



CIVIC MATTERS

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Contact us on (02) 9524 3916 Head office – 103 Cawarra Road, Caringbah NSW 2229

www.civicdisability.org.au

From the CEO

This is the first of what will be our new regular newsletter – **Civic Matters**, to bring information to the people we support, our families, members, supporters and staff (the Civic Community) on what is happening within Civic Disability Services and in the wider field of disability services.

Through better sharing of information we will assist the Civic Community to understand the great things that we achieve, and the challenges and issues we face.

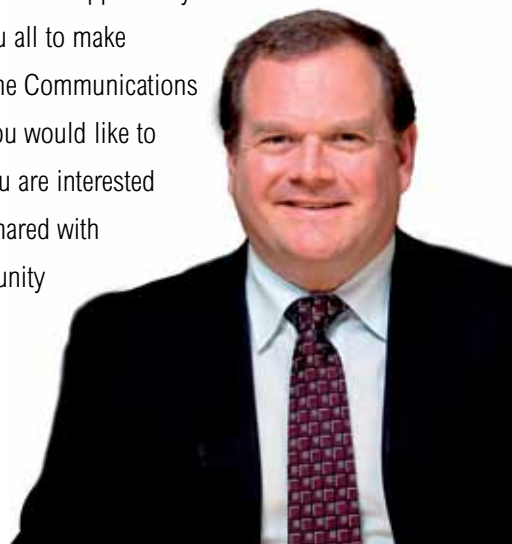
I am extremely proud to be part of this organisation and part of a team that provides high quality professional services to the people we support and their families.

Thank you to those who submitted suggestions for the name of this Newsletter. The successful suggestion was from Ginny Wray,

Lifestyle Coordinator at Blackheath.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to make suggestions to the Communications Team on what you would like to know or what you are interested in, that can be shared with the Civic Community through **Civic Matters**.

Scott Holz,
CEO



CIVICS' NEW WEBSITE

Civic has launched a new website. You can find it at the same address www.civicdisability.org.au or you can just Google us.

The new site provides precise and clear information on the services we provide in both the Lifestyle and Industries divisions and highlights the people we support through some great photos. The site also offers the facility to order on line our file bands which are produced in Industries, make donations and contact us in a variety of user friendly options.

It also allows the Civic Community to keep up to date on our events and news and gives our present and potential supporters the opportunity to see the good work and achievements of Civic's staff.

Please take the time to log onto our website and check it out and why not bookmark it while you are there.



ORGANISATION UPDATES

GREAT NEWS FROM THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

We have recently received approval from Blue Mountains City Council to proceed with our plans to build two (2) homes at Blackheath to re-house the people we support from “temporary” accommodation. The residents, their families and staff have waited patiently for this news for a number of years. The project is proceeding thanks to funding from Ageing, Disability and Home Care who have entrusted the responsibility to Civic of not only continuing to support the residents, but to also proceed with the building of their long term homes. It is hoped that tenders can be called for early in the New Year, and the building activity can start without further delay. Watch future “CIVIC MATTERS” for updates or go to www.civildisability.org.au

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) update

A new dedicated National Disability Insurance Scheme website was launched on 3 December 2011. The new website aims to keep people up to date and in touch as the Federal Government lays the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme - www.ndis.gov.au.

NDIS is about ensuring people get the individualised care and support they need giving them choice and control over their lives. We encourage everyone from the Civic Community to go to the site and find out more information and how you can join and support the cause.



Community Grant from Sutherland Shire Council

We will be commencing an Arts Program, in partnership with Sylvanvale in the first half of 2012, which will be taking place at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre in Gynea.

Several people from our day program will be attending along with people from Sylvanvale.

We would like to thank Sutherland Shire Council for awarding us the grant and the staff at Hazelhurst for taking the time to discuss and organise the appropriate arts program for the people we support.

It is envisaged that some of the artwork will be exhibited at the EmbraceAbility Day event in December 2012.



2011 Satisfaction and Strategic Planning Survey

A survey was conducted late last year titled “2011 Satisfaction and Strategic Planning” among our family members, carers, members of Civic and the people we support. As in previous years the survey was based on gaining a better understanding of expectations and satisfaction requirements.

This year the survey had two sections. A general section which targeted questions about Civic Disability Services and a program specific section which applied to the programs and services we provide.

