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A seasonal publication of
MannaCare - Wider Choices for Older People



MannaCare news



▲ 100 volunteers attended the Annual MannaCare Volunteers' Christmas Party on Wednesday 30th November in the Cassia House Plaza. The Mayor, Councillor Michelle Kleinert, addressed the volunteers and David Meiklejohn unveiled a piece of Indigenous artwork bought by proceeds of fundraising by the Friends of MannaCare.



▲ New Volunteers Hincal Ulu and Lana Ha help celebrate the occasion.



▲ The unveiling of "Warrnyu ga Bapi Dhawu – Flying Fox Story" By Roy Burnyila Indigenous artwork bought by proceeds of fundraising by the Friends of MannaCare with The Mayor, Councillor Michelle Kleinert, Wendy Harpham (Friends of Mannacare) and David Meiklejohn (Chairman).

Ian Waters - Director



Ian Waters
Director

My name is Ian Waters and I have lived in Doncaster since my family moved from Maidstone in 1972. In 1984, I married my wife Lisa and have two sons James and Michael. As a parent of two enthusiastic boys I was involved in a number of sporting clubs some of which included being a Committee member of Beverley Hills Junior Football Club, Donvale Football Club

and Whitefriars Amateur Football Club as well as being a former President of the Parents and Friends at Our Lady of the Pines Primary School.

I am a qualified carpenter and joiner having completed part of the Associate Diploma of Building Construction hence my working life has been spent in the building industry. My chosen profession enabled me to establish my own building construction company which allowed me to renovate and extend many period homes as well as build new homes.

Over the years my roles have ranged from being an apprentice carpenter, joiner, tradesman, foreman and project manager. My career has encompassed working both in the private and public sector in varied roles which have included having had fifteen years hands on in the

building industry including supervision roles, twenty years as Manager Civic Buildings at Manningham City Council and six years as a contract project manager for both private and Local Government sectors.

I have considerable skills in building project management, asset management and maintenance programs. For a number of years, I held the position of Chairperson of the LG Pro Special Interest Group – Building Assets Group. The position of Manager Civic Buildings at Manningham City Council entailed managing the operations of the department, development of contract documentation and specifications, managing the 5 year rolling cyclic maintenance program for Council buildings as well as Facility Management for 270 building assets. I also project managed the construction and redevelopment of numerous community assets. An example of my construction ability is when in 2006 I built the 600 m2 Doncaster Library from conception (including Planning and Building Permits) to completion in a total of thirty days for Manningham City Council.

I have recently joined the Board of MannaCare as a volunteer Director and look forward to utilising my skills to enhance the quality of residential Age Care for seniors in the Doncaster area.

Chairman's Report



David Melklejohn AM
Chairman

As I look back a great deal has happened for MannaCare over the past twelve months. This is obviously highlighted by our new name which was launched by our then Mayor, Paul McLeish, and our Federal and State Government members, Kevin Andrews and Matthew Guy, last August.

Over recent years I have commented on MannaCare's (then MCA's) short term tenure as manager of this site and the difficulties it caused for us in attempting to undertake long term planning for our residential facilities. However, as you are all most likely aware, after years of negotiation, from 1 July, 2016 we have been appointed Manager of this site until 2032 and there is the possibility of a significant extension beyond that date. Part of the contractual requirements of this arrangement was that we were required to change our name to remove any confusion with the Manningham Council. Accordingly, with the assistance of Lyn Sowersby and her Promotions Committee, we came up with the novel name "MannaCare" which we are now.

The major positive benefit of our longer term horizon is that we are now able to work as a group to expend funds to improve the quality of our residential offering and to expand our home care services. We have formed a Projects Steering Committee headed by Ian Waters and are well advanced in working with our project advisors, architects etc to firm up the major improvements we plan for Cassia House and the Lodge.

The work needed is extensive and the costs involved are substantial and we are fortunate to have the wide skills around our Board table to assist and guide management through this process.

We recognise that we are embarking on this program at a time when our aged care funding is being squeezed and future finances are going to be tight. As a consequence, all of the people who work for MannaCare will need to recognise that we must find the way to manage our residential facilities and home care programs in the most efficient and cost effective way. This is going to require some changes to the way we operate and we look forward to your support in effecting these changes. The future is looking quite challenging as the aged care industry becomes more competitive and complex and we need a committed team of professionals to run this organisation.

We are excited about the great future ahead of MannaCare and we look forward to working with all of our stakeholders to realise our opportunities.

Our New Bus



Our bus has returned to us after 6 weeks away having a hoist installed and a re configuration of seats to accommodate everyone's needs. Notice the lovely new signage on the sides. It looks fabulous!!!

We took it out for a spin today to check it out. Our Grevillea House clients thoroughly enjoyed it. Maureen – our faithful bus driver said it was lovely, 'soooooo much more comfortable than our old girl' who was retired earlier in the year and has gone on tour with a rock and roll band I hear.....

Thank you we are very grateful to our Board Members, CEO and Philanthropic Trusts and individuals who contributed the funds for the purchase. We have waited a long time for our bus and can't thank you all enough for the

provision. She will get a lot of use. It is comfortable and a pleasure to drive.

Peter Norman (volunteer) has assisted us in the practicalities of the purchase, orientation, refurbishment and well - everything to do with the bus. A big thank you to Peter for everything he does to assist us.

Grevillea House is one of MannaCare's many community services. We have already booked the bus for three Saturdays per month to take our Social Support Groups out into the community for various tours and lovely lunches. We usually fill the bus and at times need to take our car as well. We offer our clients a choice of outings without which they are at risk of becoming socially isolated.

