

MindaNews Spring 2006

Official newsletter of Minda Incorporated

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Valuing Volunteers

Volunteers and supporters were recognised at a reception at Government House by Minda's Patron, Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson in December last year and at a Volunteer Thank You Party during Volunteer Week in May this year.

A base of more than 300 volunteers give of their time willingly to help wherever they can and play a vital role in the development of Minda's services. Volunteers are also a growing and valuable support for fundraising activities including helping out at special events such as the Family Fun Day and selling lottery tickets.

At the Volunteer Thank You Party, special guest presenter, Rebecca Murrie, from Volunteering SA said that South Australians are the most generous Australians with their time and talents.

Did you know

- 4.4 million Australians over 18 volunteer
- each year at least 2 out of every 5 South Australians give their time to others as volunteers - this is recognised as just the tip of the iceberg
- Australians give about \$3 billion each year to volunteer involving organisations, and
- the volunteer contribution in South Australia is estimated to be \$4.9 billion?

Thank you to our volunteers and supporters, "Helping People Help Themselves" at Minda.

Enquires about Volunteering at Minda can be directed to Rick or Bev at Volunteer Services on 8422 6244 or by email to volunteers@minda.asn.au



Young volunteers Briony (L) & Jessica Ween (R) with Her Excellency, Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson

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Diary

- 12 November AGM
- 7 December Carols on the Lawn
- 25 March 2007 Family Fun Day

Minda Incorporated

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President

Mr Roy Arnold

Vice President

Mr Wes Ashman

Board of Minda Association

Ms Patricia Brougham
Ms Catherine Cooper
Mr Greg Cotton
Mr Mick Bower
Mr Kym Hancock
Mrs Lyn Magee
Mr David Zwolak

Chief Executive Officer/ Public Officer

Mr Philip Martin

Company Secretary

Ms Barbara Johns

Patron

Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson
AC CVO MBE
Governor of South Australia

New Appointments



(Left to right) Barbara Johns, David Cockram, Angela Leske

Barbara Johns

Barbara has taken up the position of Company Secretary for Minda. She has more than 20 years' experience as a lawyer, and has spent a large part of that working as an 'in-house' lawyer and company secretary for a trustee company. About a year ago, she decided to leave that role to focus more on combining her interests in the law and governance work, and to achieve a better work/life balance. She has graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and is a member of a number of professional associations including the Australian Compliance Institute.

Barbara describes her family life as hectic but happy. She lives in Belair with her husband Mark, two sons Thomas and Sam and their two dogs. Barbara says that her sons were a bit concerned when she told them of her career change, as they thought she might not have too much time to focus on them! (She thinks they are a bit more relaxed about it now).

Barbara is thoroughly enjoying her new role at Minda, and hopes that she will be able to assist Minda improve its governance functions.

David Cockram

David was appointed as Acting Executive Manager Organisational Development in July 06. For the last 12 months David has held the role of Senior Manager Culture and Compliance at Minda and has spent the last 12 years working in HR roles in the public and private sector. With a Bachelor of Management in HR and qualifications in OHS and Vocational Learning David brings sound technical ability and experience to the position of Executive Manager OD.

Angela Leske

Angela joined us as Executive Manager - Strategic Marketing in July 06. This new role is funded from the Commonwealth Government's Business Reform Agenda. Angela is responsible for the overall development of Minda's strategic and corporate marketing and communications plans, Public Relations, Fundraising and Volunteers. Angela has extensive experience as a Marketing Generalist and in the media/communications industry. In recent years she has specialised in strategic planning for business, industry and government, including running her own consultancy business. Angela considers herself a "...big picture thinker with a hands on attitude". Besides all this she is a full time Mum to two school age children, an avid athlete and golfer and is studying Italian at Adelaide Uni.



From the President

Roy Arnold

I have been asked many times, both directly and indirectly, the following questions

1. *What is the role of the Board?*
2. *How is its membership established?*
3. *What does each member bring to the Board in terms of skills, knowledge and experience?*

The role of the Board, indeed of any Board, is a complex one which has been the subject of many lengthy text books but, put simply, the Board acts on behalf of the organisation's owners who, in the case at Minda, are the members of the Minda Association.

In electing Board members, the Association empowers the Board to act on its behalf to ensure the well being of the organisation and to ensure that the right outcomes are delivered for all stakeholders. It has often been said that a Board's role is to 'create the future', but it also has a strong legal and practical requirements to oversee the day to day operations of management, as this duty of care cannot be delegated.

