

Knoxbrooke Talk

October/November 2006

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Knoxbrooke Incorporated
977 Burwood Hwy
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From the CEO

*Rad Kilian
Chief Executive Officer*

We have had several visitors to our organisation over the past two months including members and potential members of the Federal and State Governments.

I always enjoy these visits because it gives me an excuse to visit our spread out locations and to mingle with our clients and staff.

Firstly, I must comment on the quality of support that I had for several of these visits from the members of our client council, they presented themselves in a manner that they should be proud of.

Secondly, the above visits along with a recent family lunch at The Haven and the certificate presentation by Jay for our RTO graduates makes me very proud of our organisation, the support that we provide for our clients and the quality of our staff.

This was endorsed by the sector with Karen Dettmann receiving an award for distinguished service to the disadvantaged and to Knoxbrooke.

I must also comment on the development that is underway at Mt Evelyn.

The grants that we have received plus our own resources will bring this location into the same bracket as the leading nurseries in Australia.

We had our AGM on Monday the 13th November and the financial accounts were presented.

It was with great pleasure that we announced a surplus for the second year in a row. The consolidated net surplus for the year ended 30th June 2006 was \$145,996 and although less than last year was very good.

We still have a fair way to go before we recoup our recent history of losses but we are certainly on the right track.

I cannot finalise this report without mentioning the very sad loss to this organisation and to myself from the sudden death of Ron Tripp.

My personal friendship with Ron resulted in my involvement with the Knoxbrooke organisation and I will miss his valued advice, support and guidance.

Of course he was also a fellow Carlton tragic and at the moment we need all the support that we can get. I will miss him greatly

Condolences

To Pam Tripp & Family,
Our heartfelt sympathy at the sudden passing of your husband and father.
Ron Tripp has given dedicated leadership and service to Knoxbrooke as a Director of the Board of Management since December 1996 and he will be sadly missed by our community.

Thank You

Mrs Lorna Moore would like to thank the Knoxbrooke Community for everyone's thoughtfulness and the support she received with the recent loss of her husband – Judd Moore.



Horticulture Group

*Peter Berthelsen
Manager*

What's new at Yarra View

At the CIDA awards night in September Karen Dettmann received a distinguished service award for her work with people who have a disability- Congratulations from all of us at Knoxbrooke for the award and thanks for all the hard work..

Congratulations to Bree A and Brad for their efforts at the national swimming titles in Brisbane last month-they all came home with lots of medals and personal bests.

Work on the development at Yarra view has commenced with the new outdoor area completed, four new igloos out of a total of 16 to be built and a new lunch room and propagation room which have arrived awaiting refurbishment. The development will run over the next 8 months doubling the size of the growing areas and improving the working conditions of all of the has been made possible after grants from FACSIA, DOTARS, ACFE and Cabrini. We are waiting for news on an application to the Community Water grants program for the development of a dam and water recycling system at the nursery.

Knoxbrooke Nursery at The Patch is on the market at present, most of the workers have moved to the Yarra View

site for most of their working week, whilst still keeping the site at The Patch maintained and producing some product. If anyone has questions regarding the transition or ongoing plans please contact Peter, Karen or Bruce for more information.

Doom and Gloom are two words associated with media coverage of our environment and the lack of water due to the ongoing drought. For quite a while now the nursery industry has been trying to separate gardening from the bad news of the drought and the lack of water. The campaign to encourage people to keep gardening is now focusing on the garden being critical to a person's well being –'Life is a Garden'. In last months Home of Garden Lovers newsletter, we addressed 10 ways to save water in the garden. The garden provides a place to relax with respite from the rush of life, an opportunity to nurture something living. With all of the changes happening due to a greater awareness of the value of water we are moving our product range to plant varieties that will tolerate dryer conditions –'Austraflora' Natives, a range of grasses and accent foliage plants and also smaller containers, so that the plant establishes itself in the garden as it grows. A large pot and plant needs far more water and care than a smaller one-a great way to conserve water as the roots move down into the subsoil seeking moisture as they grow.

After all of this talk of the impact of the water restrictions the demand for plants in our retail has increased this year –we have been proactive by being involved as an accredited 'Savewater' garden centre; freshened the displays with a more interesting range of plants that are suited to the changing environment and provided training for our staff, so that they can give sound advice to our customers. Last Saturday we were featured on Garden Gurus channel nine as Garden centre of the week. Unfortunately Melissa King the presenter was going to be at Garden Lovers last Sunday but had to postpone the visit till Sunday 26th of November from 1.00-3.00-if you have time come in and say hello or bring along that difficult gardening question to test her out come in. We have had Roger join us, as a new retail garden centre staff member, he is finishing off a Certificate in Horticulture at Burnley College.

Backyard Blitz-Project

When students from Knoxbrooke's Certificate I in Horticulture course heard about Mel and Peter's situation, there was unanimous support from the class to help them. "It was a remarkable opportunity for the class", shared Jay Pinkster, the project coordinator, "because people with disabilities are often dependant on others for care and support. Through gardening, the students could provide care and support to others". Students initially began weeding, pruning, removing stumps, mowing lawns and propagating plants so that Mel and Peter could just enjoy their garden.

