

## Volunteers Thank you Christmas Luncheon

A delicious spit roast lunch was enjoyed by 60 of MCA's volunteers on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in the Plaza area of Cassia House. This annual event is one way for management and staff to show their appreciation for all the assistance given throughout our services during the year. Feedback has been very positive – 'Relaxing atmosphere, good to catch up with friends, great food and treats, fun and laughter all round'.

A special thank you to John Mason of 'Royal Roast' for providing catering for this event.



Three of MCA's newest volunteers cutting the cake. L-R: Kathy Vollweiler, Thelma Milner and Jill Scotson

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 Manningham Centre Association Inc.  
 Support Services for Older People

# MCAnews

## Bill Larkin – Freeman of the City honour awarded

On 13 August 2011 at the Mayoral Gala Dinner, Mayor, Cr Geoff Gough awarded former Manningham Mayor, Councillor and MCA Chairman, Mr Bill Larkin OAM, the honour of Freeman of the City, for contributing more than 45 years of dedication to the local community.

Freeman of the City is the highest form of recognition that Council can bestow upon an individual. It is awarded in recognition of their high service of public duty, outstanding community contribution or exceptional activity that has significantly promoted the municipality.

During the past 46 years Mr Larkin has served as a tireless community leader, over and above the expectations of the role of a Councillor and has been recognised with the Order of Australia, the Centenary Medal and a Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship.

Manningham Council has previously bestowed this honour on only four other individuals: Sir Raymond Garrett, Mr Barry Jones, The Hon Neil Brown QC and Mr Les Cameron.

The Keys to the City have been presented to Mr Irvine Green OAM.



Below: Lydia Wilson CEO Manningham City Council & Mayor Cr Geoff Gough presenting the Freeman of the City honour to Bill Larkin OAM

Bill Larkin OAM & Mayor Cr Geoff Gough

Right: Helen & Bill Larkin enjoying the evening



## PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE

### Exciting Times – Beware Baby Boomers Set to Invade Age Care!!

With the recent release of data alerting us to the fact that the first of the Post-war Baby Boomers are officially entering retirement, the MCA Promotions Committee has decided to take a bright and proactive approach to promotions of MCA's aged care facility and services.

Our Committee has been meeting every two weeks for the major part of this year and planning is well under way, with many exciting developments

on the drawing board. Our aim, to lift the profile of the Manningham Centre, promises to have a number of benefits for our older Manningham residents. We plan to increase the level of community involvement with special focus on youth, technology, green living and associated health benefits, as well as increased corporate involvement.

If you are shy or scared of Facebook, Twitter, websites or emails, keep in mind that our next wave of older

residents won't be and that the local Manningham community has an army of young volunteers waiting to get us all connected. Please keep interested and involved in the work of the Promotions Committee and together we can support and care for our older residents in a fresh and vibrant way.

Lyn Sowersby  
 Convenor  
 MCA Promotions Committee

### Congratulations to Cassia House on their Accreditation result -

Cassia House underwent a successful tri annual accreditation visit on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2011.

This follows the recommendations of 3 assessors from the Standards and Accreditation Agency who were able to verify compliance in all 44 standard outcomes.

Cassia House staff are to be congratulated for their hard work and dedication which led to this fantastic result.

### Make a difference ...

#### Help Manningham Centre with a bequest or donation

Support the continuous improvement of our services through the purchase of furnishings and equipment for the direct benefit of residents

For more information about leaving a bequest, contact the General Manager

Tel: (03) 9856 1219

Fax: (03) 9856 1233

[www.manninghamcentre.com.au](http://www.manninghamcentre.com.au)

**MANNINGHAM CENTRE**  
 Support Services for Older People

I once wanted to become an atheist,  
 but I gave up - they have no holidays.

**Henny Youngman**  
 US (English-born) comedian  
 (1906-1998)

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Manningham Centre Association was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in the Plaza area of Cassia House. Former long-serving Chairman, Bill Larkin, presented the annual report of the Board noting in particular the challenges faced by the Board in negotiating a new agreement with Council and the frustration felt by both parties that its implementation had to be put on hold due to a last minute legal complication raised by the Department of Health and Ageing. Later in the meeting, the current Chairman, David Meiklejohn, had the pleasure of presenting Bill and Helen Larkin with Life Memberships of the Association in recognition of their long and meritorious service.



David Meiklejohn AM  
Chairman of the Board

The Treasurer, Erica Mounter, presented the audited financial statements for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Prudent management saw the Association finish the year with an overall surplus of \$571,853, which places it in a good position to meet the many challenges that lie ahead. On the recommendation of the Board, members elected Saward Dawson as the auditor for 2011/12.

Six nominations were received by the closing date for vacancies on the Board and, as the number of vacancies exceeded the number of nominations, all six were declared to be duly elected. In accordance with the Rules, a rotation policy established by the Board required the drawing of lots to determine the term of election of these Directors the result of which was as follows:

- One-year term - Erica Mounter and Darrell Treloar
- Two-year term - Ron Kitchingman and David Meiklejohn
- Three-year term - Ray Lewis and Lyn Sowersby

Finally, the Chairman informed those present that the Board is reviewing the name of the Association to something that is more appropriate and gives a shortened, catchy means of identifying the Centre. The name being considered is "Manningham Aged Care Inc" which could be shortened to "The MAC". Feedback was invited.

## Profile of Judy McDonald - Volunteer

Judy McDonald was born in North Caulfield, one of 4 siblings. She attended Melbourne Ladies College (MLC) and ended up studying Home Economics, whereafter she travelled throughout Victoria whilst working for the State Electricity Commission (SEC).

