



Nadrasca News

Dignity. Diversity. Community. Industry.

Spring 2008 Issue 16



Judith Costa
at the
Nadrasca Art
Exhibition
(see page 2)

From the desk of the Executive Director

Individualised Planning & Support

To make disability support more flexible, an individualised planning and support approach has been introduced for people with a disability from 1 July 2008 as part of the Victorian State Disability Plan 2002-12.

If you have a child attending Nadrasca Community Options (at Witt Street, Mitcham or High Street, Nunawading), you or they may have received - or will soon receive - *Streamlining Individual Support Packages*, a Department of Human Services information sheet. The strategy aims to ensure that supports are based on people's needs, aspirations and choices, including:

- Planning that is directed by the person or is family-centred for children
- Supports that are flexible and tailored to individual needs
- A focus on community participation and strengthening informal supports

Initially, recipients of HomeFirst, Support & Choice, Community Options and Futures for Young Adults Year 1-8 packages will be streamlined into one Individualised Support Package. This means there

will only be one set of guidelines, one planning process, more choice and flexibility, and one fund approval process.

If you wish to receive more information or have questions about Individualised Planning & Support, you can contact the Disability Services Intake and Response Team at the Department of Human Services on 1800 783 783. Information is also available on the website www.dhs.vic.gov.au

Nadrasca 'Needs Analysis'

Thank you to all parents, carers, siblings, employees and clients who completed the Nadrasca 'Needs Analysis' survey. The response rate was in excess of 50%, which we believe is an excellent response. I would also like to thank all those involved in the focus group sessions. Your contribution enabled us to formulate appropriate questions for the survey. Survey answers have been compiled in a database, and the results will be summarised and reviewed by a Board Sub-Committee prior to release to the Board and the community.



Gus Koedyk
Executive Director

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STOP PRESS!

Footy Tipping Competition... and this year's winner is **Mark Hiney**



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Nadrasca AGM

7th October
8.00pm at Nadrasca
Head Office

Nadrasca

Dignity. Diversity. Community. Industry.

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A Disability Service Organisation
ABN 90 125 235 047
ACN 125 235 047



Thanks to the Kiwanis

The clients and staff at High Street Community Options were delighted with the news that the local Kiwanis Service Club has funded the purchase of a new lightweight wheelchair. There are a number of clients with limited mobility who can manage walking while in Nadrasca facilities, but find it difficult to access the general community. They will now be able to use the chair and explore what the community has to offer!! Our thanks to Cliff Woodward and the members of Nunawading Kiwanis.



