



Our first ever Carinya exclusive Art and Photography Exhibition, **Diversity: Strength lies in differences not similarities.**
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Carinya Community Newsletter

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We rode together in style



Justin – Ride Together Program.



Thank you for your support.

At Carinya Society we believe in complete inclusion, that's why in May we launched our Ride Together Program, an initiative that saw the Carinya Community rescue preloved bikes and our participants restore them into safe, working condition. Once restored, these bikes are then given to Bicycles For Humanity to be distributed to a community who have no other means of transport.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters this winter. Our Carinya Shed is bursting at the seams with bikes waiting for repairs. Not only did your support help to raise awareness of our Ride Together Program, but you helped to keep our Carinya participants engaged, developing and learning new skills.

Mark our Carinya Ride Together Instructor says: *"I know I speak on behalf of everyone in the Ride Together Program when I say a heartfelt thank you to anyone and everyone who donated either money or bikes to our program. We are so grateful and this has already taken our program in the Shed to the next level. The looks on everyone's faces is priceless, the joy that ringing a new bike bell gives, the happiness that sitting on a bike ready to donate provides – I can't express it. Even for the participants in the group who are nonverbal, the smile on their faces says it all."*

We thank you so much for your support and look forward to sharing with you on social media and our website the purchases of bike tool kits, storage and adjustable bike stands. Stay tuned and thank you once again.

Reflection

From the CEO

It has been a very exciting few months at Carinya Society as we continue to focus our attention on pivotal aspects of our Strategic Plan. Upgrades to our infrastructure are a critical element of the plan, essential so we can continue to meet the needs of our residents and participants. The completion of the Kelson Annexe renovation and the upgrades to the Nelson House driveway are steps to that end. Both renovations exceeded expectations in terms of how well the finished spaces perform. Thank you to all the staff, residents and participants who shuffled programs and access during the works at both sites.

Ensuring our services continue to meet the current needs of our participants, residents and families is vital to our service. For the second year, Saguity (our contracted agency) collected and analysed feedback about our service. I am very pleased

to say that even with the difficulties surrounding the first year of the NDIS transition, our feedback results demonstrate that we are holding strong with strong loyalty from our families and stakeholders. You can see some of the highlights on the back page of the newsletter.

Finally, our new website was launched. Website information is updated regularly. We also invite you to like our official Facebook page to stay up to date with news, events and other information.

Warm regards



CEO Debbie Mitchell

Debbie Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer

Renovation

Completion of Kelson Annexe

With the help of Architect **Frank Ortolan**, **Allgrange Builders** commenced the Kelson Annexe Renovation mid-March 2017. As to be expected with such a large renovation, initially we encountered a couple of hiccups due to the age of the building, but fortunately they didn't slow our progress too much.

The finished product looks fantastic. The room has been opened up, which allows for groups to create art and have lunch without having to leave the building. The bathrooms are modern and easily reached, and the accessible bathroom is extremely well equipped for all of our participants. We are in the process of acquiring new tables and chairs to complete the new look. Staff and participants all express their gratitude and thanks to the generous

community, families and Trusts and Foundations who contributed to this renovation. It would not have been possible without you. We look forward to showing you our wonderful facility at the official opening (date to be advised in the coming weeks.)



Accessible bathroom with hoist.



Kelson Annexe is ready for action.



The art room ready to be filled.

In Focus

Diversity: Art and Photography Exhibition

For the month of June we were honored to showcase our Carinya participant's terrific art and photography at our first ever Carinya Exclusive Art and Photography Exhibition, Diversity: Strength lies in differences not similarities. The space was kindly donated by the **Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre** and for the month of June works were proudly displayed over 2 rooms. On Tuesday 6 June, we held the Official Opening Night. We were joined by many from the local community, families, friends, and local business.

Mayor of Moreland, Mayor Councillor Helen Davidson officially opened the night, and food was proudly served by our Carinya catering participants. A number of works were purchased on the night and we thank everyone for their support. A special thank you to **Mary Mary Studios** for their beautiful florals, **WD Corporate Design Solutions** for the invitation artwork, **Bunnings Coburg**, **Officeworks Coburg**, and many individuals who donated raffle prizes.



