

Congratulations to our Special Olympians



Winter 2010

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Minda would like to congratulate its Special Olympians, Lachlan Woollett, Jenny Roberts and Andrew Tanner, for their outstanding efforts at the 2010 Special Olympics IX National Games; as well as participants in the Special Olympics Ambassador Team, Jason Leigh-Tamblyn and Tony Hopewell.

The Special Olympics IX National Games ran from Monday 19 April to Saturday 24 April and our athletes gave their all in the spirited competition.

Prior to the Games, on Saturday 17 April, over 150 people departed Minda for the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which ran from Minda to Moseley Square, Glenelg, where the cauldron was lit.

The spirit of camaraderie and goodwill was evident as the crowd enjoyed a powerful performance of the stirring Special Olympics

theme song, 'So my time to shine', by Tori Horgan and the choir of Tutti.

Minda would like to thank those who participated in the run and those who helped out behind the scenes.

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Lachlan and Colin Woollett kick off the torch run



It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Board has appointed Cathy Miller as the new CEO of Minda Incorporated.

Minda welcomes EPAC and Adelaide Development Company as major supporters.



From the President

Cathy brings a wealth of experience as a Chief Executive Officer of large service organisations to Minda. Cathy has had a significant career in the healthcare sector holding a number of Chief Executive positions, with her most recent position being that of Chief Executive Officer of Southern Adelaide Health Services.

The Board is looking forward to working with Cathy and extends a warm welcome to her. Cathy commenced her duties with Minda on Monday 3 May 2010.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert Cairney for acting in the position of CEO during the recruitment process. Robert has done an outstanding job of leading Minda during this time.

As you may be aware, Minda has been engaged in discussions with service users, families and external stakeholders regarding Minda's draft Master Plan.

The Board is charged with developing a plan that creates the appropriate environments for people living with intellectual disability and developing it in an appropriate fashion to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the organisation.

The Board will be reviewing and considering all of the feedback provided during the consultation process and will present the preferred plan to the Minda Association on Tuesday 22 June for endorsement.

I cannot emphasise enough how important it is to move forward so that decent and appropriate accommodation can be built for Minda's present and future clients. It is anticipated the planning, designing and completion of the first individual houses will take a minimum of two years to complete.

With this in mind, the Board is keen to press on. The later we begin, the longer we delay the provision of quality accommodation to those with the greatest need.

The essential thing is to consider the plan as the big picture for the future of the people we care for. There will be time and space for further consideration of the details.

The Board is seeking the Association's support for the sake of present and future clients.

Detailed information about the Master Plan can be viewed on the Minda website, www.mindainc.com.au.

Roy Arnold
President

Cover story continued...

Minda extends its sincere thanks to BankSA, who gathered a 13 strong team and raised funds to go towards the Special Olympics.

Special mention should also go to Hilary Stoeger from the Day Centre, who helped raise over \$200 for the fun run and who took charge of making some of the wonderful banners displayed on the day, a fantastic effort!

Minda was pleased and proud to be an official sponsor to the South Australian team and to see our athletes enjoy enormous success in front of their friends and family.

Alex McNeilly, General Manager of Special Olympics Australia, expressed his appreciation to Minda. "Thank you to everyone at Minda, you are truly special and everyone at Special Olympics Australia appreciates your friendship and support," he said.



Proud Special Olympians



Jenny Roberts (second from right) and the ten-pin bowling team.



Andrew celebrating his success at the podium



Lachlan getting some air

Success for Minda's athletes



Andrew Tanner
Equestrian
3 gold medals
1 silver medal



Lachlan Woollett
Basketball
1 silver medal



Jenny Roberts
Ten-pin bowling
1 silver medal
1 bronze medal

We Can Do It



From the CEO

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you who support or are associated with Minda.

To me, Minda has a tremendous long-standing history as one of the most respected disability service providers in South Australia and I feel excited to have been appointed Chief Executive of such an esteemed organisation.

