



*Carinya Society CEO Debbie Mitchell with guest speaker Michelle Newland at the 16th Annual Public Meeting.
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Carinya Community Newsletter

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You listened with your heart!



A big thank you from the participants in the sensory garden.

Thank you to so many of our generous supporters, who listened with their hearts this Christmas. It is because of your wonderful gifts that we will now be able to upgrade the sensory garden area in the coming months. The sensory garden is used by both participants and staff regularly. It is a great place for some time out, to eat lunch, or regroup at challenging times. The vegetables and herbs in the sensory garden play a vital role in our programs, with the gardening group tending to them, and the cooking group regularly picking fresh herbs and vegetables to use in their cooking.

Because of your generous gifts, we are now able to purchase a new swinging seat, wind chimes, flowers and additional seasonal vegetables.

We look forward to updating you via Facebook once these items are installed so that you can see the joy they bring.

We were thrilled to receive a generous \$1,000 grant from the RACV Good Citizens Program - Northland Shop. This money will be used to replace the tree seat which will now be able to get so much use from both participants and staff alike. We are looking forward to seeing people using the tree seat once again and we know how valuable this donation is.

A special thank you to participant Aaron, whose wonderful photography the campaign was built around.

Reflection

From the CEO

Welcome back to everyone for 2017.

The long awaited Kelson Annexe Project is finally happening. The council plans have been stamped and the successful tenders – Allgrange have scheduled the works. The day service staff have cleaned out all of the necessary equipment and relocated the art programs and core groups to the Purple Room in the Barry Waters Building.

The works are due to start mid March and will take approximately 12 weeks. During this time Kelson Annexe will be fenced off from the remainder of the grounds. Participants will still enter Kelson Street from our buses but via a temporary gate.

A huge thank you to everyone that gave to our fundraising appeals. This project would not have been possible without your amazing support. I look forward to updating you further on the progress in the coming weeks.

True to our values of continuous improvement,

accountability and transparency, Carinya applied to the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission) late last year for the official Charity Tick. We are delighted to share the good news that we now have received the tick of approval from the ACNC. In addition to fulfilling our registration requirements with DHHS and the NDIS, this tick assures you and the public that Carinya Society is a registered and regulated charity that continues to be monitored by the ACNC.

I hope you enjoy the second edition of Carinya Community and thank you again for your ongoing support.



CEO Debbie Mitchell



Debbie Mitchell.

Chief Executive Officer

Event

16th Annual Public Meeting

On Tuesday 11 October 2016 we held our 16th Annual Public Meeting. We were thrilled to be joined by the Mayor Of Moreland, Cr. Samantha Ratnam. Cr. Ratnam provided a great insight into the City Of Moreland, and enjoyed spending time with our families. We were honoured to host Michelle Newland as our guest speaker. Michelle's speech was truly inspirational as she explained her mission to spread a message of hope and resilience to others. In 2002 Michelle suffered a massive asthma attack resulting in a severe acquired brain injury. She was left in a vegetative state, with blinking her form of communication whilst she was confined to a nursing home.

Michelle has defied all odds and learnt to walk, talk and eat.

We celebrated a number of awards which were presented for years of service, not just to staff but some wonderful participants who all received very loud applause from their peers. We had a great presentation from the performing arts group, to Thriller and delicious afternoon tea prepared by our catering participants.



Carinya Photography participants work on display.



Bruce – our longest standing participant with 63 years attending Carinya Society.



Left to right: Debbie Mitchell, Michelle Newland, Cr. Samantha Ratnam, Ann Newland.

In Focus

Coburg Rotary Club and Carinya Society Annual Christmas Party

Wednesday 14 December marked the Annual Coburg Rotary Club and Carinya Society Christmas BBQ. This amazing tradition has been going more than 40 years, and is an event that Staff, Participants and Rotarians all eagerly await. 2016 was no exception. Santa arrived bringing gifts for everyone, and we shared a lovely BBQ lunch.

The partnership with Coburg Rotary has been built over more than 60 years,

beginning when the Coburg Rotary Club initially funded £50 in operational costs for Carinya Society (known then as The Helping Hand Association.) To this day, past and present members of the Rotary Club of Coburg still contribute as Board and Foundation members of Carinya Society.

A huge thank you to Coburg Rotary Club. This wonderful Annual Christmas BBQ would not be possible without you.



Coburg Rotarians cooking a BBQ lunch.



Would you consider the gift of a lifetime?



At Carinya Society every dollar given makes a big difference, no matter what the size.

Leaving a gift to Carinya Society in your Will really is the gift of a lifetime. A gift in your Will can help Carinya Society now and into the future and can help to ensure those living with disabilities in our community are supported.

If you have ever thought about including Carinya Society in your Will, or would like to know more about it, please contact our Fundraising Manager Pip Hunt for a confidential discussion on 03 9354 3337 or email pip.hunt@carinyasociety.org.au

Introducing Bev



Bev Schembri

Recently at our Annual Public Meeting, Bev accepted an award for 20 Years of service at Carinya Society. Bev has seen it all. She began back in 1984, when Carinya Society was called Coburg Helping Hands Association. Bev says,

“The changes are huge. I remember when the programs were really old school. For example we would teach participants how to use a broom, and really focus on their independence with simple skills such as this.”

Today, the programs may have changed, but Bev is still an integral part of the Carinya Team. She drives the bus 2 days a week, works with some of the mature aged participants, plays golf, bowls, and takes them food shopping. Bev says,

“The clients are without doubt the best part of my job. I have so many sick days up my sleeve, but I can’t imagine taking one, I would miss them all too much. They put me in a great mood for the day. I love being around the same group of people day in day out. They are like my family. I have seen babies born, watched them go to school and then become parents themselves. I don’t know if it is the job, or Carinya Management, but I do know that this is the best place I have ever worked.”

What’s New

Grill’d Moonee Ponds:

We’ve been selected to participate in Local Matters at Grill’d Moonee Ponds this February!

Local Matters is the Grill’d community donation program that sees each Grill’d restaurant donate \$500 back into the community every month. The donation is split between 3 local community groups \$300 / \$100 / \$100.



Joanne Francis, Administration Manager and Ajay Jaimangal OH & S Officer supporting Carinya.

We’d love your support in receiving the highest \$300 donation! Simply head to Grill’d Moonee Ponds during February for a burger and pop your Local Matters token in our jar. The group with the most tokens at the end of the month receives the largest donation. You will find Grill’d at 69 Puckle Street, Moonee Ponds.



Upcoming Events

Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre

Date: 1 – 30 June.

Dare to Dream

Exclusive display by Carinya Art Participants. – Watch this Space.

Parent and Carer Meetings

Date: Monday 27 March

Date: Monday 29 May

Date: Monday 24 July

Time: 10.30am

Venue: 10 Bellevue St, Coburg

Donate online

Carinya is pleased to be able to accept donations online. This means that we can now accept credit card donations online, through a free platform – Givenow. If you would like to make a donation, simply visit www.givenow.com.au/carinyasociety We also still accept donations via cash, cheque and bank deposit.

Make a Donation

Using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au



People Outdoors is a likeminded organisation

and strives to provide recreation activities to all people with disabilities. If you would like further information about weekend camps, please contact Heike Fleischmann hfleischmann@auscamps.asn.au or call (03) 9365 7150