Given these challenging requirements for a Board, it is essential that the Board has a range of skills, background and experience which, taken together, provide the necessary competencies to meet the challenges. I am confident that this Board has these competencies, with the existing extensive skills base presented by the Association and staff elected

members augmented by the two members selected by the Board last year, one under the change in the Rules approved by the Association which gave the Board discretion to appoint up to two members for their complementary skills, and the other under an existing role, which allows the Board to fill a casual vacancy. In this case, the casual vacancy was to fill the Minda Association non family representative vacancy left by the retirement of Peter Davidge. At the present time, there is also a vacancy for the State Government nominated member following the resignation of Rosemary Clancy in July on her becoming a ministerial aide, which presented a potential conflict of interest. This is an appropriate moment to record our thanks to Rosemary for her years of service and our regret at her departure.

It may be useful at this juncture to remind Association members of the Board's composition as laid down in the Rules

- *Six (6) Minda Association-elected members, of which not less than three (3) and not more than four (4) must be family members;*
- *Two (2) staff-elected members;*
- *One (1) South Australian Government nominee (presently vacant);*
- *Two (2) Board-elected discretionary members (one only selected at present).*

To summarise then, I believe we have a strong, skilled and certainly dedicated Board who, like many others, are volunteers who give freely of their time to assist Minda to achieve its objectives. These efforts are augmented by some capable and public spirited people who serve on Board Sub Committees such as Finance and Audit Committee and Investment Committee to give the benefit of their knowledge and experience on a pro bono basis.



Front Row: Lyn Magee, Roy Arnold, Patricia Brougham, Catherine Cooper
Back Row: Kym Hancock, Mick Bower, Wes Ashman, Greg Cotton, David Zwolak

I am very fortunate to lead such a team, which is responding well to the significant challenges facing us today. Here then, is your Board, diverse in their backgrounds and skills but united in their commitment to Minda and its work:

David Zwolak has been a staff elected member since December 2002. As Minda's Information Technology Manager and with a degree in computer science, in his management role he plays a vital role in ensuring Minda keeps up to date with 21st Century technology. He stood for election to the Board because of his commitment to Minda and its ideals and, though not a direct care worker, empathises with those who are and understands their dedication to care of their clients. He brings to the Board a technical problem solving outlook, the viewpoint of Minda staff and, not least, the perspective of a newer generation.

Lyn Magee has been a Board member for 11 years and is an elected Minda Association family member. In addition to her Board work she is a member of the Strategy and Planning Subcommittee and the Telethon Committee. A hard worker, she is also active in other parent groups and was a founder member at the Reference Group, now the Minda Association Advocacy Group (MAAG). As the mother of Timothy, a long time resident of Brighton campus, she brings to the Board's deliberations the insights of a parent of a child with intellectual disability together with the commercial skills of a former senior executive and business owner. With the amount of time she puts into helping Minda, it is just as well husband George can cook.

Kym Hancock has been a Board member since 1998 and is a Minda Association family member. He has had a successful business career in international sales and is currently General Manager, International Sales for Safcol Australia, with responsibility for Europe, the Middle East and Asia. As the father of Henry, a resident on campus, he brings to the Board a deep knowledge of the issues for families and clients and business, plus commercial skills enhanced by his exposure to international environments. His business activities involving extensive overseas travel have made him less visible to Association members but his commitment to the future and longevity of Minda is exceptional.

Greg Cotton was selected by the Board in October 2006 to fill a casual vacancy for a non family Minda Association member. He holds an Honours Degree in Economics and after early work in that field has focussed on the Human Resources area with experience at senior executive level with private organisations including Normandy Mining, Laubman and Pank and also with Public Service organisations such as Woods and Forests. Greg brings to the Board a keen, inquiring mind and a depth of knowledge and experience in people and organisational development issues which is of great value to an organisation which employs over 800 people and provides service to more than a thousand clients.

Cathy Cooper was selected in December 2005 as a discretionary Board member. Initially qualifying to practice law, she has extensive experience in executive management with prestigious organisations such as Elders and Fosters Brewing and her Board

work includes both Chair and Director roles with organisations such as the Repatriation Hospital, the Dairy Authority and Centennial Park Cemetery Authority. She has twice been a finalist in the annual Telstra Business Women's Award and brings to the Board outstanding skills in the areas of corporate governance, risk management and strategic planning as well as her legal background. Catherine is Chair of the Governance and Compliance Committee. We are fortunate to have her input

Patricia Brougham was elected to the Board in October 2005 as a Minda Association family member. Patricia's daughter Emma has been a resident on Minda campus for some years and, like other family Board representatives, greatly enhances non family Board members' awareness of what is happening at the grassroots level. Patricia also has extensive experience in the wider disability field, having worked for 14 years as the Events / Fundraising Manager of Novita Children's Services as well as serving on many other committees and groups. She is therefore able to bring to the Board not only the perspective of a parent but also the benefit of unique public relations and fundraising knowledge and experience in the disability field.

