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OST Board and Residents' Dinner



Board and residents enjoy a meal

On Tuesday 30 August a group of Lodge residents and several members of the Board enjoyed a lovely meal at Sails restaurant in Bellerive.

Cleve Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Graeme English, Peter Harvey, Robyn Green and Rodney Howe were joined by Anne-Marie Stranger, Arthur Jones and his wife Lee, Sue Leitch, Jennifer Lee and her mother Judy.

All enjoyed a lovely meal, - including some very decadent desserts - along with the pleasant company. Conversation covered the upcoming AFL final series, footy tipping, recent events at the Lodge, and plans for upcoming summer holidays. Robyn entertained everyone with news of her birds and their new babies, Peter was preparing for his duties as runner for Kingston Football Club in the first weekend of football finals and Rodney gave us his tips for the AFL premiership.

The semi regular counter meals were an initiative of Geoff Harper who was unable to join us this time (as he is off following the sunshine on his camper van adventure) While Geoff's presence was missed this time he still provided the dinner entertainment as residents were most amused by the photo Geoff recently sent showing himself hard at work in his mobile office by the seaside!

Everyone is looking forward to the next night out together, with a request already submitted for a visit to the Prince of Wales in Battery Point.

“Reform at last”: NDIS final report (An NDS newsletter)

REFORM AT LAST: PM ‘SHARES THE VISION’ OF A NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME.

August 10 2011 will be marked as a historic day for our nation as the Prime Minister Julia Gillard told Australians she “shared the vision” of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) for Australia and committed the Government to its introduction.

The Prime Minister’s announcement accompanied the release of the final report by the Productivity Commission (PC) into a national long term care and support scheme for Australians with a disability and their families, which recommends the establishment of a NDIS.

The NDIS means that 410,000 Australians with serious disabilities will finally get the care and support they need but it also means that all Australians will be protected in the event of disability.

The NDIS is being hailed as the biggest social-economic reform Australia has seen since the introduction of Medicare and it is a necessary policy reform that will make Australia a stronger and fairer nation.

The PC has found that the disability system is broken and that much, much more needed to be done for people with a disability and their families. The PC has done an excellent job in identifying the problems that plague the way disability services have been delivered and have recommended a NDIS to fix those problems.

While the Prime Minister’s announcement is welcome, there is still a very long way to go before the NDIS is a reality. The PC’s recommended timetable for reform means the NDIS will be progressively introduced over a seven year period, becoming fully operational across the nation by 2018.

The first and most important step needed is to get an agreement with the States and Territories via the Coalition of Australian Government (COAG) forum to advance the NDIS as it requires the co-operation of the

States who are currently responsible for the delivery of disability services.

At the moment, the NDIS is supported by most Premiers and Chief Ministers however Western Australia has expressed some reservations at this early point. The NDIS is also supported by the Federal Opposition, the Greens and the Independents.

The Government to its credit has moved quickly in its response to the PC report, releasing it within 10 days of receiving the 1,000 page report and committed \$10m to the design and technical policy work and the necessary decision making to advance the NDIS.

The Government announcement also:

includes establishing a COAG Select Council of Ministers from the Commonwealth, States and Territories to lead the NDIS reform through COAG.

establishes an Advisory Group to the Select Council, led by Dr Jeff Harmer, to provide expert advice on delivering the foundations for reform and preparation for launch.

This is a very complex reform and we appreciate that people with disabilities, their families and carers want the NDIS introduced as soon as possible to put an end to decades of stress on people who have struggled under broken systems.

According the PC’s proposed timeline, the NDIS implementation could begin in 2014 in selected regions around Australia’s and then progressively rolled out nationally by 2018.

Contrary to some commentary, it will not take seven years before there is any action rather seven years before the scheme is fully operational.

We are certainly urging all Government’s to work hard to expedite the process but great care must be taken to ensure the NDIS is carefully designed, effective, targeted, sustainable and ensure people with disabilities, their families, carers and all Australians benefit in the long term from the reform.

Some of the key highlights in the final PC report include:

Condemns up front the current system as – “inequitable, underfunded, fragmented and inefficient and gives people with a disability little choice.”

Recommends that \$13.5 billion be set aside per year by the Federal Government from its existing consolidated revenue to fund the NDIS. This effectively doubles funding for disability services on current levels. The PC prefers this approach to funding rather than new taxes or levies.

Recommends the creation of the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS) to provide support for people who suffer a catastrophic injury. This scheme would be based on widening and strengthening existing state based schemes like the TAC and work place injury schemes.

Concludes the NDIS easily passes a cost-benefit test. The PC forecasts additional growth in employment for people with disabilities of about 100,000 people by the year 2050, which combined with other employment service reforms could rise to an extra 250,000 in that timeframe. This could boost the nation’s GDP by \$32 billion per year by 2050 – representing a massive return on investment. The PC also sees efficiencies in other parts of government service delivery, in particular health and justice systems stemming from the NDIS.

The announcement by the Prime Minister is a direct result of the pressure exerted by the tens of thousands of Every Australian Counts supporters who had worked for almost a year to ensure the Federal Government took action on the Productivity Commission’s report.

It has taken great courage for some people with a disability, their families and carers to speak out about the challenges they faced to demonstrate why change was so necessary. They have done so because they believed that once their fellow Australians understood the challenges they faced, they would support their calls for change.

There is a risk with any national policy reform that it can get mired in politics

and potentially fall apart if we can't get consensus amongst our political leaders or there is a dramatic failure of leadership along the line.

That is why the Every Australian Counts campaign (www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au) will continue to pressure all Governments to get the necessary agreements in place to make sure the NDIS happens as quickly as possible.

The job is not done – the campaign will conclude when an NDIS is in place.

So please continue to spread the word and encourage people to sign up as campaign supporters at: www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au and keep the pressure on until the NDIS is a reality.