More than 600 surveys were distributed, and we would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey. Your opinions, suggestions and feedback are important and assist us to understand expectations and achieve greater outcomes for the people we support.

The participants of the survey were invited to attend information and results sessions which were held in December 2011, and these were well patronised. The results will be used to assess and improve the services that we provide and assist with future directions.



NEW SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION SERVICE AT CAMPBELLTOWN

Civic was recently successful in a tender to relocate 5 ex-boarding house residents, to be housed and supported in the South West Sydney region.

Accommodation has been rented at Campbelltown. It comprises one villa which will house 3 residents and one townhouse which will house 2 residents.

The new residents have started their transition period and have visited their new home on a couple of occasions to familiarise themselves with their new environment. The visits will continue for longer periods until the residents are comfortable with their surroundings and plans are underway to move in by late January.

We are looking forward to working with our new residents this year.



SUPPORTED LIVING FUND

In addition to the information you have already received from Civic in regards to the Supported Living Fund, seminars will be held throughout NSW in February and March 2012, by the Family Advocacy in partnership with the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability to further inform people with disability, their families and carers about the Fund.

The seminars will provide detailed information about the Supported Living Fund and subsequent application process.

Seminars will be held at the following locations:

Kingsford - Monday 20 February

Blacktown - Tuesday 21 February

Burwood - Wednesday 22 February

Hornsby - Thursday 23 February

Liverpool - Wednesday 29 February

Campbelltown - Wednesday 7 March

To register, or for more information on regional seminar locations, contact Family Advocacy by phone: 02 9869 0866 or 1800 620 588 or email: enquiry@family-advocacy.com.

Contact information: Katherine McLellan, Sector Development Officer, NDS New South Wales, Ph 02 9256 3137, katherine.mclellan@nds.org.au

LIFESTYLE SERVICES & INDUSTRY

Civic Industries

Last year was a very busy time for Civic Industries. The employees all worked together tremendously on a Toyota contract and Toyota were so impressed, they donated a bonus on the completion of the job and the Industries Team purchased a new BBQ, which has already been christened with a few great Friday afternoon barbies.

Another new contract for Coca Cola came our way via the Bedford Group, and this job has kept the team very busy and they are looking forward to receiving more contracts throughout 2012.

In the lead up to the Christmas period all hands were on deck so that the packing jobs for Solvol and Crusader soaps were delivered on time and to the high standard of finish to which all of our jobs are completed.

Some of our supported employees have recently achieved their Certificate II in Warehousing and really enjoyed their studies. We will be working with the training provider to further adapt the training materials to enable selected employees to continue on to the Certificate III course.

At the end of every year Civic Industries holds an awards ceremony to recognise the achievements of our employees.

The following awards were presented -

Employee of the Year – Ken McGlinn

Supervisor's Choice Awards went to – Andrew Bentley, Scott Hawkins, David O'Connor and Jane Thorpe

Encouragement Awards were also given to Josh Kitchin, Peter Brennan, Laura Davies, Emily Davies & Jasmine Hollier. Dennis Hollier, Bruce Kilkeary and Natasha Clarke received a **Certificate of Appreciation**.

Did you know that Civic Industries employees sponsor a child in Colombia through Vision Mundial? All employees love receiving the updates from Samuel and finding out how we are helping him and his family.



Person Centre Approach update

Seventh Avenue's new residents – 4 legged kind

It has been great to introduce 'Sooty' the beautiful house cat which came from the RSPCA at Yagoona, and 'Patches' the guinea pig to the residents in supported accommodation at Loftus.

Through the person centred planning process that has been completed in consultation with the residents, their family members and staff at Loftus it was brought to the forefront that the residents wanted to have pets to love, nurture, cuddle and interact with on a daily basis.

Through the sharing and caring of the pets the staff have seen a significant difference in the motivation to participate in other tasks and chores in the house.

The interaction with the pets has also improved their individual relationships in the house.

Pets have become a way of life at this home and there are smiles all round thanks to Sooty and Patches.

HOLIDAYS PROGRAM

In March this year, 10 people we support and 2 staff members will be embarking on a sea-bound adventure. They are taking a 10-day cruise from Sydney to New Zealand, where they will enjoy time both on board the massive P&O cruise ship, as well as exploring the distant shores of New Zealand.