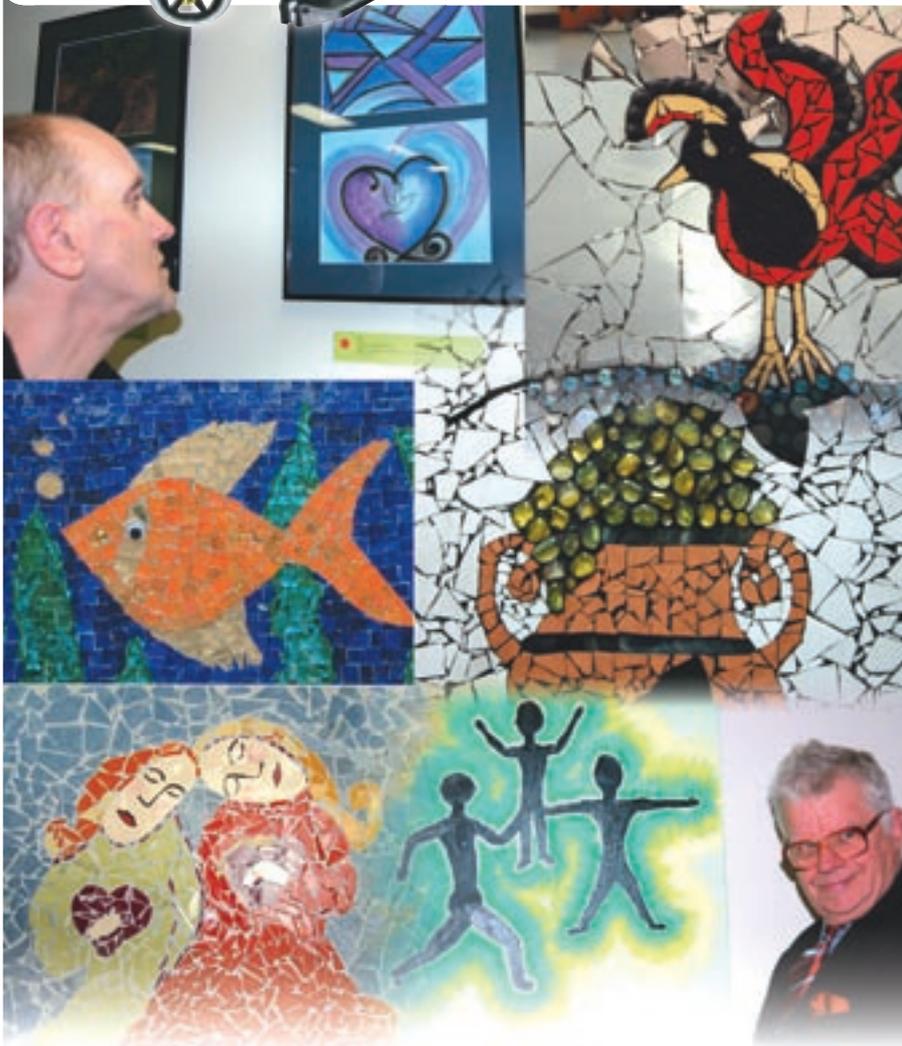
Hi I'm Susan...

My name is Susan Drury and I have worked at Nadrasca for just over 5 years. Some of you would have seen me in Administration at Rooks Road. My main duties are payroll and reception.

I spend my weekends looking after our alpacas at Glenburn, about halfway between Yarra Glen and Yea on the Melba Highway. We have 60 acres of gently undulating pasture. Since we bought about 30 alpacas, we have been fencing and improving pasture - a whole new experience for a girl from the city!

Two of our alpacas, Munchkin and Joy, are pets. The rest we breed and show. In September we are taking five alpacas to a show in Bendigo, so wish us luck. If you would like to see pictures of the alpacas just come and ask. I will be happy to oblige, being a proud mum.

Next time you gleefully open your pay, think of me.



Nadrasca Art Exhibition

Nadrasca's Senior Persons' Program held a wonderful art exhibition on 28th August at Rooks Road. A large group of parents, staff and guests - including Kirstie Marshall OAM attended, and much of the artwork was sold. Included in the exhibition were examples of garden art, mosaics, and oil and acrylic paintings.

The artists that exhibited their work were: Robyn Weston, Bernie Milne, Dare Harrex, Bill Daniels, Robyn Hadaway, Margaret Harvey, Judith Costa, and Edward Gruenberger. Congratulations to our very talented group of artists.

Why not Support Nadrasca - by becoming a member!

The Board of Directors would welcome applications from individuals and businesses who have a commitment to the aims and objectives of Nadrasca. If you would like to become a member, contact Margaret Imberger on 9873 1111 and a membership application form will be forwarded.

A Spot of History



Living with Dignity - NADRASCA the first 40 years

...written by Marc Fiddian, *Living With Dignity* provides valuable insights into the dedication and perseverance of Nadrasca's volunteers and supporters. The book gives details of how the organisation grew to become a well recognised community sector organisation in the City of Whitehorse and surrounding areas. Copies are available for sale at \$11.00 at all Nadrasca locations, including our Bookshop in Chapel Street, Blackburn.

Nadrasca Industry Services

Another financial year has come to an end - an extremely successful one for Industry Services. Our business has grown by over 12½% for the year.

More importantly the range and type of work has changed. The traditionally large seasonal component has shifted to a much more balanced workload, resulting in a more continuous operation with fewer 'slow times'.

