

news & muse

Contents

A Politician's promise	1
Staff profile - Leanne Whitney	2
CLP health and fitness	2
Glen and Graeme's Queensland adventure	2
From the CEO's Desk	3
The Lodge visits Maggie	3
Police headquarters	4
Human Resources	4
New Caledonia cruise	5
Amazing Acorns	5
Tassie Devils ask the questions	5
A night with Foster and Allen	6
"The Friends" quilt	6
Chairman's Column	6
"In The Navy"	7
Our home	7
CLP Fancy Dress Party	7
Publish and be damned?	8



"Honoured" – Cleve Mitchell, Bill Shorten MP, Judith Collins MP, Tim Brickhill & Senator Catryna Bilyk admire the AFL team photo

A politician's promise

There is more than the occasional story about politicians' promises. Late last year the Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, The Hon. Bill Shorten, visited Oakdale Lodge and promised to obtain some football memorabilia from AFL clubs for residents.

It could well be that this promise was extracted under duress, with a certain resident, Lindsay Appeldorf, playing a key role in the affair. Whether or not this was the case we are pleased to relate that on a recent return visit to the Lodge Bill Shorten honoured his commitment.

All residents had been asked to provide the name of their AFL team, and no one who made a request was disappointed. There were scarves and caps, autographed jumpers and footballs and a large team photo from one club. Bill, together with Senator Catryna Bilyk and MHR Judith Collins, made the presentations which were greeted with various degrees of delight by the recipients.

Rodney Howe then presented Bill Shorten with a 'Lodge made' Thankyou card. Oh happy day, well done Bill!

Notice

*The Annual General Meeting
of Oakdale Services Tasmania
will be held on
Monday 29th September 2008
commencing 1.30pm
At Southern Branch House*



Staff profile - Leanne Whitney

Our staff are the key to our success at Oakdale Services Tasmania! To highlight how this success is linked to the things our staff say are important to them, a series of staff profiles will be included in future editions of n&m. The first staff member to be profiled is Leanne Whitney, Team Leader of Oakdale's acquired brain injury (ABI) service.

Leanne is in her mid fifties and has been with Oakdale for 6 years. A mother of three daughters and grandmother to four, she enjoys cooking, gardening, and spending time with her family and friends.

Since leaving school at the age of 15 Leanne has worked as a secretary, a hotel cook, family day carer and women's shelter support worker. Leanne also enjoyed 10 years of being a full-time housewife and mother.

Funding changes at the women's shelter in 2002 resulted in a reduction of Leanne's work hours and she began looking for an alternate career. A friend suggested she apply for a position at Oakdale Services and, although initially greeting the suggestion with some trepidation, she decided to 'give it a try'. Because of Leanne's previous experience she commenced work at Oakdale as a Level 4 Disability Support Worker.

Over the past 6 years, with the support and encouragement of OST, Leanne has obtained additional tertiary qualifications, received other accredited training including management training,

and attended conferences and seminars. She was appointed to her current position three years ago, a position which Leanne says "she loves and believes will continue to provide many challenges and life experiences as Oakdale looks to expand its ABI service." Leanne is also a member of the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania (BIAT) Committee of Management.

We asked Leanne to list some of the reasons why she enjoys working at Oakdale. Leanne's response: - "My first reason is the level of support and encouragement I receive from management; when I present an idea I often am told 'why not give it a try!'" Second is the focus of the client being at the heart of everything Oakdale does. Finally, "The immense pleasure I get from working with 'my' clients to help them achieve their goals." Leanne's philosophy is "I look and see a person, not a disability"; a philosophy which serves Leanne and all involved with her well.

Leanne says "she finds the balance between work and life easy, as both to me are about enjoying other people".

