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Dates to remember:

- Friday 30th Sept
Day Service
Closure
- Tuesday 11th
October Day
Service
Commences
- Monday 31st Oct
Annual Leave Day
- All Sites closed
- Tuesday 1st Nov
Melbourne Cup
Public Holiday

President

Alex Anderson

1st Vice- President

Ms Rosalie Hartskeerl

2nd Vice- President

Ms Teresa Sealey

Treasurer

Mr. Greg Waterland

Public Officer

Mr. Michael Anderson
(non-voting)

COM members

Mr. Chris Angerer

Mr. Ian Gardner

Mr. Gordon Frankland

Spring Edition

Edition 13

Term 3 2011

Bunnings Frankston - Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

On Sunday, 25th September Woorinyan held its first Bunnings Sausage Sizzle to help raise money to purchase equipment and resources for our service. The day was a huge success, raising over \$2,100.00! Woorinyan would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to all those who volunteered to run the stall on the day and help make it a fun and profitable event.



(Pictured left) Committee Member & event organiser, Ian Gardner, with one of our Day Service parent volunteers, Karen. (Pictured below) More of our wonderful Day Service parents, Kevin, Jenni & Brett, along with Mark from Seaford Employment Service. Thanks for taking on the 'Early Bird' shift!



Father & Son! Damien from Seaford Employment Service (left) & his dad Godfrey arrive to relieve the 'Early Birds'



No shortage of hungry customers!



Message from the CEO - Michael Anderson



I am pleased to report that Woorinyan has completed and passed its annual financial audit and that we will have a surplus for the 2010-2011 financial year. As stated previously, any surplus is utilised for the benefit of Woorinyan and its service users.

To enable Woorinyan to continue its progress and sustainability, the Committee of Management has reviewed the constitution and has decided that a more up to date and relevant constitution is required. In addition to the need for a new constitution the Committee of Management believes that a new name that reflects what the organisation does is also required. A meeting of financial members and life governors has been scheduled for September 22nd, 2011 to discuss both of these matters.

The additional renovations to the day services high support building will commence as soon as possible. There is a growing demand for services for clients who have high support needs and we need to have room to accommodate them. The increase in clients with high support needs also requires us to have more vehicles that are wheel chair accessible. Currently we have two wheel chair accessible vehicles but we will need at least one more, possibly two. Each of these vehicles cost just under \$80,000 and as we receive no funding from the state government, they have to be purchased from our own funds.

We have also purchased some outdoor furniture for the courtyard at Day Services.

Day Service Courtyard



The furniture, combined with the new paving and the purchase and installation of shade sails, will enable our clients to enjoy being outdoors.

I take this opportunity to highlight some of the problems that organisations like Woorinyan face each year. As you may be aware there was a national wage increase granted in June 2011 of 3.4% to all workers (except to those on employment agreements). Our funding bodies, i.e. Department of Human Services (State) granted us a 3.25% increase to be paid in October 2011 and The Department of Family and Community and Indigenous Affairs (Federal Supported Employment) has granted us a 2% increase. As this equates to a shortfall in expected CPI revenue, this immediately makes it more difficult for organisations like Woorinyan as we will now have to make up this shortfall through our own financial management.

The new employment building at Seaford is now working at full capacity and feedback is that it is working well. Employment has continued to be successful in increasing its business and therefore opportunities for our supported employees. New contracts are enabling us to consolidate our workforce and remain sustainable into the future. The employment division passed its annual audit in July and I congratulate all those who were involved.

Overall, employment services are doing well but unfortunately ProPak is still an ongoing worry as obtaining packaging contracts at a price that is sustainable is becoming more and more difficult. Woorinyan will still offer alternative work in grounds maintenance, recycling or car washing to our supported workers.

The partnership with the Bendigo Bank staff at the Frankston branch continues to progress well as they have now made Woorinyan their preferred charity of choice. We played host to over thirty of their managers in our training room recently which gave us the opportunity to speak to a wider audience.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th October, 2011 at Woorinyan commencing at 7.00pm.

Employment Service Grounds Maintenance Crew



Woorinyan Employment Service News

Staff News

We have farewelled Isaac who sadly left due to continuing his passion for teaching in primary schools. Employees will still see Isaac's smiley face around as he has agreed to be placed on our casual pool for the back filling of staff whilst they are away on leave. We have another new staff member, Wendy, who will be joining the team at the end of September. Eric has joined the Thomastown Employment Team supporting employees in car cleaning and grounds maintenance. I would like to reassure parents/carers and employees that whilst we have had a high turn over of staff during the past 12 months, this is due to a combination of factors and Woorinyan's main focus is ensuring we have the "right fit" to support our employees.