Mick Bower is a long term member of Minda's staff and has been a staff elected member of the Board since 1998. As a Team Leader at Murdoch House he is constantly at the coal face of interaction with clients and therefore understands deeply the realities and issues of ensuring our clients are cared for. His empathy and respect for the staff, particularly those in direct care work, is exceeded only by his commitment to and affection for those for whom he cares. He brings to the Board not only the benefit of many years' experience of direct care and the perspective of staff, but also a feisty, down to earth approach.

Wes Ashman is a Minda Association family member and has served on the Board since 2002. Currently Vice Chairman, he also chairs the Finance and Audit Committee and the Investment Committee. A chartered accountant, he remains active in professional accounting bodies as well as the Uniting Church and Rotary International. As a parent with a son living in the community and a daughter on campus, and with an extensive involvement with parents' groups together with his professional accounting and business skills, he is able to make a significant broad based contribution at both Board and sub committee level.

Roy Arnold joined the Board in 1997, initially as a State Government nominee but became a Minda Association non family member and President of the Association and Chair of the Board in 2001. Now semi retired after a long career as a Chief Executive in the manufacturing industry and then TransAdelaide, he is still active as a business adviser to a manufacturing company as well as serving on the State Procurement Board. Initially an industrial engineer, he entered management early and earned a reputation for bringing about successful change in struggling organisations. He brings the benefits of his wide experience in management and boards, strong links with industry and government but, above all, total commitment to the cause of clients and families. Roy also chairs the Strategy and Planning Committee and the Investment Committee.



From the Chief Executive Officer

Philip Martin

I welcome you to this edition of Minda News as another busy year seems to be slipping away.

Thank you to the Association members who attended the Mid-Year Meeting and the Consultation Meeting on the Supported Accommodation Task Force Policy as well as the event which Minda jointly sponsored to enable a presentation by Dr Bob Schalock on Quality of Life for people with disability.

This year has seen a number of key developments

- As the State Chairman of ACROD I have been participating on the Supported Accommodation Task Force, which is due to report to the Hon Jay Weatherill by September 2006. The task force was established to advise the Minister on key issues which need to be addressed to systematically improve the capacity of supported accommodation services to meet a growing need.
- Our aged care facility (Pat Kaufmann Centre) was reaccredited by the Aged Care Accreditation Agency and was successful in passing 44 of 44 areas covered by the audit team. This was a magnificent effort by all concerned. We are also continuing with our efforts to add to the existing 30 bed places. Unfortunately, this has not yet been successful, however Accommodation Services is continuing with a range of strategies to respond to this growing area of need.
- There have been major changes in our Business Services area with the successful achievement of the Commonwealth Government's Business Services Reform Agenda which requires 'supported employees' to be paid against an Award and services to be accredited against the legislation. Since early February, all of our supported employees received their pay in the same way as all Minda employees and nearly 95% received a pay rise.
- If you have had the opportunity to visit the campus you would have also noticed that the new Laundry is fully operational with better working conditions, better laundered product and the opportunity to expand into commercial contracts in the near future.
- Our commitment to assist people to move to the community if they desire has resulted in a recent set of initiatives to build or buy six community properties to assist existing campus clients and some people on the Urgent Accommodation Waiting List to receive new services. In addition, Tassie House has been refurbished, and a new bathroom installed in Sommer Place.
- We have also maintained our commitment to the people who wish to stay on the campus and, as part of this commitment, have refurbished Bean and commenced refurbishment of Burnell.
- There has been a considerable amount of work undertaken to gain approval of Blackwood Park Stage II and I am pleased to advise that this was recently approved by Mitcham Council. Development planning work will now commence to build on the success of Stage One of the land development.
- In the Day Program area we are pleased with the success of Chuaninga and we continue to work with the State Government to gain increased funding for Day Programs as well as address key issues such as transportation to and from the service.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 12 November.

Charter of Client Rights and Service Responsibilities

Minda has a new Charter of Client Rights and Service Responsibilities. This is a one page document which is now available in each service area for use and information. As a funded organisation, Minda is required to have in place 'A client charter that embraces legal human rights issues and outlines the roles and responsibilities of clients.

To ensure that the Minda version has a solid foundation based on sound principles and a strong philosophical rationale, it has been based on the 1993 United Nations Standard 22 Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the South Australian Disability Services Act (1993). This was identified as a Quality Steering Group project and completed in 2005.

Executive have approved this document and a pictorial version has been developed and approved in consultation with the Minda Client Reference Group.

Celebrating 40 Years of Volunteering

from the pen of Maureen Gilbertson, Lutheran Church Group

On the 22 June 1966, a group of women from St Paul's Lutheran Church, Glenelg, visited Minda to run a Sunday school and social Afternoon, followed by a Tea Party. These visits were made monthly, and are still continuing. Several ladies from the Faith Lutheran Church Warradale, have joined the group of volunteers, and have become long term workers. At the same time we were asked to conduct a morning service on the first Sunday of each month, and some of the people who began in 1966 are still volunteering. Our children came with us to the Sunday Services, and as teenagers, became involved in social Evenings with a group of clients on a regular basis.