At 19 years of age, Judy met Neil (the love of her life) and they married two years later. They moved to Doncaster and to this day, still live in the same house. Their first-born came along one year later (Andrew) followed 16 months later by Jenny. If that was not enough to handle – 2 children close together – Judy & Neil decided to adopt Fiona and Michael.

Over the next 20 years, this wonderful woman (with her husband by her side), also fostered 87 children. One of these children Nick decided to stay on with the family for good.

Judy and her love for babies led her to visit the Manningham Centre (then a 30-bed nursing home) and she would bath the babies in front of the residents so they could be involved.

Later Judy's mother became a resident at the Centre in the Banksia unit of Cassia House and remained being looked after for the next 12 years. For this Judy is extremely grateful.

Judy says *"the love and care that was given to her mother was outstanding and the friendships that formed over time"* is the main reason she returned to MCA as a volunteer, when the Cassia House kiosk first opened.

Judy also volunteers at the Doncaster Church of Christ and assists at Doncaster High School with a weekly Breakfast Club for the students. Weekly mentoring on a one to one basis at the Doncaster Primary School is another highlight for this lady.

Judy still has time for her hobbies – cooking and socialising.



Now that life is a little quieter, Judy and Neil have travelled overseas, (England, Ireland, Scotland, and USA). Judy says *"travelling around Australia was fantastic"* and she always looks forward to their trips to Mildura for the annual country music festival.

In 1995, Judy was the recipient of the 'Paul Harris Rotary Award' for her 15-20 years contribution to Community Care. Then in 2009, to Judy's great surprise, a letter and invitation arrived from Manningham City Council, advising that Judy had been nominated and selected for an award. The invitation requested the pleasure of her company, as a recipient, to attend and receive the 'Menzie's Australia Day Award'. To be selected to receive this honour, you need to be nominated by an organisation in the community stating the service and commitment the nominee has provided over a period of time and then be selected. On this day, the Hon Kevin Andrews presented the awards.

As a survivor of bowel cancer, Judy lives life to the fullest each and every day. You always know when she's on kiosk duty – as the plaza has a certain buzz about it, with her laughter and kindness displayed to everyone she meets.

Her amazing smile is very appealing to our residents, relatives, visitors and staff – Tuesdays are truly a special day of the week at Cassia House.

### How you can help

*With donations of money you can make a real difference to the lives of older people in need. You can help Manningham Centre with a financial donation via the form enclosed. All donations are tax deductible.*

## FRIENDS OF MANNINGHAM SUPPORTING RELATIVES COMMITTEE

### Art Show ..... a big Hit

The Friends of MCA staged a highly successful art exhibition and sale on the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2011.

The aims of the exhibition were to provide an enjoyable and stimulating



John Treverton, Carole & Barry Mernagh  
lending a helping hand

show that would engage residents, relatives and the general public and to raise funds to provide extra amenities for residents in the Centre.

The weekend began with a gala opening on Friday night, attended by local dignitaries, members of the Board and invited guests who enjoyed refreshments and wine donated by Box Stallion Winery. The Exhibition was opened by Mayor Geoff Gough. Soprano Anna-Louise Cole entertained the guests with four numbers from Operetta, to enthusiastic acclaim.

The paintings were enjoyed by everyone. Residents, relatives and visitors all had their favourites and business was brisk. Special thanks must go to Wendy Harpham, Graeme Jarvis, Patti Hall and other members of the Art



Painting by Wendy Harpham entitled  
*"Preparation"*

Show Committee for their imagination, commitment and support. Be on the lookout for the next big venture!

Robert Cole – Chairman, Friends of MCA

### Susan Bryce - (In loving memory)



\$1284 to pay for a seat to remember Sue Bryce. Sue was a registered nurse at Doncaster Templestowe Nursing Home – later Cassia House – for 20 years.

The 'Serpentine' outdoor bench from Elmwood Designs plus the cast bronze plaque cost \$1278.50.

Sue didn't just work here; she enriched the lives of residents and staff. She became famous for her witty farewell speeches for long-term staff and for her performance of the increasingly drunken Christmas pudding maker at the Christmas concerts. She is so fondly remembered because of the way she cared for and supported us all and the way she tried to lighten the load for those around her – often with a joke but always taking time to listen.

Judy Lockwood – friend & colleague

#### Tribute from husband

Susan came to work at MCA at the opening of what was then the Doncaster and Templestowe Nursing Home, largely as a matter of convenience. Our youngest, Tim, had started school and this place was close to home and offered

shifts, which fitted in with school drop-offs and pick-ups. This matter of convenience soon became more than that, in that Susan (whose training was as a children's nurse) discovered that she had something special to give to aged care and that aged care gave her a special satisfaction. Susan might not have discovered this special calling if she had worked elsewhere, in that the philosophy of aged care which developed here, and which, I dare suggest, she contributed to, suited both her personality and her concept of what nursing was all about.

Susan could be forthright and even feisty but she held firm to what she saw to be right in terms of the care and dignity of the residents; was also a loyal friend and colleague and had a very well developed sense of humour, which could be quite wicked at times.

I am grateful that the Manningham Centre has seen fit to allow this tribute to Susan and I am especially touched by the fact that it was conceived and funded by her colleagues. We all have our special memories of Susan – for me, of course, as a wife and mother. The Manningham Centre and its staff will remember her as a friend, as a lover of books, as a speech-maker and actress, but above all as a committed nurse who made aged care a genuine calling.

Peter Bryce.

