

# Knoxbrooke Talk

## From the CEO

*Rad Kilian  
Chief Executive Officer*

As this is our first newsletter for the year I would like to belatedly welcome back all of our clients and employees.

I hope that you had a good break, probably forgotten by now, and that this year is successful for you.

Our new ATSS arrivals seem to be settling in well. Successful programs and camps have already started and we are looking forward to continuing our high standard of service with happy clients and families.

Francis Cres has started well with plenty of work.

The envisaged improvements that we are attempting to implement in our Plant Nursery Division and RTO are on hold awaiting planning permits and the finalisation of funding issues.

Before the break the Government issued a draft bill for the proposed new Victorian Disability Legislation, this Bill is due to be introduced into State Parliament in early March.

There does not seem to be anything in the proposed Bill that will affect the every day life of individuals or their support families.

Some areas strengthen certain rights of people with disabilities however there does appear to be a loss of some existing rights. Our focus is on intellectual

disabilities and with this comes certain aspects that do not appear to adequately move across from the old Act.

There is also a theme that transfers an unreasonable level of responsibility from the Government to private providers like us. There is a distinct reduction in Government accountability.

We are hopeful that the new Bill, when it arrives, will incorporate the amendments suggested by our representative bodies.

In preparation for this shift in accountability DHS is implementing more quality and service controls that, although in certain cases are possibly overdue, place additional administrative requirements onto our service without any committed additional funding.

Our ATSS and supported accommodation services have, with the exception of last financial year, sustained losses so this will test our organisational and budgeting skills in the future. We must maintain high quality, innovative and sustainable services.

## Knoxbrooke Industries

*Lynda Hopkinson  
Manager*

It only seems a short time ago we were wishing you all a merry Christmas and now February has

February 2006

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**Knoxbrooke Incorporated  
977 Burwood Hwy  
Ferntree Gully 3156**

## Condolences

*To the Krokos family,  
We wish to express our deepest sympathy  
at the passing of Con's beloved mother and  
Jason's grandmother  
Our thoughts are with you.*



gone. Hope you all enjoyed the long break.

Well firstly, I must tell you about our new building out the back. After a long process with Knox Council, work has finally started and hopefully by the second week in March it should be completed and what a difference that will make at Industries. If you have a spare moment pop in and have a look. One of our workers will give you a guided tour.

We are pleased to tell you that Mark is back on duty and we are so pleased to see him looking so well. WELCOME BACK MARK!

Industries now has new starting times: Mon – Thurs 8am to 4pm  
Fridays 8am to 1pm  
The last Friday in each month will be a R.D.O.

We have started the year with all our customers giving us heaps of work so again we are very busy and have had the pm shift (Knoxbrooke ladies) working for us.

Well hopefully the March newsletter will have an article from one of our workers...so till next month take care.

## ATSS

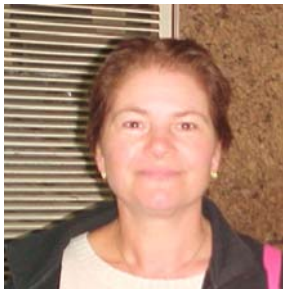
*Belinda King  
Manager*

*Jenny Quelch*

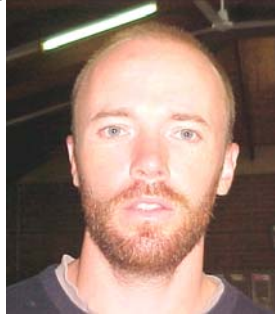
### **New Staff Member**

A warm welcome to Maria Tresca and Adam Spencer.

Maria came to us from Woorinya ATSS in the Frankston area



Adam previously worked at a Croydon ATSS.



Both have a number of valuable years experience in delivering support to people with disabilities.

### **2006 Fee Structure**

From February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 the ATSS fees for both attendance and transport increased, we wish to thank our parents and carers for their understanding.

### **Donations**

The Westpac bank have generously donated money to be used towards building a memorial garden for clients that have passed away in recent years.

