



From The CEO

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Welcome to the Summer edition of “Knoxbrooke Talk”

The year 2017 is Knoxbrooke’s 50th anniversary year which will be celebrated on 25th March 2017 at 10.30am for an 11.00am start at 977 Burwood Highway. Much thought and effort has gone into the preparation for the day and you are warmly invited to attend the celebration. You will be spoilt with a musical display from the School of Hard Knoxbrooke and be entertained with a sneak preview of the upcoming Burrinja Production - Grease Frightening.

Given Knoxbrooke’s rich history, it is highly appropriate that a book commemorating the first 50 years of Knoxbrooke be written. We are very appreciative of Anne Boyd, Editor of the Gully News for volunteering to write Knoxbrooke’s history book. The book will be launched on Friday, 1 December 2017 to coincide with 3 December 2017 being International Day for People of All Abilities. The challenge for Anne and the team of volunteers is how to squeeze 50 years of history into 96 pages!

As I have read through Knoxbrooke’s history, it really has hit home to me what a committed, determined group of people made Knoxbrooke a reality. Rotary Belgrave and Ferntree Gully led the way in establishing a special school for children with disabilities in under two years. To accomplish such a feat, thousands of volunteer hours were freely given by many people. This was acknowledged in Oak Harbour U.S.A. in 1968 as being the most significant community project initiated by Rotary anywhere in the world. Knoxbrooke was awarded the Rotary International Service Award that year. .../cont'd

Condolences

It is with great sadness that we express our deepest sympathy to the family, friends and carers of Jane Gooding who passed away on Monday February 27th. Jane has been a much loved participant at Knoxbrooke Community since starting in 1996 after completing her schooling.



To the family, friends and carers of John Oesch, who passed away on January 21st, we also would send our sincere condolences. John was also a much loved participant and had been part of our community since December 2008.

We would also extend on our deepest sympathy to Nakita (Community participant) and her family at the recent sad passing of her beloved mother, Marlene.

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50 years on and Knoxbrooke continues to this day to deliver high quality support, training and employment opportunities for people living with a disability. And it would seem that Knoxbrooke has recently been re-discovered as evidenced by the State Government choosing to announce \$5m towards Australia's first Government social enterprise strategy at Yarra View Nursery on 16 February 2017. Read more about it in Scott Buckland's report.

I look forward to seeing you at the 50th Anniversary celebration if not before.



NDIS Information Sessions

Café style information sessions for parents and carers will be held at both Knoxbrooke Community and Yarra View Nursery.

Yarra View Nursery Dates and Times as listed below:

1. 2pm Monday 22/05/17
2. 2pm Tuesday 20/06/17
3. 2pm Thursday 27/07/17
4. 2pm Tuesday 16/08/17
5. 6.30pm Monday 25/09/17

Venue is Knoxbrooke Training Room
(136 York Road, Mount Evelyn)

The Knoxbrooke Community Dates and Times as listed below:

1. 10.30am Monday 15/05/17
2. 10.30am Wednesday 14/06/17
3. 10.30am Friday 21/07/17
4. 2pm Wednesday 09/08/17
5. 6.30pm Monday 11/09/17

Venue is Knoxbrooke Community
(977 Burwood Hwy., Ferntree Gully)

Glen Bowen

General Manager

Knoxbrooke Community is closed on the following inclusive days:

No service: Monday 13 March 2017

No service: Monday 10 April 2017 to Tuesday 25 April 2017

No service: Monday 12 June 2017

No service: Monday 10 July 2017 to Friday 14 July 2017

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Update

As it is only just 9 months away for Knoxbrooke participants to start joining the NDIS, I felt it important to focus my Knoxbrooke Talk article contribution this time on preparing for the NDIS.

CARER NDIS INFORMATION SESSIONS

As most of you would be aware, Knoxbrooke hosted some NDIS information sessions for carers in November 2016. Knoxbrooke is providing more informal café style information sessions throughout 2017. Please see the previous page in this newsletter outlining the dates, times and venues.

NDIS TRAINING FOR KNOXBROOKE COMMUNITY STAFF

On 27 February 2017 the Knoxbrooke Community and Training staff undertook in-depth training on the NDIS. This was very valuable in bringing staff up to date on the roll out and the important aspects of the scheme.