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From the CEO's Desk

CEO Newsletter September/October 2011

As we go to print, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company will have been held with the anticipation that the Members will have supported the two motions being presented at the Special General Meeting (SGM) to endorse the new Constitution and significantly, to change the company name.

The prospect of change can bring uncertainty and no more so than with a move away from Oakdale as an integral part of our name. It will remain as part of the company identity as Oakdale Lodge will continue the legacy that has endured over more than forty years. The re-brand gives the opportunity to reinforce the history of Oakdale and ensure the message is delivered loud and clear and the values that have underpinned our organisational integrity will continue under Veranto 'lifestyle assistance'.

The new constitution, while endorsing the history of services for people living with a disability, has a broader scope to enable Veranto to pursue opportunities that may present for the provision of services across the broader community sector. The nature

of the sector is changing with the potential introduction of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Opportunities will present that will dramatically change the way disability services are provided. Tasmania is being actively promoted to be one of the NDIS 'launch sites'. If selected as a launch site, there is a significant amount of preparatory work to be undertaken over the next eighteen months. I am keen to ensure that Veranto is positioned to meet the new opportunities that will come with an NDIS.

A significant component of the planning that led to the organisational growth that occurred in the first half of this year was the need to broaden the skills and capacity across the management team. This commenced with the appointment of Natalie Rose as Client Services Coordinator, followed by Tracey Percival-Ingram's appointment as Manager of Oakdale Lodge (including Aged Care and the Independent Living Units (ILUs) and more recently with the expansion of the Human Resources department with the appointment of Angela Gough as Coordinator to support HR Manager Kathy Tauber. The opportunity to mentor our younger managers into significant positions within the organisation is professionally rewarding and while not quite ready for the experienced senior management team to be 'put to pasture' just yet, this is part of our succession plan.

Another deliberate investment is in the professional development of our staff to ensure we maintain a keen focus on skill development across the organisation. Aside from the usual training programs, we have adopted a 'person centred' focus that will form the basis of the re-development of the Quality Assurance (QA) system; a task that will be completed by the end of this year. The Person Centred Philosophy (PCP) will be permeated through Client Personal Plans and into everyday practice across the organisation.

Two areas of construction are underway at the Lodge. A roof is being built between the laundry and utility building adjacent to provide an outdoor drying area for clothes. Thankfully, the many clothes horses that have adorned the Gigney room will become a thing of the past and Residents can enjoy

this room without having to share it with drying clothes. The second area of work is occurring at the front of the Lodge. Thanks to the Acorn Branch and their generous donation of \$5,000 the gardens are being refurbished, the rotting sleeper retaining wall and steps have been re-done and within a week or two the whole area should once again be functional, safe and welcoming.

We were all saddened with the recent and somewhat unexpected passing of Gary Lane. Gary was one of life's characters as well as being one of the four original residents at Oakdale Lodge from 1970. Gary's love of life, his larger than life personality and his absolutely incredible memory are some of the memories of Gary 'Trevor' Lane.

Paul Byrne
Chief Executive

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Cirque de Soleil

It was a freezing night and ice had to be removed from the van before the return trip home. There was wonder in the passenger's hearts and amazement at what they had just seen! Such was the culmination of a mid-winter outing to see Cirque de Soleil at the Derwent Entertainment Centre.

Graeme English, Peter Harvey, Stanley Henry, Rohan Naughton, Neville Fitzmaurice and Rodney Howe, accompanied by Michelle O'Sullivan had first enjoyed a dinner at Venue Six to celebrate Neville's birthday before setting off to the Derwent Entertainment Centre to see the wonderful display of acrobatics and the hilarious miming of the Cirque company.

The group were in awe of the perfection and strength of the troupe and delighted with the many and varied costumes.

Despite the cold at the and its effect on the return journey, it was truly a night and a birthday to remember.

Daffodil Picking

On Wednesday the 31st of August, the students from Friends' School invited the Oakdale residents to accompany them to New Norfolk to pick daffodils for the Cancer Council of Tasmania.

Tim Brickhill, Joy Weston, Rodney Howe and Russell Pearce headed to New Norfolk and to a property named "Valley Field". Along with about fifteen Friends' students the volunteers helped pick hundreds of flowers to assist in the raising of money for cancer research and treatment.

Joy was delighted with all the bright colours and had a wonderful time picking the daffodils and spending time with the students.. Russell, who had never been to New Norfolk, thought the old buildings surrounding the field and flowers were fantastic. Tim, as always, had a great time and loved helping with this worthy cause. Rodney worked particularly hard picking the daffodils and continued until he was quite exhausted.

The daffodils were arranged into saleable bundles and Tim put his selling skills into motion and was able to raise \$115.20 for the Cancer Council of Tasmania.

Everyone had a great time helping out, and all were conscious of the contribution they were making to cancer relief.

Essendon Supporter Janine Visits Melbourne

Oakdale Essendon supporter, Janine Smith had been planning her trip to Melbourne since the start of the season. June 17-19 (round 13) was her chosen football weekend and, luckily, she and her companions were able to fly out - despite the cancellations and delays caused by the Chile volcanic ash circulating the southern hemisphere.

The footy fans quickly settled into their accommodation at the Quest Docklands Motel, before having dinner at a nearby



Rodney and Joy pick daffodils

restaurant, and moving to the Docklands (aka Etihad) Stadium for the Adelaide Crows v Western Bulldogs match. They joined with some adjacent Crows supporters in cheering the boys from Adelaide (but to no avail as they were defeated by 30 points)

Next morning they made an early start and a yummy breakfast was followed by a tram ride into the city for shopping. Janine purchased all the items on her "shopping list", including a beanie for friend David Gigney.

After her exhausting shopping expedition Janine returned to the motel to don her Essendon supporter's gear before heading back to Docklands, hoping to enjoy an Essendon victory over the Kangaroos. Alas, it was not to be and her team was defeated by 21 points. It was the second football disappointment of the visit!!

