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

MCAnews



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Manningham Centre Association was held on 20th November 2013 in the Plaza area of Cassia House. David Meiklejohn, Chairman, presented the annual report of the Board and commented on a number of important issues. He welcomed Councillor Jennifer Yang and Sheena Kay to the Board. He acknowledged and paid tribute to three Directors who retired or resigned during the past year being Stephen Mayne, David Alcock and Terry Maher. He mentioned that the Board is undertaking an important task in preparing a Business Plan as required by MCA's Services Agreement with Council. This is a ten-year plan and will cover MCA's future operations as well as some aspirational plans regarding expansion and growth. MCA's relationship with senior Council officers and the Councillors is sound and Board representatives meet regularly as a liaison committee to discuss matters of mutual interest. He thanked Joe Carbone and his senior staff for their support.

David also thanked the board members for their support over the past year and congratulated and thanked Ross Dawson and his leadership team on the excellent

job they do in running MCA. He also paid tribute to all of our volunteers who do an outstanding job for MCA.

As MCA's treasurer resigned from the Board earlier in the year, David has acted in this position over recent months and advised that MCA is in a sound financial position. MCA had a solid result of a surplus approaching \$800,000, which was up on the previous year. The positive result was driven by a good increase in income of nearly 9% with a very welcome increase in government funding. On the recommendation of the Board, members re-elected Saward Dawson as the auditor for the 2013/14 year.

During the past year, MCA operated with a Board of up to eleven people, which comprised 10 Association members and 1 member appointed by Council. Ron Kitchingman, David Meiklejohn and Sheena Kay were re-elected and elected to the Board.

MCA currently has vacancies on the Board for Association representatives and is in the process of considering this matter.

David Meiklejohn AM – Chairman

From left to right:

Ross Dawson, David Meiklejohn & Bill Larkin



From left to right:

Frankie Sia, Pat Fernandez & Kim Greenham



HELLO!

Message from the 'Promotions Committee':-

The Chairman, David Meiklejohn and MCA Board have approved a promotions project, which aims to link the older residents of Manningham with the current resident teenagers.

As Manningham Centre's residents were among the first group to experience the stage now referred to as 'teenager years', it is most appropriate that our current teenagers take a journey back and discover what links the two generations.

The students will research music, dance, entertainment eg movies, sport... of the first ever teenagers and therefore gain a deeper understanding of our current older residents. The students will be invited to design a mural to depict this era and submit it to The MCA Mural Competition. The winning entry will be awarded a prize for their school, which will be a three-day Mural making project, conducted by an artist in residence and valued at around \$3,500. Details of the competition will be sent to all students of Manningham City Council secondary schools early in 2014.

The project aims to get the two generations linked with both older and younger residents inspiring each other.

Lyn Sowersby, Convenor

Profile of Kate Karrasch

– Operations Manager

Having grown up in Melbourne's North East (mainly the Watsonia/Greensborough/Bundoora area), I currently live in Watsonia with my two dogs (Charlie and Sam), and two cats (Abby and Tandi). Family is a big part of my life and I am very lucky to be part of a large multicultural blended family. I have one sister named Emily and she is getting married in February next year on the banks of the Jamieson River in Victoria's high country, where our family have been camping for about fifty years. While I don't have children of my own, I do have a gorgeous and precious four year old nephew named Riley and I also have three beautiful god-children, Will, Izzy and Jack.

My family and friends will tell you that I have a tendency to rescue animals – which is true! At various times during my childhood I arrived home with baby possums, ducklings, pigeons, kittens, puppies, and even once a tortoise I found in the middle of a road. As an adult, this trend has continued (Abby and Tandi my two cats were both strays) and when I'm not studying, I try to

volunteer time at animal shelters. I have many family members on farms and am just as comfortable herding sheep and cattle as I am attending meetings and working in an office.

I fell into the aged care industry by accident during school holidays when I was in year 11. I was asked to fill in for a receptionist who was moving house and so agreed to answer the phones at an aged care organisation for four days. Four days work turned into eight years as I went from working every school holidays for the accounts department, which then turned into a full-time role in residential services as the Admissions Officer. During this time, I spent five years studying at night completing a Bachelor of Business.