Inspired by Backyard Blitz on TV, the vision expanded from basic garden maintenance, to a total garden makeover. "We recognised that our class lacked the diversity of skills and resources that were needed to complete the project. So we sought project partners from range of schools, training

organisations and local businesses.”

Swinburne TAFE pre-apprenticeship building and construction course built and donated a cubby. Mountain District Christian School's year 8 wood technology class built the sand pit, a gate to keep the dog in and installed a folding clothes line donated by Hills. Horticulture students from 4 local high schools are landscaping the backyard with plants donated by Yarra View Nursery and the Home of Garden Lovers.



Justin testing 'The Cubby'

Mel and Peter's garden effectively became a class room for dozens of students. The makeover has been completed Mel and Peter are excited with the results and the students have learnt more than just information from their certificate in Horticulture. The transformation has been amazing, for the garden, the students and the family.

Congratulations to Jay and all that have been involved with this inspiring project for their enthusiasm and dedication to see it through to its completion at the opening last Sunday.

Certificate 1 Horticulture

Congratulations to James C and Sarah L (clients of the ATSS) along with 10 workers from Yarra View Nursery for completing their Certificate 1 in Horticulture course. The award ceremony was held on November 12th. A big thank you to Jay Pinkster, the instructor, for all his hard work and dedication to his students.



James & Sarah celebrate their Certificates with their respective parents

DAY PROGRAM SERVICES

Glen Bowen
Manager Disability Support Services

Client Free Days for 2006 at the Day Program Service

- Friday 22 December last day of program for 2006, please note early finish of 12noon
- Tuesday 23 January is the first day of programs for 2007

Arrivals and Departures

Vicki S. commenced on 2 October 2006

Gary P. left the service on 19 October 2006

We extend a warm welcome to Vicki and wish Gary all the very best his future endeavours.

New Assistant Program Manager Position

Knoxbrooke is currently advertising the above part time position. The Position Description is available through

Jenny on 9758 3666 or jenny@knoxbrooke.com.au

Applications close at 4.00pm on 1 December 2006.

Program Review

After the Christmas/New Year break we will be reviewing all programs and activities and looking to amend the schedule based on known client interests. We are aiming to commence a new schedule after Easter 2007 and there will be more details to follow.....

Recent Board Sub Committee meeting

It was reported and agreed by the sub committee on 10 November, to begin short and long term planning for resource allocation and equipment upgrade and replacement, initially in the 2007-2008 financial year and then over subsequent years. The main areas include staffing, vehicles and computer information systems. This will include negotiating with the Department of Human Services for financial support where possible.

Basketball

Our team members would like to say thank you to their instructor Suzanne for her time spent altering the basketball tops so that our teams can actually wear them for the games.

Labelling

With the mound of unidentified clothing growing daily here at the day centre, we ask that everyone please, please, make certain that

all articles of clothing, bags, lunchboxes, drink bottles etc carry their owner's name.

Shopping Trip

Thank you to the 31 ladies that supported Knoxbrooke on our Fundraising Shopping Trip held in October. The group spent over \$6,300 and raised a total of \$584.94, the money is going towards buying new chairs for the day service.

.....thank you again. Christine

ACCOMODATION SERVICES

*Glen Bowen
Manager Disability Support Services*

Lionel has continued to review our Accommodation Services.

We also had a wonderful afternoon tea at Chelmsford on 29 October and BBQ lunch at The Haven on 12 November with families. I would like to thank Lionel and the teams for organising these functions with the residents because they were fantastic in bringing together our families, staff and residents. This is one example of many ways that we can continue to ensure that we work together in communicating about the support requirements of our residents.

Knoxbrooke Industries

*Lynda Hopkinson
Manager*

Oh, what a year! Knoxbrooke Industries has been very busy this year and we hope that next year will be just as busy.

We have employed five new workers this year and we welcome them to the Knoxbrooke Industries family.

We would like to thank all the companies that have supported us through this year and look forward to their support for next year.

I would like to thank the workers who have worked well and learnt many new skills this year.

To my staff at Industries, I again thank them for their support this year and hope it continues next year.

Knoxbrooke Industries will close on December 22nd, 2006 and reopen on Monday January 15th, 2007.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Wise Words

Beware of small expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.
- Benjamin Franklin

Time Out

Two guys met in the middle of the desert.



One was carrying a car door, the other an umbrella. The one with the car door said to the guy with the umbrella, "Why are you carrying that umbrella around, it isn't going to rain in the desert?" To which the guy with the umbrella replies, "Yeah", but it keeps me out of the sun! By the way, why are you carrying around that car door, you don't even have a car to go with it" The guy with the car door says, "yeah, well at least if I get too hot from the sun I can just roll down the window!"

**40th Anniversary
Dinner Dance**

August 11th, 2007,
Karralyka Function Centre,
Ringwood East.

