

Knoxbrooke Talk

From the CEO

*Rad Kilian
Chief Executive Officer*

Another financial year has nearly come to an end and most of our divisions will have had a very successful year, both in the development of meaningful services and in financial terms. The financial aspect is very important for our future sustainability and for us to continue to expand and develop our services. Our initial draft budgets for next twelve months are showing promise of a great year to come. This is a huge credit to our staff and everyone involved in our organisation. My thanks to one and all.

After an inordinate amount of time we have finally been issued with a planning permit for the proposed redevelopment of our Mt Evelyn site. This is the first step in our plans for a bigger and better wholesale and retail nursery business. This development will allow us to bring production levels up to industry standards and to efficiently produce quality products at a volume that will make the division self funding or perhaps better. It will also allow us to enhance the showcasing of our retail outlet and hopefully attract more customers.

Having said all of the above, in the wider picture we have just

had the State and Federal budgets brought down. Neither budget goes anywhere near meeting the requirements of our sector. In the future we must now expect a lesser proportion of our expenditure to be supported by the government. This means a greater cost burden on families and service providers.

This, in particular, causes stress to older carers especially in the supported accommodation area. On the positive side the State and Federal Governments have combined to provide funding to reduce the number of younger people in nursing homes, with special emphasis on people with disabilities.

Although this will be great for the few that are able to access this funding it is still too little too late. It also ignores the general crisis in a supported accommodation area that is not meeting the demand. At the end of last year statistics kept by DHS themselves indicated that there were in excess of 2,500 people in Victoria attempting to access supported accommodation of which nearly 65% were considered in the "high" or "urgent" category.

The only good news out of this is that a year prior to these figures the number seeking accommodation was in the vicinity of 3,000.

This under investment over many years results in this unacceptable backlog that will only increase.

Along with this is the reallocation of the residents of the Kew Cottages and although they have

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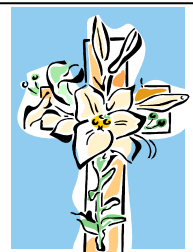
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Concert 2006

Knoxbrooke Incorporated
977 Burwood Hwy
Ferntree Gully 3156

Condolences

To Paul De Stefanis and family,

We extend our deepest sympathy at the sudden loss of your beloved brother. Our thoughts are very much with you.



their own funding, there is little support or incentive for organisations like ours to expand our accommodation services.

CIDA Executive Officer, Ms Sue Jackson, said that:

- The State Budget failed to tackle the shamefully long waiting lists for disability services and leaves ageing carers in a continuing state of uncertainty and anxiety.
- One in every six of the people on the waiting list is being cared for by family members aged 75 years or over.
- These families are not only running out of patience, they are literally running out of time to ensure that their family members are properly supported when they are no longer able to provide the support required.
- The average waiting time for people urgently needing accommodation is nearly three years.
- The meagre measures announced in this Budget will do little more than keep up with the forecast increase in the number of people joining the waiting list over the next year.

Ms Jackson's comments clearly states the current worrying position.

At every opportunity we must bring this to the attention of all politicians and the press.

Accounts on the Move

Our accounts people, Paul, Nikki and Kim have moved their offices to:
Yarra View Nursery,
136 York Road,
Mt Evelyn.
Ph. 9737 0400



Horticulture Group

Peter Berthelsen
Manager



Winter-cold morning fog and the occasional sprinkle of rain make it hard to crawl out of a warm bed, but at the nursery each morning, I am greeted with the constant babble of people from our various businesses chatting and drinking a cuppa apparently oblivious to the cold around them. The atmosphere is light and generally happy with lots to share about what has been going on at the weekend, last night, the footy –plenty to talk about. Work is an important part of our lives, as are families and friends it's great to have opportunities to share all of this with each other.

The work crews that move from site to site maintaining gardens and landscaping usually spend time each morning catching up before they head off in different directions. There are now four different crews going out each morning and when it gets busy in the spring we can employ contractors as well. Each of the work crews continue to improve their skills in landscaping and garden maintenance as well as constantly reviewing how safely they work. We have recently been doing some short courses on safety in the work place at the RTO.

Town Planning Permits have been issued from the shire for the development of the site at YVN (Yarra View Nurseries). In line with the business plans that have been developed for the organisation's business services, we are now planning how to integrate the two wholesale nurseries at the Mt. Evelyn site (people and structures). We have had meetings with the employees of both nurseries - individually and combined, to discuss how we will do it and what are the important issues for them. The

time frames for all this happening will need to fit around the growing seasons of the plants and also when we can fund the expansion of the YVN site.

Applications for assistance in developing the site have been submitted, however we are not in control of the timing or whether we will receive the grants. Over the next six months we are hoping that we can achieve the integration of the two nurseries.