CLP health and fitness

Most Community Living Program (CLP) clients have a focus on developing an active and healthy lifestyle as part of their personal plans and many are already seeing the benefits. What is most obvious though is how being active and "finding thirty" is proving to be an opportunity for socialising and having fun. Luci Giblin from Pottery Rd and Matt Hoori from Burwood join up to do an Aqua Aerobics class at Clarence pool; swing dancing lessons at Salamanca; and even steal Sunlea Place's dog, Peppa, for one of their weekly walks on the beach. Peppa has also enjoyed the lifestyle of an active household, with Kayleen Harwood and Dianne Cowen in particular enjoying walking her the 30 minutes to Tolosa Park. Dianne is even talking of smuggling her on the next cruise ship holiday.....

Glen and Graeme's Queensland adventure

One wet and wild morning in July Glen-Michael Stanton and Graeme Rycroft from Firthside, accompanied by Tina and Angela, arose very early to embark on their great adventure in Queensland.

They arrived at the Gold Coast to find their wheelchairs were not working so they were pushed to a taxi bound for their hotel, the Sovereign Australis, a great place to stay.

The next day Glen and Graeme visited Sea World for the whole day. It was fun watching the dolphins, sharks, sea lions, polar bears and dugong with the odd pelican or two as well. After a long day, dinner was enjoyed in the hotel room and it was off to bed for a well earned rest.

On Wednesday they went for a walk along the esplanade to the city and tried to go to the Wax Museum but their wheelchairs were too big to fit in the lifts. Instead they went to the Q Tower which is, at the moment, the tallest building on the Gold Coast. It was amazing, they could see for miles. Then it was back to the hotel for lunch and a rest before going out to The Outback Spectacular that evening. The show was amazing, full of laughs and fun. Graeme and Glen both highly recommend it to anyone who ventures to the Gold Coast.

On Thursday they went to a place called 'Infinity'. This was fascinating as they were wheeled through dark tunnels; some with laser lights, some with things that touched them as they went through; and others with sounds like they were inside an alien's stomach. They then emerged in to a room



"Cool"- Glen & Graeme at Seaworld

full of mirrors or with changing colours. A great sensory experience! In the evening Glen went to 'Dracula's' for dinner. Here he had his photo taken with some rather strange characters. Graeme had dinner at the hotel restaurant and an early night ready for the trip home.

Friday morning saw another early start; it was up for breakfast, then off to the airport for the big trip home. They hopped on their plane and, after a wait of approximately one and a half hours on the airstrip at the Gold Coast, they were away. Their late arrival at Tullamarine meant they had had to rush through the airport to catch their connecting flight.

Finally they arrived in Hobart to be happily greeted by Graeme's parents and a staff member who took them home, where they had dinner and fell into bed absolutely exhausted.

Glen and Graeme enjoyed their adventure to the Gold Coast and would love to have another adventure again some time soon.

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From the CEO's Desk

Sport fever has well and truly gripped Oakdale over recent weeks. The fervour surrounding the Olympics has captured us all as we watch the feats and the successes of the Aussies during the games. This is on the back of the business end of the AFL season (C'mon the Cats!!) and the timely visit to Oakdale Lodge by the Hon Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, together with Julie Collins MHR and Senator Catryna Bilyk.

As you may have read in the article 'A Politician's Promise', the purpose of visiting the Lodge was to present an array of posters, jumpers, caps and signed footballs to some very keen footy fans. An offer by a particularly trustworthy CEO to 'look after' a football signed by the mighty Geelong team was rejected ... somewhat harshly I thought!! Bill met his challenge to gather and present the AFL memorabilia; OST

now has the challenge to take a proposal to Bill that captures political imagination and demonstrates commitment for people with a disability who are ageing.

The breadth of articles in this edition of n&m illustrates the scope of activities in which Oakdale clients are engaged, all well supported by our staff.

A new feature in this edition (and something I would like to see continued) is the staff profile; my thanks to Leanne Whitney for 'volunteering' to be the first employee to be profiled. It was in fact Leanne's idea to include an employee profile in n&m; an opportunity not only to introduce our employees, but also to demonstrate the myriad of life experiences that can bring people to seek employment in the disability sector.