Another benefit has been the wider range of more complicated work. This has required our employees to improve their work skills - something they have done with great enthusiasm.

This pleasing result is due to the efforts of all Industry Services staff and employees, and is the culmination of a strategy put in place over three years ago. Unfortunately nothing happens quickly.

As a result of their efforts, we were able to present each employee with a \$50 Coles / Myer gift card in recognition of a job well done.

It is also pleasing to note that the new financial year has started with a bang! Revenue in July was 50% up on last year's revenue - a great start to another successful year.

Service Awards

The following Service Awards were presented in June:

Pam Martin received an award and a gold watch in recognition of 25 years of service with Nadrasca. Pam started on 24th January 1983 at Mitcham in the Packaging area and now works in Contract Services at Rooks Road.



Other recipients presented with certificates were:

30 years	Merryn Ware Greg Brown
15 years	Vincent Deany Peter Maassen Robin Poole Jonathan Stewart
10 years	Anne McCarthy Sandra Minogue

Congratulations to all award recipients.

Peter Ray
Manager
Nadrasca Industry Services

Community Services

Holly Arnold Lester (pictured right) ceased employment with Nadrasca on 4th August 2008 after five and a half years as Manager, Accommodation Services. Holly's contribution over this time was greatly appreciated by all who came in contact with her. Colleagues, residents and their families were all touched at some time by her thoughtfulness. Holly has left Nadrasca to pursue other interests and to prepare for her wedding.

Meghan Coulter, who commenced on 1st September, is the new Manager, Accommodation Services. Meghan has had a similar role with St John of God Services, a statewide disability service provider. She has extensive experience working in accommodation services as a House Manager and Area Manager. Meghan has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) and an Advanced Diploma of Business Management. In the interim period, Maryanne Harding filled the vacancy. Thank you Maryanne for your support and assistance.

Congratulations to Melita Bruders who has been appointed House Manager at Panorama Drive. Melita brings a wealth of experience in the aged and disability fields.

Department of Human Services funding has enabled a number of improvements to be made to the Glenwood Drive property. The bathroom has been totally refurbished, the interior of the house painted and minor works completed. An application for additional works is with the Office of Housing. Minor works are also planned for our properties at Panorama Drive Forest Hill and Mt Dandenong Road Kilsyth.

Residential staff organised a successful disco in July. 'Full Mental Jackets' provided the music and all who attended, including Industry Services employees, had a great time.

Sarah Gibson, a resident at our Panorama Drive, Forest Hill house, has been unwell and has spent time in hospital recovering. We wish Sarah a speedy recovery.

Nadrasca is required to transfer the property management responsibility for houses owned by the Office of Housing to an accredited property manager by January 2009. Active Property Management Services are currently conducting a fabric audit of the relevant properties with a view to taking over the management role.

Brian Parr
Manager
Nadrasca Community Services



Community Options

Much has happened over the past few months.

The Antonio Park Primary School Choir attended the client meeting at Witt Street, giving a wonderful concert as they performed various songs.

A number of Witt Street clients were involved in 10x10, a performing arts program. Ten 10 minute acts provided a unique opportunity for performers with a disability to showcase their talents on a professional stage in front of a live audience. Congratulations to those who participated: Veronica, Elizabeth, Robbie, Rowan, Peter, Andrea, Amara, Nicola, David, Nicole and Linda. Heather Cook has been working with this talented group and has praised their talents.



Congratulations to Elroy Hendricks who was invited to exhibit his artwork at 'How to Go Crazy without Going Crazy'. This annual event, organised jointly by Arts Access and State Trustees, was held at the Black Box Theatre, Victoria Arts Centre.

Congratulations to newly engaged couples, Glen Wickens and Nikki Firth, and Kirsty Bond and Gavin Mattingley. Congratulations too to Khatereh Riazati and Brendon Alexander on the birth of their son Dion.

The Farm is developing well. We have two new additions - two sheep. A competition will be run to select their names which will be announced in the next edition of *Nadrasca News*.

Raeoni Turner
Manager
Nadrasca Community Options

PEOPLE NEWS!

