

A NIGHT OF HILARITY

CHARITY EVENT

WHEN I GROW UP

TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER, 2024



Kitty Flanagan, Andy Lee, Celia Pacquola, Sam Pang

Hosted by Tom Gleisner



Learning for Life
AUTISM CENTRE INC
20 years

All proceeds from tonight's event will go to
supporting
The Learning for Life Autism Centre.



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ABOUT L4LIFE

When we were kids everyone used to ask, "what do you want to be when you grow up?" Talk about pressure! Do I need to be the smartest, the fastest, earn the most, save the world or be the first person to live sustainably on Mars? What does success even look like?

About 20 years ago my husband Tom and I, along with some like-minded friends, set up an organisation called Learning For Life. We had a pretty simple goal - to help autistic kids and their families access the support/services they needed even if they couldn't afford them. Since that time, we've evolved as the kids at Learning For Life have been growing up. The first child who came through our centre is now 25 years old! All grown up.

Over the years it's become apparent that measuring kids' abilities against each other can really pigeonhole them. So too, the expectations, norms and systems in society can set them up for failure.

Which is why, at Learning For Life, we always try to focus on what each child thinks their future might look like, on what they might want to be doing, where they'd like to go or how they'd like to feel when they grow up. This approach seems more real, more hopeful. More doable.

At Learning For Life we aim to give the L4Life kids skills to be able to ask for things they need, to speak up for themselves, learn the way they learn, keep them safe, find occupations that lead to fulfilment and contentment. That might not be in a typical way; some may never use words, some may need 24-hour care. Every child has completely different needs and wants, abilities and challenges. Our compassionate, clinical team sees each child for who they are, gets to know them, their interests, their passions, their style of learning - and sets an individualised learning journey. We also want our kids to have the confidence to know that just being themselves and not trying to fit in or be like someone else is the best path to success. So maybe the answer to the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is quite simple:
I want to be... ME.

Mary Muirhead OAM
Co-Founder/Chair, Learning for Life Autism Centre



ABOUT TONIGHT



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I have always loved looking at other peoples' photos albums. Those slightly faded snapshots from a forgotten time, blurry Polaroids, always featuring at least one person with their eyes closed. They say so much about who we were and the circumstances that have shaped our paths. And it's not just key life moments. For every birthday party and first car there is a backyard barbecue or sunburnt beach tableau. A story in every frame. Back in the days before we had most moments of our lives effortlessly stored on a phone there were photos. Taken on an instamatic camera (I'm not sure what was so "instant" about it - photos took days to be developed). We bundled these precious images into even more precious leatherbound albums. For years, when asked "what's the one object you would save if your house was on fire?" the answer was invariably "my photo albums". Which is a lot more resonant than "my iCloud storage account".

A few years ago, my Working Dog colleagues and I created a TV series called Pictures of You that was inspired by exactly this fascination with old images. We invited interesting people to reflect on major (and not so major) moments in their early life that had been captured on film. We found the process at once fascinating, illuminating and hilarious. So when it was proposed that we organize a fund-raising event for Learning For Life's 20th anniversary I leapt at the opportunity to revisit this format. And I can't think of anything more enjoyable than inviting our four very special guests to share some highlights from their personal photographic collections. I am beyond grateful to Kitty, Andy, Celia and Sam for giving up their valuable time in support of Learning For Life. So, sit back and enjoy this most special - and definitely one-off - "celebrity slide-night".

Tom Gleisner AO
Co-Founder and Patron
Learning for Life Autism Centre



WHEN I GROW UP

TOM



As well as being a co-founder and Patron of Learning For Life, Tom is a part of the iconic film and television production company Working Dog. Their credits include such iconic feature films as *The Castle* and *The Dish* along with multiple award-winning TV series including *Frontline*, *Utopia*, *Thank God You're Here* and *A River Somewhere*. Tom can currently be seen hosting the hit Channel 10 comedy quiz *Have You Been Paying Attention?*

ANDY



From his early stage career as a boy scout in *Camberwell Showtime* to hosting his own top-rating TV show *The Hundred With Andy Lee* on Channel 9, Andy is one of Australia's most popular and prolific writers, actors, presenters and producers. Known for his success in radio, podcasts and tv as one half of the legendary *Hamish and Andy* duo, Andy's career continues to soar across all kinds of media.

