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**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Melissa Lambie**  
**Manager Client Support**  
**Lisa Wilson**  
**Executive Manager, People & Culture**

## FROM THE CEO ...

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016, as always everybody has been out and about enjoying all the summer activities on the Peninsula.

After deliberating for some time the Board of Directors has now approved the 'focus' Strategic Plan 2016-2019 for implementation.

The Key Strategic Goals for the next 3-years are:

Clients & Services	Provide our people with the level of support and access to facilities and services that enable them to live fulfilling lives.
Leadership & Governance	Ensure <b>focus</b> sustained future during and after the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
People	Maintain and develop relationships / partnerships with Staff, Volunteers, Families, Corporate and Community Sectors.
Brand	Be recognised as a provider of quality Disability Services on the Mornington Peninsula.
Innovation, Quality & Improvement	Implement changes that support the quality and cost effective delivery of services to the people receiving services.
Financial Management	Grow and diversify <b>focus</b> services while maintaining prudent control over costs.

An abridged version is included in the newsletter for your information. If anyone would like a copy of the whole document, please ring the office on (03) 59815100.

After several postponements we have now decided not to go ahead with the production that we so enthusiastically advertised last year. The production was to be held in late November but because of renovations to the venue we have had to reschedule the event on two occasions. The clients are now immersed in their new programs and do not want to go back into rehearsals to get the production ready. We apologise for any inconvenience this decision has caused.

### National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

In recent times there has been some negative publicity regarding the NDIS, primarily in the newspapers.



This publicity stems from the Federal Governments ‘proposal’ to simplify the governance of the NDIS. Under the current bilateral agreements between the States and the Commonwealth, all parties are required to consult with each other and reach agreement before any change can be made to the Scheme.

The major concerns of the States regarding this proposal is that the Federal Govt will have the ability to redefine ‘reasonable and necessary’ or what can be included in people’s plans without consultation. For their part the Federal Govt is saying that some Governance processes are cumbersome and will delay decision making in the future.

All Governments have continued to give unequivocal support to the NDIS. The Scheme is still within the funding envelope and there are no budgetary blow outs.

Any changes in this proposal will require a change in legislation and will be difficult to get through the Senate in the current political climate, but it may well become another election issue.

We will keep you all informed if any changes are made, but at the moment things are still on schedule for the full roll out of the NDIS to commence on 1st July 2016, with ‘focus’ becoming part of it in April 2018.

In closing, I take this opportunity to wish all our families and supporters a very Happy Easter.

Gail Foster  
Chief Executive Officer

BALCOMBE DRIVE

CHICKENS

Bruce’s favourite food is Eggs.

As Part of Bruce’s Person Centred Plan one of his goals was to get some chickens. He chose and purchased an enclosure and then contacted a local farmer who sold Bruce three lovely Red Hens.

Everyone at Balcombe house adores the chickens especially Bruce.

Every day Bruce feeds his chickens and gives them fresh water, he is then rewarded with 2-3 eggs a day which he proudly collects, a few of the eggs have had double yolks and are delicious.



HAVING A SAY CONFERENCE

Marcus, Catherine, Bruce, Chris and Julia all attended The Having a Say Conference in Geelong. The conference was fantastic. Everyone enjoyed their chosen activities.

Marcus attended hip hop classes and also was taught the Michael Jackson “Thriller” Dance.

Bruce did a woodwork class. He made a stunning candle holder that he is very proud of, he is going to give it to his Mother as a gift. He also went fishing; unfortunately he didn’t catch anything but had a great time trying.

Christopher went Bowling and did some other ball games; he loved it as he is a very sporty person.

Julia went to a Flower arranging session she created a beautiful arrangement with yellow and white flowers. The arrangement lasted for ages and still looked beautiful a week later on her birthday. She is very proud of her achievement Julia also had her hair, nails and make up done.

Catherine did some computer work, creating a newsletter and also went for a drive along the Geelong Foreshore in a Red Convertible.

When The Balcombe guys were not attending their chosen activities they enjoyed entertainment and inspirational talks from people with a disability.



As usual The Red Faces night was fantastic, lots of great acts. The Balcombe guys caught up with old friends, and made some new ones. Everyone danced and partied till late. Marcus of course caught up with his old mate half cat, who is the Geelong mascot, he is one of the judges. Marcus is a huge Geelong supporter. As Marcus won the red faces competition last year, he could not enter this year; however as last year’s winner he danced in front of everyone at the conference on Thursday morning.

The Annual Have A Say dinner dance was held on the Geelong Foreshore. The evening was a dress up function, with the theme “Anything Goes”. Of course everyone was eager to dress up. Chris dressed as Elvis, Bruce was Batman, Catherine made a beautiful Super Girl, Julia a flowery Hippy, and Marcus dressed as his favourite singer Eminem. The night was fabulous, great food, great people, fantastic band, everyone had a ball. The Atmosphere was electric and everyone danced, chatted and partied till late.





