

NADRASCAnews

Summer 2006/2007 Issue 11



*We wish you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year!*



*Some of the action from the
Residential Dinner Dance. See page 3...*

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WHAT'S ON

Business Services

Last working day
**Thursday 21
December 2006**

Return to work
**Monday 22
January 2007**

25 December 2006
Merry Christmas!

1 January 2007
Happy New Year!

*We wish you
Season's Greetings
and best wishes for
2007!*

The CEO Reports...

A lot of people associated with NADRASCA only know us for the service/facility they or their child access. If someone has the opportunity to tour a number of our sites they always comment on the diversity and size of the organisation, often saying, 'NADRASCA is larger than I realised.'

To provide an overview of the NADRASCA organisation we've produced a visual representation of NADRASCA on a separate sheet in this newsletter. This overview outlines the interested parties involved with NADRASCA, where our revenue is generated, which Government Departments fund and support us, the services offered and the number of people involved in the organisation. If you include members, volunteers, staff, employees and clients, there are approximately 700 people involved in some way with NADRASCA Incorporated.

It is a credit to all those involved that NADRASCA continues its purpose to establish and develop a range of services for people with a disability in such diverse and effective ways.

The last three months have been a very sad period for the NADRASCA community with the loss of two clients in our Day Services, an employee in Business Services and a well known parent and staff member in Day Services. Our thoughts go out

to their families and friends at this difficult time.

At the recent AGM the audited accounts were approved and the organisation achieved a satisfactory financial result, with a surplus in 2005/06. This allows NADRASCA to continue to expand its range of services to clients.

Parts of these funds have already been invested in a shared equity partnership arrangement with Supported Housing Limited to purchase and renovate a property in Blackburn for a shared supported accommodation residence. This will allow us to open up spaces for people with a disability requiring some supported or independent living arrangements.

I am sure you will find my article on the introduction of the Disability Act 2006, which comes into effect on 1 July 2007, of great interest. The article appears on page 2 of this newsletter.

On behalf of the Committee of Management of NADRASCA I would like to thank you all for your help and support in 2006 and wish you Season's Greetings and best wishes for 2007.



Gus Koedyk
CEO

A Fundraising Thank You

Thank you to all who responded to our request for donations. **\$6070 was received.** The funds provided will directly benefit clients receiving our services. Some specific projects planned or underway include:

- Equipment upgrade to the swimming pool at Witt Street, ATSS.
- Sundry small equipment for the Wood Street, Aged Persons' Service.



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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Disability Act 2006

In 2007 the main focus for disability agencies like NADRASCA will be the introduction of the Disability Act 2006. The Act was passed by Parliament on 4 May 2006 and will come into operation effectively on 1 July 2007. This allows time for the development of regulations, policies and guidelines.

The Act is guided by the principles of human rights and citizenship, and provides substantial reform to the law for people with a disability in Victoria. It provides the framework for a whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach to enable people with a disability to actively participate in the life of the community. It also provides for a fairer and more coherent approach to the provision of services for people with a disability in Victoria. The Act will also ensure that services are of a high quality and accountable to people with a disability who use those services.

Some key points in the New Disability Legislation are:

- A number of positive features in relation to access and planning, tenancy, restrictive practices and complaints mechanisms.
- All service providers like NADRASCA are required to be registered.
- Disability service providers will be required to inform people of their legal rights.
- The method of delivering services and conditions under which support is provided.
- The establishment of an independent Disability Services Commissioner who will have the power to investigate and conciliate complaints.
- The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal will be able to review decisions.
- The establishment of the Office of the Senior Practitioner who is responsible for ensuring that the rights of people who are subject to restrictive practices are protected.
- New requirements regarding residential services and residents' rights – similar to the Residential Tenancy Act.

This Act will have a significant impact on service providers, their staff, and people with a disability, their families, carers and advocates. NADRASCA will keep you informed as regulations, policies and guidelines are released.



