

From the Executive Director

I am finding it difficult to acknowledge that tax time is here again!! Time moves along doesn't it but then again, many things have happened too.

I am pleased to inform you that Kylie Stokes, who previously held the position of Business Manager, was successful in her application for the position of Director – Service Operations for Sharing Places. This position was left vacant after Justyn McDonald's move to National Disability Services ACT. Kylie commenced on 4 April. Alicia Gaudie is currently acting Business Manager.

The Sharing Places Staff Training Block, held 15 through 18 March, was well organised by Kaz and staff gained much from the programs. The multicultural awareness training heightened staff awareness and respect in relation to participants and families as well as to colleagues on multicultural issues. Companion House, an organisation which works with refugees and other agencies in relation to cultural needs, delivered the training. A session on manual handling was given, a regular OH&S and duty of care event for staff. A field trip to Kenmore in Goulburn with a guided tour of the old facilities proved most enlightening for staff and was a suitable follow up to the work I did with staff in 2010 on the history of disability and institutions. Mary-Ann trained up staff in peg feeding, medication use and personal hygiene.

Sharing Places is providing around 90,000 service hours a year to currently 107 participants. If you go to any of the Sharing Places sites across the ACT you will find them empty for most of the day – everyone is out and about participating in the community - sport, recreation, clubbing, car detailing, deliveries, lawn mowing, cultural exhibitions, shopping etc – you name it, we do it!!

Sharing Places received a grant through HACC in 2010 which enables the service to set up a Service Management System which we are currently installing. This system will contain data on human resources, statistics, participants and programs and will be totally secure. Our thanks to HACC for supporting Sharing Places in its application.

The annual Individual Program Planning meetings are well underway for this year.

The SPI Staff Award was presented on 18 March and went to Michael Simms, Program Officer in Majura. The Sharing Places Staff Award is an annual event with staff being nominated by their peers.

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From the Executive Director *continued*

KEEP THIS DATE FREE!!

The Sharing Places Family Engagement Board Sub Committee is organising a Christmas in July lunch and disco for participants, families and friends on Saturday 30 July at the Vikings Club from 1pm – 4pm. Cost per person should be very little. Further information/invitations will be issued shortly.

The Australian Productivity Commission has released its draft report re Disability Care and Support. The draft Report can be found on the website of the Australian Productivity Commission Projects where key features can be downloaded. Written responses to the Report were due by the end of April. Sharing Places placed a response. The final Report will be handed to the federal Government in July and it is expected that the Government will make a response in late November 2011. A campaign is underway to promote the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDS). A massively strong community support base is required to ensure Government realises how important this is for so many people. The Commission received more submissions to this inquiry than any other in its history, including the recent inquiry into paid parental leave. Further information is included in this Newsletter and I urge you to click on to the campaign's website www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au to register your name – doesn't cost anything but will make a difference to children and adults with disability and their families and carers across Australia. The huge majority of disability services and organisations across Australia are involved in the campaign, including Sharing Places. Further information is included with this newsletter.

Cheers
Sue Healy



FUNDRAISING BBQ

Sunday 4th September

8.00am-6.00pm

Sharing Places has been fortunate in securing a date for a fundraising barbeque at Bunnings in Belconnen. We will require approximately 12 volunteers to help across the day with set up, cooking and serving and clean up at the end of the day. We are also looking for people to oversee the organising of the event and the purchasing of supplies.

All fundraising profits will go towards purchasing program resources.

If you are available to volunteer in any capacity, whether it is on the day or in preparation of the event, please call the office on 6290 1964.



Trip to Temora

On Tuesday the 29th of March, Leigh, Sharon, Paul and Michael from Majura group along with Mark and Rebecca from Wanniasa group went for a trip to Temora Aviation Museum to see the Royal Australian Air Force 90th Anniversary celebration Air Pilgrimage; they were accompanied by Majura staff Michael and Michelle, and Mary-Ann. Everyone woke up bright and early for a 6.30am departure from Pearce, with Mark, Leigh and Rebecca keeping us all entertained for the long drive to Temora.

When we arrived at the Temora airfields, there were planes everywhere with some starting to take off. Everyone was eager to get to the front of the barriers so they could have the best view of all the planes. It was a truly spectacular sight to see such a wide variety of antique and historic ex-military aircraft lined up along the flight path.

With clear sky and prime viewing position, we got to see sixty Vintage and Warbird aircraft from all over Australia take off right in front of us and then fly off into the distance. Four aircraft from the Museum joined the Pilgrimage being the Hudson, Wirraway, Ryan and the Spitfire Mk. VIII. We were very lucky to be able to see these special aircraft and be treated to some great aerial displays, as Temora Aerodrome experienced a volume of flight movements that is rarely seen.

After all the planes had left, the group enjoyed a tour through the museum hangars and got to see more rare, antique aircraft. We then visited the shop where Mark and Leigh both grabbed some pilot goggles, and all were given commemorative posters, stickers and badges.

On the way home everyone said how much they enjoyed the planes, but when Michael, who was driving, thought he had missed the turn to Canberra and thought we were heading towards Sydney, the group let out a cheer. Obviously they didn't want their adventure to end and wanted to keep exploring!

Michael Simms
Majura Program Officer

Lennon Brothers Circus

Stromlo group enjoyed visiting the circus in Queanbeyan recently. Everyone especially enjoyed the clowns' jokes. There were a host of animals including lions, horses, monkeys camels and dogs, who all performed tricks, which were also a big hit with our group.

This was a special outing enjoyed by all. Unfortunately circus rules prevented photos from being taken of this outing, so you will have to let your imagination run wild!

Jessica Skillen.
Stromlo Program Officer

Sharing Places Inc
Membership 2011/2012

First Name Family Name*or*

Business Name

Address

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Individual Membership \$11
(incl GST)

Association Membership \$22
(incl GST)

Receipt Required: Yes/No Signed