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A seasonal publication of  
Manningham Centre Association Inc.  
*Support Services for Older People*

# MCAnews



## LEST WE FORGET



**D**oncaster Melaleuca Lodge residents have assisted Lifestyle and Leisure Coordinator, Margaret Holland, in the planning and preparation of the ANZAC Centenary Commemoration since January. Many played a role in the order of service. A resident's sister played the piano, three residents assisted with the readings, and a group of residents made sprigs of rosemary and poppies. Thirty-one residents, some staff and relatives were in attendance.

After the service, the residents raised the flag. Funding for the flagpole was provided by proceeds from Residents' Kiosk & Coffee Shop programs. The resident that made the beautiful poppy wreath laid it under the flagpole. There was a BBQ lunch served after raising the flag. The day ended with entertainment and afternoon tea with ANZAC biscuits at 3pm.

At Cassia House, Cassia Day Respite Coordinator Sharon Gammon planned the ANZAC Centenary Commemoration with volunteers from Doncaster Church of Christ.





## PLAZA PARTY

This year MCA celebrated the annual Plaza Party to recognise the achievements of staff and volunteers in the presence of current and former staff, current and former volunteers, Councillors and Association Members. There were special congratulations to three Thirty-year Service Award recipients, Felice Malvaso, Maria Cutrera and Ron Kitchingman. We also extended a warm congratulation to joint Service

Award Winners, Sara Dargavel and Frankie Sia. Typically, the management team is compelled to choose one Service Award Winner but the two were so outstanding in their work ethic and commitment to MCA that no choice could be made between these two exemplary staff members. We thank all of the staff and volunteers who make Manningham Centre what it is.



Frankie Sia, recipient of the Staff Service Award with Manager Corporate Service Vanessa May and CEO Ross Dawson.



Cassia House Manager Pat Fernandez with Sara Dargavel, Staff Service Award Winner, and CEO Ross Dawson.



Employee and volunteer Kusum Pandya with her granddaughter and daughter-in-law Archana Pandya (volunteer as well!)



Training and Orientation Coordinator, Turina Hartnett, receiving an award from Chairman David Meiklejohn.



### NATIONAL VOLUNTEER'S WEEK

In celebration of Volunteer's Week, Lifestyle Activities Team Leader of Banksia, Nerida Quin, delivered a lecture and demonstration on the Montessori Method. She was joined

by two residents in the demonstration. Attendees agreed that the event was informative and engaging. A special thanks to Nerida Quin for sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge on the topic and Tanya Warms for organising the event.



Manningham Mayor, Cr. Paul McLeish, pictured in centre with winners of the raffle prizes.



## Val Best: *Former Carer, Always a Knitter*

**Home Care Packages** enable older people to remain living at home for as long as possible with choice and flexibility in the way that care and support is provided to them. Under the Consumer Directed Care model of service, the Home Care Packages Team work with clients to identify the level of case management and types of services they wish to access to meet their needs. Here is a story about one of our longest standing Home Care Package clients, Val Best, from the perspective of her daughter, Beverley:

Val Best was caring for her late husband, Eric, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. Val's daughters could see that their mum needed support to care for their dad, so he started accessing home help and Cassia Day Respite on Thursdays. Eventually, Val and Beverley could no longer sufficiently care for Eric and put him into permanent care for 18 months.

When Eric, Val's lifelong partner of 63 years, passed away, the symptoms of dementia in Val became more apparent to Beverley and her sisters. Val began accessing a Home Care Package to give her additional support at home. Val and her daughters have really appreciated the wonderful staff that cares for her each day. They experience a great peace

of mind knowing that their mum is checked on each morning and is up, showered, dressed, had breakfast and is ready for the day. As Beverley and her sisters cannot always be with Val, through Home Care Packages they are confident she has had a visit and is all right and safe until they can visit their mum.

Beverley wrote of Val's home care support worker (through an external service provider), "If only we could clone her to teach everyone what the elderly really need and what to cover when cleaning a unit. Her love, encouragement, support, communication, ethics and wonderful cleaning just makes a world of difference when having to depend on others to help our family manage. A real treasure (but please don't tell everyone as we cannot do without her)."

"Also the MCA Care Advisor is another treasure. She keeps us informed and updated with great communication, compassion and caring which is so much appreciated especially when



times are tough and these new changes have recently been implemented."