Gus Koedyk
CEO



Chris Gilbert

ADMINISTRATION
& FINANCE MANAGER



Born in Sydney during the war years, I remember the sirens and the ration coupons, my early primary-school days and buying an ice-cream for a penny. It dates one, doesn't it?

Other early years were spent very memorably on a pineapple plantation near Woombye in Queensland (not far from where the 'Big Pineapple' is today). More primary schooling was completed in Nambour and later in Sandgate – on the bayside out of Brisbane – followed by Tweed Heads where I broke into my teens. Secondary schooling was at a boarding college near Lismore.

My working career commenced with a daily bike ride across the New South Wales/Queensland border from Tweed Heads to the Coolangatta bank which took me on as a challenge. After all, I am directly related to Johnny Gilbert of early bushranger fame. It was tough in those days. I surfed most days, including during lunch breaks from the bank. Someone assumed that I was enjoying life a little too much and, for my sins, transferred me to Townsville. I jumped at the chance a year or so later to try Melbourne for a couple of years. That was 45 years ago.

I married soon after coming South and now have two sons. Paul has multi-disabilities as a result of rubella. John, happily, has great health.

As a bank officer and later a manager, I did not set my sights on radical change. One's introduction to disability is mostly not by design. Mine was definitely not by choice. All praise to all those people who do work in the area voluntarily, as I am now aware that being close to and in touch with disability can help make the whole person.

I continued with the bank for some years, but now admit to spending a little 'work' time doing some voluntary work for organisations including NADRASCA. I was on the Fathers and Friends Committee and later on the Committee of Management. I completed an application to join the Staff in 1979, was accepted and so commenced my 27 years of employment with an organisation which continues to give me job satisfaction and personal satisfaction.

Chris Gilbert

A SPOT OF HISTORY



NADRASCA Debutante Balls

23 May 1987 saw the inaugural Deb Ball. Held at the Box Hill Town Hall and sponsored by the Lions Club of Nunawading and the NADRASCA Ladies Auxiliary, 23 debs were presented to Mr Les Fell, CEO of the City of Nunawading, and Mrs Fell. The couples were transported to the Town Hall by members of the Rolls Royce Club of Victoria. The Ron Richards band provided music for the evening.

On 26 May 1989 a second Deb Ball was held in the St John's Mitcham Church Hall. Seventeen couples were presented to Cr Jan Plummer, Mayor of the City of Nunawading.

On 11 November 1994, 20 debutantes were presented to Mrs Margaret Ray MLA at Rembrandts in Knox.

Thank you Keith Kilner for the regular *Spot of History* updates.

Day Services

What an interesting year, full of wonderful changes and achievements, as well as diversification in our approaches. As the end of the year nears, I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a well earned holiday. In 2007 we will be focusing on the implementation of the new disability legislation, the opening of the community gardens in Morack Road, further development of our Pre-Vocational Programmes and a review of service delivery.

Sports Day

On the 1 November Monkami hosted the second Eastern Region Sports Day at Cheong Park, Ringwood East. Our Witt Street site was well represented, with the majority participating in running, bowling, basketball and soccer competitions. Simon Deutscher rallied the crew and we won various events, including the award for most vocal barrackers. On behalf of the other competing organisations Onemda, Harrison, Oakleigh and NADRASCA, we thank Paul McDonald from Monkami for an excellent day.

Help for Carers

A new edition of 'Help for Carers' is now available which includes the principles of the Victorian State Plan 2002-2012, released in September 2002. This new edition reflects the growth in support available for people with a disability and their families. The handbook has information about support, organisations, entitlements and other publications that may assist carers, people with a disability and family members to plan for the future. It is published by the Department of Human Services Disability Services Division. For further information go to www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability. If you can't access this site please ring me on 9877 4444 and I will try to order the book in bulk.