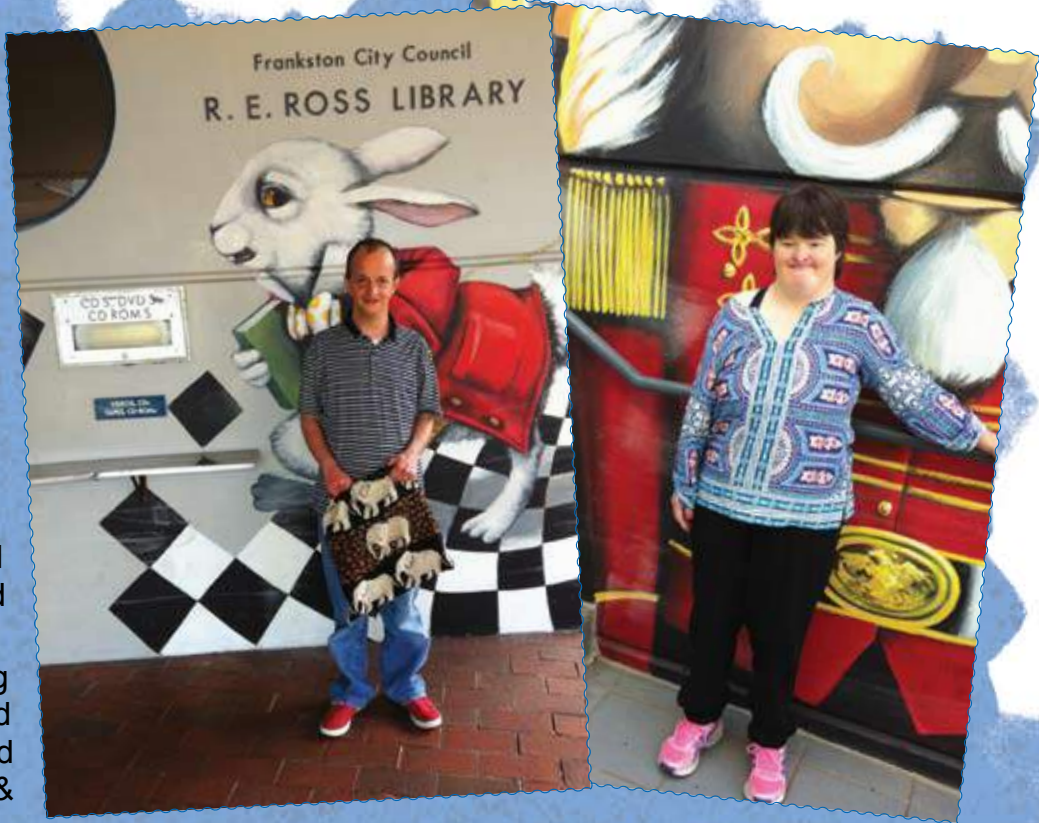
### MARY POPPINS

Bruce and Julia made a stop at the Frankston Library to return Bruce’s library books before attending the Frankston Arts Centre to watch the Stage show “Mary Poppins”.

Bruce clapped, sang and shrieked with laughter throughout the performance.

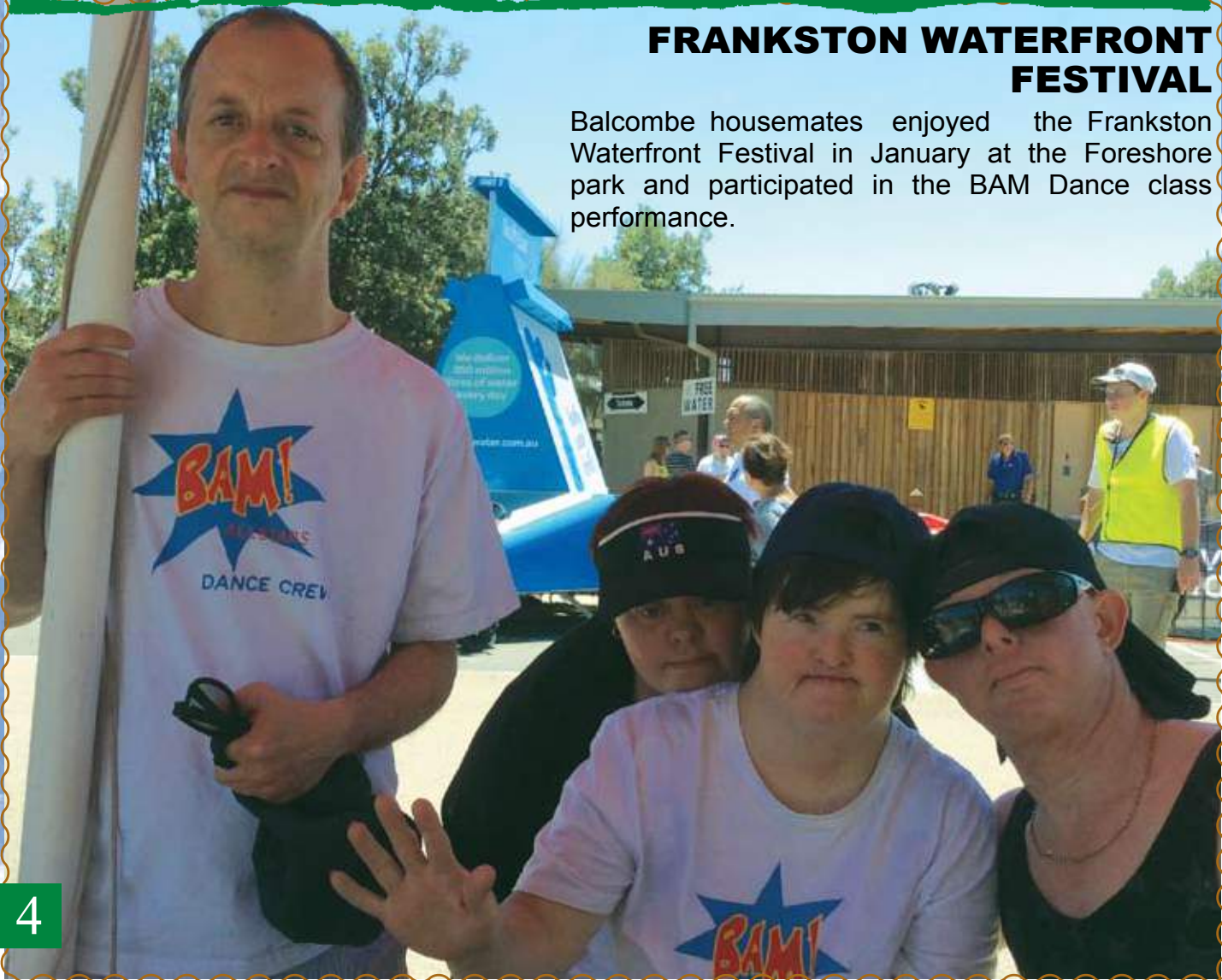
Julia was enthralled with the lighting, costumes and dancing as she clapped and laughed.

We particularly enjoyed seeing Mary Poppins fly overhead and when the cast interacted with the audience, singing & dancing around us.



### FRANKSTON WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

Balcombe housemates enjoyed the Frankston Waterfront Festival in January at the Foreshore park and participated in the BAM Dance class performance.



### PUFFING BILLY TRAIN RIDE THROUGH THE DANDENONG’S

Marian, Julia, Marcus & Bruce spent a beautiful Saturday afternoon riding the Puffing Billy Locomotive from Emerald Park Lake to Gembrook . They introduced themselves to the station master, the conductor, and were invited to meet the driver and stand in the engine cabin for a photo opportunity.

Bruce was ecstatic, shrieking with laughter and delighted each time the train blew the horn. Everyone was waving very enthusiastically as we passed gardens and the train crossings.

At Gembrook station we disembarked and had a short stroll to the park where housemates enjoyed their picnic lunch under a beautiful oak





# AROUND THE HOUSES



Catherine chose a holiday to Tasmania as one of her personal goals last year. She asked her friend Tim to accompany her. After lots of planning Catherine and Tim flew

to Hobart. They both loved Hobart; they went to the Cadbury Factory which was Catherine's favourite and the Cascade Brewery Tour which Tim really enjoyed. The drive to the top of Mount Wellington was a favourite of both, the view was truly amazing.