The aim in this and subsequent profiles is to encourage you, our readers, to think "do I know someone who may be suited to being a disability support employee?" If you do know someone, please refer them to Oakdale's website at www.oakdaletas.org. Here they can find the information on positions vacant and general recruiting details.

While it is great to employ people who have experience and a relevant qualification, that is not always essential. The critical requirement is to engage people who have the appropriate attitudes and values to fulfil the role of a support worker. The skills needed for the role can be acquired through a combination of formal and informal training opportunities.

Congratulations to the Acorns for arranging the second, very successful, 'Dinner at Drysdale'. I understand the evening was enjoyed by over one hundred guests who not only savoured the fine dining experience but also 'dug deep' to support the auction. Over \$4600 was realised from the function, including the sale of a few of Oakdale's senior management team under the banner of 'slave for a day'.

The Acorns also recently held their Annual General Meeting; this provided the opportunity to reflect on another very

successful year under the leadership of President Gwen Kingston, supported by the committee and members. The friendship shared with our clients is the undeniable principle that focuses the motivation of the group, who often comment "...that they get back far more than they give". My sincere thanks go to the Acorn Branch for the ongoing commitment and support.

The Future Communities Industry Forum, dedicated to detailing the Disability Services Reforms and the Child Protection and Family Services Reforms, was held on the 20th and 21st of this month. The Forum follows the acceptance by Cabinet of the KPMG Review of Disability Services and the acceptance by State Government of the broad ranging changes that need to occur across the Disability and the Child Protection and Family Services sectors.

I have commented several times in this column and in other forums on the need for wide ranging reform in the Disability Sector. As the plans unfold I look forward to sharing with you how the proposed reforms will be rolled out across the three year life of the reform project; particularly how the reforms will impact on OST and on our clients.

I trust you will enjoy this edition of n&m.

Paul Byrne
CEO

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"Visiting" – Joy, Marie, Patsy, Maggie & Julie

The Lodge visits Maggie

Unfortunately Maggie Sakera and her beautiful dog, Solomon, have been unable to make their regular visit to Oakdale Lodge on Saturdays. Maggie has had a foot operation and has been unable to drive or walk.

Patsy Henry has been asking around lunchtime every Saturday if Maggie and the dog were coming to visit and was disappointed that they weren't.

After talking to Maggie, she agreed that it would be a good idea if a group of clients went to visit her at home. Patsy Henry, Julie Reeves, Maree Watt and Joy Weston were thrilled with the idea.

On arriving at Maggie's home, Patsy was very emotional and overjoyed to once again see Maggie, Solomon and her other dog, Angel. Maggie's husband Sam was also home and they were made to feel very welcome.

Morning tea was served and then they all had a chance to play with Solomon and Angel.

Maggie has suggested a return visit in a couple of months. So it is truly a case of The Lodge visiting Maggie.

Police headquarters

Cleve Mitchell's request for 2008 was to visit Police Headquarters in Hobart. A place avoided by most, this was not the case for Cleve.

A visit was duly arranged, and at the appointed time Constable Bill Sames greeted Cleve, Robyn Green, Sandra Palmer, Gary Lane, David Gigney, Julie Reeves,

Cheryl Eaton, Rodney Howe, Graeme English and Mary Holowenko along with staff members Jackie and Jeanette.

The first stop on the tour was the breathalyser room. Constable Sames explained that this is where detainees are brought to determine their blood alcohol/drug readings.

Then followed the public enquiries counter. Here they found that police have 24 hour, seven day a week surveillance cameras operating in Hobart's bus mall, Elizabeth Street mall and the waterfront area.

Next port of call was the initial lock-up area. Constable Sames informed the group that quite often detainees have to be subdued when being taken into custody.

They then ventured up to the processing area where police could take DNA samples along with photographs and fingerprints to make up an identity kit which can be matched to an offender.

They viewed a cell which, Constable Sames informed them, was no longer in use as a remand centre is now located next door.