Client Package

The Day Services Client Package was launched at our Witt Street site on 20 and 23 October. This package covers such things as hours, equipment, key worker roles, safety and wellbeing, rights and responsibilities, medication, programs offered, transport, fees, holidays, and several other topics of importance. Each person in the Day Services was given a copy and I encourage you to be familiar with its contents.

Raeoni Turner

Business Services Report

This year Business Services has seen a number of changes with some staff leaving and being replaced with new people who have all fitted in well. Thank you to **Vi Clarke** and **Don Lawas** for your contribution to NADRASCA over many years. Welcome to **Andrew** (Supervisor Contract Services), **Rod** (Warehouse Supervisor) and **Donna** and **Stuart** (Employee Support Co-ordinators). We are sure you will enjoy your time with us. We also welcome **Slakchith, Ryan, Leigh & Simon** to the crew

The highlight of the year was the return to surplus after a period of running at a deficit. This was a result of much hard work by both staff and employees. The first half of the 2006/7 financial year has shown promise for another successful year.

Now for a quick overview of the year:

- Again this year we packed Christmas Seasonal packs for Cadbury's – over 4 million individual wrapped chocolates have been packed. Over 500,000 line phones were processed for Telstra – a significant recycling impact for them.
- Staff and employees have enjoyed a number of special lunches and events, including the Easter Bonnet Parade, Employee Training Day, Grand Final Pie Day, Footy Tipping, 'Canteen Day' and the Melbourne Cup Sweep.
- Again the Employee Representative Council has actively represented our employees and is currently organising



Residential Report

Seven residents and three staff enjoyed a 5 day holiday at Sorrento during September. They visited the Hedge Maze, travelled on the Sorrento – Queenscliff ferry, enjoyed a family BBQ at David McGregor's mum's place and had dinner at the Rosebud RSL.

Holiday programs have been organised over the Christmas/ New Year break:

- Christmas at Axton Ridge farm, Heathcote (22-26 December) for 8 participants and 2 staff.
- Otway Lodge, Apollo Bay (13-17 January) for 8 participants and 3 staff.
- Wattleree Cottage, Warburton (12-17 January) for 8 participants and 3 staff.
- Casa Palloti, Millgrove (12-17 January) for 10 participants and 3 staff.
- P&O Cruise to Vanuatu (8 – 18 January) for 10 participants and 2 staff.
- Aus Tours 10 day holiday around Victoria (3-13 January).

The Residential Dinner Dance and Art exhibition was held at the Coach and Horses and was a tremendous success thanks to the talented performers and artists, Sarah Gibson, John Andreopolous, Lin Starke, 'Che pena Quartet' and the Sunday Art Group. Special thanks to the Armitage and Clark families who generously donated money for the door prizes.

St Mark's Anglican Church youth group organised a social afternoon for a number of Residential and Business Services clients. Live music, a BBQ and dancing was enjoyed by all.

The refurbishment of the Gardenia Street residence is on schedule and resident relocations will take place during Jan/Feb '07.

Holly Arnold-Lester



the Christmas Dinner Dance at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Ringwood for the 20 December.

- Individual Employee Plans and Wage Reviews were completed by the end of October and are due to re-commence in February 2007. Forward any issues to Linda Leonard, Stuart Dickinson or Donna Bloomfield.
- Linda Leonard received at the recent AGM a 10 year Service Award. Congratulations Linda.

On behalf of the employees and staff of Business Services we wish you all Season's Greetings and best wishes for 2007.

Peter Ray

PEOPLE NEWS!



Aged Persons' Service Art Exhibition

During October the clients at Aged Persons' Service held a successful Art Exhibition, which was opened by the Mayor of the City of Whitehorse, Cr Sharon Ellis. The work on display represented the cumulative effort of all clients who have been at the Service since its inception five years ago, including two who have since passed away. Approximately seventy people attended and a significant number of works were sold. Congratulations to Paula and all the artists involved.