Having been a CEO in the health sector for the past 20 years, I have a real appreciation of working in the area of community services. From a personal perspective, I am married with two sons, and my football allegiance sits with Port Power!

Whilst I am new to the role, I feel both encouraged and heartened by the good work I am seeing at Minda and look forward to meeting many new faces and visiting the various Minda sites.

In this edition of Vocal Point, Minda is pleased and proud to acknowledge some recent achievements and milestones. Inside we feature some great success stories about our Special Olympians, dedicated volunteers and graduands from the South Australian Learning Centre. You can also read about the first Open Mind Seminar for 2010, featuring guest presenters, Professor Jim Mansell and Dr Patricia O'Brien as well as the recent visit by the Honourable Kelly Vincent.

Finally, I encourage you to support Minda's 2010 Winter Appeal (see back page).

Thank you to those who have made me feel very welcome. I look forward to what lies ahead at this exciting time of progress and development.

Cathy Miller
Chief Executive Officer

Smooth travelling

Minda's fleet of vehicles are essential in enhancing the daily experiences of individuals we support, providing access for day trips, excursions, visits to appointments, shuttle services to and from work, fundraising events and facilitating greater community interaction.

To that end, an electronic car pooling and fleet management system has been implemented to reduce the size and use of the existing organisational car fleet. This software is instrumental in creating a more streamlined system and linking travellers heading to similar destinations.

A generous donation from Travelsmart has contributed to the purchase of this new software, staff education and promotional materials that espoused the benefits of reducing fleet car use.

Thanks to improved operations, the vehicle fleet has been streamlined, resulting in savings of \$24,000 to \$30,000 in running costs per year. It has also promoted a greater understanding of how all staff can interact when choosing travel options.



The vehicle booking system at work



Minda graduates bring new skills to disability sector

Proud graduands Jack Dawe, Dion Pyatt, Anthony Esposito and Lucy Royal

There were proud smiles all round as graduands, family, friends, Board members, management and staff of Minda came together at the BankSA marquee on Wednesday 14 April to celebrate the achievements of individuals who have undertaken study with Minda at the South Australian Learning Centre.

Media personality, Mark Aiston, presided over the ceremony as MC where 280 graduands received certificates in the areas of Training and Assessment, Disability Work, Aged Care, Business Administration, Work Preparation and Language, Literacy and Numeracy training.

Following the presentation of certificates, three staff awards were presented to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution in their area.

The Rogerson Award, given to a Lifestyle Services employee in recognition of innovation, care of individuals and supported employees and risk reduction,

was awarded to Ivana Sandford, Cleaning Team Leader.

Awarded to a Residential Services staff member in recognition of their contribution to their work area, the Dorothy Ward Award recognises innovation, promoting positive outcomes to individuals and risk reduction. This award, supported by the Swain family and presented by Annette Swain, was awarded to Jody Martin-Rankin, Manager of Brighton West.

The Len Dyer Corporate Award was presented to an employee from within Organisational Development, Marketing, Property, Finance, IT or Administration for contribution including innovation, supporting positive outcomes for individuals and risk reduction.

Len Dyer presented the award to the recipient, Latefee Hodge, Finance Officer.

The award for 2010 Student of the Year was presented to Willy Kananga. It is Minda's belief that he was a very worthy recipient,

having not only excelled in his course but also demonstrated a real commitment to learning and to working in the disability sector.

He has also arguably overcome more than the average student, having migrated to Australia as a refugee in 2005 with his family of seven children.

Wes Ashman, Minda Vice President, offered his personal congratulations to all graduands and award recipients, acknowledging the ceremony as "recognition of the immense potential that tertiary education has to realise the dreams of individuals and to create a more skilled, productive and innovative society".

Thanks to MEGT who supported the event and to the presenters, staff and volunteers who made the day run smoothly.

Minda heartily congratulates each graduand and award winner on their outstanding achievement!