That evening, Janine's luck changed for the better and she won a modest sum on the Crown Casino pokies, where our supporters group had enjoyed their dinner. Wisely, following her win, Janine decided not to push her luck and hailed a cab for the return journey back to the motel.

Inevitably, Sunday dawned and the supporters returned to Hobart to lick their AFL wounds but still able to celebrate the other successful aspects of an enjoyable weekend.



Janine and Essendon mascot

Janine is already making plans for her 2012 AFL excursion!!

Biggest Morning Tea

Aged Care and Day Support clients of the Lodge invited relatives and friends from within the OST community to join them in holding a fund-raising event for the Cancer Council, by having 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea' at the Lodge. During the weeks beforehand, clients sent invitations



Charles at the piano

out and later assisted staff to bake cakes and slices. The morning tea day arrived, and while staff were kept busy in the kitchen, filling plates and preparing the tables for guests, the clients enjoyed their morning engaging in music and singing with musician Ben Brinkoff.

An impromptu concert of music was provided by Charles Mitchell, playing his favourite tunes on the piano, after which he was joined in a duet by guest Pam Monk. They played well known songs which were a great delight to the guests. A thank-you to staff for providing a delicious morning tea, especially staff member Adam Crowe who baked his very first batch of scones

A lovely morning was enjoyed by everyone whilst raising money to assist cancer research.

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Melbourne Comedy Festival Trip

On Friday 10th June, the Melbourne Comedy Festival came to Hobart's Theatre Royal. Graeme English, Rodney Howe, Peter Harvey, Rohan Naughton and Neville Fitzmaurice joined a packed audience of

people all seeking a good laugh. They were not disappointed!!

The show, hosted by Cal Wilson from Good News Week, brought together a gang of entertainingly funny people who immediately brought the theatre to life and encouraged laughter from even those members of the audience in the lowest of spirits. The Oakdale visitors were in stitches in no time and their enjoyment lasted the whole length of the show.

Being in the front row, meant the group were vulnerable to participation in a joke - and it happened soon enough, with Graeme included in a joke which had Peter falling off his seat in laughter. The occasion of a bursting balloon in one sketch caused the audience to jump, the Oakdale group amongst them. Everyone agreed that the event was a great success and that they had had a most enjoyable time.

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Dodges Ferry Outing

On Sunday, June 19th, Laura Judd and Graeme Rycroft, accompanied by Maureen and Lauren, decided to drive to Sorell and have a wander around the Sorell market.

Upon arrival they found the grounds were very soggy and muddy so, rather than struggle with the wheel-chairs in those conditions, they decided to go elsewhere. They drove further on to the quiet little town of Dodges Ferry and, as the weather improved, it turned out to be a pleasant day for a walk around the beach, after which they became quite hungry and went to the Dodges Ferry Café & Bistro for something to eat.

The bistro was very pleasant with a couple of wood heaters to keep warm. The ambience was lovely and there was a big screen television and people playing on the pool table, which gave Laura and Graeme a few things to have a look at while waiting for lunch to be served.

Lauren ordered the meals at the bar and was told by the chef that one of the meal choices was unavailable because they had run out of cream. A friendly patron, sitting at the bar having a beer, overheard the conversation between Lauren and the chef and got up from his stool and told Lauren there was no need to place an alternative order. He then, despite Lauren's protest, set off on foot, a good half a kilometre up the road, to purchase a bottle of cream which he then passed to the waitress for Lauren's meal.

Lunch arrived soon after and Graeme was indeed happy. Laura had decided she didn't want anything else to eat today other than chips. Meanwhile, the man who had purchased the cream made his farewells and departed with Lauren again thanking him for his kindness.

The waitress came to clear the table and ask us about dessert choices. After they indicated that they wouldn't have dessert, the waitress told them that the man who had purchased the cream had also left \$20 at the bar and had indicated that he wanted them to purchase a dessert with the money. They couldn't believe such generosity! The waitress said that he had left the money for them because he admired their work in taking care of the clients, so they purchased a cappuccino for Graeme, some more chips for Laura and two coffees for Lauren and Maureen with the money.

It was very gratifying to have the work of disability workers recognised in this special way and Lauren asked the waitress to pass on their grateful thanks to the man when he next popped into the pub for a beer.

A pleasant outing had been made especially memorable by the kindness of a special fellow.

Signal Traffic Light Box

There are a number of traffic signal boxes around the Hobart CBD which have been colourfully painted. One of these is the result of design and paint work by Day Support clients at Oakdale services.

It all began with Janine Smith, Mary Holowenko, Gary Lane, Joy Weston, Peter Harvey, Sandra Palmer and Julie Reeves all getting together with a local artist to sit down to brainstorm an idea or theme for the Signal Traffic Light Box. Several ideas were discussed but eventually a "holiday theme" was agreed.

It was decided that each of the clients would draw a self-portrait of themselves doing something they would like to do during their holidays. Janine chose watching the AFL, Mary walking her doll, Gary going on a cruise, Joy staying at a country cottage, Peter on the farm with the cows, Sandra roller skating and Julie at the airport.



