

Volume 21 | Issue 1

Autumn 2021 Edition

A seasonal publication of
MannaCare - Wider Choices for Older People

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Festive Cheer and Summer Sun!

The past few months has seen the easing of restrictions, which has allowed MannaCare to provide some COVID-normal activities for residents, just in time for some festive cheer and some summer activities.

Our Grevillea House Social Support groups are back up and running. This was a joy to see, particularly the men's group which had a terrific time, kite flying. It was an absolute hit!!

These social connections put a spring back in everyone's step. Meaningful activities are crucial for an individual's health and wellbeing. They have the potential for not only an enriching experience but it also offers an individual a sense of joy. Well done everyone!



▲ Christmas luncheon for our Grevillea House social support groups



▲ Hawaiian style pool party



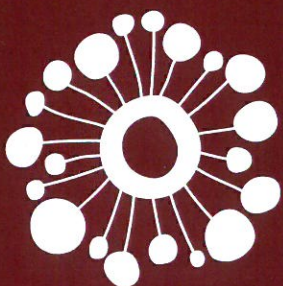
▲ Men's group kite flying activity

Welcome to Saskia Hannink



Saskia recently started at MannaCare as the new Lifestyle Coordinator. She will be working across both our facilities – Cassia House and Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge.

Please make her feel welcome!



MannaCare
WIDER CHOICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE
News

Keep updated with our stories and news on MannaCare's new Blog page as well as our Facebook and LinkedIn pages



Message from Ross Dawson, CEO

Somewhat sadly this is my last formal contribution to MannaCare News as Chief Executive. Several months ago I advised the Chair of MannaCare of my intention to retire. I've had the privilege of leading MannaCare's operations for nearly 17 years and it was time to move on. Recruitment is underway for a new Chief Executive and they are anticipated to commence in early April. At that time I will become an employee without a formal role while I take 15 months of accumulated leave before officially retiring in June 2022.

As you'd expect I have seen enormous changes at MannaCare over these last 17 years. We have grown through adding Home Care Packages, MCA FlexiCare and expanded the number and range of our respite programs funded under the Commonwealth Home Support Program. We now help to support well over 1,000 older people



to remain living in the community. Extensions were added to Grevillea House and Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge, Cassia House more recently underwent a major building program including the demolition and rebuilding of Banksia unit and we "imported" Waratah House to accommodate staff supporting our services. Substantial improvements were made to our information technology to facilitate our services including moving to care management software for residential and community services, introducing a time and attendance

system for staff and adding mobile capacity. I have served under only two Chairmen in my time and worked with more than 20 Directors. I have also seen numerous managers and staff come and go and now it is my turn to join them.

MannaCare will always have a special place in my heart and I am grateful to have been able to complete my career in such a wonderful organisation.

Prioritising Residential Aged Care

Australia's COVID-19
Vaccine Roadmap

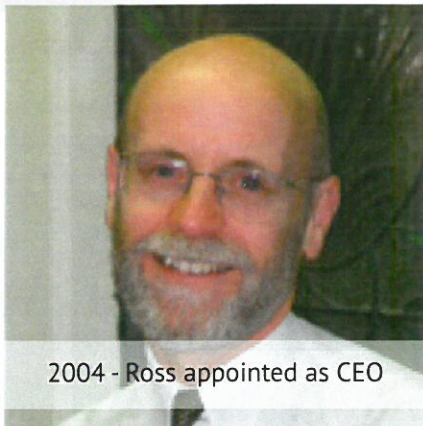
COVID-19 VACCINE ROLL OUT FOR AGED CARE FACILITY RESIDENTS



COVID-19
VACCINATION

Residents, their families and representatives, and workers can find the latest and most reliable information at: health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines

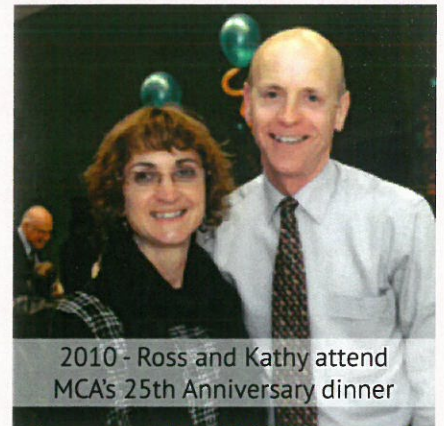
A Stroll down Memory Lane : 2004 - 2021



2004 - Ross appointed as CEO



2007 - Volunteers' Thank You Lunch



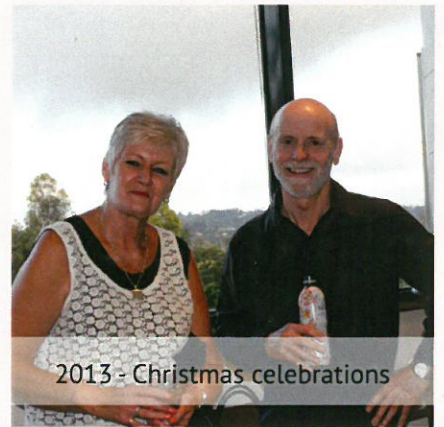
2010 - Ross and Kathy attend MCA's 25th Anniversary dinner