Kelly Vincent visits Minda



Kelly Vincent, pictured with President, Roy Arnold and CEO, Cathy Miller

On Wednesday 19 May, Minda was pleased to host South Australian MP, the Honourable Kelly Vincent, during a visit to Brighton.

Ms Vincent, who represents the Dignity for Disability Party and was sworn into her seat on the Legislative Council on 6 May, met with Minda President, Roy Arnold, CEO, Cathy Miller and Deputy CEO, Robert Cairney to learn more about the proposed Master Plan and view the property.

Ms Vincent began her visit at the Hayward building before heading to Envirocare, where she was impressed with the work done by Minda's supported employees. She then drove past Bonython and

Champion houses, concluding her visit at Chuanninga, a Day Option at Minda.

Ms Vincent was delighted to be presented with a beautiful pottery bowl created at Leverington, another Day Options initiative at Brighton.

The visit was important in providing an opportunity for Ms Vincent to learn more about Minda and the scope of its services, as well as highlight areas of need.

Minda appreciates Ms Vincent's time and interest in Minda. We look forward to continuing this relationship in the future and wish her every success in her role in state politics.



Dougie and Bruce Jacobssen show their colours

Footy fans unite!

Minda continuously strives to provide the best possible support and a significant aspect in enabling the organisation to do so is through generous 'in kind' donations.

These donations have the power to provide memorable experiences that benefit the individuals at Minda and encourage community integration. Recently, Cornes Toyota and Peter Kittle Toyota each donated 100 tickets to Minda for AFL games. Many supported individuals went along to cheer on the Adelaide Crows when they played Sydney on Sunday 4 April and again, when they faced off against the Brisbane Lions on Sunday 23 May.

Even though the Crows were not victorious at the first match, the second game was a tightly fought battle with the Crows emerging on top by a tight margin. Both matches made for a great day out and no doubt the many die-hard Crows fans will keep cheering throughout the season and beyond!

Sincere thanks go to Cornes Toyota and Peter Kittle Toyota for their kind donations of tickets valued at \$6000. Thanks also to East End Marketing for organising the tickets and photographer to capture those special moments and of course, to the staff and volunteers who helped on both days.



Changes within Disability Enterprises

Minda at the Disability Enterprises Expo

Disability Enterprises at Minda encompasses a range of businesses providing quality products and services.

Over the last eight months, a number of changes have been implemented. Among these, the appointment of Andrew Ramsey as Manager, Commercial Enterprises.

Minda recently promoted its Disability Enterprises capabilities at the Australian Disability Enterprises Expo, held at the Adelaide Showgrounds.

The expo helped to promote Minda's network of commercial enterprises to government procurement specialists.

Some of the achievements within various branches of the business to date include the following:

TRAK Furniture

Staff at TRAK have been working towards the implementation of Lean management principles in order to create a more efficient business that is continuously improving. This has been a thorough process comprising a complete review of the product range and the way in which the operation is structured.

Opportunities for improvement have already been identified, which will flow through to customers and business performance. Additionally, TRAK welcomed a new site manager, Greg Cole, late in May.

Minda Packaging Services (MPS)

The three sites at Lonsdale, Somerton Park and Brighton are working closely together to improve work allocation and flows. Work commenced at Lonsdale in May towards ISO 9002 certification. This will underpin existing and future business growth opportunities.

Envirocare and Cleaning Services

These two departments are excited by the opportunity to implement a commercial arrangement with Telstra, with a trial that commenced in May 2010. This partnership will allow the two departments to supply their respective services to Telstra on an ongoing basis.

For the first time in Minda's history, each business unit has developed its own strategic plan to make the business more viable. This will have a positive impact and further build on the current initiatives.

Minda looks forward to further developments throughout Disability Enterprises and will continue to provide updates as they come to light.

Call 8422 6200 to see how Minda Disability Enterprises can benefit your business.