Comings and Goings

Since our last edition there have been some significant staff changes.

Chris Gilbert, Finance and Administration Manager, resigned after 29 years of service.

Holly Arnold-Lester resigned after seven and a half years at Nadrasca, the last five and a half as Accommodation Services Manager.

Julie Winther has left her role as Accommodation Outreach Worker to pursue study and part-time work.

We thank them all for their contribution and wish them the best for the future.



New Staff and Board Member

We have welcomed new staff members: Meghan Coulter as Accommodation Services Manager and Susan McRorie in Residential Outreach.

We welcome John Molina as our new Corporate Services Manager. John has extensive experience in accounting administration, computer based solutions, purchasing and contract administration in the health and manufacturing areas. More about John in the next edition.



We are also pleased to welcome Chris James to the Board. Chris is a Senior Manager - Public Affairs at the Victorian Employers' Chamber Of Commerce and Industry (VECCI), Victoria's key employer group. He specialises in media,

government and corporate relations, and deals with issues as diverse as transport policy, employment issues and corporate social responsibility.

Before joining VECCI in 2000, Chris worked as an economist with the Victorian Farmers Federation, following periods in local government and State and Federal politics, where he worked as a political adviser.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from Monash University and a Certificate in Local Government Management from Deakin University.

Chris's interests are broad and varied and extend from current affairs to horse racing to the AFL, where he supports Richmond.

Social Activities with students from Scoresby Secondary College

Over the past few months some Nadrasca clients have participated in sporting activities organised by students from Scoresby Secondary College. So far we have played footy and ten pin bowling which all enjoyed. Any uncertainty quickly gave way to fun and laughter. The students were very encouraging and inclusive. Next up we are going to the school gym to play hockey and soccer.

4x4 Mates Day Out

As in previous years, the Lions Club of Ashwood/Mt Waverley and the Four Wheel Drive Club of Victoria provided a wonderful day of four wheel driving and adventure for over thirty Nadrasca residents and employees.

Volunteer drivers proudly chauffeured the one hundred participants around the off road tracks that covered the Werribee site. No one knew what was around the corner - mud, hills, creek crossings or potholes!

A wonderful lunch was provided and everyone eagerly tucked in. A big thanks to the organisers who did everything possible to make the day such a success.



A Proud Allegiance

Recently Warren Owen of Kallista was driving along Rooks Road when he noticed an Industry Services employee walking down the road in his Richmond Football Club gear. Being an avid Richmond supporter, Warren was moved by this proud allegiance. He contacted Nadrasca and, after the employee was identified, presented Michael Vajna with a signed and framed Richmond Football Club jumper. Michael was extremely happy to receive the gift. He now has the jumper proudly hanging on his bedroom wall.



Congratulations!

John Enderby and Katherine Macauley were married on 14th July 2008, with the wedding and reception held in the canteen at Rooks Road. A number of employees attended and reported how beautiful the bride looked. Everyone had a great time.

The Y2Ker's Masonic Group

The Y2Ker's have been generous friends to all of us at Witt Street. Previously they built a special trailer which enables our bike riding group to transport their bikes.

Recently they asked if there was any other way they could assist. We asked for a water tank to collect rain water for our dedicated car washing group to use when washing our buses and other vehicles. The Y2Ker's came to the party, funding the purchase of a tank and pump, and arranging for power to be connected.

We thank the Y2Kers for their assistance with this project. Monies raised by our washing team contribute to the sponsorship of a child through World Vision.



Holidays

Austours have organised a twelve day coach tour of the mighty Murray River. Departing on the 3rd January 2009, the tour will follow the river from Cudgewa to Lake Alexandrina.

A number of residents in our accommodation service will be going to Axton Ridge Farm over the Christmas/New Year period.

Nadrasca News is a regular publication.

Contributions or ideas for future editions are welcome. Please contact A1Admin Pty Ltd on 03 9877 0369.

Editorial team: Brian Parr, Richard Copeland & A1Admin

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Need something printed?

Call Jessie at Nadrasca on 03 9873 1111