Decorated traffic light box

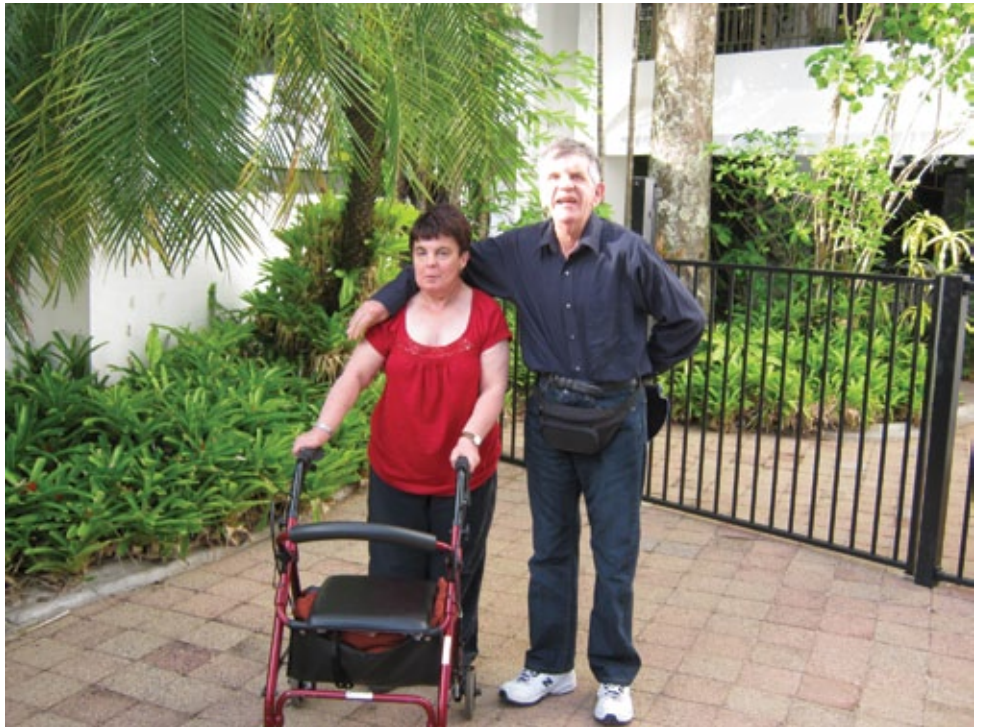
The artist, who worked with the OS clients group, used the self-portraits to create a design which met the guidelines and submitted it for formal approval. This was subsequently gained and the clients, with assistance from an artist, painted the design onto the Signal Traffic Light Box.

The wonderful and inspired creation can be found in front of the Hobart Private Hospital in Argyle Street near the corner of Collins Street.

The box can be viewed at <http://www.urbansmartprojects.com/tsbs/view/2262>

sick. Julie and Peter were unaffected however, and on arrival at the island were soon aboard the glass bottom boat for a viewing of the undersea coral and fish.

They also walked around the paths through the rain-forest and enjoyed watching the various birds and animals.



Peter and Julie in Queensland

A Queensland Holiday

On Monday 1st of August Peter Harvey and Julie Reeves set off on a holiday to Trinity Beach Queensland for six days. The balcony of their apartment, on which they had breakfast every morning, had a beautiful view of the ocean.

The first day they relaxed around the pool and decided on which tours to do during their stay.

The following day they went to Kuranda on the bus, where they wandered around the market stalls and bought some souvenirs to take home. They then took the train to Cairns which Peter thoroughly enjoyed.

Green Island was their chosen destination the following day, but the rough weather resulted in many of the passengers being

On their second last day they spent time relaxing and walking along the beach and also enjoyed lunch at one of the many cafes close to their apartment.

My Life: by Helen Griffiths

I was born in Koonya in 1942, I lived with my nanna and grandfather at the rectory. I used to go fishing with nanna and grandfather out the front of the rectory, we would catch flathead. Grandfather also used to catch mutton-birds at the rectory.

My grandfather and nanna also had turkeys, I used to go and feed them every day, we also had chickens, budgies, dogs and a pet goanna, his name was Nelson and he would come up on the verandah for milk and plums.



Helen Griffiths

It was lovely to live at the rectory. I had my own bed. I can remember when Peter and I had the measles and chicken pox together and having to stay home, Aunty Doreen told Mum you could get them at the same time.

One day I went and washed the black chook, I washed it in the tub with soap, Aunty Ruby was out in the backyard with me and I had ringlets back then. I went to Koonya school, Mary was my teacher. Later me and Jillian went to Nubeena school, I had a lot of friends there, we did sums and spelling at school. I played nurses with Jillian and Valerie and also played basketball and tennis, I was good at playing them.

We all used to take turns reading in Grade 2, Pandy Honest, Humpty Dumpty and Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. I had a

school case, nanna used to cook jam tarts and piklets and I would take them to school in my lunch tin.

I went to a fair at Oyster Cove, when we lived at Koonya it was on every year. There used to be dances at Koonya Hall every Saturday night, I used to go and dance with all the boys. Aunty Marie and Uncle Ben had a shop at Koonya, the shop had everything in it. At the cinematic centre we used to watch movies, Cinderella, and all different movies.

I had a birthday at nanna's, Jean came to see me and she put a cheerio over the radio and they got me a nice present.

My father was the post master at Orford post office. I went to live with dad for a while and would go home to nanna on the

weekends. I went to Orford school and I had my own room at dad's place. We used to have a bonfire and crackers every year in May, it was fun, Roger, Beth and me would let the fire crackers off, one year the cat ran into the bush and we never found it.

Mum had an organ when we lived up at Orford, she used to play it. I would sing songs while mum played, we would sing 'Silent Night'. I can play the organ too, 'Put another nickel in'.

I also used to go to Collegiate school, I boarded there, after a week I got home sick and went home. Beth used to go to Campania school, she told me she didn't like school and was hiding under the bed, Beth got into trouble.

Dad had a tractor, we used to go bailing the hay, Dad also had a shack, it was on the way up to Mr Hudson's place, we would stay there some times.

I also went to Dora Turner school, it was behind Elizabeth St College. One week we would wear a white uniform and the next week a blue one. Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Bedford would cook lemon sago and apple crumble.

I used to eat the plums at Willow Court, I used to pick them off the tree and eat them, I love plums and cherries. We also had dances at the hall in Willow Court. Leagh and Kenny were two of my boyfriends, Geoff was my boyfriend too.

We would go to Lou Rice's place and dance on Thursday night then get up the next morning and go for a walk. I would also go for a walk on Sunday mornings. We used to go down to St Stephens Hall for Christmas parties.

I lived on Ward 5, there was a ghost on Ward 5. I saw the ghost, he wore a black coat, white shirt and black trousers, he smoked a pipe. He was scary.