The ship offers on-board activities including stage shows, outdoor acrobatics displays high above the deck, comedy acts and even a movie cinema. With stopovers from Fiordland National Park, around to Christchurch and up to Wellington, the people we support have the option to choose their own on-shore trips at each destination.

This is bound to be one exciting trip!



Civics' Supported Employee and Resident –

Bruce Kilkeary attends the ASID NSW CONFERENCE - Tweaking the Future

Bruce's story

"It was early Monday morning on the 12th September 2011, and the big white van from the office pulled into my driveway. Jack and Hayley were there to pick me up and take me to a conference at Liverpool Catholic Club. We picked up 2 staff on the way, Marcelle and Jenny, and they came with us.

I got to speak at the conference last year and asked to go again because I enjoyed it so much. I got to learn about people with disabilities and how they can overcome their problems. I asked some questions on how people can live independently.

I learnt that we shouldn't take life for granted as people aren't here forever and we should enjoy every minute of every day. At the conference Hayley Purdon, one of our staff at CIVIC, won an award for being a good support worker. I was happy when Hayley got the award.

One of the presenters was a young lady in a wheelchair who couldn't speak. She couldn't move but she had a computer to help her to communicate and

get her point across to the audience, it would speak the words she wanted to say for her. I think she was very clever and she had a great understanding of how we can get along with people in wheelchairs.

Another presenter got to speak about the Justice system of people with disabilities and how not to get in trouble with the police. If a person with a disability does get in trouble they need to ask for a lawyer to help them understand what is right and what is wrong. If they get in trouble, the person will have to go to court.

I would like to thank staff for taking me to the conference. I liked seeing old friends and people I had never met before.

The day was fascinating. Everybody had a good time at the conference and learnt heaps of things that can get the job done properly. Being at the conference was one of the best days I've had and I hope to do it again in the near future. The end".

CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATES

Database

Civic is in the process of carrying out an extensive housekeeping and updating on our database to endeavour to have the most up to date contact details for everyone in the Civic Community.

Civics' database comprises of the contact details for the people we support in all of our services and programs, whether it be for a couple of hours of outreach each week, or full time supported employment. We also have the contact details for family member/s, guardian/s in some instances and it also includes our members, board members and supporters.

From time to time you will receive some information from us which will include a slip requesting your up to date contact details, but in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact the Communications Team on 9524 3916 or go to the contact us form at www.civicdisability.org.au if your information on our records has changed.



Thank you to our supporters

Towards the end of 2011 we were very fortunate to be the beneficiary of the generosity of a well known Shire family business. **Bill Gilmour Tennis** donated a 12 seater vehicle to Civic to assist with the transportation of the people we support.

A big thank you goes to the Bill Gilmour family. It is very comforting to know that there are people and families in our community who are willing to give something back to their community.

EmbraceAbility Day – community events with free entertainment and activities just can't happen without the generous support from community donors – thank you to Lovelycare, Upskilled and Sutherland Shire Council.

Through the 2011 Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme we have had great support from the following clubs: **Tradies, Sharkies, Penshurst RSL, Club Central Hurstville, Earlwood Bardwell Park RSL Club.** Thank you for your ongoing support.



Civic Disability Services acknowledges the valued support and funding from Federal, State and Local Governments in assisting us in the delivery of services and programs for the people we support.



International Day of People with Disability - EmbraceAbility Day 2011

Civic once again coordinated a group of 8 disability and not for profit organisations from the Sutherland Shire and St George areas to hold EmbraceAbility Day at Dunningham Park, Cronulla to celebrate International Day of People with Disability.

Somehow we managed to pick the one Summer's day, hidden amongst 2 months of stormy weather, and it sure worked in our favour. We attracted a large crowd and kept them entertained with a park full of free activities and performances, embracing the abilities of all who participated.

We were delighted to be joined by some distinguished guests, including The Hon Andrew Constance, Minister for Ageing and Disability Services, Scott Morrison, Federal Member for Cook, Mark Speakman, State Member for Cronulla, Graham Annesley, State Member for Miranda and Minister for Sport and Recreation, Lee Evans, State Member for Heathcote; Cllr George Capsis, Deputy Mayor for Sutherland Shire.

