

Finalist spotlight: Peter and Robbie Gieseemann from Musically Speaking



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*Disability and Mental
Health*



Hardship Relief

Peter and Robbie Gieseemann are finalists in this year's [Campaign for Change](#), an initiative that makes bright ideas a reality to help make a difference in local communities.

Their idea for community change is Musically Speaking, a music club which brings people together to share music. The club aims to support participants to grow in confidence, grow their circle of friends, enhance their presentation and public speaking skills, all in a friendly, fun and supportive environment.

We had a chat to Peter to understand the drive behind this idea. Read his responses below.

Why Campaign for Change?

The opportunity of being involved with Campaign for Change has come at the right time for Musically Speaking. After 6 years of fine tuning the 'Musically Speaking' formula in our two existing clubs, we are ready

to create more clubs. The support, credibility and exposure of being involved with Campaign for Change will be invaluable in this process.

What is your idea and how did it originate?

Over the years I developed an interest in World Music and collected music by a variety of artists, but the opportunities to share this music with other people was limited. So after a dinner table conversation with my wife Robbie, the idea was born – a club that would enable people to share music that they were passionate about, and at the same time discover new music. But of course, it became more than that. It became a vehicle for people to simply have a fun night out, to meet new people, to all of a sudden have a reason to use their computers – to research artists and music for upcoming presentations. It became a vehicle for personal growth, in particular from conquering the fear of public speaking.

Why is it important to be community-minded?

In running a club you become aware that there are a lot of people in society that have mental health issues. We have seen amazing results from a number of members who have been living with such issues. Now, having developed a replicable formula for running a Musically Speaking Club, we would like to create more clubs and offer more people in the community the opportunity to grow in a fun, friendly and supportive environment.

Who inspires you and why?

My wife Robbie inspires me. In the words of Jack Nicholson from the movie 'As Good As it Gets' - she "makes me want to be a better man." Robbie is a terrific person to run ideas by, and a wonderful supporter for me in everything I do. We are a great team.

What can't you live without every day?

Why, music of course! Just like most people. Which is why music is a great vehicle to bring people together.

The winners of [Campaign For Change](#) will be announced on 8 February. Keep an eye on [Wesley Mission Queensland's Facebook Page](#) for more information.

Campaign for Change is an initiative of Wesley Mission Queensland, with the support of the Queensland Government.