Judy with her photograph From the other side.



Mariza proudly displays Inspiration.



Colin and Heartland.



Mayor Cr. Helen Davidson, Debbie Mitchell, Sophia and Philippa Hunt.

Nelson House receives a facelift

The heavy rains in April caused a significant leak in the back bathroom at Nelson House. This meant the valleys on the back part of the roof needed to be replaced, whilst the remaining valleys and roof tiles needed to be re-pointed (mortared).

The driveway presented a potential trip hazard for residents and was already planned for replacement.

As with any renovation nothing is straight forward. Once the concrete driveway was removed, the stormwater drains had to be replaced as they were old terracotta pipes. Because the fence was leaning into the driveway it also needed to be replaced. This all had to be done before the concrete could be poured.

All of these works were finally coordinated to run smoothly when we received notice that gas works (which had been pending for several months) would commence in the street at that exact time. This posed another challenge as large holes were dug in the street and right in front of Nelson House.

The residents adapted well to the change in their travel routine and enjoyed the experience, watching all of the new developments as they progressed. The works were completed in a timely manner and the residents now have a safe driveway for exiting vehicles, a dry bathroom and a new fence, all of which enhance their home. A big thank you to Perpetual Trustees for their grant which assisted greatly with these works.



What's New



HIGHLIGHTS OF SECOND CARINYA SERVICE SURVEY

Recently Saguity conducted an independent client insight survey with a number of Carinya families. We were pleased to receive many positive comments and some constructive feedback (particularly around the introduction of the NDIS) which will be taken on board moving forward. Some of the key results included:

93% satisfaction rate with our service



Carinya Participants feel:

- They are happy
- They are safe/looked after
- They are busy, engaged and active
- They have social interaction



3 reasons families appreciate Carinya:

- Programs and activities
- Friendly and personal
- Helpful and obliging



Carinya have provided my daughter with programs and activities that suit her. My daughter really likes getting out and about and they do that for her. As long as my daughter is happy that's the most important thing to me.

Carinya Parent

Upcoming Events

Moreland NDIS Information Sessions

Wednesday 23 August 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Wednesday 6 September 10am – 1pm

Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg

RSVP essential via website:

www.moreland.vic.gov.au/metro-access

Parent and Carer Meetings:

Date: Monday 16 October

Date: Monday 4 December

(including a Christmas morning tea)

Time: 10.30am

Venue: 10 Bellevue Street, Coburg

Please RSVP to Cheryle PH: 9354 3337

or email admin@carinyasociety.org.au

Annual Public Meeting:

Date: Tuesday 10 October 2017

Time: 1:15-3:15pm

Venue: 10 Bellevue Street, Coburg

Please RSVP to Cheryle PH: 9354 3337

or email admin@carinyasociety.org.au

Introducing Sophia and Cheryle

Sophia is one of our lovely Carinya participants. She has been coming into the office to volunteer after her classes. Initially Sophia started helping our receptionist Cheryle with tasks such as shredding and folding. Now Sophia has progressed and her role has evolved to helping at out the front desk, greeting guests, answering the phone, filling envelopes, and cutting up scrap paper to make notepads for us all. Cheryle says *“Sophia is a joy to have around, and is an asset to our reception!”*



Sophia and Cheryle at work

Donate via Paypal

With the launch of our new website, we now can offer several ways for you to donate to Carinya Society online. PayPal is one of the largest online payment processors in the world. Paypal provides a very easy way to transfer money or make a donation without having to enter your credit card details online each time. We will also continue to offer online donations through Givenow. We will of course still accept cash and cheques as well as bank deposit.

Donate with

Creative Carinya

After the success of our Diversity exhibition in June, we have been invited to exhibit at the Moreland Town Hall. A selection of our participant's best works will be on display in the foyer at the Coburg Town Hall in November.

The exhibition is free to attended, and all works will be for sale. We invite you to go down during business hours to view the exhibition.

Date: Monday 13 November – Thursday 30 November.

Venue: Coburg Town Hall, 90 Bell St, Coburg.

