do fun activities with has been amazing-I felt like a normal person with no limitations!

Each fortnight, we either go out for dinner, get take away or cook, as well as doing a fun activity such as bowling, go karting, going

to the park/playground, going to the movies and gaming.

I love board games, so I very much enjoy having someone to play them with...even Monopoly!!

Even though the group is small, a lot of us have similar interests, so there is always something to talk about.

I have especially loved the many conversations about Harry Potter!

I am very appreciative of High Flyers, as it's given me a place where I can just be me and enjoy myself.