Tim and Catherine wandered around The Hobart waterfront admiring all the boats and old buildings; they enjoyed Fish and Chips at the iconic Muir's restaurant.

Tim and Catherine enjoyed a day trip to Port Arthur, enjoying the historic buildings and learning about what life was like for the convicts who were sent to "Van Diemen's Land". The highlight was a ferry ride to Dead Man's Isle, which is where the convicts and free settlers were buried. A guide explained many of the stories around the graves, a very interesting tour and a bit confronting for Catherine who felt sad for



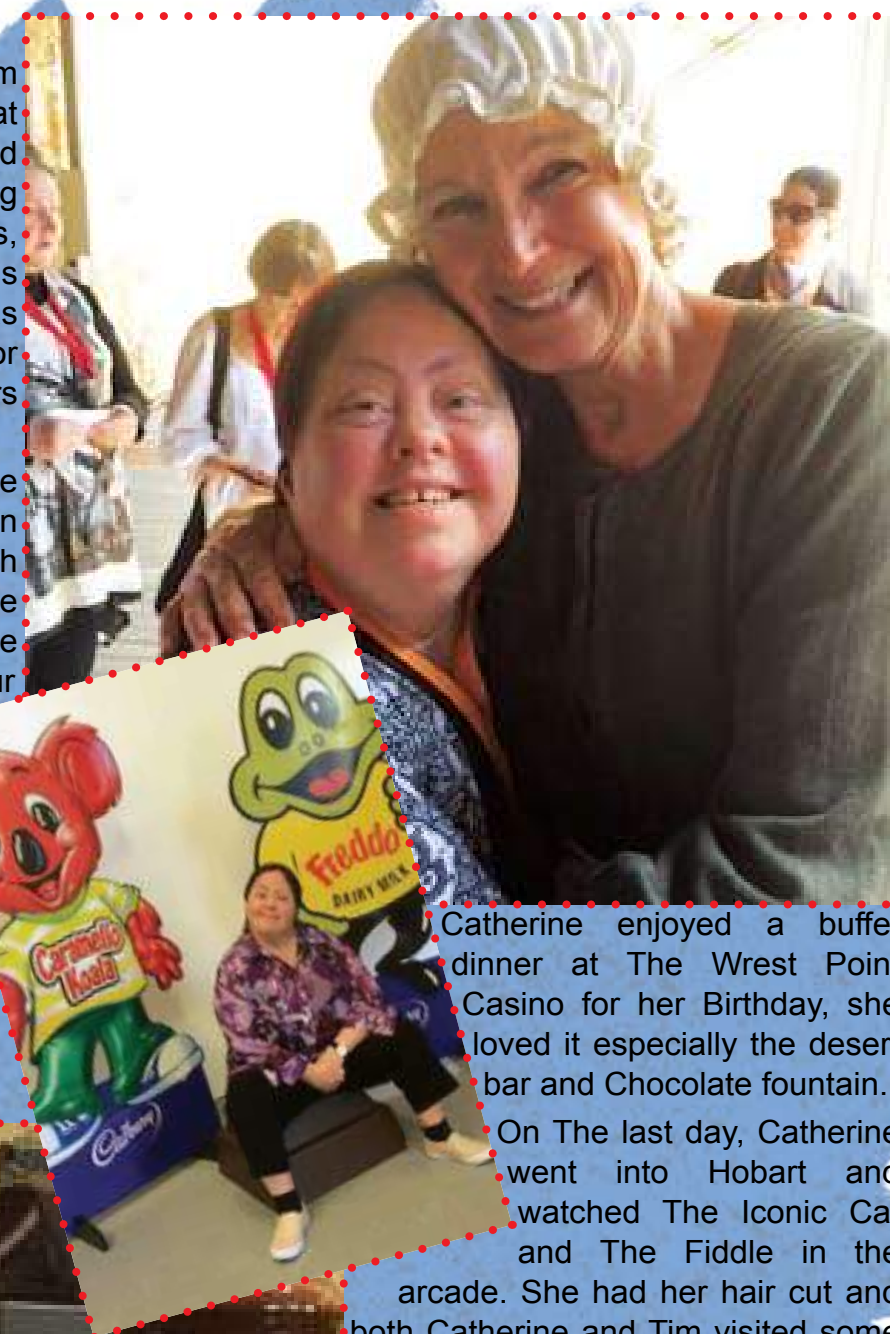
# AROUND THE HOUSES

some of the people.

On Saturday Catherine and Tim had brunch and enjoyed a day at Salamanca Market, they wandered around the hundreds of stalls, taking in all the sights and sounds, Buskers, bands, spruikers all types of stalls and lots of people. The weather was perfect. They purchased some gifts for their families and also some souvenirs for themselves.

Sunday was Catherine's Birthday, she enjoyed a special brunch and then went to the Female Factory in South Hobart, which is where the female convicts were taken when they were sent from Britain. As part of the tour there were actors who did a play depicting what it was like to be a convict as the Female Factory. Catherine and Tim enjoyed the play, Catherine was relieved that it wasn't real.

They visited MONA which is The Modern Art Museum, they enjoyed parts of it but didn't like other parts, it is an interesting place.



Catherine enjoyed a buffet dinner at The Wrest Point Casino for her Birthday, she loved it especially the desert bar and Chocolate fountain.

On The last day, Catherine went into Hobart and watched The Iconic Cat and The Fiddle in the arcade. She had her hair cut and both Catherine and Tim visited some of Tim's family friends on the way back to the airport. They both agreed they had a busy but fabulous time and were a bit sad it was all over.





ASH HOUSE



Theodora wanted cup cakes for her birthday to share with her friends.