Our gardening crews at both sites have been extremely busy with the unusual seasons we have had. This has enabled the lawns and weeds to grow vigorously; amazing what a little bit of sun and lots of rain does! We have started our extra days of garden maintenance for Dennis Family Corp at their Manor Lakes Estate in Wyndham Vale. Crews maintaining The Hunt Club Estate in Cranbourne continue to get positive feedback from Dennis Family Corp who are organising a BBQ for our employees to show their appreciation for the work that has been achieved around the Estate.

Thomastown Car Cleaning Crew



A new contract has been signed with Scope who are sub-contracting the grounds maintenance of 30 Telstra Exchange sites across the Peninsula out to Woorinyan. This contract will be commencing late September.

Transpacific have continued to maintain positions for eight employees five days a week with a variety of items that have needed to be destroyed including cosmetics, chocolates and bottled substances.

Car Cleaning crews at Thomastown are cleaning between 50-60 vehicles per week which is a fantastic effort.

Pro Pak has again been slow this term. It was discussed at the last discussion group meeting that the future of ProPak is uncertain. Unfortunately our main customer has decided to send the majority of their work off shore. Employees working in the ProPak area have been asked to take leave as we have not had enough work to continue with. Management are currently looking at an alternative to continue supporting and meeting individual needs for all 16 employees working in ProPak. If employees would like further information on other support options please contact Fiona who will be happy to discuss best options. Thank you to ProPak employees for understanding the need to take leave. Keep up the great work Thomastown and Seaford!

Thomastown Social Club evening



Nathan from Thomastown organised a mid year function in July where employees, staff and families enjoyed a fantastic night at an all you can eat restaurant. Thank you to Nathan for organising the event, judging by the amount of chatting and laughter everyone enjoyed themselves.

If employees have a suggestion for the Christmas Party or even a get together between now and Christmas please see support staff from your site who will discuss this at their next Staff meeting.

Fiona Loschiavo
Manager Employment Service

Day Service News

Social Group

On the 16 August the Social Group including Stuart, Anna, Casey, Vicki and Shane all visited the set of **Neighbours** in Vermont. Neighbours was not filming at the time so the group had the opportunity to walk right up to all the houses and look around for as long as they liked. Anna was extremely excited and was taking photos of all the houses to show her family. Casey and Stuart were able to tell which house belonged to which cast members and what was going on in the Neighbours story line lately. They were also excited about the fact that they had visited a place that Kylie Minogue had once played a part in. The group asked to go back again on a filming day to see some cast members. We will be looking into this for later on in the year!

Allambee

This term Allambee group decided to go for a cruise on the Queenscliff Ferry as a core group outing. On 17th August they all headed to Sorrento to enjoy a fabulous day out.

Upon arrival, the group had to wait a while for the ferry so decided to have morning tea. There was a waiting room very close to the terminal so the group waited there for the ferry. As it was coming into dock everyone could see it arriving at the terminal through the windows which made the trip even more exciting,

As the ferry arrived the group eagerly boarded and headed to the main hall. It was beautiful from inside!



During the trip everyone went outside to view the beautiful scenery. It was a wonderful day and the group are looking forward to the next outing they are planning.



As part of core group and to achieve PCP goals we went along to Saint Kilda Football Club's training grounds and to our delight were able to get up close and watch the team train and walk around the field watching different groups performing different skills.



Day Service News

Killara

On the 24th of August, Killara group went to the hydrotherapy pool in Cranbourne. Jessica is new to Woorinyan and when she saw the pool she couldn't wait to get in! Maria needed a some encouragement, however once she was in the water she also loved it. The staff who support the Killara group have been trying to go a couple of times per term to enable those who don't usually get the chance to swim weekly to enjoy the pool occasionally. The group loves the pool and all have a great time. Next time it would be great if Jarrod and Rachael would go on the water slide!!



This term a group of clients from Killara have been involved in gardening. We decided to concentrate on the gardens at the rear of Woorinyan. We filled up pots that we found hidden under some fruit trees and every week Maria goes and gets the watering can and waters all the plants - she is such a good worker! Anthony M helps out with carrying things if needed and Jarrod has been helping to water plants that we have planted. Di H helped pull the weeds out before we mulched! Rachael likes to pick the lemons and her mum has made lemonade and lemon cakes.

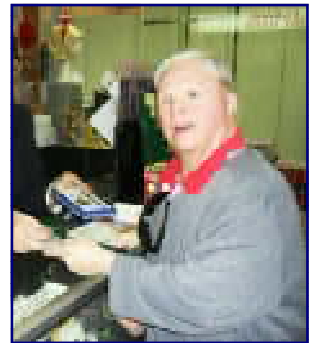
The gardening group has been such a success and our pergola area looks lovely with all the pot plants. All the gardens have been mulched so a big thanks to the green team from Employment Service for spreading the mulch that we ordered. We can't wait for all our plants to grow and begin flowering!