The group then made its way through the parking area and saw an array of police vehicles, such as a negotiator truck, bomb squad vehicles, random breath testing vehicles, paddy wagons, police cars and motorbikes.

On reaching the forensic services bay,

which is the scientific area of policing, they were shown where the evidence relating to crimes is gathered after police had taken photographs and collected DNA and other evidence at crime scenes.

Up to the seventh floor to the police radio room where up to 500 jobs per night can be managed. The busy times are usually after the AFL Grand Final and New Year's Eve. They learnt that police officers contact the radio room for assistance from CIB, paramedics and emergency services. The radio room covers all of Tasmania including Flinders and King Islands.

After a very informative tour Rodney Howe and Graeme English thanked Constable Sames on behalf of Oakdale Lodge.

Human Resources

Hello all! This is a busier time than usual for Human Resources.

Our annual staff Performance Review meetings are well under way. Staff members meet with senior management to discuss the outcomes of their reviews over the last 12 months and to identify training needs and goals for the following year. Development plans are also discussed and implemented at this time. The majority of training is based upon needs identified from client Personal Plans.

We are also interviewing for Disability Support Workers, both part time and casual.

Recent training completed by Oakdale staff since June include: I.A.B.A – Institute of Applied Behaviour Analysis; First Aid; Food Handling; P.E.G Feeding; Administration of Drugs; The New Manager training course; and also attendance at the Australian Human Resources Institute Convention in Melbourne and the NDS Disability Workforce Project in Queensland.

We would like to welcome the following new staff to the Oakdale team: Keenan Cowle (Youth Services); Emma Green (ABI); Rory Jones (Burwood); Marianne Mouchet



"Nicked" – Cleve Mitchell & Constable Sames

(CLP); Helen Mount (CLP – Sunlea); Anne Ooms (Lodge); and Jenny Smith (Lodge).

This is a shorter report than usual, as I have just returned from 8 weeks of Long Service Leave which was thoroughly enjoyed!

My favourite saying for this edition – “I dream of a better tomorrow, where chickens can cross the road without having their motives questioned.” [C. Bright].

Kathy Tauber
HR Manager

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“Nuts” –Jean, Dianne and Hartmuth

New Caledonia cruise

After a few a little glitches with bookings and passports, it was off to Sydney for the trip of a life time with an eight day cruise aboard the ship ‘Pacific Dawn’. The excited passengers from CLP were Hartmuth Pallavicini, Robert Helps, Dianne Cowen, Patty Fall and staff members Sonya, Maria and Jean.

They sailed from Sydney and for a few days had no sight of land. They woke on Monday morning to Hartmuth very excitedly ripping open the curtains at 5.00am to reveal Noumea.

They disembarked and spent the day shopping and did a tour of the island which incorporated some spectacular views.

Then they were cruising again to the Island of Pines which was a very ‘back to nature’ island. Here they bought coconuts and had them split to drink the milk from the shell and then devoured the flesh, it was

lovely! They also visited another island, Ouvéa, where the locals were very friendly. Here they had a trip in a taxi that won’t be forgotten easily; the taxi looked like it was nearly ready for the scrap heap, but the driver was a very cheerful man.

The days sailing back to Sydney were filled with too many on board activities to list; but some more favoured ones were line dancing, serviette folding, table tennis, resting in the spas on the outside decks and the general night life entertainment. One of the CLP staff favourites on board was Dindo, their cabin steward, the magic man who cleaned and cleaned and cleaned.

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Amazing Acorns

The Acorn Branch has been busy in the past months with the organisation of the Drysdale Dinner and Charity Auction.

This event was an outstanding social and financial success with \$4,670 being raised. The Acorns would like to thank all who attended and entered into the spirit of the evening. Our thanks go to those who supported the function by making a donation of money or items for raffles, lucky door prizes and the auction. A special mention must be made of the generosity of Jason Vesinger (Bob Jane T-Mart, Moonah), Casa Monde, Norske Skog and Sargisons Jewelers for their donations. We were also very appreciative of the assistance on the night of board members Geoff Harper, with his professional approach to the auction, and Arthur Jones.