It was great to see the familiar faces of staff and people we support from Civic, down at Cronulla to enjoy the day. Thank you again to our wonderful volunteers who helped out – Liz Watson, Rose Newman, Rosie Williams, Jenny Plat and Heather Bourke.

Blackheath IDPwD (International Day of People with Disability) Celebrations

Civic staff from Blackheath were among eight local organisations to plan a program of events to run in conjunction with IDPwD 2011. The week-long celebrations included an art exhibition, movie showcase, awards ceremony, and a fete held at the Blackheath Community Centre.

Everyone had a great day with entertainment from Bollywood dancers, to Ruby Bloomer circus performers, as well as face painting, market stalls, and more. Our Blackheath residents made some fantastic Christmas items (Freaky Christmas Finger Puppets and Manky Magnets) which were a sell out!

The Celebration of Abilities award ceremony, kicked off the week's events, and our own Michael O'Keefe receive an award for his entry into the My Story competition. The story titled "Mick the Mechanic" shares a day in the life of Mick – his motto "to help with a smile and a joke".



Rhododendron Festival, Blackheath

Staff and residents from our Blackheath facility took part in the Grand Parade at this year's Rhodo Festival. Blackheath's Annual Rhododendron Festival is held on the first weekend in November each year. Activities included coal shovelling, roof bolting, wood chopping, a Debutante Ball and markets. The festival offered something for everyone.

Congratulations to our resident, Rhonda, on winning the President's Prize for "Most Sparkly" costume.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MON
6 FEB
5.30pm**

Information Session

The next information evening to be held at Civics' head office will be "Future Directions for Disability Services" on 6 February, 2012 at 5.30pm. This information session will touch on the issues of The National Disability Insurance Scheme and The NSW Stronger Together 2 Initiative including information on Individualised Funding and Person Centred Approaches.

For more information and to rsvp please contact Jayne Billett or Elle Cox on 9524 3916 in Communications.

**SUN
22 JUL
2.00pm**

Stars On Sunday

Sunday 22 July, 2012 is locked in for our "Stars On Sunday" concert. Join us at the Sutherland Entertainment Centre for a 2pm matinee variety performance show which will have something for everyone and will be sure to be entertaining.

Check our website www.cividdisability.org.au for more information closer to the date.

WHY NOT HOST AN EVENT FOR CIVIC?

Put the FUN into Fundraising. Whether it's a little or a lot, every dollar adds value to the services we provide and to the lives of the people we support. With a range of possibilities, why not host a dress down day at work or a fashion parade in your community, encourage gold coin donations, hold a simple BBQ or monster garage sale, a guessing competition or a trivia night. Fundraisers are a great way to get the community involved in a worthy cause, and to raise funds and awareness for Civic Disability Services and the people we support.

For more fundraising ideas or to discuss partnering together for your event, please contact Jayne Billett or Elle Cox on 9524 3916 or go to www.cividdisability.org.au.

**THU
29 MAR**

Annual Charity Golf Day

Plans for the 2012 Annual Charity Golf Day are well underway. We will be returning to the Woollooware Golf Course on 29 March and from all reports it is in beautiful condition for playing a round of golf. A BBQ lunch and presentation ceremony will follow in the Clubhouse.

Everyone is invited to join us for a fun day of golf or just the lunch and presentation, and bring along some friends.



Through generous sponsorship, auctions and a raffle, we hope the day will raise much needed funds to go towards supported accommodation and housing options projects.

For more information and registration for sponsoring a hole, attending on the day or donating prizes, go to www.cividdisability.org.au or please contact Jayne Billett or Elle Cox on 9524 3916 in Communications.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

The Recreation Coordinator has put together a program full of entertaining and fun activities, for the next several months. If you would like to participate in any of the outings listed below, please contact Ruth Ludemann on 9524 3916 to find out costs and more information.

- **9 March at 4.30pm**
Dinner and Ten Pin Bowling at Enfield
- **18 March at 8.30am**
Drive to the Country Fair Markets at Berry
- **20 April at 5pm**
Dinner and Movie Night at Café Parlo, Cronulla
- **5 May at 6.30pm**
Dinner and Karaoke Night at Napoleon Hotel, Riverwood
- **13 May at 2pm**
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat show at Sutherland Entertainment Centre
- **25 May at 6pm**
Disco and Sausage Sizzle at Day Program facility, Sutherland