



‘I’ve done music camps, written songs and even made CDs with Mirabel kids...It’s been the most rewarding experience.’

Rebecca Barnard

Founding Member of Mirabel

Rebecca Barnard gets goosebumps thinking about it, a quarter of a century later. Roughly a dozen people sitting around a table at Jane Rowe’s house, feeling totally inspired and excited that they were going to change the world.

A renowned Melbourne musician, Rebecca had been invited along to the meeting by two muso friends, guitarist Spencer P. Jones and Painters & Dockers singer Paulie Stewart.

‘I’d never met Janie, but I feel so blessed that Spencer and Paulie got me along that night,’ she said. ‘It was right up my alley, caring for kids and being a musician, you’re surrounded by that life. We are very familiar with that addiction path.’

‘Janie explained her philosophy and that she planned to break the cycle. That these kids would end up in state care and away from their families, while dealing with all this trauma. It was highly likely their behaviour and chance of future addictions will be instilled in them.’ She wanted to change that.

‘I just fell in love with her. I thought this is the most incredible woman and there was this spark that went off within all of us. The way Janie talked, everything she said, you just thought, she’s not a dreamer. She’s actually going to do this. We were all totally committed.’

‘The next thing, we were doing gigs, and it just got this incredible momentum. Since then, I’ve done music camps, written songs and even made CDs with Mirabel kids as well as meeting their carers. It’s been the most rewarding experience.’