

Around minda



The Karranendi Indigenous dancers performing a traditional dance

Minda celebrates the abilities of people with disability

Minda's Brighton site became a hive of activity and colour on Thursday 3 December to celebrate International Day of People with Disability.

This international day aims to showcase the skills and abilities of people with disability, encourage support for their dignity, rights and wellbeing and involve them in the broader community; something Minda strives to make a reality every day.

Minda's then Chief Executive Officer, Susan McInerney, launched the celebrations,



All revved up for a tour of Minda's Brighton site

acknowledging the importance of the day that recognises the achievements of the individuals supported by Minda.

She also reaffirmed that Minda's adoption of the guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, together with the implementation of Person Centred Thinking, mean that Minda is ideally placed to support individuals to lead a valued and meaningful life. In short, a life that achieves the aims shared by the International Day of People with Disability.

Following the opening address, Dr Steven Carr led a bagpipe procession over to Minda's main lawn, where everyone enjoyed a performance by the Karranendi Indigenous dancers.

The vast array of activities on offer provided for every taste. Various musical performances inspired many to showcase their skills on the Karaoke machine and sports fans tried their hand at bowling, boxing and tennis on the ever popular Wii console.

Short films and animation by Tutti's Digitech program added to the festivities along with art exhibitions by artists from Tutti and Leverington.

One of the most popular choices of the day was the motor bike ride, offering people the rare chance to explore the 28 hectare Brighton site from a whole new perspective. A petting zoo with a difference gave the curious (and the courageous) an opportunity to get up close and personal with snakes, lizards, frogs and even a baby crocodile.

The theme of the day was 'Let's have fun!' and that was certainly evident on the smiling faces of the 300 attendees who enjoyed an event that celebrated their accomplishments.

Minda would like to thank everyone who donated their time and effort to bring the many pieces of the day together so seamlessly.





BOARD UPDATE

From the President

2010 has started with the usual flurry of activity, with Christmas now well behind us. A new year offers a chance to refresh and revitalise and I am excited by the developments set to occur at Minda in 2010, which will further advance our vision of maximising choice and inclusion for people with intellectual disability to achieve their aspirations.

Just prior to Christmas, it was with great regret that I received the resignation of Chief Executive Officer, Susan McInerney.

Over the last two years, Susan has advanced the position of the organisation and has done an outstanding job in implementing best practice throughout Minda. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Susan for her dedication, commitment and considerable achievements throughout her two years at Minda. I wish her all the very best for the future.

The Board has engaged a leading executive recruitment firm to commence a vigorous search for the most appropriate candidate to undertake the demanding role of Minda Chief Executive Officer. Whilst the search is underway, the Board has appointed Deputy CEO, Robert Cairney, to act as Chief Executive Officer. The Board has the utmost faith that Robert, the Executive team and staff will ensure Minda's continuing progress in the interim.

I would like to reiterate the Board's commitment to the implementation of Person Centred Thinking. Over the last two years, Minda has reformed its operations and the Board is committed to keeping this momentum going and ensuring Minda is the leader in the disability sector and in 2010, we can look forward to implementing individualised support.

Importantly, this will see Minda demonstrate strong values around inclusion and citizenship, centred on what is most important to that person. This means that the individuals supported by Minda will receive a greater quality of life and will be actively involved in the choices that determine their life experiences. I am confident that the extensive research and planning undertaken in 2009 - continuing in 2010 and beyond - will ensure a smooth and successful ongoing roll out of PCT in the coming months.

The completion of another key project, the blueprint Master Plan, will further shape the presence and form of the organisation. Developed with the future, as well as the present in mind, the Master Plan will achieve a balance in remaining a delightful home for many of the individuals we support and supporting appropriate commercial opportunities to provide sustainable income to ensure Minda's future.

The plan has been built around a Policy of Choice - where individuals have the choice to live in the location of their desire, be it community living (away from Brighton) or at the Brighton site. The blueprint will be presented at a Special Association Meeting on Tuesday 23 March (tentative) after which a thorough consultation period will occur with stakeholders (see Master Plan update).

Concurrent to the Master Plan, a Deficit Reduction Strategy has been developed as a road map to optimise current financial and asset management process to ensure sustainable financial viability, whilst reducing debt. This strategy will ensure a financially sustainable organisation whilst continuing to provide the optimum level of support for the individuals supported by Minda today and those of tomorrow.

The times continue to be busy and productive for the Minda community in terms of the progress being made. I remain excited by the course we are taking and am confident of its success.

Roy Arnold



Minda is pleased to advise that the final touches are being made to the blueprint Master Plan for the Brighton site.

The proposal will be presented to the Association at a Special Association meeting (which is planned for Tuesday 23 March). Association Members will receive an information pack prior to the meeting, for their consideration.

As previously mentioned, investigation into the most appropriate service model resulted in a delay of the Master Plan, whilst the service delivery model was agreed upon. Also impacting on the Master Plan was the change in management structure, existing underground and aboveground service infrastructure and the undertaking made at the outset that no land will be sold, which made the commercialisation model more complex.

