



Disability Services Facing Significant Changes



Then... and now...
Introducing Vanilla & Mint! (See p2)

From the desk of the Executive Director

Disability Services are potentially facing significant changes over the next couple of years.

All State and Territory Governments have agreed to the draft National Disability Strategy which outlines a 10-year national plan to improve the lives of people with disability, promote participation, and create a more inclusive society. Once it is formally endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments, an implementation plan (including indicators of progress) will be developed. The Strategy will shift the focus of disability service providers, who need to work out how it can best be put into practice. The Strategy is now accessible on the internet. (Google 'National Disability Strategy')

The purpose of the National Disability Strategy is to:

- establish a high level policy framework to give coherence to and guide government activity

across mainstream and disability-specific areas of public policy;

- drive improved performance of mainstream services in delivering outcomes for people with disability;
- give visibility to disability issues and ensure they are included in the development and implementation of all public policy that impacts on people with disability; and
- provide national leadership toward greater inclusion of people with disability.

The Governor-General in her opening address to the Federal Parliament in September said: 'The long-term care and support needs of people with a disability are a national priority that demands a national response. The Government therefore looks forward to giving careful consideration to the Productivity Commission's forthcoming report on a National Disability Insurance Scheme.' Minister Jenny Macklin has since reiterated that disability reform will be a social policy priority for the Gillard Government.

At the same time, the Federal Government has introduced a discussion paper for comment that sets a new vision to 2020 for people needing supported employment. They wish to develop a new vision that achieves inclusion for people with a disability through sustainable

supported employment. Nadrasca will keep you informed on these developments as they progress in the New Year.

The 4th AGM of Nadrasca Ltd was held on 28 September. Mr Mike Poole, Mr Chris Pyke and Mr Chris Tann retired as Board Members in rotation (in accordance with the Constitution) and sought re-election for a three-year term. There were also two new Board nominations from Mr Rod Keuris and Mr Chris Woodward. All five members were duly elected and, for rotational purposes, Mr Woodward was elected for a two-year term and Mr Keuris for a three-year term.

At the October Board meeting, Mr Mike Poole was re-elected Chairman and Mr Keith Kilner re-elected as Deputy Chairman for 2010/2011. Nadrasca thanks both Mike and Keith for their contribution to the Board as office-bearers in the past year, and congratulates them on their re-appointment. Congratulations to all Directors appointed and re-appointed.

The Board and Management of Nadrasca thank all those involved with Nadrasca for their support, and wish the staff, employees, members, clients, families and carers Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year for 2011.

Gus Koedyk
Executive Director



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HOLIDAY DATES

- The Rooks Rd Head Office is closed from midday 24th Dec and re-opens 4th Jan 2011.
- Community Options (Witt St, High St & Seniors) is closed from 24th Dec and re-opens 20th Jan 2011.
- Nadrasca Industry is closed from 24th Dec and re-opens 17th Jan 2011. (Christmas Early Return Crew only returns on 10th January.)

Nadrasca
Dignity. Diversity. Community. Industry.
52-62 Rooks Road
Nunawading Vic 3131
PO Box 3874
Nunawading 3131
Tel 03 9873 1111
Fax 03 9873 2270
www.nadrasca.com.au
A Disability Service Organisation
ABN 90 125 235 047
ACN 125 235 047



Meet Vanilla and Mint!

It has been a busy few months at the Farm, but the team has met the challenge. New lambs, Vanilla and Mint, are in good health. Vanilla's name was chosen by students at Antonio Park Primary School (mother Rhubarb's previous home) and Mint was chosen by the Farm clients. Rhubarb is a very proud and protective mother. We thank our neighbour Bill Cooper who looks after the sheep at weekends. Thanks also to Tim Hunt, another neighbour who helped with the initial feeding process and docking the lambs' tails.

The Minister for Roads & Ports and Major Projects, Tim Pallas, announced on 26th October that the land on which the Farm is situated (Healesville Freeway Corridor) may be preserved as an area for important open spaces and community usage. The push to preserve this land has been headed by the Member for Forest Hill, Kirstie Marshall, with a 6,500 strong petition from the local and Nadrasca community. A community task force is being established to make recommendations for the future of the land and to assist Vic Roads with the planning process.

We have also started to plant vegetables in the south paddock. We thank the Rotary Club of Forest Hill for donating a new Disc Harrower for the tractor, and Ray Smith who has spent time and donated seeds (lettuce, beans, tomatoes) for this project. Ray has also worked with the team to prepare the soil and sow these vegetables.

Remember to visit us whenever you can – the Farm is open to everyone. The more the merrier.

Rodney, Glen and the Farmers

After a successful 2009/2010 financial year result (see previous newsletter), it is pleasing to report that we continue to operate at capacity. Year to date, our revenue targets are being met and our surplus after the first three months is 81% better than budget.