We used to go out on bus trips with Willow Court staff. We went to Queenstown one time and stayed two nights, we also went up to Burnie for 2 nights one year.

I used to work over at the activity centre, we did knitting, drawing, this that and the other. Some of the staff at the activity centre still work with me at the Cottage now. I

would go down to Lachlan to see Janet Row, she is a nurse at Lachlan, her birthday is the same day as my grandfather's.

My mum got married again but dad never, dad ended up at Dover with Eleanor. We would go and see dad's friend Mr Hudson every year for Christmas and birthday. At Christmas time all the family would come around and meet, we used to get really nice presents off my family.

I like listening to Slim Dusty music and I like to watch 'Little House on the Prairie', 'Sound of Music' and 'Titanic' as well as 'Keeping Up Appearances' with Mrs. Bucket.

I now live at Brighton and love living there, I go to the Cottage during the week. Recently staff took me and Elaine to Koonya. Every year Beth takes me down to Koonya, sometimes we go up to Orford.

[Helen's biographical essay has been reproduced without editing to preserve the integrity of her enthusiastic and delightful style. (Ed).]

Oakdale Welcomes Russell Pearce

Russell has been at Oakdale Lodge for some weeks now, and has settled in nicely. He reported that everyone is treating him very well and making him feel very much at home. When chatting with Russell the other night, he was asked if he would like to share anything with "Oakdale family". He relayed some wonderful stories about his two cats which live at his parents' house in Risdon Vale. Their names are Brigid and Chrissie. Apparently Chrissie loves to catch moths and flies which she then eats, and Brigid is "a pain" because she demands to be brushed all day long.

Russell reported that he loves playing his Sony PS3 and has many games. He also enjoys all types of cricket matches and supports the Tassie Tigers and "The Aussie".

Russell had always lived in Risdon Vale before moving to the Lodge and he attended Geilston Bay High and subsequently, Rose Bay High. He preferred Rose Bay High and has some stories about

the Library there. Russell has one brother and two sisters. His brother still lives at home but his sisters live away.

Day Support has taken Russell on a heart walk with them and then to lunch which he enjoyed very much. He is anxious to undertake more activity with them in the future. He is making a surprise item for his



Russell Pearce

mum at the men's shed and is anxious to return there to finish it off. (We won't tell you anything about the surprise in case Mrs Pearce reads this newsletter before it is presented)

Thanks Russell for sharing your information with us and we hope that you continue to enjoy the friendship and company of your new house mates.

Scott Percival's Family Baptism

On the 26th June Scott attended the baptism of his niece and nephew at Corpus Christi Church, Bellerive.

Nephew Riley is 5 months old and niece Isabelle is 7 years old. The priest, Father Peter, made sure everyone present felt relaxed and ensured that they understood the afternoon's proceedings.

It was amusing to see Isabelle leaning over the font so the Priest could pour the blessed water over her forehead as she was too big to be held over the font like young brother Riley!

Afterwards, Scott joined the rest of the family at his sister's house for afternoon tea. It's not very often that so many of the family are in the same place at the same

time and it was great to see some of his uncles and aunts.

Scott was one very proud uncle that day!

AFL Visit to Aurora

The Tassie Hawks third AFL appearance York Park (aka Aurora Stadium) took place on Saturday 9th July. Graeme English was the first to volunteer to take the drive north to see his favourite team play (and hopefully beat) the Brisbane Lions. Dressed in his Hawthorn gear, like any true and loyal supporter, Graeme was joined by Rodney Howe, Stanley Henry, Rohan Naughton, Neville Fitzmaurice and Peter Stephenson as they took to the Midland Highway and headed north for the game.

After stopping at Campbell Town for lunch, the supporters arrived at York Park in time to purchase their AFL record magazines and find their seats in the Northern Stand where, sitting in the pocket, they had an excellent view of the ground.

The game had hardly commenced before it was clear that the "Buddy Show" would enable Hawthorn to take the lead and never look back. Hawthorn's victory (by 42 points) was celebrated with dinner in Launceston before making the journey back to Hobart. Graeme's chanting of the Hawks club song seemed to punctuate the journey all the way back to Oakdale.

An exciting, if cold, day of football was enjoyed by all the excursion members,

with the Hawthorn win providing the "right result".

[Go Hawks!!! (Ed)]

Happy Birthday Marylyn Geeves

When Wednesday 24th August dawned, it was a bright and sunny day. It was also a special day for Marylyn Geeves as it was her 58th birthday. Her birthday was to be celebrated at the Shoreline Hotel with

friends and family. Joining Marylyn and her Oakdale friends were her two brothers and their wives, whose presence was to be a surprise. David Gigney, Peter Dunkley, Russell Pearce, Tim Brickhill and Mary Holowenko, joined by staff members Paul and Sandra left the Lodge with Marylyn at 11.30am bound for the Shoreline. Special friend Christine Howell also joined the party for the lunch.

Everyone enjoyed the excellent meal and services provided. The Shoreline staff had gone out of their way to provide an extra special event for Marylyn and her guests, and the beautiful cake and the gifts were highlights for her.

Marylin enjoyed her special day and the warm company of her family and friends.

Grandvewe Cheeses Visit

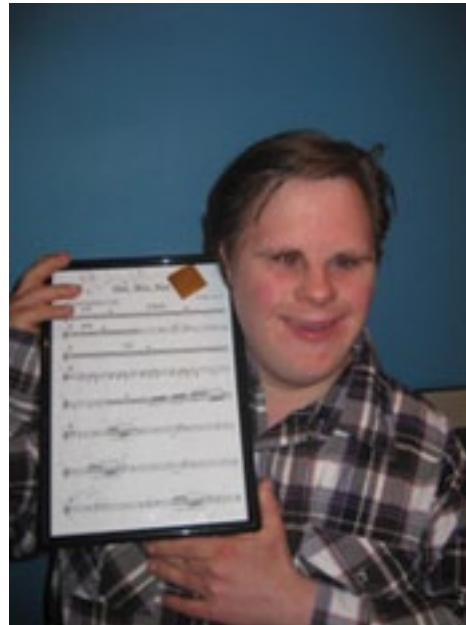
It was Friday the 2nd of September (the second day of spring!) and the weather was sensational. So what better to do than get out and soak up the sun and go somewhere fresh, new, and exciting.