CIDA Achievement Award

Dorothy and Jack Furze were awarded CIDA Achievement Awards at a presentation held at the Windsor Hotel on the 19 October. Jack and Dorothy have a long standing involvement with NADRASCA, spanning almost twenty-five years. During this time they have been tireless workers for both our Residential and Day Services. Whether it was assisting at wine bottlings, packing apples for sale or mowing lawns at our houses, they were always available. Jack was the inaugural President of the Parents and Friends Association. Their award was richly deserved.

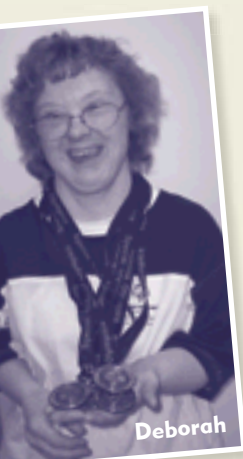
Sporting Achievements

In October Queensland's Gold Coast hosted the Australian Special Olympics for athletes with intellectual disabilities. Almost 1,000 athletes from around Australia competed in a diverse range of sports.

Fiona Taylor and **Deborah Broughton** both won medals in their respective sports of tennis and gymnastics.

Earlier in the year **Sharon Morse** competed in the European Championship, winning medals in singles, doubles and team tennis events.

Congratulations from us all on your achievements!



Deborah



Fiona & Sharon

Congratulations!

... to **Lee Gorrie** and **Jon Finlayson** who announced their engagement recently. Also congratulations go to **Mark Hiney**, winner of this year's football tipping competition.

The Melbourne Show

Sarah Gibson, Roger Furze and **Jimmy Patterson** from our Panorama Drive house had a ball at the Show in September. As well as the usual highlights of patting the animals, riding the ferris wheel and purchasing show bags, they visited the monster truck exhibit which undoubtedly influenced their enjoyable crash/bang ride on the dodgem cars. Their experience is best summed up by the quote of the day - 'I wish I could stay all night.'

Gaye Collard



'Good Morning, NADRASCA Business Services. How may I help you?'

Jocelyn Binding commenced working in Business Services in June 2004 within Contract Services. In June this year, Jocelyn was asked to perform telephone receptionist duties while a staff member was on holidays. Jocelyn performed so well that, when the staff member returned, she was asked to continue in this role, allowing the staff member to undertake other duties.

Now when you ring Business Services Jocelyn's pleasant and enthusiastic voice will greet you. Congratulations Jocelyn on your appointment to this new role.



With sadness...

It is with sadness that we report on the passing of friends from the NADRASCA community.

Marie Alwis passed away peacefully on 14 August after a short illness. Marie attended High Street ATSS and more recently our Aged Persons' Service. Due to deteriorating health Marie was unable to attend our services in her final months. Condolences to her family.

Raelene Rankin suddenly passed away on the 21 October. She was the only daughter of Don and Roma (dec). Raelene commenced work with Nadavoc on the 1 March 1976

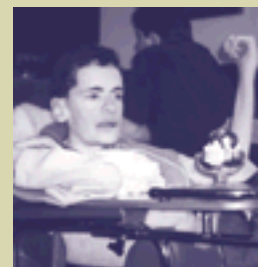
and earlier this year completed 30 years of continuous service. Prior to the move to Rooks Road, she did a lot of work in the printing department at Colombo Street and Richards Street.

Raelene had a constant smile and a friendly personality which will be missed by all at NADRASCA Business Services. We offer our sincere condolences to her family.

Son and Father Pass away

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of Brett Adams. Brett had been attending our High Street site since he was three years old and died of heart complications on the 1 September.

He was thirty-two. Brett was a very well known man within his community and the very much loved son of Maureen and Clive. Clive Adams passed away due to medical complications on Monday 18 September. Clive was a member of the transport team at High Street. Both Brett and Clive are greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with Maureen.



NADRASCA NEWS

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For contributions or ideas for future editions please contact A1Admin Pty Ltd on 03 9877 0369.

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