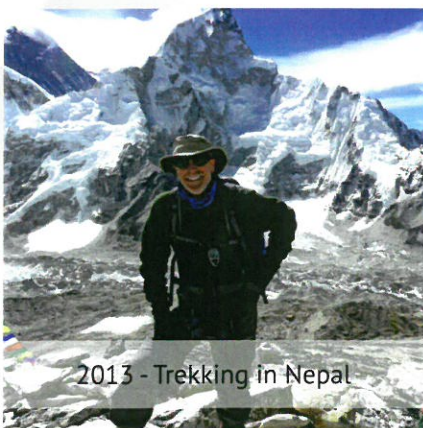
2011 - Honorary Award evening for Bill Larkin



2011 - Volunteers' Christmas Luncheon



2013 - Christmas celebrations



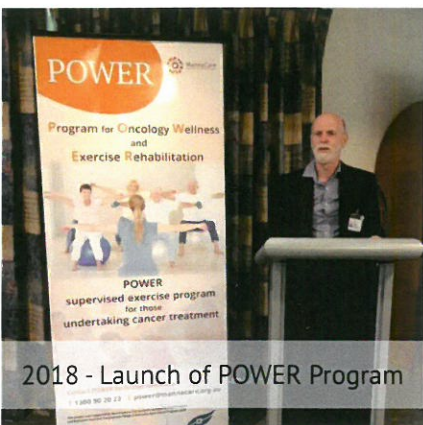
2013 - Trekking in Nepal



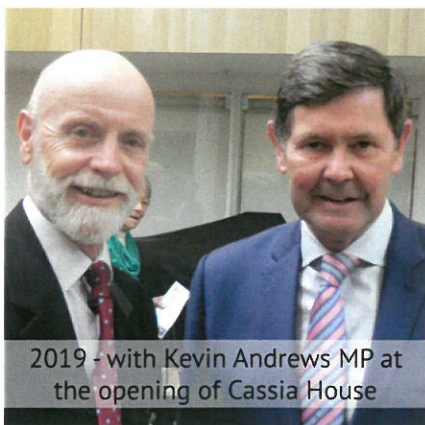
2015 - Morning tea for Eva Apostle



2016 - Participating in the Alzheimer's Memory Walk



2018 - Launch of POWER Program



2019 - with Kevin Andrews MP at the opening of Cassia House



2020 - with Menzies Award recipients, Tanya Warms & Malihe Amini

Volunteers back on site

It has been amazing to see some of our volunteers in person over the past couple of months. With restrictions easing, we started inviting our volunteers back on site in the lead up to Christmas.

We have missed them, and so have our residents. Some slotted back into their role pre-COVID, others in new roles. It didn't really matter, it was just fantastic to have them back.

Miffy returned to her role of visitor, spending time with some of the residents sitting with them and catching up on their family's great



▲ Miffy returns, spending time in Cassia House



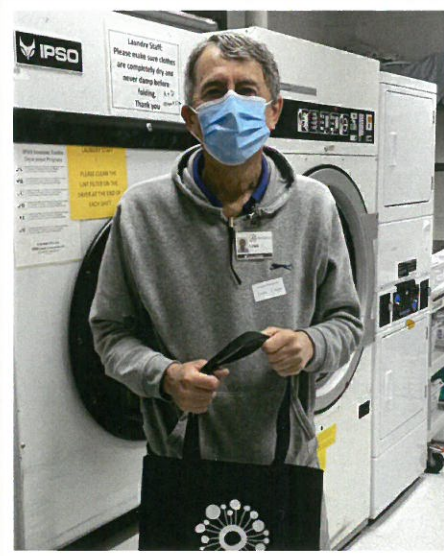
▲ Kuna, sorting through invoices



▲ Bhavana with Volunteers' Coordinator, Tanya and Christmas decorations made during COVID lockdown

news. Grant returned to his laundry and pantry roles. "It was great to be back", he said after his first day with us again. Kuna one of our finance volunteers, back at work scanning invoices for us. Bhavana, our craft volunteer engaged our clients in one of the Grevillea House social groups. She continued her crafting during COVID, and made Christmas decorations for Grevillea House.

Our volunteers love spending time enhancing the lives of our residents and clients. We are so pleased to see each and every one of them.



▲ Grant, back in the laundry

Congratulations to Tanya Warms, our Volunteers' Coordinator

She has been endorsed by Volunteering Victoria as a Professional Leader of Volunteers for 2021. This is confirmation of Tanya's hard work and dedication to MannaCare and our volunteers. Well done Tanya, and congratulations.



MannaCare Inc. Reg. No A3444S
371 Manningham Road, Doncaster Vic 3108

Telephone: 1300 90 20 23 **Fax:** 03 9856 1233
Email: contact@mannacare.org.au
Web: www.mannacare.org.au

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