That place chosen was Grandvewe Cheeses. Julie Reeves, Sandra Palmer, Robyn Green, Joy Weston, Ian Rayner, Mary Holowenko, Janine Smith, and Cleve Mitchell all headed to Birch's Bay, south of Woodbridge, to discover what Tasmania's only sheep Milk Cheesery had to offer.

They had a wonderful and friendly lady to guide them round the farm. Starting outside, they got to see the sheep and the lambs that are the foundation of this fine place. They saw the machinery that milked the sheep and were able to be up close and personal with the new born baby lambs (including some triplets!) The visitors were already having a wonderful time and things then got even better.

The farm café welcomed them with a vast array of cheeses to taste test, and there was also a mutton sausage, wine and a grape skin dip to try as well. All these products are made on-site and the visitors thoroughly enjoyed their visit and tastings. A return visit is already on their minds!

Music Appreciation at Burwood Drive



Matthew Hoori with music

Andrew Clark's brothers, Peter and William are both very talented musicians – Peter plays the violin and William plays the viola. Recently they were both invited to play with the orchestra on "Dancing with the Stars" and every Sunday night Andrew, Matt Hoori and Troy Pearn sat watching the show and were thrilled when they spotted either of Andrew's brothers on the TV. Matt particularly enjoyed watching as Damien Leith was one of the contestants and Matt is a great fan – he has tickets to see Damien perform at Wrest Point Casino.

When Peter visited the house on his last trip back to Hobart, he presented Matt with a very special gift. He had asked Damien to autograph the sheet of music to "Hot, Hot, Hot" (which Damien had danced to and Peter played) especially for Matt, and had it framed for him. Matt was overwhelmed with Peter's thoughtfulness and Matt was very appreciative. It now takes pride of place on Matt's bedroom wall along with his wrestling memorabilia.

Both Andrew's brothers get along well with Andrew's housemates and always consider them when making plans with Andrew. Peter and William quite often send little

parcels to Andrew and always include a gift for Matt and Troy.

Besides going to see Damien Leith and Elvis to the Max concerts, Matt is busy planning a holiday to Melbourne in September and is looking forward to seeing some live shows and bands while there.

Troy has been attending "Movement to Music" on Saturdays and really enjoys it. Troy has a good collection of CDs and uses every opportunity to listen to his music, as does Andrew on his recently obtained radio/cassette player.

The guys at Burwood do love their music!

Andrew has just come back from a holiday in Sydney with his Mum, where he visited relatives and caught up with his family. He said he enjoyed mowing his uncle's lawns for them!!

Tree Planting at Mary's Knoll

In May, Oakdale Lodge clients were asked if they would like to volunteer, together with Friends' School students, to assist in land care replanting and maintenance. Simon Kerlake, Neville Fitzmaurice, Rohan Naughton, Maxine Flakemore and Melissa Moore all volunteered to give up their Sunday for this worthwhile cause.

The main group headed off from the Lodge to drive down towards near Blackmans Bay Beach to pick up Maxine.

Near Blackmans Bay Beach, opposite the blow-hole, is a small reserve named Mary's Knoll or Three Sister's Reserve and this is where they were destined to put in many hours of hard work.

Before work would start the Oakdale volunteers and the students had to be debriefed and instructed on what needed to be done and be told about the plants destined to be planted.

The volunteers were divided into three groups with the Oakdale group taking responsibility for the area closest to the waterfront. Here they re-staked existing

plants, removed plastic protective bags from the larger established plants and placed other bags around the smaller ones. They also removed rubbish from the area and did some weeding.

Even though it was hard work, they enjoyed the good company and the peaceful and relaxing environment of the area. Everyone agreed that they look forward to volunteering again so they can see just how the plants are progressing.

Disaster Relief (Queensland)

Residents of Oakdale Lodge recently raised over \$600 for the Queensland Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal, through the sale of greeting cards.

Artwork by Gary Lane, Tim Brickhill, Lindsay Appledorf, Patsy Henry, Graeme English, Rodney Howe, Neville Fitzmaurice, Anne Glover, Jacquie Bacon and David Beckitt featured on the cards, which were generously printed by Print Applied Technology.

Gary Lane and Tim Brickhill acted as wonderful promoters of the cards at the Lodge, buying many themselves, and encouraging others to do the same; while Graeme English and Rodney Howe proved their sales skills further afield, selling a large number to their church community. Some cards have already made their way to places as far away as Italy and Japan!

Thank you very much to those residents for their great effort, as well as to everyone else who supported this very worthwhile project.

Happy Birthday Pam Pearson

Pam Pearson celebrated her 60th birthday on Thursday, May 26th. On the previous day Pam, and her fellow residents, went to the Horseshoe Inn at Cambridge for a celebratory counter meal.

Everyone had an excellent dinner and afterwards returned home for Pam to open



Caralyn's birthday celebration

her presents and enjoy cake and coffee. Pam's birthday turned out to be a happy and enjoyable occasion for all.

On the following Saturday (28th) a party was organised by Pam's family so that she could celebrate this significant birthday with her family and friends. Everyone wished Pam all the best for her 60th and for many more to come.

Introducing Caralyn Gay

"My name is Caralyn Gay and I have just moved to Sunlea house and I live with Patty.

I was living with my mum and step-dad when my mum suggested I try and find my own house to live in in order to meet more friends. I like horse riding, bowling, cooking (I make a great avocado dip!) fishing, swimming and playing pool at the pub.

I work 2 days a week at the mail-house, and the others days I go to Cosmos.

