

Knoxbrooke Talk



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From the President

*Pat Dalton QC
President Knoxbrooke Board of Management*

You may be interested in the following letter that we recently sent to the Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, in relation to supported employment services.

Monday July 21st, 2014

*Senator the Hon. Mitch Fifield,
Assistant Minister for Social Services
42 Florence Street
Mentone. Vic. 3194.*

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the Board of Management of Knoxbrooke Incorporated.

When you were in Opposition you visited us on more than one occasion and we know well how strongly you are committed to the improvement of the lot of the disabled.

However there are issues which we feel compelled to raise with you relating to our organisation's continued delivery of supported employment. The first arises from the recent decision of Fair Work Australia to increase the minimum wage by 3.01%. It increases our supervisory and welfare wages bill along with ancillary costs significantly and we ask - does the Government propose to provide further funding to meet this impost?

The second is the continuing inadequacy of the funding for our supported employment enterprises. This has been going on for years and has been further entrenched by the meagre 2% per annum increase allowed under the current contract. Our management calculates that at present the level of funding for

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supported workers at our nursery is about 30% below what it costs to deliver the services required under the contract. This is born out of the KPMG 2012 report on ADE funding. You will I am sure understand our dismay when we hear the funds already lavished on the education sector are to be augmented by increases of nearly 9% in each of the next 3 years and 6% in the fourth and compare that with the way our sector is being treated. Of course the National Disability Insurance Scheme constitutes recognition of the overall plight of the disabled but it will be years before it delivers any tangible benefits. So we ask – can we expect that as we wait for the NDIS the Government will provide fair and adequate funding for supported employment?

May we suggest that in responding to our request consideration is given to:

- A one off subsidy to compensate for the inadequate current base and for the insufficient indexation increases of past years;
- Recognition of different levels of support costs per industry;
- Creation of a formula for indexation which better predicts likely costs.

In conclusion we wish you well in your efforts to implement a sensible and sustainable NDIS and we ask that in doing so you keep in mind that organisations like Knoxbrooke have been the lifeblood of disability over the years. They grew out of community, they are supported by their local community and they provide community which is critical for the wellbeing of the disabled, particularly those with intellectual disability. Work is fulfilling but it is the community, the friendship and the support which gets them out of bed in the morning.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Dalton QC

President - Knoxbrooke Board of Management

Day Program Service

Glen Bowen

Manager Disability Support Services

The Day Program is Closed on the Following Days

- Monday 29 September 2014 to Friday 3 October 2014
- Monday 3 November 2014 to Tuesday 4 November 2014
- Tuesday 23 December 2014 to Monday 12 January 2015

Please note that the 2014 and 2015 Holiday Dates are now also available on the Knoxbrooke web site. Go to www.knoxbrooke.com.au to view at any time.



Visit by Tess Browne's Family and Staff from Her Home

On 1 July 2014 Knoxbrooke had a visit by Tess Browne's mum, brother and staff from her home. They visited to view and celebrate the renaming of the Drama Room to the Tess Browne Drama Room.

This occurred as the result of a request by the Knoxbrooke Client Council in memory of Tess whom passed away in March 2013. Tess was an enthusiastic participant in Knoxbrooke's drama program and thoroughly enjoyed her involvement in the yearly concerts.



*Pictured from left to right are:
Tanya, Shae, Lorna (Tess's mother),
Meg & Kelly
in front of the
'Tess Browne Drama Room'*

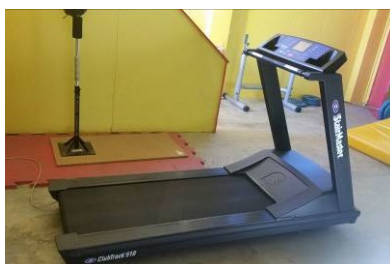


Tess in performing mode for a drama DVD!

New Equipment for the Gym

On 16 July 2014 we took delivery of 2 refurbished treadmills (pictured below), to replace our 2 worn out units. A big thank you to Jack from Gym Assist for giving Knoxbrooke a really good deal on the 2 treadmills.

Jack will also be delivering a refurbished rowing machine soon and this will increase the rower machines available from 1 to 2. Day service participants really appreciate this equipment which keeps them fitter and healthier.