We have a large amount of work from now until Christmas, with work to return to in January 2011 after the holidays. During Jessie's and my time overseas, Robert Martin took control and, with the assistance of all the staff and employees, Nadrasca Industry performed exceptionally.

Footy finals came around and the traditional Footy Pie Day was held with employees dressing up in their teams colours. Prizes for Best Dressed were presented to Thomas Raisbek, Vicki Macdonald, Gary Lynch and Merryn Ware. Due to the draw, a second Footy Pie Day was held. The Collingwood supporters among us were a little sad at the first draw, but never lost faith. Congratulations to Collingwood on winning the Grand Final.

After a close competition, Mark Hiney was successful in winning the footy tipping. Tony Schembri and Robert Wright were second and Natalie Mulartschuk third.



From L to R: Vicki Macdonald, Thomas Raisbek, Gary Lynch, Merryn Ware

Nadrasca employees again supported the Appeal for Teenagers with Cancer Bandana Day, collectively raising \$214.00 to support this worthwhile appeal.

Arrangements for the Annual Employee Christmas Dinner Dance are well underway. On Friday 17th December the event will again be held at the Manhattan Hotel, from 6.30pm to 10.30pm.

Everyone at Nadrasca Industry thanks you for your support during the year and wishes you Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Peter Ray
General Manager
Nadrasca Industry

News from the Board

Chris Pyke and Yvonne Mahony were recognised for their years of continuous service to the Board of Directors and presented with a plaque to commemorate the occasion. Chris Pyke has been on the Board for 20 years and Yvonne Mahony for 35 years.

Two new Board members were elected at the AGM: Mr Rod Keuris and Mr Chris Woodward. The Board welcomes both members who will make valuable contributions to Nadrasca.

Rod Keuris

Rod is a practising solicitor and private investigator with 25 years experience in the corporate sector, Victoria Police and the National Crime Authority. With his combination of legal and investigation skills, Rod brings a comprehensive approach to government and corporate management.

Chris Woodward (CPRM, MRMIA)

Chris has been a practising risk management executive for over 35 years, retiring from Royal Dutch Shell in 2008. Chris has extensive global experience building and leading large professional and high performance risk management teams. Chris is a Life Member of Toorak East Malvern Hockey Club and enjoys golf, fishing, rugby and his new grandchildren.



Rod Keuris



Chris Woodward

Community

In our last newsletter I wrote about **Individual Support Packages**. Please contact me if you are having difficulty with the planning process.

We welcome the Whitehorse Men's Shed to the High Street site. The Men's Shed was first established in 2005 within the City of Whitehorse to provide men with a supportive and creative environment in which to gain skills, learn new activities and socialise with other men with similar interests. The men have settled in, and sharing the facility is working well.

A Committee has been formed at High Street to raise funds for an Interactive Multi-Sensory Room (IMSR) for the use of the Nadrasca community and for rental by community groups. An IMSR provides a safe and comfortable setting in which participants' senses can be stimulated by a variety of lighting effects, music and tactile experiences. IMSRs encourage visual learning about cause and effect, develop language skills, and provide a therapeutic environment for clients with behaviours of concern. With support from the Rotary Club of Beaumaris and several families, a book sale at High Street raised \$1,636, and Glenore Grove Pty Ltd has donated \$1,000. **Glenore olive oil is also being sold through Nadrasca sites to raise funds (see the ad on this page).**

The Office of the Public Advocate has released the Community Visitors Annual Report which identifies themes across the three Community Visitor program streams - Health Services, Mental Health, and Disability:

- insufficient funding for the Community Visitor Program to meet its legislative mandate;
- the constant threat to dignity and rights faced by residents and consumers;

- inequities faced by people with a disability as a result of their disability;
- inadequate accommodation for Victorians with a disability; and
- serious health care needs of Victorians with a disability.

I would recommend you read this report which is available on <http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/>

Farewells

We have farewelled a number of long serving staff. We wish them all luck for their future endeavours.

- **Homayon Shirzad** has moved into case management after nine and a half years with Nadrasca.
- **Margeurite Shaw** has retired after 21 years at Nadrasca. Margeurite has been a wonderful advocate for people, and a passionate supporter of the Farm and of people moving into employment. She will be missed.
- **Judith Cairns** resigned after nine and a half years. Judith was a great advocate. She introduced a program which taught the Disability Standards, and empowered people to advocate and make a complaint.

Congratulations to the following people who received certificates for years of service

- **Jacinda Rule:** 10 years
- **Bill Luke:** 15 years
- **Dorothy Shaw-Ho:** 20 years
- **Diane Parsons:** 20 years
- **Keith Jenkins** received a gold watch for 25 years

On 3rd November, Residential, Day Service, Seniors and Outreach staff all came together for the first time, to focus jointly on the *Future Directions of*



Future Directions Workshop

Nadrasca. The above photo shows a cross section of staff participating on the day.