Lutheran Women of South Australia paid for bus trips, twice per year, and we made visits to many country churches, where we were entertained by wonderful country women and enjoyed delicious lunches and afternoon teas. At Monarto we managed to lose Joy Kaesler (at a church in a paddock), and another time left a client behind in Gawler – can you imagine the panic? Colin Ivey often accompanies us, so with his sense of humor, we managed. Christmas parties at our home, where the church people and our neighbours all became involved, were great fun. Clients came in cars and buses. My husband Ray, very successfully deputized as Father Christmas.



Minda volunteers Maureen Gilbertson (wearing scarf) with Ray Gilbertson on her left with Lutheran Church Group volunteers.

One of our fond memories is of the late Ray Newton sitting on Father Christmas' knee asking for a "trannie" – Ray didn't take no for an answer, so we hope Father Christmas did oblige.

The age of our clients (and I suppose our own) has scaled down our activities, and the wonderful lunches and Tea Parties are no more, but our visits bring us joy. Being a volunteer for those 40 years has brought many blessings to my family and me and to the other volunteers (we have 2 teenagers now who come to worship services). We trust that the clients whom we have come to know and love feel truly blessed.

Nursery Showcase

Craigburn Nursery was the only fern wholesaler invited to display its products at the Bunnings Trade Day which was held at the Crows Shed. Very positive feedback was received from Bunnings' staff regarding the service and quality of products provided by Craigburn. Well done to Jeff Clarke and the crew for a very professional presentation.



Jeff Clarke at the Trade Day

Sturt Cottage Craft

Sturt Cottage Craft operates out of Brighton House (the beautiful old building just behind Isabel's), It is a day activity run by volunteers under the leadership of Mrs Patricia Kaufmann, AM, MBE and attended by clients who have the opportunity to use and display their talents. Arts and crafts are made for sale as well as given to others in need. Pictured below are volunteers presenting a welcome supply of blankets for clients in the Pat Kaufmann Centre – Minda's Nursing Home facility at Brighton.



Pat Kaufmann Centre staff and clients welcome the delivery of blankets from Sturt Cottage Craft volunteers and clients.

Channel 9 Telethon Sponsorship

Yes - we are excited indeed to announce that Minda is involved in the Channel 9 Telethon for another year!

The success of our first year with Telethon resulted in Minda receiving \$140 000 in sponsorship which included the production and airing of two x 30 second commercials, lottery and other project opportunities.

Sales of the Channel 9 Distinctive Home and Land Lottery have just commenced offering the chance to win a beautiful \$400 000 home or \$275 000 cash. The winning ticket will be drawn on 18 December - what a wonderful early Christmas present for the lucky ticket holder!

Minda volunteers will be at the show home from 9-15 October and 30 October-5 November so why not come for a drive and say hello? The beautiful 4 bedroom home with soundproof loft and fabulous home theatres located at Cowan Street, Westwood (Angle Park).

As we did so well in our first year, we have increased our fundraising targets. So if you would like to help us raise more money for Minda by selling some lottery tickets, and go in the draw to win \$2000 cash, please give our Fundraising Department a call on 8422 6200 or email to pr@minda.asn.au



(Left to right) Mark Colson (General Manager Channel 9) presenting Phil Martin with the 2005 Sponsorship results.



Volunteers at Harbourtown. Colleen Dennehy, Carmen Wybrow (Harbourtown Centre Management), Nancy Tiver, Allan Semple.

'Gimme' Shelter

During winter last year, it became evident that there was a need for a carport to provide shelter for young people with high support needs arriving and leaving Building Abilities' day placements.

Daina, sister of Building Abilities' client, Lara, informed us that there may be an opportunity for assistance from the Booze Brothers' Staff Charitable Fund.



A submission was made, and everyone was ecstatic when the fund administrator, Cathy Maxwell, told us we were successful.

On 13 November last year Building Abilities' team leader, Rachael Griffiths and staff member Julie Wyre attended the Booze Brothers annual cheque presentation at the Norwood Hotel and accepted a giant novelty cheque for \$6, 945.

Big Bryan Zerna from Olympic Industries was the man in charge of building our carport and he did a fantastic job. Thank you Bryan.

On 16 December the carport was jointly opened by Daina Scott representing Booze Brothers' Staff Charitable Fund and Bryan Zerna representing Olympic Industries. The new carport was brightly decorated and guests enjoyed a BBQ lunch.

