

Knoxbrooke Talk

Tribute



*Les Crowe
Chairman
Knoxbrooke
Board of Management*

Ethel Leiper leaves the service of Knoxbrooke after a long and distinguished career, much of it served alongside her husband Tom. The fact is, nonetheless, that neither Ethel nor Tom really ever considered that what they were doing was just "a job".

Rarely within Organisations, would you find two people who did what they did, principally out of love and care for the numerous disabled people whom they have helped over those many years. Seldom would you find two people who genuinely loved what they were doing. They ran, almost single-handedly, our Residence(s) for many years and developed what was best described as a large, extended family, such was the relationships they forged.

Government Policy and "New Age" thinking strongly discouraged Centres such as ours from running or creating home environments, in the style developed by Tom and Ethel, which, in Knoxbrooke's case, was an enormous pity. The Clients universally have reciprocated the affection given to them and one can only hope that in retirement both Tom and Ethel pay regular visits to, and keep in close contact with their very large, extended family.

While Ethel was very much hands on in the running of the house, Tom also served very positively and strongly on the Board of Management for many years. His no nonsense approach and absolute dedication to the cause he served, was on many occasions beneficial to Knoxbrooke's growth and development. While he has not been a Board member for a few years, his commitment and effort comprises a substantial corner-stone of what Knoxbrooke is today. The positive contributions of both Ethel and Tom will be missed, but we can only hope that their association, in some form, will always remain with their many friends within the Knoxbrooke community. We all wish them a happy retirement and a long and healthy future life together.

ATSS

*Belinda King
Manager*

Jenny Quelch

Easter Break

Thursday, April 13th to Tuesday, April 18th.

Return Wednesday April 19th.

N.B. Thursday April 13 and Tuesday April 18th are staff annual leave days

Lion King

A group of our clients were lucky enough to attend a matinee session of 'The Lion King'. The

March 2006

Inside this Issue

- 1** Tribute
 - ATSS
 - Condolences
- 2** Congratulations
 - Horticulture Group
- 3** Residentials
 - Knoxbrooke Industries
 - Thought for the Month
 - Time Out
 - Companion Card
- 4** Montrose Football Club
 - Dance Classes
 - Email?

Knoxbrooke Incorporated
977 Burwood Hwy
Ferntree Gully 3156

Condolences

To Antigone Trease and her family,

We extend our deepest sympathy at the tragic loss of your cousin and best friend, Kristy, as a result of the horrific bus accident in Egypt.



group spent the morning sightseeing in the city (the Commonwealth Games were in progress, so there was a lot to see) and then the afternoon at the theatre. Everyone looked very smart all dressed up for the big occasion and thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Thank you to Antigone for organising the event and to Dianne for driving the bus and organising the best car park in Melbourne, right opposite the theatre.

Basketball

Our 'Knoxbrooke Dogs' basketball team continue to have varied results, on March 7th they beat 'The Knoxbrooke Tigers' (that's right we now have two basketball teams) 30 to 16, but due to some of our players not having appropriate footwear the results from some of our other games have not been as good as they could have been.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from other ATSS centres in the Eastern Region to form a basketball league in our own area for next year.

Chocolate Drive

Thank you to everyone who supported our chocolate fundraiser. It has gone very well and the money raised will be used to purchase a couch for the recreational room to replace those past their use by date.

Congratulations

To Samantha and husband Jason on the arrival of their first child, a beautiful daughter, Charlotte Leila, born on March 18th, weighing 7lb 13oz.



Horticulture Group

*Peter Berthelsen
Manager*

*Karen Dettmann
Client Services
Manager*



We have been very lucky with the lovely sunny days, a bit of rain would have been nice but we can't have everything.

It has been a very busy few weeks getting plants potted and out into the resting area so they will continue to grow and be ready for a bumper spring.

Last week we said good bye to Ray, one of our long standing workers, we wish him all the very best in his new day program.

This week we will say goodbye to Cheryl Flint who has been with the Nursery for 10 years, Cheryl will be missed by all at Yarra View Nursery as she has a wealth of knowledge with plants especially when and how to propagate them. Cheryl has always had a great sense of humor and understanding of all her team members. Cheryl is retiring and says she will enjoy some travel and time with her grandchildren.

Talking of grandchildren, on March 15 Karen welcomed a brother for Jaidan, as Cheyne and Daniel have had a son Lachlan Daniel 6lb 11oz and all are doing well.

The RTO have celebrated the close of another Certificate 2 Horticulture course with a BBQ and Graduation Ceremony. Jay would like to thank all those who helped make this night a success. Congratulations to all those students who were recognised on the night for their hard work during the year.

There is a buzz around the nursery as we get ready to take part in the Melbourne

International flower and garden show.

Following on from our Gold medal for our landscape exhibit at the Gardening Australia Live exhibition in 2005 we are co-sponsoring a stand for SAVEWATER.

Two of the landscaping teams will be involved in the construction of the gardens and paving for the SAVEWATER stand. We commenced construction on Monday the 27th and will finish by the following Monday ready for the opening on the Wednesday. Judging for the best stands is on the Tuesday with the announcement on the Wednesday evening.