BERRY FLAT

AUSTRALIA DAY

Mikael had a fair dinkum Aussie barbie on Australia Day, down at the Shoreham Beach. "OI - OI - OI"



OLSEN HOUSE

DEB VISITS THE MONSTER JAM

After much anticipation the day finally arrived for Deb to make her way to AAMI park stadium to see the Monster Jam. Deb set out for the city, after a stop in Karingal for a yummy lunch at Hogs Breath Café where she treated herself to a Mock-Tail. After enjoying lunch she continued her journey to the city. Deb took on the job of navigator and gave directions on where to go. The closer she got to the city the more excited she got, she could hardly wait to get to the stadium and after getting a little bit lost finding the carpark, she finally arrived at the stadium. She was full of energy and smiles walking in Deb spotted some T-shirts and Trucks, so she decided to buy herself some souvenirs, and even found herself a book about the Monster Jam. When Deb made her way in to the stadium to find her seat, she was very excited to see how close to the National Anthems, clapping the Trucks came out Deb stood for joy, urging them all on. As of the trucks did their tricks Deb was yelling out instructions and cheering them on. It got very exciting with a few crashes and trucks flipping over, one even caught fire, and Deb laughed at it all cheering when the tractor came out to flip them back over. Deb was overjoyed to find all of





## AROUND THE HOUSES



the trucks she saw in her book, finding each one as they came out. After the final act and some pretty loud fireworks she was sad to leave, but was cheered up when she spotted the ice cream truck. After ice cream and looking at some motorbikes she headed back to the car for the drive back to Berry House. When she arrived at Berry House she was excitedly telling everyone about her day out and showing off her souvenirs.



### HARTIGAN

#### DAY OUT

Julie spent the day with her friend Sandra. They had a fun day starting with a picnic lunch at Mornington Park. Afterwards, they walked around and looked at the Market stalls. They also enjoyed their massages!



## AROUND THE HOUSES

### OAK FLAT

#### CHRISTMAS WITH THE FAMILY

Ty had a fantastic day celebrating Christmas with his family. As a surprise both his grandmothers were present for dinner.

Early in January Ty celebrated his 20th birthday in his flat, he invited his family and a special friend. Some of the outings Ty likes are going to the plane museum, where he can sit in the cockpit and be a pilot, or ten pin bowling with family and friends.





# AROUND THE HOUSES



## OAK HOUSE

### JUSTIN'S BIRTHDAY

On the 17th January Justin McLennan turned 56. The staff at Oak House organized a birthday cake and some of Justin's favourite foods.

All the clients at Oak seemed to enjoy sharing Justin's birthday cake, and getting a special drink that evening. Justin's sisters Ro and Liz both rang to wish him Happy Birthday earlier in the day.



### SURFING AT POINT LEO



# AROUND THE HOUSES

## SURFING AT POINT LEO

Anita and Jamie and staff joined by Camille and Corey of Cedar House all headed off to Surfing for the Disabled held at Point Leo on January 16th. It was a lovely warm day and there were lots of waves to be caught.

Anita was a bit hesitant to start with and didn't want to get on the board. Camille and Corey loved it and after Anita watched them have a turn she finally decided to hop on the board and catch a wave herself she was lucky enough to catch about 4 waves. Jamie was happy to relax back on the sand.



## SEAVIEW



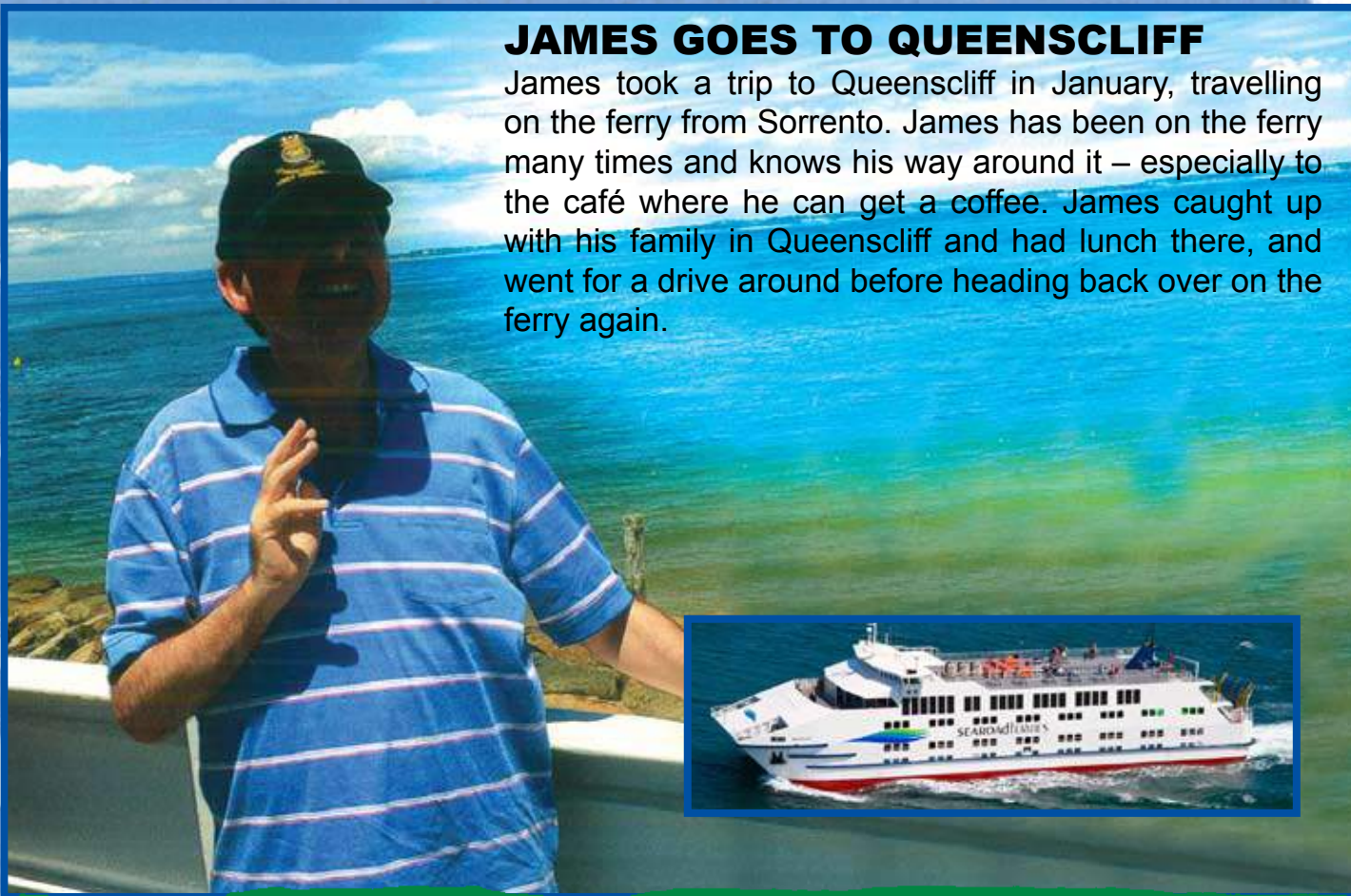
Mary-anne has been a fan of the tennis since she was a child and in January she decided she'd like to go to the Australian Open again. Mary-anne went to the junior finals on a Saturday at Rod Laver Arena, the weather was perfect! She enjoyed watching the junior players battle it out, but said her favourite player is Lleyton Hewitt.