Thanks to the generosity of Booze Brothers' Staff Charitable Fund clients can now arrive and be picked up without being scorched by the sun or drenched by rain.

(Left to right) Julie Wyre, Rachael Griffiths (Minda) and Michael Mills (Booze Brothers)



(Left to right) Chantelle Kroehn, Ken & Anne Rollond, Allan Semple, Patricia Brougham



Roy Arnold, John Kurz and Danielle Jiranek



Len Dyer, Mick Bower and Jan Prider at the reception



Well known Minda volunteer and ex-staff member Colin Ivey



John Heard, Joan Heard, Audrey Cotter



Lesley Ashman, George and Joan Haratsis



Supporters Rick Morris and Mark Colquhoun

Thank you &



Kaylene and Anthony (who work at Craighburn Nursery) at the Crows Shed after celebrations



Janet and Nick Dayman (between them 40 years service at Minda) congratulated by their daughters Imogen (left) and Isobel (right) at their graduation



Volunteer helpers Luke (left) and Elliot (right) congratulate players



Staff Volunteers Tony Finch (left) and Danny Ween (right), exchange fish tales with Kym Dillon (centre) at the Golf Day



Debra Neumann and Susie Birrell at work in the new Laundry



Brenton Baker with Minister Cobb in the state of the art plant room of Minda's new Laundry Services

Celebrations

Chipping in at Charity Golf Day

On Friday 2 June, another beautiful but crisp morning at the Glenelg Golf Club, the Minda SAI Private Golf Challenge began.

SAI Private chipped in with major sponsorship and hole sponsors included Adelaide Development Company (ADC), Brock Urban Projects, CBB, Kelly & Co Lawyers, Locher Human Resources and Macquarie. ADC also sponsored much admired keynote speaker, Katrina Webb, and provided every player with an umbrella (which, of course, doubly ensured we had no rain!). Locher provided the balls for players and we witnessed the auctioneering talents of Brett Williams from Brock. Fassina Wine Merchants assisted with beverages and the event was superbly run by Events Corp SA and MC'd by Mark Colquhoun.

There were many other team supporters, contributors and volunteers who made the day such a success and assisted in raising close to \$15 000. A great effort - congratulations and thanks to all involved!



(Left to right) Phil Martin , Andy Hagan (CBB), Simon Putna (Locher), David Abfelter (Kelly & Co), Greg Rundle (SAI Private) Katrina Webb (guest speaker), Brett Williams (Brock) , Geoff Day (Macquarie), Fiona Roche (ADC).

Rotary – Helping Out

Minda is very fortunate to have support from several Rotary Clubs in a variety of ways.

*Recently, **Rotary Club of Glenelg** presented Pride of Workmanship Awards. An individual award was presented to Brenton Baker from Minda's Business Services who played a major role in developing Minda's newly launched Laundry Services.*

The Team Award was presented to the Supported Employees Project Team: Alison Richmond, Lyn Stevens, Sue Blyth, Sharon Dwyer and Terry Shepherd. The team converted Minda's supported employees to award based employees.

***Rotary Club of Adelaide West** - a big thank you to President John Madigan and members who recently donated \$5000 for new lounge suites in Murdoch House. Murdoch House, located on Minda's Brighton grounds, is home to 25 clients between the ages of 25 and 52.*



John Kurz, Brenton Baker (award winner) with President Wayne Dyson



President John Madigan presenting cheque to Marion Zafray and Lyn Magee

Rotary Group Study Exchange from Mexico

On 27 March three members of a Rotary Group Study Exchange, Amalia, German and Eliel, visited a variety of services within Minda as part of the Vocational content of the Program.

As part of the Exchange Program a video conference was held with Tampico University in Mexico and German initiated a future video conference between Minda and Executives of a Disability Centre in Tampico.

Members of the group would like to thank all the service delivery areas they visited and those who took part in the tour including Wes Ashman, Lyn Magee, Karen Peterson, Kerry Presser and David Zwolak.

The visitors from Mexico were impressed, if not overwhelmed, by the friendliness and quality of care given and they say it would be many years before comparative care could be even contemplated within Mexico. They graded the visit a 'wow' factor.

When asked to comment on the visit German wrote:

"I think Minda is a great organisation with excellent people. They do very noble work and they manage to harness the abilities of valuable people for the society."



(Above left to right) German, David Swolak, Amalia, Wes Ashman, Kerry Presser, Eliel, Lyn Magee. Fortunate Five.

(Left) Mexico

Fortunate Five Feel Right at Home

Chloe Fox MP attended the official opening of five brand new units at Mitchell Park on Monday 29 May. The new tenants are clients of Minda's Independent Support Service (ISS).

The building of the units was a joint venture by The South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT) and the South Australian Community Housing Authority (SACHA). They were then allocated to Housing Spectrum who assigned the units to people on the urgent waiting list. Housing Spectrum provides a first class service and the 'fortunate five' clients were delighted to accept.