Save the date

SA Volunteers Day

Monday 14 June
For more information visit www.volunteering.sa.org.au

Mid Year Association Meeting

Tuesday 22 June

Minda Movie Event 'The Karate Kid'

Sunday 11 July
Wallis Cinemas, Mitcham

Broadway Spectacular, presented by Tutti

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 July
Elder Hall, University of Adelaide.

For more information, call Tutti on 8422 6511. For tickets, call Venue-tix on 8225 8888.

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

Black Tie Quiz Night

Friday 22 October
Sebel Playford, Adelaide

Corporate Golf Day

Friday 19 November
Blackwood Golf Club

We Can Do It



Guests at the 2009 Black Tie Quiz Night

Thank you, volunteers!



Minda volunteers enjoy lunch at the Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque

Black Tie Quiz Night

It's time to start practising those brain teasers...Minda's Black Tie Quiz Night is back!

This year's gala event will take place on Friday 22 October at the Sebel Playford and is proudly presented by Gold Sponsor, Kelly and Co. Lawyers, who are supporting the event for the fourth year running.

Kelly & Co. is a major Australian firm, providing legal services in South Australia as well as nationally and internationally.

This year will once again offer a night of good-natured competition, along with excellent food and wine. An exciting range of items will also be on offer through the live and silent auctions.

Minda is thrilled that this year's event will be hosted by media personality, Brenton Ragless.

The Black Tie Quiz Night raises much needed funds for Minda, with all proceeds going towards furnishing new community homes, facilitating greater inclusion and community integration for people with intellectual disability.

Minda appreciates the South Australian community's support of this event and you can help by taking a sponsorship package, registering a team or providing prizes or auction items.

Date: Friday 22nd October

Time: 7.00pm 'til midnight

Dress: Black tie

Venue: Sebel Playford,
120 North Terrace, Adelaide.

Tables of 10, sorry, no individual tickets.

Volunteers are essential to Australian society and many organisations would struggle to survive without the support of their volunteers.

On Wednesday 12 May, in line with National Volunteer Week, Minda held a volunteer appreciation barbeque for Minda's registered volunteers, which was well attended. The barbeque was an opportunity for volunteers to put their feet up and mingle, with lunch prepared by staff from the Marketing department.

Minda currently has over 350 registered volunteers who provided in excess of 8,500 hours of support to the organisation during 2009. Volunteers continue to play an active role in the organisation.

Minda would like to thank every one of its volunteers for their commitment, dedication and support in helping people living with intellectual disability lead fulfilling lives.

if you are interested in volunteering with Minda, please call 8422 6244.

For further enquiries or to purchase a table, contact Marion Zafry or Nicole Anderson at Minda on 8422 6200 or events@minda.asn.au.



Choice and advocacy Minda's key focus

L-R: Prof. Jim Mansell, Kerri-Ann Messenger, Wes Ashman, Lianne Van Mierlo, Dr Patricia O'Brien and Robert Cairney

In 2009, Minda reintroduced the Minda lectures in the form of the Open Mind seminars.

The seminars aim to enlighten, educate and share the knowledge of experts in the field of intellectual disability.

The first Open Mind seminar for 2010 centred around the theme of 'Choice and Self-Advocacy', a key part of Minda's implementation of Person Centred Thinking and Active Support.

Robert Cairney, Minda's Deputy CEO, explained the significance behind the choice of subject. "Self advocacy is a fundamental aspect of any human rights framework. Having the ability to speak up for yourself is something that many of us take for granted," he said.

Nearly 300 people came to the BankSA Marquee at Brighton on Tuesday 13 April, to hear from keynote speakers, Professor Jim Mansell and Dr Patricia O'Brien. The guests included individuals living with intellectual disability; staff in the disability sector; Dr Ken Rollond, Mayor City of Holdfast Bay; Councillor Carol Bouwens, City of Marion; Wes Ashman, Minda Vice

President; Minda Board members and Minda Association members.