## JAMES GOES TO QUEENSCLIFF

James took a trip to Queenscliff in January, travelling on the ferry from Sorrento. James has been on the ferry many times and knows his way around it – especially to the café where he can get a coffee. James caught up with his family in Queenscliff and had lunch there, and went for a drive around before heading back over on the ferry again.



## AUSTRALIA DAY IN MORNINGTON

With bright sunny conditions to celebrate Australia Day, Geoff, Rex, Michael and Tim headed to Mornington for the Australia Day street parade and carnival.

Tim loved the view from on top of the ferris wheel while Michael preferred to keep his feet firmly on the ground and hang out with some dubious looking characters. Rex gave some thought to having a spin on the dodgem cars but then decided he would keep his racing aspirations to watching Bathurst on TV. Geoff just loved the atmosphere (but not as much as he LOVED the pub dinner!)



## RSPCA

Jon went to visit the R.S.P.C.A. in Pearcedale and had such a good time. Jon stated he felt sorry for the animals in cages and wanted to bring some home, especially one dog named Tilly.

Jon also asked staff if he could work there and with that, Jon and staff asked the workers at the R.S.P.C.A, he was advised there always in need of volunteers, but he would need to apply on-line. Jon decided he really wanted to apply. This is currently on-going and Jon is waiting for a reply.



## OLSEN

## MY COMMUNITY – KATRINA SNEATH

At the Having a Say Conference in Geelong, we meet a lovely lady, Katrina Sneath, who travelled all the way from New Zealand to talk about her Community.

She told us what it meant to be a part of a Community, we all have the same opportunities, we are respected, we are seen as equals, and we are respected for our contributions. She also spoke about her efforts in speaking up for People with Disabilities in all Communities. If people were to look at me differently in Frankston, this would make me feel upset.

I want people to see that it is my choice on how I live my life.

I want people to talk to me so that they see me as the adult that I am.

I want to feel safe in my community and not be seen as a target – I already know how to be safe on the roads, how to call 000 and what I need to do if I feel unsafe when out in Frankston.

In the future I want to work towards having a job utilizing my office skills; I'm hoping that I would be treated equally when applying for jobs.



Sue Steedman





OLSEN

## THE WESTERN PORT FESTIVAL BY HOLLY REES

We arrived at the Festival and had a bit of a walk to the showgrounds.

The first thing I saw were the rides....NO WAY, these were just too scary. I got dizzy JUST LOOKING AT THEM!

We went for a walk around and found ourselves a "Tornado Potato". I chose salt and vinegar seasoning

We went for another wander and found ourselves at the Carnival Games section.

The first one I played was the "Plucka Duck" game. This is where I had to catch a rubber ducky with a fishing rod. I won a nice red rose for my room.

After the ducks I moved onto the "Clown" game. On this game I had to put rubber balls into the clown's mouth. I was so good at this game that I won 3 times. I went home with 3 more teddies to add to my collection alongside my giant Kermit on my bed.

After I finished with the games, I had some yummy mini donuts and made my way to the Show bags where I bought myself "the GREATEST Show Bag on Earth" which was chock full of sugar and I chose a new radio for my room.

This was the end of the day. I felt like the day was relaxing even though there was a lot of walking, not enough parking and too many people.

I look forward to going again.



## FRIENDSHIPS – "HOUSE WITH NO STEPS"

When we were at the Having A Say Conference, we went and sat in a talk by the organisation "The House with No Steps" about Friendships.

They asked us to think about what a friend is to us. For me, a friend is someone who spends time with me, treats me nicely and helps me when I'm sad.

I trust my friends, my friends and I like similar things and we help each other be happy people.

We were asked to think about how we can make new friends. I would meet new friends by attending big events like the Having a say Conference, meet new people at day service or meeting new people like Greg on Holidays. We met at my Sydney Holiday through ClubMates.

I am happy that I met Greg as we are now Boyfriend and Girlfriend and he comes to visit me on weekends and takes me out to lunch.

During this talk at the Conference, we were invited up to the front near the microphone to talk about ourselves and our interests. I really liked being able to introduce myself to everyone listening.

I really liked my time in that talk and learnt some new ways to make friends.

Sue Steedman



## MORNINGTON PENINSULA REGIONAL GALLERY



I often will look at my iPad for things to do. I suddenly came across a site called the Mornington Art Gallery and knew then, that I must go.

Before I knew it I was at the entrance of the gallery. Somewhat nervous and excited I went inside.

The walls had all sorts of pictures and paintings. I looked at all of them one by one. It appeared that at the time of my visit the main theme was beach, which I quite enjoyed. The only downside was that no photos were allowed to be taken inside the Gallery, which is okay as I have found some of the beach art work on the site.

After the viewing as I stood outside, a large rose garden across the road caught my eye. I looked at staff and staff looked at me, we both smiled and nodded and went over to see. There were so many different color of rose that we saw. Red, yellow, pink and white, it was such a pretty sight. I did a lap of the garden, often stopping to smell the roses. It was such a delight!