Over the course of my career, I have chosen to stay in aged care, as I am passionate about caring for and making a difference to our ageing population. I have worked across residential and community services with roles at several not-for-profit aged care providers, as well as within local government and



private consulting. My most recent position was as Operations Director for a national aged care consulting company.

I have recently returned to formal study and have commenced a Masters in Business Administration, which I am looking forward to continuing once I have settled into my new role at MCA.

I'm looking forward to working as part of the MCA team and would like to thank everyone for your welcoming smiles and friendly greetings which have made me feel at home in my first few weeks.

Volunteers Thank You Christmas Luncheon

Over 60 volunteers attended the MCA Annual Volunteers' Thank You Christmas Party on Thursday 28th November.

Speeches of gratitude to the volunteers were made by David Meicklejohn AM (Chair of the Board), Cr Jennifer Yang (Councillor and past Mayor of the City of Manningham, and current MCA Board member), as well as Tanya Warms the new MCA Volunteers' Coordinator.

The traditional cake cutting was done by our newest volunteer recruits: Joe Miott, Fiona Porto and Savita Harzari. But the highlight of the occasion was the visit from Santa who delivered chocolate lolly bags to all the volunteers with a smile and a Happy Christmas wish!



Top left: Volunteers chatting before the meal
Bottom left: Several Board Members & volunteers
Middle: Tanya addressing the volunteers
Above: Melissa Purdy, Jan Purdy & Hugo Kennedy with Santa

Congratulations to the **Friends of Manningham Committee** on their success in organising the Trivia Night

Our Trivia Night was held on Saturday, 19th October 2013 at the Senior Citizens Hall in Doncaster. The evening was filled with lucky numbers, silent raffles, games and a quiz or two, with one table being the overall winners and plenty of tables not being far behind.

It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and catching up with friends. We would like to thank everyone who participated, the local businesses and individuals that sponsored tables and a special thanks to all the staff that supported this night. This was our major fundraiser for this year and we have raised **\$3,500**.



Above Left to Right: Wendy Harpham, (Secretary), Barry Mernagh (Treasurer), Shirley Morris (Chairperson), Graeme Jarvis (Committee Member), Fiona Russell (Trivia Hostess)

Top Left: Staff and friends at the Trivia Night

Bottom Left: Lodge staff and friends

Profile of Pauline Martin

– Home Care Manager

I was born in London where I met and married an Australian man, and we came to Australia when our first baby was only 10 weeks old. I have two children, Sarah who is 32 and Aran who is 30.

Most of my years in Australia have been spent in the beautiful North East of Victoria, in the King Valley area and in Wangaratta, where my children grew up in small rural and regional communities. I moved to Melbourne six years ago so am still getting used to being back in a big city once again.

In my early years, I did a wide range of work including working in libraries, in plant nurseries, running a market garden business and working in vineyards.

I returned to study as a mature aged student when Aran started primary school, and initially undertook an Associate Diploma of Social Science (Welfare Studies) at La Trobe in Wodonga. Completing this was a highlight for me as I studied on campus at night for four years, making the 150km round trip from my home to Wodonga twice a week for that time.

I have continued to study since that initial course and have also completed

graduate qualifications in Family Therapy, have a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, and have just finished a Master of Social Work course.

I have worked in Community Services for over twenty years now, starting in the UK where I worked as a Homeless Family Aide in London and then in Community Service in Australia.

My work in Australia has included working with children who have severe physical and sensory disabilities, and for six years with Family Services where I provided parenting support, and assistance and strategies to help parents understand and manage children who have difficult and challenging behaviours at home and at school. However, the majority of my working life in Community Services has been spent working in Community Case Management programs for aged clients, where I have worked in Case Management, Program Management and Consultant roles, and this is the area of work I love best.