The latter was one of four 'non-negotiables', along with a commitment to retain a village-like environment, a guarantee that the sand dunes would not be developed and an undertaking that people supported by Minda would have the choice to live either at Brighton or in a community setting. Each of these 'non-negotiables' has been upheld throughout the Master Plan process, as promised by the Board.

Following the Special Association Meeting, a thorough consultation period will be undertaken, providing an opportunity for the Minda community to be stepped through the Master Plan.

At conclusion of the consultation period, the final Master Plan will be put to a vote at the Mid-Year Association Meeting.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the team at Minda's Disability Enterprises on another successful funding audit by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).



Darryl and Des entertain the crowd

Recognising the value of Minda's volunteers

During 2009, over 8,500 combined hours were generously given by 360 volunteers at Minda.

This exceptional group of people are fundamental in assisting the organisation to meet its goal of helping people living with intellectual disability to lead fulfilling lives.

International Volunteer Day, on Saturday 5 December, celebrated the contribution of volunteers around the world and in line with this official day of recognition, Minda formally acknowledged the dedication and support of its volunteers on Tuesday 8 December at Marion Sports and Community Centre, with a delicious barbeque luncheon.

The attendees were entertained with music by volunteers Darryl Green and Des Rowe throughout the afternoon.

Minda would like to thank and congratulate each volunteer for their boundless dedication and commitment to South Australians living with intellectual disability.

After seven years, Des Rowe, a key volunteer at Minda and a familiar face around Brighton, will be retiring to spend more time with his family.

Des began volunteering in 2003 and throughout his time at Minda he has touched the lives of those he worked with.

"I honestly feel that the past seven years at Minda have produced one of the most rewarding periods in my life," he said.

Minda would like to sincerely thank Des for his outstanding contribution to the lives of individuals living with disability.

At this time, Minda also farewells Volunteer Coordinator, Rick Selway. A staff member for the last 15 years, Rick's bright nature has endeared him to many and his valuable contribution to Minda is greatly appreciated. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

If you are interested in volunteering at Minda, contact Bev in Volunteer Services on 8422 6244.



Volunteers Judy Dally, Lesley Ashman and Colleen Dennehy at the luncheon



Calendar of Events

Glenelg Golf Club Ladies Day

Tuesday 23 February

Glenelg Golf Club

We would welcome your support with the provision of jams, chutneys, cakes, slices or any other hand-crafted goods for the day. All perishable goods must come with a listing of correct ingredients and date prepared labels, which can be obtained from the Minda Marketing Department.

If you are able to assist us, please contact the Marketing Department on 8422 6286.

Special Association Meeting

Tuesday 23 March (tentative)

Isabel's, Brighton

Special Olympics Australia IX National Games in Adelaide

Monday 19 April - Saturday 24 April

The countdown is on! Nearly 1,000 athletes and 3,000 supporters from all over Australia will be coming to Adelaide to be a part of the Special Olympics 2010 National Games.

For more information visit the Special Olympics website www.specialolympics.com.au

For more information on upcoming events, please contact Marion Zafry on 8422 6286, email marion.zafry@minda.asn.au or go to www.mindainc.com.au.

We Can Do It



Preparing for a promising future

Staff and graduates at completion of the course

A new group of graduates have improved their chances of gaining meaningful employment by completing a new pilot course in work preparation at Minda's South Australian Learning Centre (SALC).

The pilot Certificate I in Work Preparation (Community Services) was implemented to support the transition between school and the workplace. These graduates have not only increased their skills base, but have also benefited from interaction with the other students and improved self confidence.

The course runs for approximately six months and as the course has progressed, the enthusiastic students have continued

to grow their confidence. Some have seen immediate rewards with one graduate already offered further employment.

Course modules are kept broad to allow for greater relevance across a range of industries and include occupational health and safety, community services, communication, conflict resolution, bullying and harassment, and cultural diversity.

Due to the success of the program, the course will be continuing in 2010 and beyond.

For information on the courses available, please call the SALC on 8422 6530.



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Journey to the heart of Australia

Going on holidays is something that we all look forward to and recently, Brenton Pratt and William Parsons overcame personal challenges to take an amazing three day tour to Alice Springs and Uluru.



Enjoying the natural beauty of Uluru

In the past, Brenton had expressed little inclination to go on a holiday, so when he told staff at Bright House that he wanted to visit Alice Springs, they understood it was a significant step forward for Brenton and began working towards making this aspiration a reality.

Despite living with a degenerative eye condition, William had always dreamed of taking a train holiday; so experiencing a gold glass trip on the Ghan, the only South-North transcontinental train journey in the world, with his friend, was the perfect blend of adventure, luxury and natural scenic beauty for both men.

Accompanied by Team Leader, Ros Jones, and Direct Care Worker, Danielle Ruggiero, they set off for Alice Springs on Sunday 18 October.

After travelling overnight to Australia's 'red centre', the group enjoyed a day full of rich history and spectacular sights, including a visit to the Aboriginal Cultural Centre, the Olgas and a tour around the base of Uluru.

The tour concluded with a champagne barbeque while watching the sun set behind arguably Australia's most iconic landmark.

Brenton and William relished their new experience and the laughs they shared. They continue to talk about their travels and happy memories on the Ghan and their holiday to Alice Springs.