



# NADRASCA NEWS

December 2005 Issue 8

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An exciting three day holiday to Ballarat was shared by two staff and five residents from High Street residential Story page 3

## Season's Greetings!

Another year over! We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and trust that you will be refreshed over the holiday period. As we look ahead to 2006, we are sure there will be many more challenges for us to face. We want to thank you all for your support this year.

## WHAT'S ON Christmas Holiday reminders...

### 22 December:

Business Services close  
(reopening 23 January)

### 23 December:

Day Services close  
(reopening 20 January)

### 23 - 27 December 2005:

Eight people in residential services on Christmas holidays with Jan Macdermid at her farm in Heathcote

### 28 December:

AusTour Holiday to Queensland  
(returning 18th January)

### 7 - 11 January 2006:

Coonawarra Farm Resort

### 8 - 18 January 2006:

P&O Cruise to Vanuatu

## The CEO Reports...

Gus Koedyk  
Chief Executive Officer



As we approach the festive season and the New Year it's important to reflect on our mission: To provide or assist in the provision of services to people with a disability.

NADRASCA employs around 137 full, part time and casual staff who work to provide a diverse range of services and employment to 337 clients and employees with a disability. These services are provided from 18 different locations within the inner and outer eastern region of Melbourne.

In 1967 NADRASCA started with 8 children, one staff member and a number of volunteers, with the assistance of the Nunawading Apex Club. The organisation grew from the ongoing assistance of volunteers and founding family members who wanted to ensure that their children and families received the services and support they needed. The contribution made by them should never be underestimated.

In a little over 18 months time NADRASCA will be 40 years old. To celebrate this occasion we plan to produce a history of NADRASCA. This will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our history and what has been done to provide

or assist in the provision of services to people with a disability.

There is an article in the NADRASCA Newsletter requesting anecdotes, photos, newspaper articles, letters and memorabilia that could be included in this history of our organisation.

I would encourage staff members, carers, family and members of the association to check your archives and provide us with any information that would assist with our history.

On behalf of the Committee of Management and the management team I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Gus Koedyk  
CEO

## NADRASCA INCORPORATED

A Community Based  
Disability Service Organisation

Our mission is to provide or assist  
in the provision of services to  
people with disabilities.

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## Meet RODNEY

My name is Rodney and I am a full time instructor at Witt Street, working out of the Gardeners' Room with one other staff member and 13 clients. I live in Croydon South with my wife and two children, aged 2 and 6.

I arrived at Witt Street three years ago after working in the automotive industry for fifteen years. A friend who worked at Witt St invited me down to do some voluntary work to see if I would like to work in the field. Initially I did some casual work which I really enjoyed. I enrolled in a Certificate 4 in Disability Studies and have never looked back.

I have completed training in OH&S and am the OH&S representative at Witt Street. I am also trained in the testing and tagging of electrical appliances and do this job throughout the organisation – so you might see me at your workplace putting little blue stickers on your electrical appliances.

The best part of my job is training clients in skills that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn. Another satisfying thing is to see my core group clients go home happy at the end of each day.

**Rodney Kayne**  
Instructor, Witt Street ATSS

*The best part of my job is training clients in skills that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn.*

## A SPOT OF HISTORY

In 2007 NADRASCA will reach the milestone of providing 40 years of continuous service in the disability field. To celebrate the occasion it is intended to produce a book covering this period.

Chris Pike, the project leader, would welcome any material from our readers which could be considered for inclusion. In the first instance, please contact Brian Parr on 8872 5708.

## Tandem Bike Riding at Brighton Baths

*When I was asked to take Kelly and Todd tandem bike riding I didn't know what I had let myself in for.....*

Vision Australia provided this opportunity for Kelly Chisholm, Todd Roy and Tracey Clarke to participate. The day turned out to be the most amazing experience for those involved. Kelly and Tracey rode a bike for the first time with the assistance of a front rider, building memories that are likely to be priceless. Todd was an experienced rider, but the temptation to ride a tandem could not be ignored. Off they all headed with huge grins from ear to ear.

Shane, a student on placement, also came along. He said it was the highlight of his placement. While it was a lot of hard work, everyone had a ball!!!

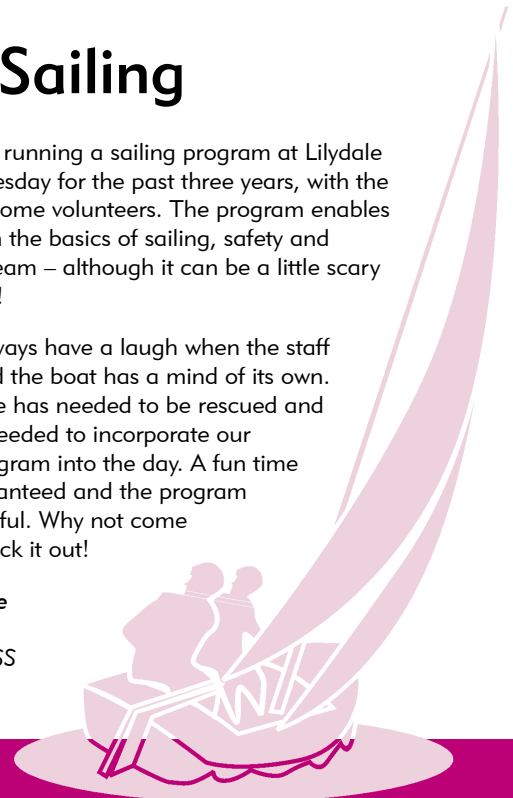
**Nicole Stribbles**  
Instructor  
High Street ATSS

## I am Sailing

We have been running a sailing program at Lilydale Lake every Tuesday for the past three years, with the assistance of some volunteers. The program enables clients to learn the basics of sailing, safety and working in a team – although it can be a little scary on windy days!