We have used money from our fundraising projects to support our group homes with



“Grinner” – Robyn Green & Acorn Secretary Maureen McDonald

the purchase of a chest freezer for Burwood, bread maker for Nolan and set top box for Firthside. We have also agreed to provide funds to purchase an outdoor setting for Oakdale Lodge.

Our next fundraising venture will be a Christmas Morning Tea at Oakdale on Wednesday November 26 at 10.30am. Please come along and support this event. At our recent Annual General Meeting Gwen Kingston was re-elected President. We are looking forward to another successful year under her leadership and hopefully an increase in our membership.

Please call Gwen on 62 441287 or Secretary Maureen McDonald on 62 477915 if you would like more information about becoming involved.

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“Be-devilled” – Rodney Howe

Tassie Devils ask the questions

An organised visit, coinciding with a client rostered day, off saw Trent Bartlett and Shaun Mooney from the Tassie Devils return to Oakdale Lodge. Rohan Naughton and Neville Fitzmaurice, the traditional welcoming party for the Devils, eagerly awaited their arrival in the foyer and were the first to meet and greet them.

Trent and Shaun came armed with loads of prizes and our clients were more than eager to participate in answering sporting questions. They then chose their prizes from a selection of posters, stickers, magnets, towels, drink bottles, caps and footballs. A delicious morning tea of freshly baked jam drop biscuits and a cuppa was on offer during the morning for all to enjoy.

To round off their visit, Trent announced that there was to be a major prize and everyone agreed on names being drawn from a hat. David Gigney was pleasantly surprised when Shaun drew his name and happily accepted his prize of a sports bag with a drink bottle.

Thank you to Trent and Shaun for an informative and fun filled morning.

A night with Foster and Allen

One cool winter evening a group of seventeen residents and three staff members headed down to Wrest Point to enjoy a night out to see one of the Lodge's favourite musical duos perform.

Just after dinner everyone was quite busy and excited, running around getting ready, putting on good clothes and, for the ladies, getting their hair and make up done. After the mad rush everyone met in the foyer for the trip to Wrest Point.

On arrival they made their way to the concert hall and the ushers guided everyone to allocated seats, which were good ones too. They were seated only moments before Foster and Allen were on stage performing with their own band! Throughout the night the group enjoyed listening to old and new songs such as 'Maggie'.

During interval, the group took the opportunity to purchase some merchandise such as DVDs and CDs or just to get a light beer or soft drink. Some of the guys saw people they knew who had also come to the show including good friends Geoff Cooper and his wife Anne.

Once Foster and Allen had thanked everyone for coming, the audience called for encores, so they performed 2 more songs and then had to call it a night.

There is no doubt that a great night was had by all!



"Beautiful" - Graeme

"The Friends" quilt

A beautiful quilt now hangs in the High Care Unit. This was designed and made by Margaret Roberts (Graeme English's sister). Margaret is a regular visitor to the Lodge and often calls into the High Care Unit to chat and have a cuppa with the Ageing In Place group.

On one such afternoon visit, a birthday celebration which Margaret shares with Lindsay Appledorf, Margaret asked if the clients at the High Care Unit would like a quilt. It was felt that this could give decoration and bring a homely appeal to the lounge room and that it was a lovely idea and generous gift.

The day arrived when the quilt was completed. Graeme hand delivered the quilt, which is a beautiful mix of colour, texture and design. Margaret has chosen colours to match and co-ordinate with colours in the room, and has incorporated a "Friends Quote" on the quilt. All are delighted with the finished product and are very grateful to Margaret for all her hard work and the creativity she has put in to making it.

A big thank you must also go the Acorn Branch who covered the material costs. The team love to show the quilt off, so come in and have a look any time you are at the Lodge.

Chairman's Column

"Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer..."