The photo above shows Val with the colourful Orphan Comfort Dolls she has knitted. These dolls are given to children who have lost their parents to AIDS or natural disasters, also Val has donated them to the Royal Children's Hospital and the Christmas Boxes of Samaritan's Purse. Val began knitting these dolls in 2004 on their drive to Moree for their annual family holiday. The family lost count of the number of dolls after Val knitted 2000 dolls. To learn more about the Orphan Comfort Dolls or receive a copy of the patterns, contact: [manningham@mcentre.asn.au](mailto:manningham@mcentre.asn.au)

## Introducing New Staff



If you're visiting Cassia on a Thursday or Friday, you'll be greeted by the friendly and helpful Lisa Savage!



Priya Salandy is the new Assistant Manager of both Cassia House and Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge.



Vanessa May is the new Manager Corporate Services who has launched full speed into addressing issues in IT, Accounts and Human Resources.

## Cassia's New Entrance Canopy

Last year on 1 August, a large delivery truck crashed into the Cassia entrance canopy destroying the entire canopy. MCA's management team decided to design a new entrance to better suit the needs of the other programs that run out of Cassia House such as Cassia Day Respite and Doncaster Rehabilitation Services. After a lengthy design and construction process, the new entry featuring a larger canopy and indoor waiting area is now open. Clients and relatives have a designated waiting area shielded from the sun, wind and rain, without hindering the visibility of arriving taxis or rides.

Friends of Manningham generously donated proceeds from last year's Trivia Night toward the foyer furniture.

We are seeking donations of large print books and coffee table books for the enjoyment of clients and relatives waiting for a taxi or lift home. Please bring book donations to the reception staff at Cassia House or the Lodge. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## UPDATE ON BUILDING WORKS

MCA has signed a contract with CirCon Constructions to complete approximately \$2 million of upgrading work in Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge and Cassia House aged care facilities.

The first stage comprises a new dementia care lounge/dining area and pan room at the Lodge and an extended Acacia unit dining room/deck, a renovated Erica unit activity lounge, a new disability accessible toilet and a new laundry at Cassia House. This work is expected to be completed before the end of July. The second stage comprises a new staff base at the Lodge and a redesigned Erica unit dining/lounge area in Cassia House. This work is expected to commence in August and be completed by October. The final stage involves works to improve the entrance to the Lodge. This will commence in October and be completed by late November.

During construction, there will be disruption to our normal operations reflected in a shortage of car parking spaces and temporary loss of various parts of the two facilities for periods of time. Your patience and flexibility during this time will be appreciated.

## FRIENDS OF MANNINGHAM

*Please mark your calendars for these events:*

**Trivia Night** – 10<sup>th</sup> October 7.30-11pm

Doncaster Senior Citizen Centre  
(895-901 Doncaster Road)

## Sunday Afternoon Entertainment

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 28 June      | <b>Christine &amp; Loretta</b>          |
| 26 July      | <b>Fran &amp; Robert</b> – visual music |
| 27 September | <b>Tony Temple</b> – singer guitarist   |
| 25 October   | <b>Blue Tone Jazz Band</b>              |
| 29 November  | <b>Fran &amp; Robert</b> – visual music |

## Grevillea House Featured in a Training Video!

Last year Grevillea House was invited to take part in a pilot study implemented by Alzheimer's Australia Vic. As part of the project, Grevillea House was filmed in a training video on the Montessori Method. The video can be accessed at: [bit.ly/vicpurposefulactivities](http://bit.ly/vicpurposefulactivities)

Congratulations again to Grevillea House for its flexibility and diligence in adopting new methods and participating in creating a resource to benefit people and carers of those living with dementia!

## MANNINGHAM COMMUNITY RAFFLE

This year all proceeds raised through raffle sales by MCA supporters will be directed to purchase equipment with advanced technology for use by older people in our Day Therapy Service (Doncaster Rehabilitation Services).

Our new Community Gym program aims to improve the physical well-being and the mental health of those older people living in the Manningham municipality. Tickets may be purchased at MCA reception areas. All raffle tickets sold and unsold should be returned by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

## Biggest Morning Tea

On 28 May, Cassia House hosted the Biggest Morning Tea with Cassia House staff and residents. Proceeds from the event are donated to the Cancer Council raise funds for research, prevention and support.

Thelma Hitchcock won the grand prize of a teapot and tea towel. Prior to becoming a new resident of Cassia House, Thelma had to part with her collection of over 60 teapots. She regularly receives visitors and can now use her new teapot to entertain her guests.



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