The units are in a quiet cul-de-sac with landscaped areas. The cluster style accommodation has proved to be extremely successful and the units provide each tenant with the privacy of an independent lifestyle within their own unit but with the added support of their own unique community. Since moving to their new homes in February the tenants have been thrilled with their new standard of living.

All of the clients are very proud of their homes and were delighted to show people around at the official opening.



(Left to right) Chloe Fox, Eric Hardy, Robyn Heron, David Martin, Ken Werner, Neil Matthews

Our Commitment to the Environment

The new look Minda News is produced by an environmentally conscious, carbon neutral printer using internationally accredited processes and practices. It has been printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable based inks.



Minda Graduates

On Friday 17 March a graduation ceremony was held to recognise the achievements of staff in the attainment of Nationally Recognised qualifications.

The ceremony was held in Isabel's and was attended by more than 100 people.

Certificates were presented against the Certificate III and Certificate IV in Disability, and staff members who achieved the Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training were recognised and acknowledged.

Roy Arnold, President of the Board of Minda welcomed those in attendance and expressed the importance that Minda places on Learning and Development as a way to ensure that we can provide the best care for our clients. He also noted that from a strategic point of view, Learning and Development enables staff to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes to assist Minda deal with the challenges of the future.

Phil Martin, CEO of Minda spoke regarding the value of staff as a resource critical to Minda achieving its goals for the future, and reinforced the commitment of Minda to providing quality training and development for its staff.

Special guest speaker for the ceremony was Ann Doolette, Director of the Quality Branch of the Department of Further



Minda graduates

Education Science and Technology, who spoke of the benefits of training and applauded Minda for its commitment to quality and the high standards it provides for staff at Minda.

At the conclusion of the formalities special guests celebrated the achievements of the graduates at a function characterised by fine wine, fine food and fine company.

Thanks must go to all involved in the event for making it a celebration of the achievements of staff who achieved nationally recognised qualifications.

Minda's Community Aged Care Packages

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing reviewed Minda's Community Aged Care Packages Programme in October 2005 and we were given level 1 which is the highest of three levels.

They were most impressed with our programme and recognised that it goes along way to providing greater opportunities for clients to age within the community that they have lived in for most of their lives.

Community Aged Care Packages are provided to frail older people and people with a disability to help them live in their own home. The Commonwealth Government pays Minda some money to provide services for 29 clients who are older and living in the community. An Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) must first assess clients before their personal needs are agreed on and a package is developed. Minda is an approved CACP Provider under the Aged Care Act 1997.

The focus of the programme is to provide services that reflect each persons needs and can be flexible so it fits in with their wishes. Clients have the opportunity to receive support in all areas of their lives, providing a greater opportunity for them to remain in their own homes.

A Coordinator manages each individual Community Aged Care Package and a team of staff, family and other service providers support the programme, which allows the opportunity to respond quickly to changing needs and provides opportunities for terrific client outcomes. Clients with an Intellectual Disability may age quickly and without this service we would need to look at Residential Care.

This is a fantastic opportunity that supports the elderly to remain in their own home longer.

A Very Special Day for John and Sandra

November 19, 2005 was a beautiful sunny day - a very special day for Sandra Kerber and John Bithell. It was the day that they were finally able to stand in front of their friends and supporters and commit publicly to each other. They had wanted this to happen for about six years but like many good romantic stories there were many obstacles in their way.

There were those that said that they couldn't do it or that it shouldn't be allowed. Sandra and John had other ideas. They were both insistent that this is what they really wanted most of all and so in an effort to appease their detractors, they committed to working with Vicki Waldren to discuss their relationship and the responsibilities that such a commitment would require of them. During this time they moved from a group home in the Pasadena Community Complex to a granny flat attached to a group home in the Blackwood Community Complex. This was the first time that they had privacy as a couple.

The planning of the ceremony caused much excitement. Both John and Sandra knew exactly what they wanted. Sandra wanted to wear a dress just like the one Julie Andrews wore in the Sound of Music. Kaye had made it especially for her during her holidays - Sandra looked every bit the radiant bride in it.



Ronda Shepley put her event planning skills to good use. The marquee at William Rufus looked wonderful and the kitchen did a fantastic job with the catering. The service was beautifully conducted by Trevor Witney.

John and Sandra were joined by 70 of their friends and co workers. Phil Martin and Debbie Knowles attended along with many of their support staff.

100 Reasons to Crow About the Footy!

Thanks to a very generous donation of footy tickets by Cornes Toyota dealer Antimo Spagnuolo, 100 people from Minda celebrated a fantastic win by the Adelaide Crows over Carlton at AAMI Stadium. Go the Crows! And thank you to staff and volunteers who supported clients on the day.