The money has purchased a fountain, plants and plaques. We trust that it will be a place where people can reflect upon their friends and loved ones that they have lost.

A very heart felt thank you to Deborah Gooding for being instrumental in obtaining the donation to Knoxbrooke ATSS.

Our very own Knoxbrooke 'Dogs' basketball team has received a donation of training jumpers from Knox Basketball Inc. for which they are very thankful.

Thank you to new casual instructor, Tania Matuschka, for kindly donating a number of tools (spanners etc) to be used in some of our programs.

### **The Leadership Plus Program**

This article has been prepared by our client Jason T.

*The Leadership Plus Program helps people with different disabilities become leaders in the community.*

*My partner for this years Leadership Plus Program is Brendan Forde. Brendan Forde has been blind since he was 13 years of age.*

*Brendan became blind due to blood poisoning. Brendan lived in Queensland for one year when Rugby League great Alan Langer came back to State of Origin Rugby League.*

*Brendan lives in Ringwood on his own in a unit.*

*Brendan taught piano tuning when he lived in America.*

*Brendan's favourite books are Harry Potter and his favourite author is Salman Rushdie.*

*Brendan is a music teacher of guitar and keyboard.*

*Brendan likes walking and he supports Carlton Football Club.*

*Brendan is the youngest in his family.*

*I will be a university student this year at RMIT as part of the Leadership Plus Program*

### **Camp**

This report has been prepared by Meg N.

*The Geelong Camp.*

*We left on Tuesday morning 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006.*

*The clients that came along were Amber, Xandrine, Meg, Jodie, Marissa and Pam. The staff that assisted us were Dianne and Fiona.*

*When we arrived at our caravan park, we stayed in cabins 8 and 9. We set up our beds and after we did this, we went for a drive around Geelong.*

*The reason why we went to Geelong was to represent the Client Council of Knoxbrooke at a 3 day conference.*

The conference was called "The Having a Say" Conference. One of the mottos was: "My life my voice my choice".

There were guest speakers that spoke to us about self advocacy and speaking up for ourselves. We met people from other centre. We also watched a movie called "Just Friends" and saw a play called "Ned Kelly".

In our spare time we had fish and chips on the beach, shopping, ferry trip, disco and dinner. Jodie thought it was cool! We all arrived back at Knoxbrooke at 3.30pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2006. We all had a good time.



Amber & Xandrine at the Campsite



Jodie, Xandrine, Meg, Pam, Amber & Marissa. Windblown at the beach



Dancing the night away – Pam, Amber, Marissa, Fiona & Jodie

**Basketball**

The games are back in full swing and our team continues to improve. We are hopeful of

starting up a league in the Eastern Region amongst people from other ATSS Centres which will save travelling to Sandringham to compete each week.

**ATSS Holidays**

Labour Day – March 13<sup>th</sup> 2006

Easter break –Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup>. Return Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

N.B: Thursday and Tuesday April 13 and 18<sup>th</sup> are staff annual leave days.

**Residentials**

Irene Peach  
Co-ordinator

Right at this moment – 9.14pm Thursday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 Kerryn and myself are ploughing through documentation required by The Department. Enjoy March with its fine sunny weather. Keep watching this space next month!

**Thought for the month**

A man has five items in his bathroom: a toothbrush, shaving cream, razor, bar of soap and a towel from the Marriott. The average number of items in the typical woman's bathroom is 337. A man would not be able to identify most of these items.

**Time Out**

A tourist accidentally drove his car into a deep ditch on the side of a country road.

A farmer happened by with his big old horse named Benny.

The farmer offered to use his horse to pull the car out of the ditch.

He hitched Benny up to the car's bumper and yelled "Pull Nellie

pull". Benny stood still. "Pull Ranger pull". Benny stood still. "Pull Fred pull". Benny stood still. "OK Benny pull" and Benny pulled the car from the ditch.

The grateful tourist then asked the farmer, why he had called his horse by three different names.

"Old Benny is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try".

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