I recently had my 22nd birthday at Sunlea. Staff helped me decorate the back room and lots of friends and family came over to help me celebrate.

I like to help around the house, and look after things; I'm also hoping to get a pet soon.

I'm getting used to living here and I like it"

Caralyn Gay kindly wrote the notes above for n&m. The staff enjoy supporting Caralyn live at Sunlea - they say she is lots of fun and very helpful.

Everyone hopes she'll continue to enjoy living there.

Melbourne Holiday in April

On the weekend of 30th April, Maxine Flakemore and Patty Fall (with staff member Sarah Robins) headed off to Melbourne. After an enjoyable flight they landed feeling very happy and ready for their holiday.

After dropping off their suitcases, they headed out for lunch and then back to get ready for an exciting afternoon enjoying Hairspray: the musical, before heading off to the casino that night.

The next day they went to the amazing aquarium where they had a great time - which they documented with many photos. After lunch they headed for some retail therapy, followed by a special birthday dinner.

After a little sleep-in the next day, they packed their bags and headed into the city for a boat cruise and souvenir shopping. All too soon it was time to head to airport for the flight home. All agreed that they had enjoyed the trip and had a great time.

Scott's Perfect Holiday

On Monday 30th June, Scott Percival flew from Hobart to the Gold Coast. The icing on the cake for Scott was the presence of his family on the holiday.

Movie World was a hit, with the stunt cars showering him with ash and burnt rubber. A real bonus was watching 7 year old niece Isabelle with the super heroes and going on the scary rides with Trapper and Tracey.

Eyes were wide when he went to Ripley's Believe It Or Not and he almost got a crick in his neck when the tallest man in the world, stood up. He was delighted to see his Mum posing next to the tattooed "Lizard Man" but his all- time favourite moment must have been when he was wheeled out to the pool and saw Isabelle swimming.

Fun and colour was everywhere at Sea World. There were more rides for Isabelle, Baby Riley was incredibly cute when photographed with the Sesame Street



Scott and friends on holiday

Gang, and it was a toss up, between the dolphin show and the pirate show as to which provided the most thrills. Hiring a van which accommodated both the family and wheelchair made the trip relaxing.

After 5 glorious days, it was time to pack, make space for the new wardrobe of clothes, and say goodbye to Tracey, Trapper and little ones before flying back to chilly Hobart with his mum.

Another Year Older!: Peter Stephenson's Birthday

As each year progresses, we all have another birthday which makes us another year older!! Peter Stephenson celebrated his particular milestone (his 67th) on August 3rd by going out for dinner at the Cambridge pub with his good friends Rohan Naughton and Neville Fitzmaurice. Sandra Palmer and Mary Holowenko also joined him to enjoy the evening and help him celebrate.

On Peter's return to the Lodge, he was greeted by other residents who sang him a rousing "happy birthday" rendition and presented him with a chocolate mud cake to further sweeten the evening.

July Footy Trip

On the Saturday the 2nd of July 2011, Ian Rayner, Rodney Howe, Rohan Naughton, Peter Harvey, Peter Stephenson, Graeme English, Adam Crowe and Michelle O'Sullivan all set off to Melbourne for a weekend full of football fun.

The Group left Hobart and arrived in Melbourne at lunch time with just enough time to eat their lunch at the hotel's restaurant before heading over to the MCG for the first game of the weekend. The game was between Richmond and Carlton, and with Peter Harvey supporting Richmond whilst Peter Stephenson and Rohan barracking for Carlton, there was lots of competitive cheering from these faithful supporters. Richmond's significant loss by 103 points was a disappointment for Peter Harvey but he refused to let it upset him.

Later that night, after dinner, the group headed out to Etihad Stadium where the battle between Geelong and Essendon was to take place. The game was particularly exciting and close and was punctuated by significant cheering by the OST fans. The loss by Geelong by 4 points (their first loss for the season) was something of a surprise.

On Sunday the 3rd of July the group split up into two football factions: Ian, Graeme, Peter Harvey and Michelle forming a group which went to the MCG to watch Collingwood and Hawthorn. There was much friendly banter between Graeme (a Hawthorn supporter) and Ian (a diehard Collingwood fan), Collingwood won the game by 41 points.

The second group, comprising Rodney, Rohan, Peter Stephenson and Adam, went to Southern Cross station where they shopped and had some lunch before heading to Etihad stadium to watch North Melbourne and St Kilda go into battle. The entire group cheered loudly through a very close game with the Saints winning by 9 points, much to the delight of supporter Adam.

On Monday the 4th it was time to head back to Hobart, after enjoying a McDonald's breakfast at the airport. As the group boarded their plane they all seemed more than satisfied with their football packed weekend.

Acorn Branch Dinners

On Tuesday July 19th a very pleasant dinner, organised by the Acorn Branch was held at the Balmoral Inn at Elwick.



CEO receiving cheque from Maria Noble

A happy group of OST friends and supporters enjoyed a pleasant evening with excellent food and the entertainment of a silent auction.



John Williamson and fan

Among the guests were the Premier, Lara Giddings, Senator Catryna Bilyk and Vanessa Goodwin MLC .

During the evening a cheque for five thousand dollars was presented to CEO Paul Byrne by Maria Noble, representing the funds raised by the Acorn Group in support of OST.



Charles Mitchell at Acorn dinner



Tim Brickhill and Premier Lara Giddings

Another dinner is being organised for Tuesday October 18th at the Old Woolstore in Macquarie Street. Tickets are \$60 per person and can be obtained from the Oakdale Office.

Enquiries should be directed to Maria Noble on 0400132994

John Williamson with TSO

On Friday 5th August, Rohan Naughton, Neville Fitzmaurice, Sandra Palmer & Robyn Green were ready to sing along to John Williamson at Wrest Point Casino and were accompanied on their outing by Kerrilyn Dawson. All dressed up, they headed off at 7pm for the 8pm show. Parking at Wrest Point was at a premium and they saw evidence of the reason why high top vans are not allowed in the undercover parking area – a white van was stuck and the owners were deflating the tyres in the hope of releasing the vehicle.