Outside of work, I am busy helping my partner build a sustainable house not far from Ballarat, where I can indulge my love of planting trees and creating gardens. I also love to read, to go



bushwalking and camping and am very interested in learning more about Astronomy. Our family is also blessed with a beautiful black Groodle (Golden Retriever X Poodle) named Lizzie, who refuses to be left out of anything.

This is my second month working with the Manningham Centre and I'd like to say thank you to everyone for being so welcoming, friendly and supportive.

My job is to assist in the transition of the old CACP and EACH program to the new Home Care Packages, incorporating Consumer Directed Care principles and to develop and implement a MCA self-delivery service, which will provide in home supports such as domestic support, personal care and respite care to clients living in the community.

Manningham Centre Says "Thank You"

You may be a relative or a friend visiting Manningham Centre residential aged care facilities recently. On your visit, you may have noticed residents using new equipment items such as beds, mattresses, bed sensors, bed alarms and recliner shower chairs. Lifestyle and Leisure programs such as the music therapy activities have benefitted and are enjoyed by all who participated. This equipment and programs are made possible by the generosity of our supporters including philanthropic organisations, social clubs and sporting groups. **Over \$2,160 was also raised from the Manningham Community Monster Raffle 2013.**

We rely on the generosity of friends like you. Your donation – whatever amount – can be used to help those most in

need. Your help makes a difference and we say: *Thank you*, 'Grazie', 'merci', 'syeh-syeh', 'terima kasih', 'arigato', 'cám ơn'.

Sharing Future Goals

We understand it is not always possible to donate right now. That's why we encourage you, after meeting the needs of your family, to remember Manningham Centre in your Will. Making a gift through your Will means that you can make an important contribution to the community sometime in the future without affecting your current financial circumstances. Your bequest to Manningham Centre will bring hope and opportunity to those with very special needs. For more information about leaving a bequest,

contact Ross Dawson, Chief Executive on: (03) 9856 1219 or ross.dawson@mcentre.asn.au



Keeping you up to date:-

Current List of Board Members

Chairman: David Meiklejohn AM

Deputy Chairman: Darrell Treloar

Treasurer: Vacant

Directors:-

Ray Barrington

Sheena Kay

Ron Kitchingman OAM

Ray Lewis

Erica Mounter

Lyn Sowersby

Cr Jennifer Yang

Congratulations to Lorraine Botham

Lorraine Botham was nominated as being a recipient for the Manningham Promoting Character Award, which she received on 11th December 2013.

Manningham Promoting Character is recognised and supported by the Manningham City Council and aims to promote character development by recognising and rewarding Manningham citizens who show good character. Manningham Promoting Character achieves these goals through active promotion within the community. Six character qualities are selected each year, and these are emphasised throughout schools, sports and community groups and businesses within the Manningham municipality, with regular award ceremonies to recognise individuals and organisations exhibiting these characteristics.

Lorraine has been a reliable volunteer of the Manningham Centre Kiosk for the past 11 years. She started work in our kiosk when her husband was a resident in our Centre.

In all that time, she has worked regular shifts in our Kiosk making sandwiches, selling cups of coffee always presenting a smiling face to our visitors and residents. She also spent six years on the Auxiliary fundraising for our Centre.



Lorraine Botham with Lionel Allerman
CEO of MPC accepting her award.

*Old age takes away from us what we have inherited
and gives us what we have earned.*

By Gerald Brennan,
Former High Court Chief Justice

HELP PRESERVE HISTORY

MCA are currently preparing a record of the history of "The Manningham Centre" and it would be appreciated if you are able to provide any stories, photos, poems, songs or any sort of memorabilia relating to the Manningham Centre.

Please contact Bill Larkin on
blarkin1@bigpond.com
Telephone: 9842 1652

or

Barry Mernagh on
bcmerna@aapt.net.au
Telephone: 9848 2478

Manningham Centre Association Inc.

Reg. No. A3444S

371 Manningham Road

Doncaster Victoria 3108

Telephone: 03 9856 1200

Fax: 03 9856 1233

Email: manningham@mcentre.asn.au

Web: www.manninghamcentre.com.au

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