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Winter 2021 Edition

A seasonal publication of
MannaCare - Wider Choices for Older People

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News

MannaCare
WIDER CHOICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE



Message from Tracy Laethaisong, CEO

It has been over two months since I commenced in the role of Chief Executive Officer at MannaCare.

Thank you for making me feel very welcome during this transition period. I have spent my time slowly getting to know the staff, residents and volunteers. It has been great to have met so many of you so far, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months.

COVID continues to be part of our lives, however, we are pleased to report that there are no current restrictions on visitation to our facilities. After last year's stressful time of lockdown and

restrictions, it has been wonderful to see family and friends visiting their loved ones and enjoying some quality time together. What a difference twelve months makes.

We still continue to conduct temperature checks at entry points, and to monitor visitors who are displaying symptoms or feeling unwell.

Regardless, it is pleasing to have a resemblance of normality return to our facilities.

We have much to be grateful for and so much to look forward to.



Activities in Cassia House, Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge and Grevillea House

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



Meet Volunteer, Richard Davis



▲ John (L) and Richard (R) leading a carer's writing group

How long have you been volunteering at MannaCare?

Since October 2018. I decided to volunteer after reading an advert seeking volunteers for MannaCare.

What is your volunteering role?

I spend a couple of hours talking with residents at Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge about anything that will engage them. This includes sport, politics, current events, their past activities. However, during COVID restrictions I was unable to do this.

Additionally, last year Tanya Warms, Volunteer Co-ordinator asked me if I was interested in becoming involved in a writing group for carers. I was, and I became one of the tutors along with John Millard, another volunteer. This role involved facilitating the group's Zoom meetings and assisting Tanya and John in developing a

program. It ran for eight weeks and was a successful pilot program, encouraging carers to write and speak about their caring experiences.

What do you enjoy about volunteering at MannaCare?

I enjoy being able to assist the residents in a small way. In my case, it involves discussion, engaging and connecting with them. Volunteering gives me a sense of satisfaction knowing that I am doing something helpful.

Interests

Writing, lawn bowls, my family and most sports. I enjoy personal writing and I am trying to put together stories about my life which I can pass onto my family. I am a tutor at U3a in creative writing, and from time-to-time I write stories for Footy Almanac, an online sporting magazine. I have been a member of Donvale Bowls Club since 2006. I enjoy the game and the friendships that have developed during this time for my wife, Margaret (also a member) and me. I am also a keen Sydney Swans supporter, having been a member for many years.

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about family (three children and three grandchildren). They are very dear to us and we try to be as much a part of their lives as we can. Also, sport and the hope of seeing Australia become a more sharing country which is prepared to play its part in maintaining the health of the planet.

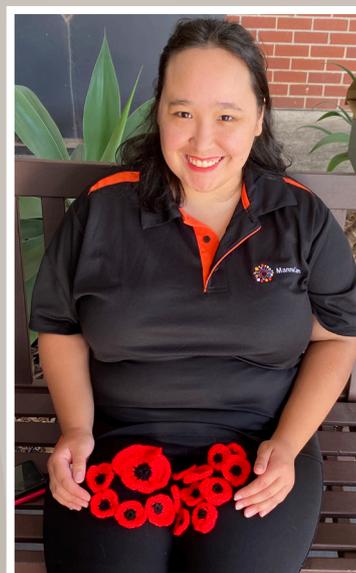
In my spare time...

You will find me on the Bowling Green, reading, in a cinema or possibly doing some gardening, trying to maintain my garden.

ANZAC Day Poppies



We kindly thank our volunteers and community groups – Manningham Uniting Church and RSL Doncaster Sub Branch, who supported our callout for poppies. Thanks to their efforts a lovely array of different styled knitted poppies were displayed to commemorate ANZAC Day.



Welcome David Matthews

David has recently started at MannaCare as the new Community Support Services Manager.

His role is to lead the development of the MCA Flexicare service so that our team of Community Support Workers can continue to assist and nurture the needs of seniors in the Manningham community and surrounding areas who have a greater desire to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible.

“I enjoy the wide interaction and variety of the role, and making a meaningful difference in the lives of our seniors with the support of all MannaCare staff.” David Matthews

David is well supported by two rostering support staff, Malihe and Emma, who play a crucial role in the communication and delivery of services between our front line Community Support Workers and our many elderly clients who have home care packages, other government funded support or who may pay privately.

Welcome on board, David!



▲ David, Emma and Malihe

MannaCare Logo

Did you know that MannaCare's logo is based on the blossom of the Manna Gum, projecting inspiration and engagement? The central circle signifies the core organisation, while outreaching branches represent the staff, volunteers, clients and residents.

Discs on the end of the branches convey the breadth of support, wide range of services, connections with the community and inclusiveness.



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Thank you Manningham Council

MannaCare is extremely grateful to Manningham Council for their significant support by reducing our rental costs by \$389,318 (ex GST) during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

John Bennie - Deputy Chair, MannaCare Board

John has been a Director since 2016. He is also currently Chairman of MannaCare's Business Strategy Committee and a member of the Finance and Audit, People and Governance and Council Liaison Committees.

During his 45 year career in local government, he has held numerous executive roles. He is an active Rotarian and a Paul Harris Fellow, and in 2014, he was awarded the Public Service Medal for outstanding public service in the pursuit of excellence in Local Government management.

Qualifications

Tertiary and post graduate qualifications in Civil Engineering, Municipal Engineering and Business Administration.

Career background

I am a civil engineer by profession and have worked for my entire career in local government – commencing at Doncaster and Templestowe City Council in 1976 and returning to the successor Council, Manningham as CEO in 2001. Currently, I am the Chief Executive Officer at Greater Dandenong City Council.

What is the favourite part of your CEO role?

Being able to assist people and satisfy many of their needs – on a daily basis. People look for strategic direction from their local Council but they also expect daily needs to be satisfied and achieving these and often satisfying some complex needs, is most rewarding.



Achievement that you are most proud of

The image and reputation of Greater Dandenong has not, historically, been what it has deserved to be. So, I take pride in working with the Council to invest significantly in public assets; in improving the quality and amenity of places and spaces in the City; to incrementally turn attitudes to the City around; and importantly, to create a city that the community is proud of.

Hobbies/Interests

Family first and foremost – otherwise supporting the Sydney Swans and travel.

What are you passionate about?

Helping people in need – through my work, my efforts with MannaCare and as a Templestowe Rotarian.

What inspires you?

Other people – observing, assessing and always learning from passionate and effective people who are so often dedicated to supporting those in need.

In my spare time, you will usually find me.....

Catching up on news or reading biographies – I read enough Board papers and Council reports at all other times!

PD Warrior Course

Doncaster Rehabilitation Services successfully hosted another two PD Warrior courses.

This course is always popular and very well attended by Physiotherapists, Exercise Physiologists and Occupational Therapists from across various health networks.

PD Warrior is an intensive exercise-based program designed to drive neuroplastic change in people with Parkinson's Disease, and is aimed at health professionals with an interest in treating people with Parkinson's disease.



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