John Williamson appeared on the stage dressed up in a suit and a bow tie--but not for long! He soon removed his tie and threw it to the audience and after interval he changed into the usual John Williamson outfit. Everyone enjoyed the concert very much with lots of hand clapping, singing and foot tapping in time with his music. The favourite song "Old Man Emu" ended the concert which was supported by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

At the end of the concert it was announced that John would be at the merchandising table to meet members of the audience and for photo opportunities. Rohan, Sandra and Robyn had their photos taken with the star and Rohan & Robyn both bought the DVD which John signed for them!

It was a very happy and smiling group which braved the cold rainy weather and set off home to the warm Lodge.

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HR Report

Hello everyone,

I didn't write an article for the previous newsletter, so I have quite a few staff to welcome to the organisation!

They are:

Megan, Julie, Adam, Charmaine, Holly, Hamish, Amanda, Hannah, Joss, Catherine, Sarah, Suzie & Leeanne - (Lodge & ABI)

Luke & Michael - (Sylvan)

Amy, Michael & Phil - (Alicia)

Melissa & Kunal - (CLP)

Alison - (Admin)

Nelson & Robyn - (Firthiside)

Melanie - (Burwood)

We would also like to congratulate Leanne from CLP, Fiona & Brett from Burwood, Jane from the Lodge and Trudi from Nolan on their 5 years of service with Oakdale Services Tasmania.

A warm welcome is extended to the students from Polytechnic and Rosny College who spend their prac placements with us throughout the year. They all do a great job and some go on to be employed by OST.

Training completed by staff over the past 5 months:

A.D.H.D, Obsessive Compulsive Disorders, Crucial Conversations, P.A.R.T, Positive Practices in Behaviour Support, Assessment & Treatment of Severe & Challenging Behaviours, Time Management, Diversity in the Workplace, Understanding Autism,

Social Role Valorisation, Dementia, Return to Work Coordinator and training for all staff such as Medication and First Aid.

Several staff attended conferences & seminars, including the Family Friendly Seminar, Walk the Talk Together and Volunteering Tasmania Conference. Operations Manager Roy Archer and I will be undertaking a 12 month leadership program beginning this month.

Performance Reviews with all staff are about to get underway, so we will be busy with those until the end of October. This process gives us a great opportunity to see all staff, not only to plan training & development for the next 12 months, but also to have a chat & catch up.

I wrote in the Autumn newsletter about starting work on a Work/Life Balance/Family Friendly Policy; well I haven't started it yet but have managed to gather some great potential content and topics for discussion with staff. It is becoming necessary to have a WLB/Family Friendly Policy in place everywhere, not just in our sector.

For the policy to be effective however, and for us to become an employer of choice, we must engage all employees and managers to find smarter ways to do our work efficiently and to the best of our ability, but also to have the time to enjoy our families and our leisure time.

There are ways to do this, but everyone must be involved and ready to contribute and, most important of all, be willing to accept change!

In closing, I wish to personally mention the passing of Gary Lane - a unique and talented person who is greatly missed.

Kathy Tauber
Human Resources Manager

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Special Olympics - Greece

Luci Giblin participated in the Special Olympics games in Athens, Greece which were held from the 21st of June to the 4th of July.

Luci obtained 3 fourth places and swam in the 50m freestyle, achieving second in her personal best time of 1:04.66. Luci had a great time representing Australia.



Luci at the airport

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Farewell Jess

Jess has been a very important part of the family at Pottery Road; Jess has been loyal and loving dog throughout her happy life and will be dearly missed by Janelle Triffitt, Luci Giblin, Christine Proctor and the staff.



Janelle Triffitt with Jess

Jess died on Saturday the 6th of August 2011.

Janelle Triffitt Retires

Janelle Triffitt has retired this month after working at the BlueLine Laundry for over 14 years. The BlueLine Laundry gave Janelle a farewell party where she said goodbye to all her work mates.



Janelle's farewell

Janelle was presented with flowers, a gift voucher and a large card.

Vale: David Beckett

With great sadness we said goodbye to a much loved member of Oakdale Lodge



David Beckett

David Anthony Beckett passed away peacefully at home on the morning of April 4 2011.

David will be remembered for, amongst many things, his love for scrap books, drawing his steam trains and ferry boats, his wafers, and his love for music.

David will also be remembered for his ability to make people laugh, his strength and his courage, his determination and his stubbornness.

We will all miss David but we will take comfort in the many memories that David has left us with.

Farewell little man

Until we meet again

Vale: Gary Lane

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Gary Lane, a resident of Oakdale Lodge for many years. Gary had a wonderful character with a delightful sense of humour and an infectious laugh to match.

He knew many people in the community and many people knew him. Gary was an artist and was known for his distinctive artwork which he executed in many mediums.

Gary raised money for several charities & appeals, such as the Queensland Flood Appeal, the Victorian Bushfire Appeal and World Vision and he sold some of his art so he could donate the proceeds to these causes and to other people in need. He was always busy doing something and he had a keen interest in the people around him and the world in general.

Gary loved the theatre and the arts especially and we will remember him every Oscar night as he always looked forward to this celebration of the movie world each year . He also loved books and had



Gary Lane

an extensive and eclectic collection which reflected his interests in so many things.

Although Gary was unwell for quite a long time, his passing was sudden and has affected many.

He truly was a very special and unique individual and the world was a better place for him being in it. We will all miss him very much.

RIP dearest Gary.

Travels of a Former Editor

Readers will be aware that our former Editor, Geoff Harper, and his partner Sue, have been part of the "grey nomad" brigade.

Friends of Geoff and Sue have been receiving regular updates on their journey. Geoff and Sue have a blog site which other readers may wish to read.

The url is as follows:
<http://sueandgeoff.austvic.com/>



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

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