Shakespeare's oft-quoted words from Richard III could provide the inspiration for our current hopes for the future of Oakdale, given recent events (not to mention the time of year).

After a long, troubled, winter-like period, in which it seemed for some time that the very existence of our organisation might be threatened, the promise of spring has appeared, in a number of forms.

All things can change, of course, including promises, but we must say that hope for better things was somewhat restored by the June visit to Oakdale Lodge of our State Minister, Lara Giddings, who came specifically to take dinner with the residents, and then to chat informally with the Board afterwards.

Naturally, in the lead-up to the State Budget, nothing could be promised, but it was encouraging to hear the Minister talking positively about reform in the Disability sector, now that the major changes to the Health component of her portfolio have been dealt with.

At about the same time, we found out that there was an additional \$50M in the State Budget for Disability Services, which is good news, but we are yet to find out exactly how this money will be spent.

In the early months of the new Federal Government there is considerable goodwill at the inter-governmental level for a change from the difficulties of the past decade or so, in the matters of funding for services. We also have a federal Parliamentary Secretary, Bill Shorten, who is very interested in his portfolio, and who comes from a background of activism in helping those who are disadvantaged. His several visits to Oakdale Lodge have hopefully provided him with more insight into the lives of people with intellectual disability, and we've been grateful for his interest, too.

There is the prospect for a change to the way in which the CSTDA, which provides

the basis for much of the State and Federal funding for Disability Services, is framed, and, as we have recently seen, there is new money for additional accommodation services and support.

Tasmania will get approximately \$2.6M of the \$100M from the Commonwealth for new accommodation facilities, and an (as yet unquantified) amount from the additional and ongoing \$900M per annum to provide support in those facilities. This is aimed at dealing with a small part of the long-flagged unmet need crisis in accommodation.

We have urged the State and Commonwealth to use it to provide innovative solutions that help break away from the past inflexible arrangements. This inflexibility has largely arisen due to the past monolithic philosophies of government agencies; where a favoured model was adopted, and funding was provided to the providers of support based on those, essentially block method, models of funding.

While this was well and good, insofar as it meant that there was certainty for service providers, it also meant that many people were locked into a service for life. That, of course, means the sort of inflexibility in determining where and how you live that people outside the sector would not tolerate. The only way to provide true flexibility, therefore, is to fund individuals, who can then choose the type of service they want.

So, changes of several types are needed, and they are needed soon. There is always a risk that the change you get may not be what you wanted, and often you get the change you want, but it brings with it things you didn't expect, too. In this case, though, change has occurred elsewhere, so the unwanted effects can be predicted and dealt with, if anyone cares to look hard enough.

Rob Allen
Chairman



"The Crew"- Lodge residents & staff and Naval Officers

"In The Navy"

There has always been a great deal of interest amongst the clients at Oakdale Lodge when a naval ship comes into port. Because of this, staff decided to make contact with Naval Headquarters in Hobart and a tour was soon organised. This was to be an inspection of "HMAS Darwin" during its' upcoming visit.

The tour coincided with the week break from day service and there was a willing group of eleven clients wanting to be a part of it.

On the morning of the tour three sailors arrived at Oakdale Lodge to present all participants with a navy cap. Unfortunately residents were out for lunch but managed to get the hats before the visit.

On arrival at the wharf the group was greeted by Sub-Lieutenant Donovan Van Putten and Mid Shipman Brenton Fairall who looked after them during the tour. Also guests on board were the friendly television stars of the ABC television show "The Collectors".

A very detailed and interesting tour was provided. This included a demonstration of the missile launcher, with a dummy missile being pointed in all directions around Hobart.

It was a very successful day and for a large majority of the group the first experience of being on a naval vessel. Cleve Mitchell, a man of few words, summed it up by saying to staff "That was a great day".

Our home

We in the Independent Living Units love where we live and what we do. The seven of us live in three beautiful units. They are very comfortable, have great gardens and offer splendid views of Mt Wellington. David Gigney calls his "My Studio".