The clients always have a laugh when the staff are sailing and the boat has a mind of its own. To date no one has needed to be rescued and we have not needed to incorporate our swimming program into the day. A fun time is always guaranteed and the program is very successful. Why not come along and check it out!

**Bev Gatehouse**  
Instructor  
Witt Street ATSS



## Back to Work!

After spending ten weeks travelling around Western Europe and Morocco, returning to work is something of a culture shock. Visiting places that I had read about or seen on television was a wonderful experience. I think I visited just about every church and museum in Paris, Rome, Florence and Venice. Collectively they contain almost sixty percent of the world's art treasures. When you throw in the modern galleries in Spain, Portugal and New York, I've been fortunate to view the work of some of the most creative people in history.

The landscape in Tuscany and Northern Italy was spectacular, but in some ways not very different from the Yarra Valley. The most obvious difference is the small walled cities and villages with their cobbled lanes and narrow streets dotting the area. Autumn was similar to

here, with warm days and cool evenings. The food and wine were terrific as my expanded waistline clearly shows.

Morocco was very different with a much harsher landscape. My stay was during Ramadan, so efficiency and customer service were not uppermost in the minds of the population. However places like Tangier, Casablanca and Marrakech were very exotic and interesting. The Moorish influence in architecture and art was evident everywhere and very beautiful.

However there is no place like home and it's good to be back.

**Brian Parr**



# AN UPDATE...

## Business Services

Business Services has continued its strong performance for the first quarter of this financial year, with the overall performance result being better than budget and the range of work widening with new customers.

During November employees were given details about the Christmas Closedown, the early return to work of a small crew and the Easter 2006 Holiday break. See page 1 for details of Christmas dates. Employees starting back early will be notified before the Christmas breakup.

Due to workload, in 2006 NADRASCA Business Services will not close, apart from the main Easter period. We will be continuing operations with reduced crewing at Easter, with one half of the employees taking time off before Easter and the other half taking time off after Easter. Employees have been asked to nominate their preferred period. We cannot guarantee that all requests will be met.



It is important that forms are returned before Christmas as the roster will be prepared in January, with notification in early February.

During October and November we had a number of staff changes. **Kirsty Dinsdale** left us to undertake a new role in the disability industry which will broaden her experience and allow her to utilise new skills learnt in her recent training program. Thank you Kirsty for your contribution. We wish you well for the future. See page 4 for our retirement news.

Joining us as supervisors in Contract Services have been **Tony Schembri** and **Karen Whitfield**. Both Tony and Karen have extensive industry experience and we welcome them to our team.

**Jackie Lamb** also left on maternity leave during November. As soon as we hear, we will give you further news!

On behalf of all at Business Services I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Safe New Year for 2006.

**Peter Ray**

## Day Services

Four women, **Antonia, Mandy, Sandra** and **June**, from the Day Services Art Program at Witt Street have been invited to exhibit next year in the International Women Artists' Association – Australia Inc. exhibition, which will bring together the art works of approximately 70 women artists. The grand opening will be the 15 March 2006. Watch for further updates about this wonderful opportunity for our artists.

The Monday 10 October Forum was a great opportunity to bring people together to determine the support/networking arrangements parents, carers and siblings would like to see within the organisation.

Attendees received an information package and were welcomed to the day by **Peter Ray**. Facilitator, **Mark Riches** from Level Consulting, introduced **Marie Campbell**, from the Committee of Management, who gave wonderful snippets and stories from NADRASCA's history. **Christine Scott** from Valid, spoke about the role of parent groups within organisations, encouraging group discussion of two



important questions: 'What are the issues facing parents/families/carers?' and 'What suggestions do people have for future forums?' Currently the management team is identifying the major issues raised. Comments included:

Opportunity to share concerns with others and hear theirs; I enjoyed meeting people and getting a feel for the place. There was an eagerness to hold similar forums. The organising committee will meet soon and further information will be available in the New Year.

The 2006 timetables for Witt Street and High Street are ready. On behalf of the Day Services Team, I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and safe New Year. We look forward to another exciting year in 2006.

**Raeoni Turner**

## Residential Services



The residents in our houses enjoyed a variety of recreation programs during the recent NADRASCA ATSS holidays, including: The Lion King, beach excursions and a trip to Melbourne Zoo. An exciting three day holiday to Ballarat was shared by two staff and five residents from High Street residential, with activities including Sovereign Hill, Ballarat Wildlife Park and Kryal Castle. One resident recently returned from a 10 day holiday in Fiji with Flying High Tours.