(Left to right) Youngest Volunteer Zach and Emily (works in Laundry Services) at the Crows Shed afterparty celebrating with Crows players

Christopher Wins Silver

Christopher Mitchell has recently returned from the 2006 National Disabilities Tenpin Bowling Championships held in Bankstown Sydney where he was fortunate enough to win the Silver Medal in the B Grade Singles.



Chris has attended these Championships for eight years and in that time has twice won the B Grade Doubles, once won the B Grade Trio's and now boasts a Silver in the B Grade Singles. Chris has been working in the Kitchen at Minda for the past 14 years and says he really enjoys his work and work mates.

Food Services and Minda would like to congratulate Chris and say well done!

New Laundry – New Opportunities

Our new campus laundry was officially opened on Friday 18 August by the Hon John Cobb MP Federal Minister for Community Services.

Special guests included Dr Andrew Southcott MP Federal Member for Boothby, Miss Chloe Fox MP Member for Bright, representing the Premier of South Australia Mike Rann, and the Hon Jay Weatherill Minister for Families and Communities and the Hon Stephen Wade MLC representing the Leader of the Opposition the Hon Iain Evans.

Promotion of the opening included advertisements in the Guardian Messenger, The Advertiser and three weeks of advertising on Mix 102.3fm radio. The Laundry, designed by our own Brenton Baker, has increased capacity. This will allow us to commercialise this extra capacity to outside organisations and provide more employment opportunities for both staff and supported employees as well as the income to achieve this.



John Kurz, John Cobb and Andrew Southcott meet workers in Minda's new Laundry Services

An Absolutely Fabulous 50th

Family members came from all over Australia to join Maxine Wilsdon celebrate her milestone birthday at the Buffalo Restaurant making this special occasion a birthday celebration and a family reunion in one.

Maxine's brother whom she has not seen for 16 years came from Victoria; her other brother Marcus whom she has not seen for 4 years came from Western Australia and her sister Christine from Queensland whom she hasn't seen for a couple of years. Maxine's mother has recently moved back to Adelaide last December from Western Australia to be her. The combined evening with family, clients, staff from Murdoch and Maxine's work area made for a memorable occasion.

A highlight of the evening was when Murdoch staff member Kay Lobb and three other ladies from the Decoupage Quartet gave an outstanding performance of various songs, including Happy Birthday. It was a delight to see the expressions on



Maxine enjoying some time with a friend and staff member Betty



Maxine with her family

Maxine's and the other client's faces and to see Kay in a different role. The members of the Quartet volunteered their services on a Saturday evening.

Maxine thought the evening was great and she really enjoyed herself. The staff would like to thank all involved for their support.

Not Quite *Dancing With the Stars*

Whilst attending the 39th International Fundraising Conference in Sydney earlier this year, Marion Zafry, Minda's PR & Fundraising Manager just happened to be seated at the same table as Mark Hodge, famous for his appearances on *Dancing with the Stars*. Marion, of course, took the opportunity to talk to Mark about Minda. Although Mark is now based interstate, he said he had lived in SA for 15 years and he knew a lot about the wonderful support Minda provides to people with intellectual disability and their families. **Mark said to say hello to all his fans at Minda.**



Minda Presents at Overseas Conference

by Sue Blythe, Len Dyer Scholarship Award Winner

5th International Conference on the Care and Treatment of Offenders with a Learning Disorder held at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston UK, 10-11 April 2006.

The conference focussed on presenting research into the issues around offenders in the youth and criminal justice system known or found to have a learning disorder (intellectual disability). Client focussed planning was included and the presentations covered research into screening, cognitive behaviour therapy, autism and complex needs, and the interactions with the education system. The issue of identifying a learning disorder meant that most clients involved had a mild disability, and often a dual disability, and these are the people who tend to miss the special education system and fail in the mainstream system. Support and treatment becomes a complex undertaking.

The conference finished with a presentation by the Geese Theatre Company. A group of very skilled people who work with young offenders to create and present drama based on life stories; presented in the third person it becomes a therapy for the participants.

A short presentation was given about Minda Inc and our Behaviour Support Planning processes. This was well received as it is based on a very individualised approach, providing the client focus that is currently being promoted in the services in the UK.

An overall impression was that Minda Inc is able to provide families with support for their children from a young age, enhancing the opportunity to maximise each child's potential and minimise the damaging effect of stress and anxiety on the developing child and their families and carers. We are also able to maintain an effective style of individualised support (most of the time) throughout a person's life, enhancing their quality of life. Our support staff have a good working knowledge of behaviour support and working closely with families and schools is a very positive aspect of our service delivery.

Client Demographics and Language(s) Spoken at Home Survey

The Quality Steering Group surveyed all Minda service areas in 2005 for information regarding client cultural and language issues.