We will be sending two truck loads of plants to the show these will be distributed across three stands to promote the plants that we grow at YVN (Yarra View Nursery). Look for our plants on the SAVEWATER, 'Jim Foggarty' / Semken landscaping stand - 'Forest retreat' and the Stone by design stand. A number of our staff will be on the stands to answer questions both gardening and about the services that we offer. As a part of a new promotion from the SAVEWATER alliance (an alliance of the Melbourne water authorities) we will be offering landscaping and irrigation packages in conjunction with the WaterPro's irrigation group. These packages are focused on environmentally sustainable use of resources and will be released at the show.

The Horticulture Certificate 2 classes from last year are having a reunion day with an organised trip to the show on the Sunday. The show is open on Wednesday the 5th to the 9th of April at the Carlton gardens.

Residentials

*Kerryn Ballantyne
House Supervisor*

Hello everyone, we hope that you are well and back into the swing of things....with talk already about Easter Holidays!

Things have been busy as usual at the residentials and there are always plenty of things happening. Due to the ageing of residents and increases in personal and medical support, additional staffing has been put in place at The Haven to help with the ever increasing workload on staff. It has already shown to have had an impact, with a number of emergency situations being either diverted, or at least better managed. We are however, endeavouring to get this additional staffing funded by DHS, but at this stage they are reluctant. But, as there is such an O.H. & S. issue with the current 1:8 ratio, concerns for residents and staff welfare is paramount and this increase in current staffing will continue.

On a lighter note, we have two new hot water systems, currently being installed at The Haven, so we will never run out of hot water again...yippy!!, along with a food processor, mobile phone, answering machine and to come shortly new curtains...WOW! Thank you to Paul De Stefanis for all his help and assistance.

James, Johanna and Michael, recently had a four day holiday to Lakes Entrance, which was enjoyed by all, not to mention the cruise they went on and all the food! Our other residents have spent time dining with family and friends and some have had weekends away with family which has given our residents a short time apart from each other and the opportunity to spend valuable time with loved ones.

All of the residential staff recently had the opportunity to have a dinner together, something that

doesn't happen often as the residentials work on a 24 hour, seven day week basis, which means that usually someone always misses out on social events within the Knoxbrooke organisation. The reason for the get together you may ask? It was a belated Christmas function and a special evening to celebrate the retirement of a long term employee of Knoxbrooke, Ethel Leiper. Ethel has been with Knoxbrooke for over 25 years. along with her husband, Tom, they have been active and dedicated members of the organisation, who will be deeply missed. We wish you well and good luck on your new chapter...the journey begins!

Speaking of journey, I will also be starting one soon. I am very fortunate to have been given a three month leave of absence, in which I will be heading north to Queensland. It will be a good opportunity to do some travelling and spend time with family and friends up there, after, what could only be described as a rather dramatic/hectic few years...life is too short! I will miss everyone, but will come back refreshed, relaxed and ready to start afresh.

Celia will cover my responsibilities until I return...so take care and much love, laughter, health and happiness...cheers!

Knoxbrooke Industries

*Lynda Hopkinson
Manager*

Busy.....Busy.....Busy!

Busy.....Busy!
Busy!



Thought for the Month

Submitted by Kerryn Ballantyne

Happiness keeps you sweet
Trials keep you strong
Sorrows keep you human
Failures keep you humble
Success keeps you glowing
And faith keeps you going...

Time Out



A new mom took her baby daughter to the supermarket for the first time. She dressed her in pink from head to toe. At the store, she placed her in the shopping cart and put her purchases around her.

At the checkout line a small boy and his mother were ahead of them. The child was crying and begging for some special treat. Looking at the boy, she assumed that he wanted a lolly or perhaps chewing gum and his mother wouldn't let him have any.

This was until she heard his mother's reply.

"No!" she said, looking in her direction. "You may not have a baby sister today. That lady got the last one!"

Companion Card



For information and copies of the Victorian Companion Card Handbook see:
www.companioncard.org.au
Or telephone the Companion Card Information Line on:
1800 650 611

Dance Classes

A new and exciting dance school is opening in Ringwood East very soon.

It is a dance school especially for people with disabilities.

There will be a variety of classes to choose from and many different dance styles on offer.

All classes will be restricted to six people per class, allowing more time for one on one, as is needed.

Most classes will be for an hour and will be offered to adults and children alike.

Anyone of any age, with any disability, whether physical or intellectual can learn to dance.



Dance styles on offer will include ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, relation, movement to music and more.

Boys' only classes and mixed classes available.

Wheelchair dancing will also be offered, however parents/carers will be required to stay for this class.

Copies of prospectus and enrolment forms are available upon request.

To register your expression of interest or to get more details, please email Cait at: cait_kitkat99@hotmail.com or phone 0403 662 456.



Teacher qualifications include:
Diploma in Dance Teaching & Management
Certificate IV in Disability Studies
First Aid

Montrose Football Club



The Montrose Football Club is offering training sessions to people with intellectual disabilities to enable them to participate in the game of Aussie Rules.

Sessions begin on Sunday April 23rd and enquiries should be directed to David Harbinson on 0425 772 317

Email?

If you have an email address that we may use to forward your copy of the monthly newsletter, please let us know, as emailing saves handling time, paper and mailing costs.



Please email jenny@knoxbrooke.com.au with details.