Holly Rees





# INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT >>>>>

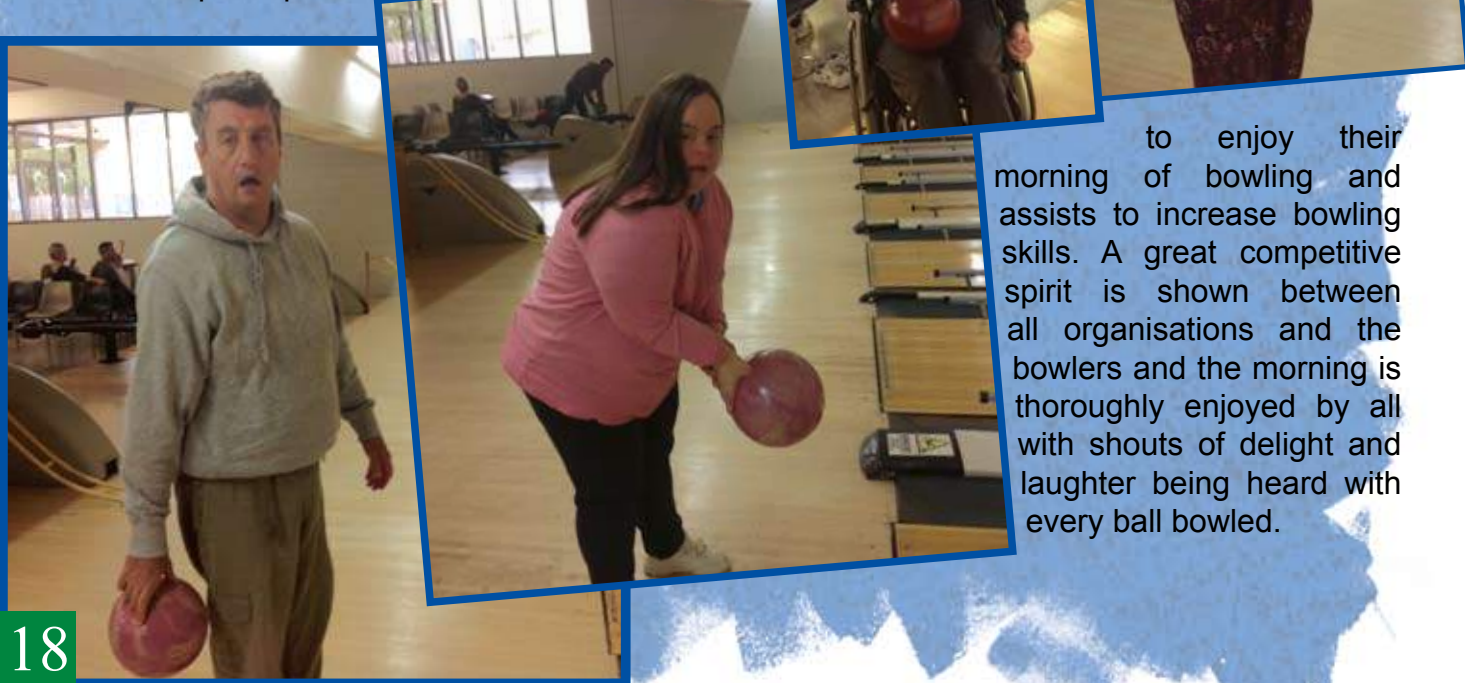
## BIRTHDAYS

This term at Dromana ISS we have celebrated the birthdays of Timara, Nicole, Jenny, Dom, Mary-Anne and Julia. It's always a celebration with cake and candles, making sure the birthday person feels very special.



## TEN PIN BOWLING LEAGUE

All participants have been welcomed back to the new season of the All Stars bowling league at AMF in Frankston. The 'focus' teams are joined by many other services around the Peninsula on Thursday mornings to bowl for this league, which has seen numbers grow again this year. The scores bowled each week by the teams are all getting higher and there seems to be a lot more strikes on the score board. Sandra at Frankston AMF continues to support our 'focus' participants



to enjoy their morning of bowling and assists to increase bowling skills. A great competitive spirit is shown between all organisations and the bowlers and the morning is thoroughly enjoyed by all with shouts of delight and laughter being heard with every ball bowled.

# <<<<< INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT



## FISHING ON BOARD THE JILLIAN

Participants in the ISS Dromana fishing program enjoyed a great end of year fishing trip on Port Phillip Bay. Thanks to Jillian Fishing Trips who made the day possible, participants from ISS Red Hill met up friends from Dromana and set out from Rye pier in perfect weather conditions. While sailing to the fishing spot we came across a pod of dolphins and sailed around the Southern Chanel Lighthouse where the





## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT >>>>>

seals basking in the sun. Plenty of fish were caught including flathead and some squid. All agreed to split up the days catch and everyone went home with a feed of fresh fish to cook. A fishing trip wouldn't be complete without a few sausages for lunch, cooked on the boat by the crew. On the return trip some of the participants enjoyed a stint as the captain of the boat, steering us skilfully towards the shoreline. A great day on the bay was enjoyed by all.



## SEED TO SEED PROGRAM

Phil and Bernie enjoying morning tea with some fruits of their labor. Participants in the Seed to Seed program in ISS Dromana have been working hard on growing tomatoes and other vegetables.



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## OUTREACH NEWS

### OUTREACH

There is a hidden gem in Crib Point ..... an outdoor heated pool!! Gary enjoys swimming in the pool it is quiet and outdoors and of course the water is warm, the water temperature is 28 degrees .We have visited the pool many times through the warmer months. The pool is open from October till April daily. Ron also enjoys swimming in the pool once a week each time we have been to the pool Ron has had the pool to himself!!! Stephen enjoyed his day out at Casey Race in Cranbourne using all the pools, spa and of course the slides. His favourite was the not so fast slide which he rode many times during the day!!





FRANKSTON WATERFRONT

Rene Hanley enjoys a walk along the boardwalk and the pier at the Frankston waterfront.