We are keen on living a healthy lifestyle and watch our diets. When possible we like to go for a walk and love the stretch along the Bellerive foreshore.

Recently we attended a fine function at Drysdale House organised by the magnificent Acorns. On our table we enjoyed the delicious meal and were very lucky also. Robyn Green won a lucky door prize whilst Janine Smith and Sandra Palmer both won gift vouchers in the raffle.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to live where we do!



"Walkers" - David Gigney, Lindsay Appeldorf, Janine Smith & Robyn Green

CLP fancy dress party

As a few of us start to feel the progress of time it gets a little hard to socialise as we used to, especially in these colder months. The CLP clients identified, in their recent plan reviews, a need for some party time at home. To this end we recently held a fancy dress party at Sunlea. Family and friends were invited and all descended on the Sunlea garage space which had been appropriately decorated with fairy lights and balloons.



"The Chef" - Robert

The theme was to dress in anything starting with "C", "L" or "P". While Penny Fellows chickened out and dressed as a "Purple Penny", full credit must go to Beth Griffiths as a "Lady of the Night" and Maria Raspin as "Cruella Deville" for providing a little hilarity.

Matt Hoori and Luci Giblin were particularly impressive as "Count Dracula" and "Cat in the Hat" respectively. Rob Helps looked the most suited to his chosen costume as "Chef". He displayed his growing cooking skills in the kitchen on the night, thus ensuring the wonderful hot dishes everyone brought were properly cooked and beautifully presented.

Other costumes of note were a Pope, Policeman, Pirate, Mrs Claus, Cleopatra, a couple of Clowns, Cowboys, a Punk and a Cross Country Skier. Special thank goes to Sonya Fisher's mum for providing costumes from her costume shop at a significant discount to everyone and to Judy Roberts (Burwood staff) for making Matt's fantastic costume.

Our next event will be a formal cocktail dinner party as an excuse for all to dress "to the nines" and of course our CLP Christmas BBQ will follow. It is hoped we will continue to improve the ambience, decorations and music equipment of the

Sunlea garage space and that as word gets out about these events they only get better and better!

Publish and be damned? ¹

I have been following discussions, in an online forum hosted by a major learning disability network in Great Britain, about publishing client photos on the web.

The comment that started it all was "I have realised how few positive photographs there are available that depict people who use social care."

Replies included: "Have you ever wondered why...? Regrettably the web is not a safe place..." and "Why should we expose the unfortunate circumstances of those we seek to protect?"

The next round included: "Wow, I haven't heard such an overprotective attitude for a while; "It is a far bigger human right to have your picture on the web alongside anyone else if you so wish." and "I have a son with learning disabilities, who would be judged as having capacity to consent. He should have the same right to do this as anyone else. He has appeared several times in the local press with a very positive photo ... all of which contribute to his

positive self-esteem." The discussion has only just started, so no doubt there will be more said over the coming weeks.

I wonder what readers of 'n&m' and visitors to our website think? Write or email and let us know.

My attitude is summed up in the comments I selected from the third round. As one of those responsible for the choice of client photos for the web and the newsletter, I do my best to ensure these are both appropriate and positive – and I certainly see more such photos than we have the capacity to use. It should also be noted here that Oakdale Services client consent is obtained for all such photos.

This issue was canvassed at OST when first we set up our new website (if not before). You see the results. And, whilst indeed the web may not be a safe place, I hear a number of comments from Lodge residents in particular and therefore believe the comment about the contribution to positive self esteem is spot on.

What do you think? Do you have genuine concerns about our policy? Or do we continue to publish in the expectation that we will not be damned? Write or email your opinion.

Geoff Harper
Editor

Note ¹A quote attributed to Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington

**The Annual General Meeting
of Southern Branch
will be held on
Wednesday 5th October 2008
commencing noon
at Southern Branch House.
For catering purposes, please
advise Valda on 62448846 if
you will be attending**



*Any opinions
expressed herein are
not necessarily those
of the management
or Board of OST.*

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