REMINDER



‘Diet & Disability’

Information Evening

Wednesday, August 27th, 2014 - 7pm to 9pm

Top Building - Rm 3 - 977 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully

Guest Speaker

Emma Morris

Sports Dietician & Sports Scientist

Stay Tuned Sports Medicine

Question Time: Parents/carers invited to talk about their own dietary experiences & solutions in regard to people in their care.

For Catering Purposes: RSVP: Jenny - 9758 3666 20/8/14



Latino Fresh Concert

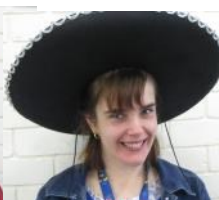
Coming Soon

Burrinja Arts
Centre
Glenfern Road
Upwey

*Please put
the date your
diaries*

THURSDAY NIGHT NOVEMBER 13TH

STARTS 6.45 PM



Knoxbrooke Industries

*Clare Nixon & Shaun Tuckerman
Managers*

Due to the end of financial year and the loss of a major customer (the customer has become more automated) work has dropped off resulting in temporary reduction of operational hours and workers hours. With Ron's hard work and new BNI contacts we have many new promising opportunities on the horizon and hope to be back to our regular hours in the coming months.



The above photo shows our workers undertaking QA for Smash.

We had a unique one off job which the workers thoroughly enjoyed which involved putting breather holes in take away coffee cup lids. We had a total of 250,000 lids and completed this task in two weeks. We'd like to say well done to all of our workers for meeting this target.

Horticulture Group

Peter Berthelsen
General Manager

The Home of Garden Lovers

Fathers' Day Sale is on again this year starting on Friday the 5th September at 9.00 am and finishing Sunday. Once again we are offering 50% off plants and up to 50% off selected giftware. This is usually an opportunity to catch up with friends within the Knoxbrooke community and to introduce your friends to the great work Knoxbrooke is doing through the nursery. Make a great impression by enabling all your contacts to purchase plants at wholesale prices whilst at the same time supporting Knoxbrooke.

Horticulture Services

Yarra View Horticultural have been awarded the tender to deliver the Yarra Ranges Council property maintenance for their HACC funded services. The contract will be for a two year period. Ian Wolstencroft has been appointed Contracts Manager to oversee the new Yarra Ranges contract and the current business. We are currently utilising the services of a number of contractors to perform the work for Yarra Ranges. As work flow increases we will be working with EACH employment who will source staff for the contract. The educational services will provide training to support the operations.

We are always looking for larger maintenance contracts and would welcome any enquiries or leads for larger work.

Education Services

Last month we bid Rick all the best in his retirement leading the Educational Services team for the past seven years. Over those years Rick developed the RTO into an integral part of the services that are offered by Knoxbrooke. The batten has been handed to Michael Anderson who has an extensive record in the further education sector to continue the development. We are all looking forward to the new skills that Mike brings with him to continue the good work by Rick.

Yarra View Nursery

Workers set the agenda at monthly meetings providing O. H & S opportunities for improvement, discussions on workplace systems and other workplace relevant issues.

The Yarra View Nursery workers at their monthly meeting in June.





June 2014 trading was down on June 2013 which was consistent with retailing trends throughout Australia. July 2014 has seen significant growth on 2013 July. This has been mainly due to the new range of Ferndale ferns being supplied to Masters Queensland stores during the month.

Masters have been running expos in each state starting in Queensland then NSW in July, Western Australia and Vic. will be

in August. At these expos Yarra View sales staff are presenting our national core product ranges of Austriflora, Hedgemaster and Fuchsia which have been in store over the past year. They are also releasing the new Ferndale range of Ferns to Store Managers and garden department staff and managers. The new range has created excitement amongst the staff at Masters as it provides a customer friendly sales platform for store staff.



The York Road crossing committee has been given an extension to the time frames for submission of the final report until September 2014. This will enable the committee to do further research prior to finalisation of the report.

136 York Road

Mount Evelyn. Vic. 3796

Phone 9737 0851

the home of
gardenlovers

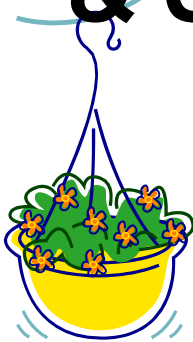


discover your complete outdoor experience

SALE 50% off

Plants in Stock

& Selected Giftware



(Father's Day Weekend)

9am - 5pm

Friday September 5th, 2014

Saturday September 6th, 2014

Sunday September 7th, 2014