This information will assist Minda to promote and plan culturally appropriate services to meet the individual needs of clients.

Details about clients who were born in another country, who are of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander descent or whose family speak a language other than English at home were collected. In addition, comments regarding support services were also documented.

Access to Interpreter Services, information for families and Culture & Diversity training issues were identified as requirements for some services.

Families of Minda clients are from a diverse cultural heritage. Languages spoken by families at home include: Italian, Greek, Polish, Latvian, Singalese, Cantonese, Tagalog, German, Vietnamese, Chinese, Croatian, Russian, French and Malaysian.

Minda welcomes feedback and suggestions from families to improve services for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Minda will also continue to build networks and work with advisory groups and Multicultural services to improve diversity planning.

Vale by Rev Trevor Whitney, Chaplain

A child tosses a small stone into the middle of a pond. As the stone sinks and disappears from view ripples start to emerge from the centre of the pond. The ripples begin to spread out till eventually the entire pond is covered by the ripples created by the impact of that one small stone.

Like that small stone, when someone dies there is a sense in which, physically, they 'disappear from view'. However, through our personal and collective memories of that person the 'ripples' of that person's life can remain, and sometimes spread far and wide. Hopefully they are memories of a love shared and of a life that nurtured our own.

May the lives of these residents live on in the memory of our Minda community.

WILKS, Alan	85	27/07/2005
PERRY, Douglas William	84	11/11/2005
COSTELLO, Anne	62	28/12/2005
PIPINIS, Peter	42	26/01/2006
VARBANOFF, Peter	61	25/02/2006
PENGLASE, Mark Thomas	58	01/04/2006
RIEGER, Helen	77	18/04/2006
METZNER, Leonard Frederick	57	04/05/2006
SCHNEIDER, Margaret Elizabeth	52	09/05/2006
BENDA, Michael Stuart	64	28/05/2006
JONES, Sarah	31	29/06/2006
WILLIAMS, Karen	34	01/07/2006
HANNIFORD, Mark	45	24/08/2006

Open Employment Success

The Association of Competitive Employment (known as ACE) is a peak body for Australia's Disability Employment Network. Members from ACE SA flew to Melbourne to join The Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP Minister for Workforce Participation and ACE Ambassador Dean Clifford in a special event celebrating 20 years of disability employment services in Australia.

"I had the opportunity to speak with Dr Sharman Stone, it was important that she took an interest and listened to what I had to say about the difficulties I face in maintaining employment and finding an employer who will give me flexible hours. I felt very privileged to be asked to represent MJP Employment Services at this event" commented Narelle.

ACE SA is a very effective network in SA. It brings together a wide range of services and people who are passionate about providing people with disabilities open employment opportunities in SA. ACE SA is looking to promote to employers the benefits of employing people such as Narelle and Dean.



(Left to right) Narelle White, Adrian Pitt - Finding Work Solutions, Olivia Sorre - MJP Employment Services (Division of Minda Inc) and Chair of ACE SA, The Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP Minister for Workforce Participation, Rosemary Wallage - Interwork Inc, Dean Clifford - ACE National Ambassador)

Sport Ability Bag Hugely Popular

Attention all Minda Staff and clients! Leisure Options has been able to borrow a new Sport Ability Bag, which is available for our use!

In March, The Office for Recreation & Sport visited the Minda Campus and tested the Sport Ability Bag out on a group of some 20 clients with varying degrees of disability, with GREAT SUCCESS! The bag consists of equipment for Boccia, Goalball, Volleyball, Polybat and Table Cricket, all of which can be modified to meet the different needs of clients and their degree of disability. Sport Ability can easily be set up within houses, recreation halls, parks, just about anywhere. Leverington, Building Abilities, Chuaninga, Day Centre and Pines Club have been frequent users of the Sport Ability Bag and are 'singing its praise'.

The good news is, Leisure Options has been successful in applying to the Office for Recreation and Sport for funding to purchase two new Sport Ability Bags as part of the Get Active project and this equipment will soon be available for all to use.

For further information or to book the bag simply give Sophie (205) or Michael (315) a call at Leisure Options.

Yes, we would like to make a donation to Minda Incorporated

\$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$100 \$ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

State _____

Postcode _____

Telephone (Home) _____

(Work) _____

Email _____

Please make cheques payable to Minda Inc.

Payment by: Cheque Bankcard Visa Mastercard (please tick box)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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Cardholder's Name _____

Expiry Date _____

/

Signature _____

Minda Incorporated PO Box 5, Brighton SA 5048

Telephone 8422 6200 Facsimile 8422 6330 Email pr@minda.asn.au

Minda is a registered Charitable Organisation ABN 37 020 000 711



Thank you for your support!