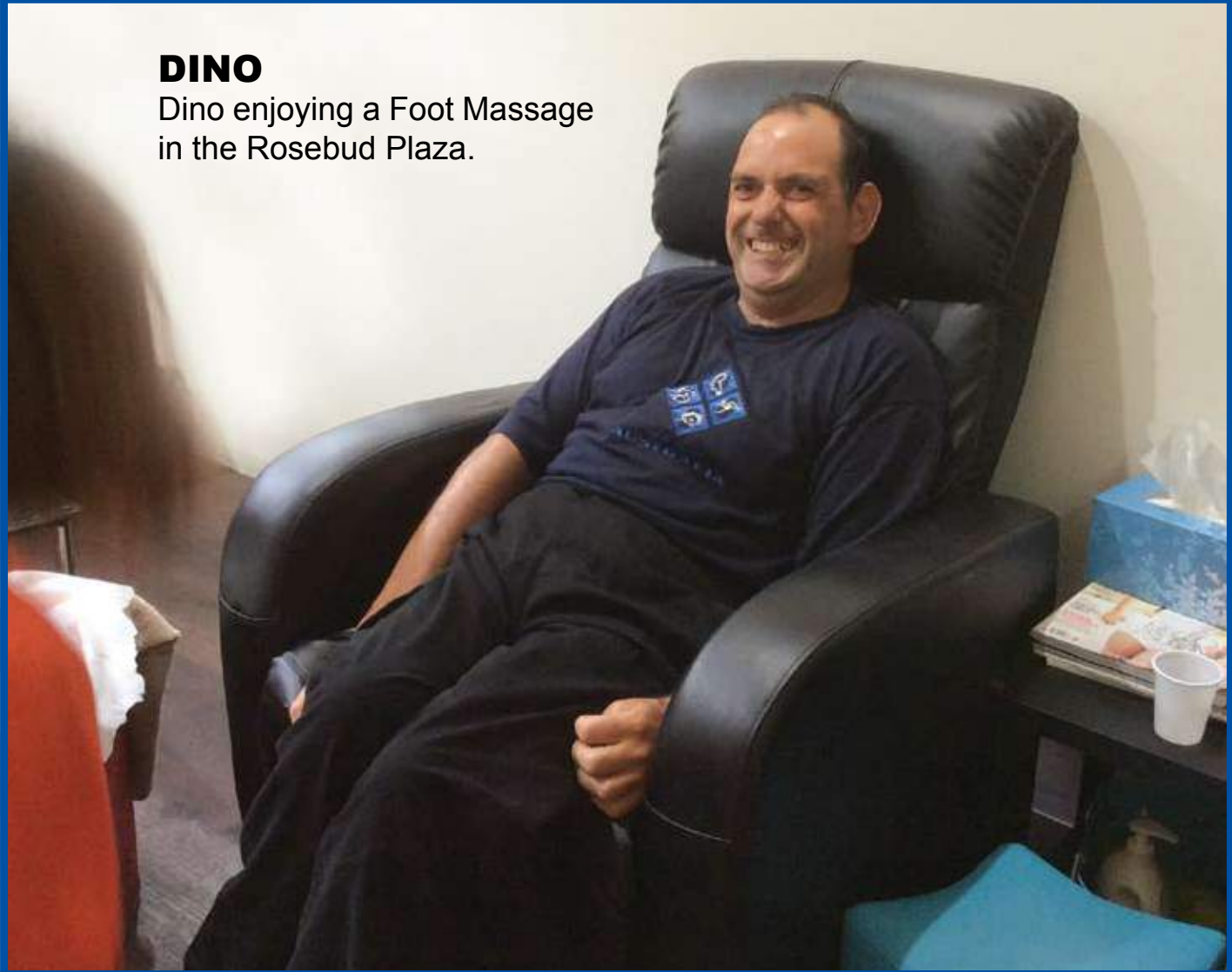
PICNIC TIME

Tim had morning tea at a coffee lounge in Frankston then he headed off to Bakers Delight to buy some gourmet rolls to take to Melbourne. There was a disruption in train travel, and we had to disembark at Moorabbin. While in Moorabbin waiting at the bus stop we met Janine from Cedar House and her mother. Tim invited Janine for a picnic at the Alexander Gardens. They had a nice time together and plans for another expedition will follow in the near future.



DINO

Dino enjoying a Foot Massage in the Rosebud Plaza.







## MORNINGTON RACES

We planned a day at the Mornington Races. We packed a picnic basket with lunch and took along a rug. The weather was nice and sunny and we put on some bets. We didn't win but it was good seeing the horse racing and having lunch together!