Day Service News (Continued)

Pinaroo

Some of the Pinaroo group went to DFO recently for some shopping. Bill, Susan and Ros had a great time shopping for their goodies.



Craft has become a big part of Pinaroo this year. Everyone has started to enjoy the fun, new and interesting projects that have been happening. The most recent projects have been 'wheat bag' and 'name plaques' - they look great!



Parookra



Transitions to Employment Group members have been attending a literacy and numeracy course each Monday afternoon at Langwarrin Community Centre. This course has helped to enhance each member's skills in the area of reading, writing and math. Work that is completed by the group shows the fantastic improvement and effort that they have all displayed throughout the 10 week course. Staff are very proud of all individuals involved in the group.

Focus on Taste: On the 2nd September the group visited Focus on Taste Café in Playne Street, Frankston. A lady from the café explained to everyone what their mission is and that all the food that is sold is made by their employees who all have some form of disability. A member from the group, Rhys, has commenced work experience with the hope of gaining employment. Everyone wished him well and enjoyed a very YUMMY homemade muffin and coffee. This café is highly recommend by Heather, Lauren and Kimba!!



Day Service News (Continued)

Parrookra (continued)

Taking Charge Forum: On the 16th August a group attended a forum 'Taking Charge'! This forum was designed to educate users of Day Services about how their individual funding is calculated and how they may make choices which enable their funding to work better for themselves. All who attended found the forum very informative and were not aware how they could actually use their individual funding.

There is a brief survey enclosed with this newsletter. If you would like to fill this out and let us know how much you know about your funding we would encourage you to do so. This will then give us an idea if we need to run some information sessions to assist you to gain a better understanding.

Woodwork: Some of the Parrookra members, Rhys, Niki, Daniel and Joel, have been focusing on constructing their wooden CD boxes over the last couple of weeks. They have been working independently, building their CD boxes from scratch, sawing all the wood pieces required and nailing them together. They look fantastic!



Community Inclusion/Volunteering: At the start of Term 3 a new activity, "Community Inclusion / Volunteering" commenced. This activity has been enthusiastically undertaken.

In the community inclusion section of this activity the group have participated in a wide range of activities. Some of the activities included are participating in the Lyrebird Community Centre morning walking group, attending (and having a great time) at morning melodies at the Sandbelt Hotel in Moorabbin and travelling by train to Patterson Station to view the display of mosaic art pieces done by fellow Woorinyan clients.



At the commencement of Term 3 participants discussed with staff the areas in which they would like to do voluntary work. Organisations were contacted and this is still being worked on. The group also collected a clothing donation and took this along to the Salvation Army where it was gratefully received. Well done to all for their strong efforts in seeking new volunteering opportunities within the community.

Staff - Employee - Client Profiles

We are very pleased to welcome Fiona Blanks to the Day Service team. Fiona has written a few words of introduction and was good enough to participate in this term's Staff Profile.

"Let me introduce myself, my name is Fiona Blanks. I'm very pleased to be joining the Woorinyan team. I have worked in the disability field for 13 years after graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Science Disability Studies from Deakin University in 1998. In that time I have worked for a wide variety of services and supported people of all ages with a variety of abilities and disabilities. My most recent experience is in pre-employment training as a trainer and acting manager.

Fiona Blanks - Day Service Coordinator



1. **What did you do before you started at Woorinyan?** - I was a Senior Employment Training Consultant with Eastwork for the Future Links Program. I developed and delivered pre-employment training to young people with a disability who want to work in open employment in the community. I also trained new consultants and stood in as acting manager when necessary.
2. **What do you like to do outside of work?** - I love to catch up with my two grandsons (before they think grandma is not cool), spend time with friends and eat out!
3. **What would your dream holiday be?** - I've been on a dream holiday recently to Vietnam with 8 of my closest friends. It was quite an adventure and can be described as a cross between survivor and the amazing race!
4. **What is your all time favourite movie?** - To Kill a Mockingbird
5. **What is your favourite food?** - Anything fresh with no MSG!
6. **Name one thing that really annoys you** - People who don't take the time to listen! (I'm trying not to be one of those people).

Rhys Rowley - Day Service Client

1. **What do you do at Woorinyan?** - I used to do canoeing which I loved. I could paddle the canoe by myself. I also do basketball, soccer and drama - I am Prince Charming in the production!
2. **What do you like doing on weekends?** - I go to Doveton soccer league. I like to shop at Karingal Hub. Sometimes I watch cartoons and play my X-Box
3. **What football team do you barrack for?** - Essendon
4. **Do you play any sports?** - Basketball, soccer and cricket.
5. **Who is your favourite singer?** - David Bowie (Magic Dance from Labyrinth).
6. **What is your all time favourite movie?** - Fantastic Mr. Fox.
7. **What is the one thing you can't live without?** - My Family.
8. **What is your favourite food?** - Stras & Pizza, McDonalds.