Professor Mansell, a Professor of Learning Disability in the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent in England and Adjunct Professor in the School of Social Work and Social Policy at La Trobe University in Melbourne, spoke about his particular area of interest: community living.

Self advocates, Kerri-Ann Messenger and Lianne Van Mierlo, then came to the stage to talk about their experiences after recently travelling to Geelong, Victoria, to attend a three day national annual conference on self advocacy called 'Having a Say'.

Minda is highly committed to developing a strong self advocacy program and, in the coming months, Minda also anticipates the launch of a training program in self advocacy, to be conducted by the South Australian Learning Centre.

Dr Patricia O'Brien, Chair of Disability Studies and Director of the Centre for Disability Studies at the Royal Rehabilitation Centre in Sydney, then delivered a presentation titled 'Choice, Voice and Advocacy'.

Dr O'Brien presented her inclusive research from workshops and discussions she conducted in Ireland with people with disability and their families.

Her areas of interest include full community participation, advocacy and equal opportunity, particularly for students with intellectual disabilities within university settings.

It was invaluable to hear the most up to date research and findings communicated by those directly impacted and their opinions on work, relationships, finances and accommodation. Thank you to all guest speakers, attendees, volunteers and staff who made the Open Mind seminar such a success.

Open to the public, Minda's Open Mind seminars focus on current best practice and cover topics specific to the disability sector, with the main intent of enhancing the lives of people living with intellectual disability.

Information about future seminars will be featured in Minda publications, Around Minda and Vocal Point and on the events page of Minda's website www.mindainc.com.au.



MASTER PLAN

Since the unveiling of the draft Master Plan, the Board has made every effort to seek feedback through various consultation sessions with staff, family members, clients, the local community and local, state and federal government.

Throughout the consultation process, the Board has remained committed to transparency, holding public meetings and listening to the Minda community.

The process has been thorough and comprehensive, with some additional time required whilst Minda's service delivery model was examined in light of the Board's commitment to the principles of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Board remains committed to a number of desired outcomes which include:

- The Brighton site will remain the property of Minda
- The village-like atmosphere will be maintained



- Minda clients will have a choice of accommodation options
- The administrative functions will remain at Brighton.

It is critical to note that Minda's sand dunes are a protected site and will not be affected.

Initiated in 2007, the development of a blueprint Master Plan was a way of ensuring the Brighton site had a sustainable future - offering new, first class accommodation and facilities that are fit for purpose and

more importantly, meet the changing needs of the Minda community.

The bricks and mortar of a new development are only part of the project. Behind the buildings and facilities, it is the life of each individual that can be enriched, which must remain the highest priority.

A vote on the Master Plan will be held at the Mid-Year Association Meeting. Further updates on the result will be provided in the next edition of Around Minda and Vocal Point.

GET TO KNOW OUR SUPPORTERS



EPAC Salary solutions is instrumental in its support of Minda, providing critical sponsorship support for key fundraising events, which ultimately benefit individuals living with intellectual disability. EPAC is one of Australia's premier providers of salary packaging solutions, offering a full range of services to government, private sector and not-for-profit clients across Australia.

Here, we introduce you to EPAC's Customer Relationship Manager, Colleen Stallion.

Colleen works closely with employer groups, such as Minda, and their employees across the state, ensuring that their salary packaging needs are met.

At Minda, Colleen is regularly on site for meetings with management, as well as providing presentations to staff, inductions and individual registrations.

She enjoys the interaction with the management and staff at Minda and has been an active supporter of Minda's fundraising activities.

Real Lives, Real Places

Over the past 12 months, Minda has been working towards the introduction of a person centred framework for the organisation.

The project, known as 'Real Lives, Real Places', will form the underlying foundation of Minda's core activities.

Real Lives, Real Places will be implemented over five years, with the majority of development and organisation preparedness occurring over the first two years. The aim is that, by December 2014, all service users will have access to service delivery that is based on a person centred thinking approach.