Happy Summer from all at the Nadrasca Community.

Raeoni Turner
General Manager
Nadrasca Community

Fund Raiser



500ml bottle of Cold Pressed Extra Virgin Olive Oil for \$9

Contact Lee at Rooks Road on 9873 1111, Yiannoulla at High Street on 9877 4444 or Michelle at Witt Street on 9872 3922. Highly recommended by Raeoni!



'Owl's Wisdom'
painted on canvas with texture paste

'Whose Button'
recycled Art using buttons and dried flowers encased in Polymer Resin.



Seniors @ Nadrasca

Art has proven to be an effective form of therapy, especially for those with a disability.

Members have been engaged in several commissioned pieces, feeling the empowerment of achieving and being recognised for their talent and contribution to the community.

Margaret Harvey had two entries submitted to the Open Windows Art & Prize Exhibition, and was chosen to be part of the Annecto Open

Windows Community Exhibition, which celebrated the contributions of all people in our community. Congratulations to the following artists from Seniors @ Nadrasca and from Witt Street: June Paterson, Antonia Antoniou, Suzy Szigeti, Sandra Petz, Michael Read, Jessica Ebert, Elroy Hendricks, James Laxby and Margaret Harvey. Congratulations also to 'Annecto' for the wonderful exhibition.

Paula Euthimiou
Manager, Seniors @ Nadrasca

Residential Services News



One of Nadrasca's accommodation services, located in Kilsyth

Did you pick a winner this Melbourne Cup Day?

Unfortunately, on Melbourne Cup Day, Darren, Emma and Jenny from High Street got washed out before the big race actually ran at Flemington. Jimmy and Nicole from Panorama enjoyed a sunny, enjoyable day at the Mansfield races.

Welcome

Welcome to **Liam** who moved into his new home at Whitehorse Road on 1st August 2010. Liam attends Nadrasca Farm and Witt Street Community Options. Liam enjoys cricket, soccer, swimming, football and is a Collingwood supporter. I would also like to welcome **Alana Rough** as the new House Supervisor at our Gardenia St, Blackburn

Service. Alana (BAppSc [Dis]) comes with 6 years' experience. Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to **Maryanne Harding** (House Supervisor, High St) who has been working the vacant supervisor position as well her own position during recruitment.

Christmas

Staff have been organising Christmas parties and holidays for the break. Some of the Nadrasca houses will be closed from 23rd-27th December 2010. Please speak to the house supervisor to check closure dates.

Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

*Meghan Coulter
Residential Services Manager*

Happenings at High Street

I moved from Witt Street to High Street earlier this year and nothing has stood still since then! The wonderful clients and staff have made me feel very welcome.

We have made quite a few changes: a new staff room; a room of their own for every core group; two core groups in the old staff room; and clients enjoying quality time with their key workers each morning over a cup of tea/coffee. Staff have worked very hard to make these changes happen.

Rose Pote and Melanie Kelly, both with extensive knowledge and experience, are sharing a staff position. We have finished all our support plans, and are looking forward to an exciting new idea for 2011 – a single timetable for High Street and Witt Street.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Hema Kumble
Manager Community Options*

PEOPLE NEWS

Condolences

Shane Kinna passed away on 4 September. Shane worked at Nadrasca for 25 years, before deciding to try Day Services. On his final day at Nadrasca Business Services in December 2000, Shane played



Santa Claus, arriving on a Metropolitan Fire Brigade truck! Shane was loved by all who knew him. He was always looking out for others, taking an interest in and cheering people up. Shane was also involved in advocacy groups. Shane hated people trying to do too much for him. His was an incredible spirit.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of **Rob Tunney**, an active member of the Lions Club of Blackburn North. Rob was actively involved in many Nadrasca initiatives, including: the High Street Sensory Gardens and BBQ area; fundraising; the development of the Farm; work at Witt Street; and organising club activities. Rob was a great advocate for Nadrasca and a true gentleman.

Witt Street Update

I could not have asked for a better welcome to the Witt Street site – the staff have been very supportive and willing to share their knowledge, assisting me to settle in. There are lots of challenges ahead – and much exciting planning to do, in conjunction with the wishes and needs of the people who choose to use Nadrasca's services.

With the cooperation of VALID we have introduced a Client Advocacy group. John Slingsby from VALID has been helping the group to learn how to self-advocate and to advocate on behalf of other people.



*Peter Basic and
Ben Tyshing*

I would like to leave you with this old Irish saying for the festive season: *Alcohol – Liquid for preserving almost everything but secrets.*

Have a very Happy Christmas and a great New Year filled with exciting times, good health and many adventures.

*Betty Hamilton
Manager Community Options*



*Dean Grundy -
Christmas Card*