KITTY



One of this country's most popular stand-up comedians, Kitty is also a 3-time Silver Logie award winner and can currently be seen starring in the critically-acclaimed comedy *Fisk* on ABC TV, which she is co-creator and co-writer with her sister Penny.

CELIA

Award-winning actor, writer and much-loved stand-up comedian, Celia has been delighting Australian audiences for decades. This year she hosted Thank God You're Here on Network 10 and is gearing up for a live national tour in just a few weeks.



SAM

From his early days anchoring SBS's Eurovision coverage to brilliantly hosting the Logies, Sam is one of the most sought-after and talented performers in Australia. He can be seen most Monday nights doing battle with Tom on *Have You Been Paying Attention?* and is gearing up to star in his own TV show on Network Ten in 2025.



KATIE

Award-winning singer, actor, musician and composer, Katie wrote the score for the Melbourne Theatre Company's production of *Bloom*. After its sell-out season in Melbourne *Bloom* will be seen early next year as part of the Sydney Theatre Company's 2025 season. Katie has also toured her show *Uninvited* (the songs of Alanis Morissette) nationally.



WHEN WE GROW UP

Everyone deserves the right to dream and the opportunity to pursue those dreams. For 20 years, we've been dedicated to helping kids turn their dreams into reality.

OMAR

Omar would like to be an AFL umpire, have a dog, go to AFL games and be entertained. Most importantly, he'd like to be himself.

"You shouldn't feel forced to be someone you are not or feel like you have to change!"



CHARLIE

Charlie wanted to be a firefighter when he was little because he loved red trucks.

Now he'd love to be a cook and an artist (see his work at charliebyart.com.au), have a girlfriend and a home of his own. And he'd like to continue to feel happy!



CLEMMIE

With an interest in medical dramas and helping people get better, Clemmie would like to be a nurse.

She enjoys riding her bike to the IGA, playing basketball and going to Karate. She loves being herself, having fun and hanging out with her friends at school.



LACHIE

Lachlan has a love of music and dance. From The Wiggles and Hi-Five he is now attending music festivals to see bands like Cub Sport and Ocean Alley.

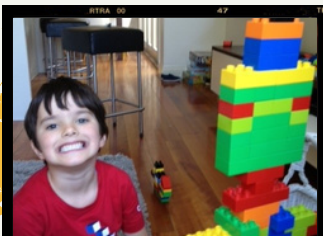
Lachlan recently has achieved his goal of paid work.



HUGO

Hugo wants to be a professional swimmer and compete at the Olympics. He also wants to be free to make his own decisions.

"I want people to accept me for me and not to think I'm just my disability."



THANK YOU

All proceeds from tonight's show go towards helping Learning for Life Autism Centre continue to support autistic and other neurodivergent children on their learning journey.

It takes a village to raise a child, which is why we work with a network of individuals and organisations to ensure the children we work with receive the best support possible. We call this the Learning for Life Village.

We'd like to thank the following members of our Village and supporters of this event:

Andy Lee
Celia Pacquola
Sam Pang
Kitty Flanagan
Katie Weston
Tom Gleisner
Working Dog Productions

House of Pianos
LEX Audio Visual
Phaseshift Lighting
JPJ Audio
Austuf Coatings
Pro Light and Styling
Glasshaus Florist

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Proudly supported by
City of Port Phillip

Join our Village and support our work by
clicking the link below or scanning the QR Code:

www.learningforlife.com.au/when-i-grow-up