Recently, over 30 Minda staff members attended the LOOP Conference, presented by Julia Farr Association, which focused on person-centred work, community building and leadership. The two-day conference featured esteemed professors from the United States, John O'Brien and Connie Lyle O'Brien, who are attributed to the conceptualisation of Person Centred Planning.

It proved an important opportunity for staff to hear from John and Connie how Person Centred Planning has changed and is changing the lives of people living with disability in the United States and England, as well as equipping attendees with a deep understanding of PCP and its benefits.

This is the 'tip of the iceberg' in educating and up skilling staff in PCP and a rigorous training program has been planned, with training to be rolled out in the latter half of this year.



A significant subproject of Real Lives, Real Places is the Demonstration Project. Beginning in July 2010 and running for 12 months, the Demonstration Project will see approximately 16 individuals living in the community and supported via PCP and Active Support.

The Demonstration Project will build a solid example with the learnings documented, from which individualised planning can be rolled out across the rest of Minda.

Staff have been nominating themselves to participate in the Demonstration Project and the level of interest – from carers to managers – has been pleasing.

As well as involving staff and volunteers, the project will be taking on a mentor as well as a project officer to ensure that it is managed and coordinated effectively, as its outcome will pave the way for the evolution in service delivery across the entire organisation. Minda recently purchased a residential property at Mack Street, Glenelg, which could potentially be used for the Demonstration Project.

If you would like more information about Real Lives, Real Places or about the Demonstration Project, please contact Deb McGrath on 8179 5220 or 0407 588 265.

Welcome... Bernadette Reading

Minda is pleased to welcome Bernadette Reading as the new Volunteer Manager. Bernadette brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge about volunteering, with a long history working with volunteers – most recently coordinating volunteers for Cancer Council SA.

Bernadette has a strong passion for enhancing the local neighbourhood and has been involved in many projects within her local community over this time.

Bernadette is well equipped for the role, in which she is responsible for the recruitment, training, management and development of volunteers for Minda.

"I am really looking forward to working with volunteers at Minda and learning more about the fantastic work that Minda does," she said.

For any volunteer matters, Bernadette can be contacted on 8422 6244 or via email bernadette.reading@minda.asn.au.



Winter Appeal



Dear supporters

Although Minda historically cared for children, for a number of years now the organisation has catered for the specific needs of over 1500 adults and young people who have left secondary school.

One of Minda's key principles is providing support for individuals to live and participate in the community.

Parents, Roma and Graham, fully support the choice of community living for their son, Jason.

"Jason wanted some independence from us, just the same as any young man would. Now he's made new friends of his own, and he gets to make decisions about his life. The result has been a more independent and confident person," they said.

"It's a huge weight off our shoulders to know that Jason will always be looked after in a safe and happy environment by people who care about him and understand his needs."

Jason is delighted with the move to the community and two years on, couldn't be happier with his decision.

I invite you to please help us with this year's Winter Appeal by making a tax-deductible donation today. Our aim is to raise \$30,000, which will go towards the furnishing of more community homes, ultimately maximising choice, inclusion and quality of life for people with an intellectual disability, like Jason.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Miller
Chief Executive Officer

Vocal Point is the official newsletter of Minda Incorporated

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Yes, I would like to make a donation to the 2010 Minda Winter Appeal.



Name

Address

State

Postcode

Phone Email

Payment 1) My Cheque/Money Order is enclosed and made payable to Minda Incorporated.

2) Please debit my Visa Mastercard

Cardholder's name Expiry Date /

Signature

www.mindainc.com.au

\$50 \$75 \$120 \$250 \$500

\$ Other

Please post completed coupon with your donation to;

Post: PO Box 5, Brighton SA 5048

Or donate to Minda via;

Email: fundraising@minda.asn.au

Phone: 08 8422 6270

Fax: 08 8422 6330



Minda is a registered Charitable Organisation ABN 37 020 000 711



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Thank you for your support!

We Can Do It