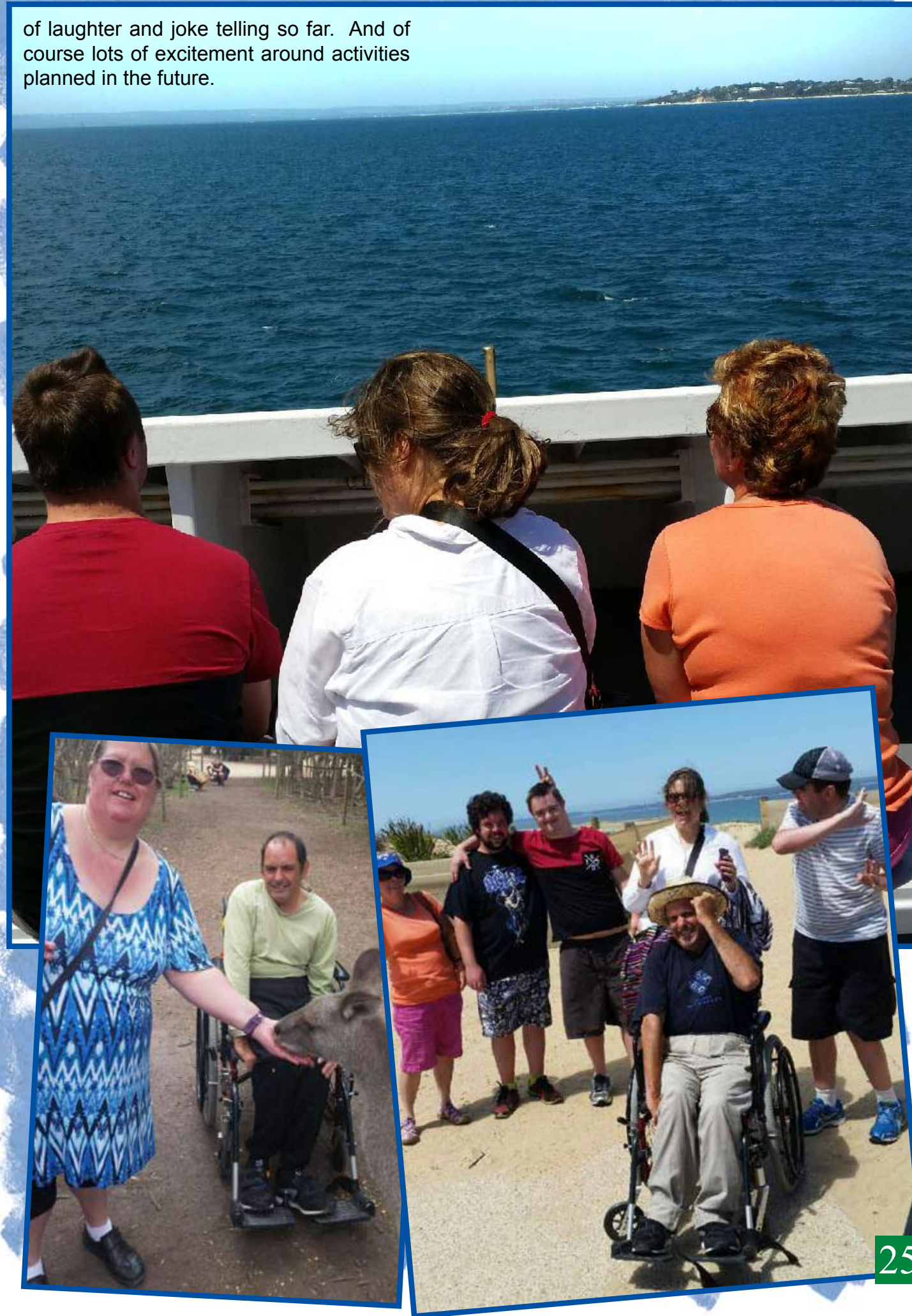
Les, David and Leanne

## SOCIAL GROUP

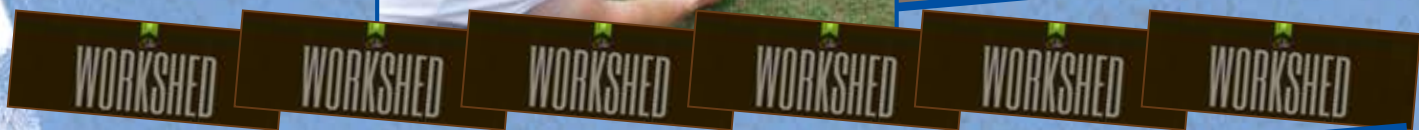
The "focus on Fun Social Group" began in January and runs every second Saturday from 10 till 3. We have 8 places for each activity and so far have had 6 or 8 participants on each day. We have visited the McClelland Gallery, Sand Sculpting, Ferry to Queenscliff and the Moonlit Sanctuary. The activities include lunch which may be a BBQ, picnic or takeaway. The group have come together over the last 6 weeks and some new friendships have been formed. The group contribute to where and what they would like to do for activities in the future. There has been lot's



of laughter and joke telling so far. And of course lots of excitement around activities planned in the future.







## THE WORKSHED Trampoline Installation at The Rise

Workshed clients Rhys, Scott and Mikael pitched in to do some hard work landscaping, constructing and installing a new trampoline at The Rise. The guys carted mulch from a huge pile in the front yard all the way out the back of the property with wheelbarrow and shovels, showing great energy and enthusiasm. The clients also helped source necessary materials from the ever helpful and now familiar staff at Bunnings, Hastings.



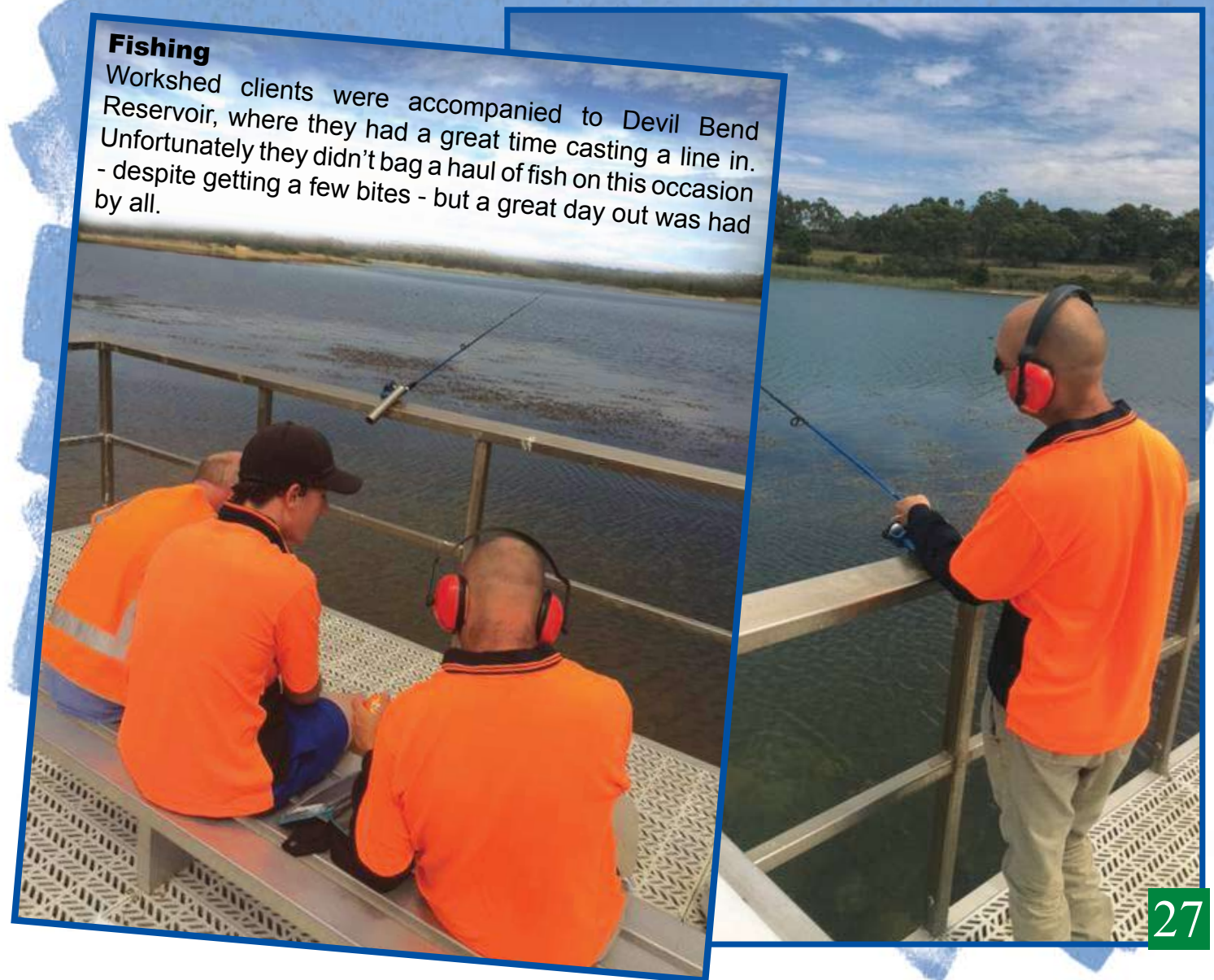
## New Gym Equipment

Gym equipment was graciously donated to the Workshed from one of our parents, Lauren Moore. Once the new fitness area was set up, nearly all of the Workshed clients were keen to have a go on the leg trainer and exercise bike. Scott put the rest of us to shame with his amazing stamina on the exercise bike, and Ben appeared to be having the time of his life!



## Fishing

Workshed clients were accompanied to Devil Bend Reservoir, where they had a great time casting a line in. Unfortunately they didn't bag a haul of fish on this occasion - despite getting a few bites - but a great day out was had by all.





## Trade Skill Development

A range of popular ongoing activities at the Workshed include all kinds of manual trade skills. Staff pass on their knowledge to clients and assist them to carry out a variety of woodwork activities such as sawing, drilling, sanding and joining. Participants are physically active whilst learning new skills, and then have the satisfaction of seeing the end results that they have had a hand in creating.



## Mowing Properties

Workshed clients Ben and Rhys have been enthusiastically carrying out the lawn mowing jobs at 'focus' properties Bungower and The Rise. Now familiar with these houses' layouts, Ben and Rhys look forward during the week to being accompanied by staff to carry out the regular maintenance tasks, often with other Workshed clients in attendance.