One Friday per month is reserved to support our carers. They are husbands, wives, sons, daughters, friends or neighbours. These wonderful people care for someone they love who are living with a dementia in their own homes. They have an opportunity to be driven in our new bus to an outing of their choice each month to have a break from their caring role and catch

up with other carers. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others in the same situation.

Dezlie Marrison –
Coordinator Grevillea House



A Report Comment

As an incorporated association, MannaCare is required to hold an annual general meeting of members within 5 months of the end of each financial year. MannaCare's annual general meeting was held on 16th November 2016. The annual report of the Board showed the organisation to be in a good position in terms of service delivery and financial performance with plans in place for improvements and growth.

Two new Directors have been elected to the Board being John Bennie and Peter Fuller. Three Directors were re-elected being Sheena Kay, Ron Kitchingman and David Meiklejohn. All possess skills and experience that are vital for the continued good governance of MannaCare. A hard copy of the annual report has been mailed to all members and is available for others in the reception area of each service.

A soft copy is available to view or download on our website.

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE



David Meiklejohn AM
Chairman



John Shaw
Deputy Chairman



Sheena Kay
Treasurer



Ray Barrington



John Bennie



Ron Kitchingman OAM



Nusia Krolikowski



Lyn Sowersby



Ian Waters



Peter Fuller

CEO Report

With MannaCare now having secured long-term leases for Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge and Cassia House residential aged care facilities, planning has commenced for a full program of renovations and upgrading. To this end earlier in the year we appointed a Project Manager to assist us. After considering, refining and prioritising a long list of potential works, we engaged a team of consultants to conduct a feasibility study. This team comprised an architect, engineers, quantity surveyor, kitchen designer and others. They worked with us to determine which items on our list could be achieved and, importantly, how much this would cost.

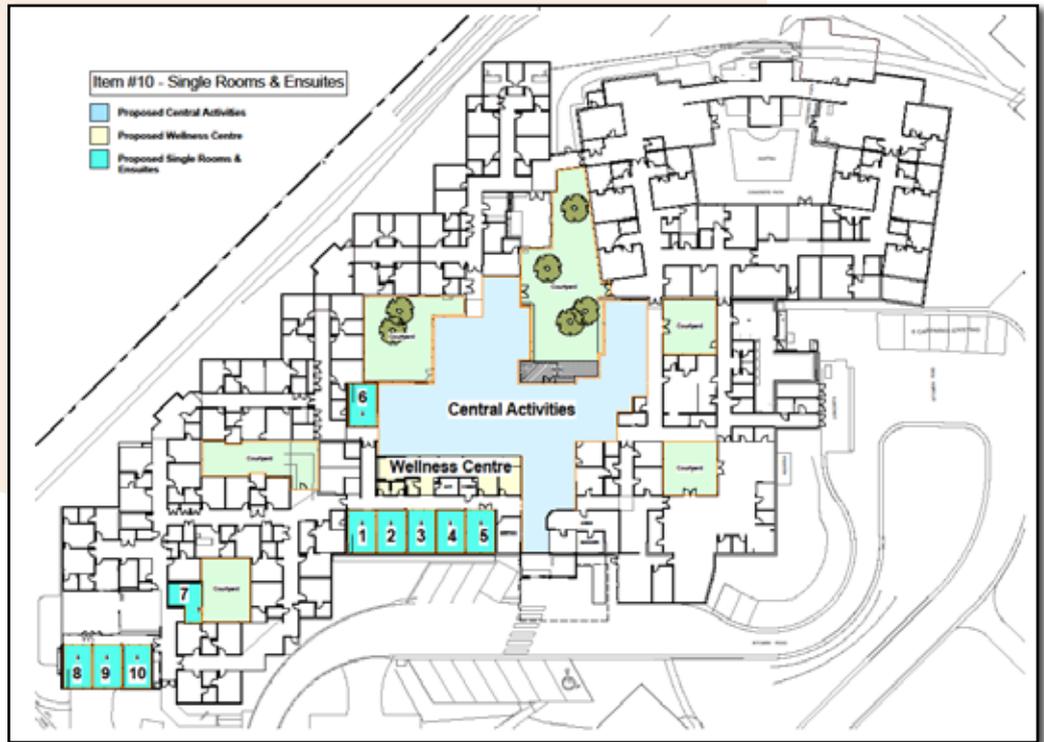
The following works are being contemplated (noting this is not a comprehensive list): rebuilding Banksia unit in Cassia House to give every resident a single room with a private ensuite, replacing 5 shared rooms in Acacia and Erica units in Cassia House with single rooms with a private ensuite, extending Doncaster Rehabilitation Services to create space for GymActive, landscaping of courtyards in the memory support unit at Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge, refurbishment of hand washing stations in both facilities, redesigning the two main kitchens for central supply, upgrading of the main lounge area at the Lodge, constructing new pathways for safe pedestrian travel around the site.

The draft concept plans adjacent show preliminary architectural thinking as to how removing all shared rooms in Cassia House might be achieved.

First, removing shared rooms in Banksia unit:



Second, removing shared rooms in Acacia and Erica units:



The feasibility study complete with cost estimates has now been received. The total estimated cost of completing all works has come in at \$14.1 million ex GST which is substantially higher than anticipated and indeed what we can afford. MannaCare will now be closely examining this study and prioritising the list in order to achieve as much as possible with the available budget.

Nevertheless, a commitment has already been made to progress with completing landscaping works in 3 courtyards at the Lodge and with refurbishment of hand washing stations in both facilities. These works are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017.