In mid September we moved to Alben Nunawading Station Pharmacy for pharmaceutical supplies and the filling of Webster-Paks. The change has proved cost effective and positive. The Pharmacy located close to most of our service sites, with a 24 hour emergency service and friendly, professional staff. Face to face consultations have personalised and improved service delivery.

Residential staff have completed their First Aid training for 2005, with many completing First Aid Level 2. Others attended a CPR update course.

Warm thanks to the Parents & Friends Committee, which every year generously donates money towards

Christmas gifts for residents who have no family or limited family contact. Presents are also purchased for those spending Christmas with Jan at Axton Ridge Farm, Heathcote.

Residents in our accommodation service, their families, support staff and management were swept away with a vibrant dinner dance at the Coach and Horses on 12 November 2005. Highlights of the evening were spectacular performances by four professional vocalists and musicians, and the inspirational 10 piece band 'Full Mental Jackets', from Halcyon, Eastern Access Community Health. A warm thank you to **Sarah Gibson** who tap danced beautifully. Congratulations to the NADRASCA Senior Persons Program for the papier-mâché hot air balloons displayed as table centerpieces.

**Holly Arnold-Lester**





Dionie with Keith and ... the bus!

## Retiring!

**Dionie Duff** has worked for eleven years as a bus driver at the NADRASCA Witt Street site and leaves us with some wonderful stories. Driving in peak hour, morning and afternoon, requires great skill and patience – Dionie has been heard to say, If you said I'd would be driving a Bus in peak hour I'd have said you were mad. Fortunately Dionie has the ability to remain calm in all situations. 2,246,550!!!! km later, we are saddened to see her retire, but Dionie will remain on our casual drivers' list. Thank you Dionie for all your hard work through the years. You will always be a friend of Witt Street.

**John Beaumont** came to NADRASCA in 1992 as a fill-in maintenance person at Colombo Street, saying that he would stay until we found somebody better! Over thirteen years later, John has finally retired, partly due to ill health and partly due to that dreaded affliction that gets us all in time – age. Many thanks John for your efforts. We wish you well in your quest for better health and the fountain of youth.

**Marianne Chehab** (12 years at NADRASCA) and **Ken Bedford** (8 years at NADRASCA) both retired due to health reasons during November. Both Marianne and Ken have played an important role in the growth of NADRASCA Business Services and its move from Mitcham and Blackburn to our current facility at Rooks Road. Thank you Marianne and Ken for their contribution. We wish you well for the future.

## New Zealand Bound

**Debra Broughton** was selected to represent Australia at the Pan Pacific Special Olympics games in Christchurch New Zealand in November 2005. She competed in the Special Olympics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, with routines in Floor, Ball, Hoop and Ribbon.

Debra has been working hard with her coach, Mrs Margaret Parrott of the Outer Eastern Special Olympics, practicing each week at the Knoxbrooke facilities in Burwood Highway.

Debra competed against athletes from all over the Asia Pacific region hoping to score a few more medals to hang on her wall at home – to add to her growing collection from 12 years of competition.



## Frank Lees 80!

**Frank Lees**, parent of an employee, turned 80 on the 16 November. Happy Birthday Frank!



## Olympics Debutante Ball

On the 7 October at Rembrandts a Special Olympics Debutante Ball was held.

Four employees made their debut at this event. They were:

- **Fiona Taylor** partnered by Luke
- **Katrina Khoo** partnered by Jarred
- **Caroline Serong** partnered by Daniel
- **Emmaline Herscroff** partnered by Edward

They arrived at the deb in a limosine and had a totally enjoyable evening with their family and friends. This made all the effort learning the dances over the preceding weeks well worthwhile.

## An Excellent Achievement!

In July this year **Sharon Morse** travelled to Gdynia in Poland as a member of the Australian Disability Tennis Team. The team competed in the INAS-FID European Open Tennis Championships

for players with an intellectual disability. The team was very successful, with Sharon winning the Mixed Doubles, and being a member of the winning Ladies Team Event and coming runner-up in the Ladies Doubles. An excellent achievement!

## Wayne Farmer

As part of the Whitehorse Sports Awards, Whitehorse Council announced **Wayne Farmer** as Athlete with a Disability for 2005 in recognition of his outstanding sporting accomplishments. Wayne has played basketball for 20 years, notching up 570 games and playing in numerous grand finals. He has won six personal achievement awards and was a member of the RAID team that won gold at the 1998 Special Olympics.

Wayne also competed in the 2002 Australian Open Tennis competition for people with a disability. In his spare time he plays pennant at the Blackburn Bowls Club and was a member of the 2003 and 2005 Victorian team that competed at the Australian Bowls Championship for people with an intellectual disability.

Well done Wayne.



## NADRASCA NEWS

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## Cancer for Kids Bandana Day

On October the 28th Business Services' employees conducted a fundraising exercise for teenage kids by selling and wearing bandanas supplied by 'Canteen'. They sold 50 bandanas and raised \$156 for this charity. A truly good effort!