The nurseries are committed to paying productivity based award wages to all of its staff and due to this need to upgrade their operations so that they are efficient and to industry acceptable standards. This will enable us to be competitive and produce industry quality stock. The development will enable the nursery to continue its sales growth of the past few years so that it can provide ongoing employment and training for people who use its services.

Cabrini who partner us in our services to people with a disability recently came out for a visit to the nursery. They spent some time walking around chatting to staff and viewed a presentation on recent events in the nursery and the RTO. They have generously indicated that they will assist us in making Home of Garden Lovers building more pleasant to work in by re-roofing and insulating it. This will be great for staff and customers - the cockies have had a great time over the last few years chewing holes in it.

Holidays-Val is heading off for a holiday to England for 5 weeks we hope she has a great time, unfortunately no space for any of us in the luggage.

Glen thinks he has earned a holiday and heads off for Thailand with his daughters soon. We would have to agree he has been working hard and we hope they have a great time.

In fact it must be holiday season with many at YVN taking leave June 26-30th. The nursery will continue to operate for our customers during this week.

Welcome to the accounts department recently moved from Knoxbooke – Burwood Highway, Paul Nikki and Kim, to the YVN site. They squashed into the office area with a little bit of a shuffle.

Residentials

Irene Peach
Co-ordinator



Greetings!

Just a follow up on Dixon...well I can report that he has settled happily into Bon Beach Nursing Home. Some of his Knoxbrooke friends have already visited and it is envisaged that these visits will continue when time and opportunity permits.

Chelmsford Court is again operating to full capacity. Russell is our newest resident to be welcomed there. Our three lady residents – whilst a little hesitant initially, have helped make him feel 'at home' already.

Steven and Johanna are our Haven footy players. Last Sunday all remaining Haven residents attended their game, together with two staff members, a further 'off duty' staffer and her dog. The photos are great Lil! and have generated much enthusiastic banter.

With Noel's paint brush skills we're continuing to complete the painting of all remaining bedrooms at The Haven. The new curtains are a great improvement too.

Yesterday the 'vegie' garden beds were created and it's just a matter of time before we're self sufficient.

Richard G – I.L.U resident who came to us after the closure of

Kew Cottages last year has reached a decision to move closer to the city. He will take up residence in Collingwood next week. We wish him well at his new place of residence.

Currently two places are available within our Independent Living Units. We are able to offer these places either to two female or two male residents. There is a criteria to meet with regard to any potential applicants as the area requires a high degree of independence. Any expressions of interest could be directed to Head Office on 9758-3666 and Jenny would be happy to pass on enquiries to me. Till next time!

ATSS

Belinda King
Manager

Jenny Quelch

Holidays
Monday June 12th
Queens Birthday

Monday June 26th to
Friday June 30th
Winter break

Thursday July 6th
Thursday July 13th
Friday August 11th
Client Free Days

Woodwork Program
We have very talented staff and clients who are clever at making pieces of wood into something very practical.



Colin shows off his handy work (a bird feeder)



The Master (Wayne) & apprentice



Vincent S with his bird feeder

Camps
A group of our clients will be enjoying a few days staying at 'Wheelies Rest' campsite on Phillip Island in the middle of June.

Plans are well under way for a camp to Queensland's Gold Coast in August 2007 visiting all the major theme parks including the new Outback Rodeo Show.

Thought for the Month

"To accomplish great things, we must dream as well as act."
Anatole France (1844 - 1924)

Time Out



Stumpy and his wife Martha went to the State Fair every year.

Every year Stumpy would say, "Martha, I'd like to ride in that there airplane."

And every year Martha would say, "I know Stumpy, but that airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars."

This one year Stumpy and Martha went to the fair and Stumpy said, "Martha, I'm 71 years old. If I don't ride that airplane this year I may never get another chance."

Martha replied, "Stumpy, that there airplane ride costs ten dollars, and ten dollars is ten dollars."

The pilot overheard them and said, "I'll make you a deal.

I'll take you both up for a ride, and if you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you. But if you say one word it's ten dollars! "

Stumpy and Martha agreed and up they go. The pilot does all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word is heard.

He does all his tricks over and over again, but still not a word.

They land and the pilot turns to Stumpy, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't."

Stumpy replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Martha fell out, but like Martha always said, ten dollars is ten dollars."

"A BIT OF A MIXED BAG" KNOX BROOKE ATSS CONCERT 2006



When: Thursday. August 3rd

Time: 6pm Supper
7pm Concert

Where: Recreation Room
Knoxbrooke ATSS
977 Burwood Hwy
Ferntree Gully

Enquiries: Barry or Jenny
Ph 9758 3666

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RSVP: PLEASE RETURN THIS REPLY SLIP TO
JENNY
(ATSS RECEPTION)
NO LATER THAN JULY 20TH, 2006

NAME:

I will be coming to the Mixed Bag Concert

There will be people including myself coming to the review.