GETTING YOU READY FOR THE NDIS

10 top tips: preparing for the NDIS

The NDIS will be rolling out in many places from July 2016 and the advice from the trial sites is to start getting ready now. Here are our top ten tips to help you prepare.



1. Start today

Your first NDIS planning meeting could be a pivotal moment in your life and it might be only months away. It's time to start thinking about how you want to live your life and what you need to achieve your goals.

2. Think big

The NDIS will transform disability services and it's for life. It's time to stop worrying about barriers you might have run into in the past and start thinking about the big picture. What do you want to achieve in your life and how do you want to live it? It might take some time to get used to the idea that the NDIS could actually change your world. It helps to talk through your goals, aspirations and dreams with people that know you well.

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3. Write a list or keep a diary

It's also important to think about your day-to-day reality. What are the barriers you encounter every day that make life harder than it could be? A good way to monitor this is to start documenting them now. You could write a diary, take photos or keep a list. This will provide concrete examples you can use in your first planning meeting to help you get the most out of your NDIS plan.

4. Be specific

There's no doubt that the NDIS could be truly transformative – but it's up to you to make sure you take advantage of it. Try to be as specific as you can about what you need and what you want, what your goals are and how you want to live. Write all of these down and take them along to your first meeting.

5. Learn the language

There's a whole world of NDIS jargon out there and it's a good idea to start getting your head around terms like *funded supports*, *planners*, *centre-based service* and *support plan*. This will help you to better understand the resources that are available and navigate the process. Check out the Every Australian Counts [NDIS Dejargonater](#) and for a full list see [NDP's glossary](#). (Please contact Knoxbrooke if you would like a printed copy).

6. Research, research, research

There's a reason that the NDIS was rolled out in trial sites first, and that's so that we can all learn from the experience of others. Try to get as much information in advance – this way you'll be better prepared to deal with any challenges and also to take full advantage of the opportunities of the NDIS. The Every Australian Counts website is a great place to start.

7. Get the paperwork done early

It's a good idea to fill in your planning workbook well before you go in for your first meeting. It contains important questions about your life and your future and you don't want to have to come up with an answer on the spot! You can download the NDIA's planning workbook *from the NDIS Web site via the following web address*, <http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au/wp-content/uploads/NDIS-Planning-Workbook.pdf>. *Alternatively, you can contact Knoxbrooke and ask for the VALID – Keys to Success Program Resource template, that outlines areas in some more detail.*

8. Don't sweat the detail

Have you previously felt pressure to list your needs in a priority order or compare the cost of one service or equipment over another? The NDIS changes all of that because it guarantees you all the reasonable and necessary supports that you need to help reach your goals in life. It's time to stop worrying about the detail and start re-imagining your future.

9. Get all your documents ready

Before your first meeting get all the documentation you have together so you can streamline the process with your planner. This will help you to explain who you are and what you need. Try to collate all your medical, education and health documents to have it ready.

10. Take someone with you

You don't have to go this process alone. Take along to your meeting people who know you well. That might be family, friends, support workers or advocates. They'll help you to make sure you aren't forgetting anything important and can assist with explaining your situation to your planner. Knoxbrooke can join you in the meeting. To arrange this, simply contact us.

These tips have been sourced from:

<http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au/10-top-tips-preparing-for-the-ndis/>

PICK UP THE PHONE AND MAKE A TIME TO COME AND SEE US ABOUT THE NDIS

Please remember if you want to chat at any time to Knoxbrooke about the NDIS, please call Kristian, Anne or myself on 9758-3666





Scott Buckland

General Manager

Knoxbrooke Enterprises

The 2016 Knoxbrooke Enterprises Christmas Party was a huge success with over 150 employees and guests enjoying an afternoon of great conversations, lovely food, fantastic singing and dancing and games of cricket all held in and around 'the shed' at YVN. Thank you to all staff involved in the set up and pack up. We have included some photos from day and I have already heard discussions about plans to make next year's event even better.

During December the Knoxbrooke Enterprises team showcased at a number of events including:

- A stand at the Knox Christmas Carols

- A stand at an ADE Exhibition at Parliament House

- Interviews on local radio

In February 2017 Yarra View Nursery was chosen for the launch of the State Governments Social Procurement Strategy. Four state MP's, representatives from Yarra Ranges council, several Knoxbrooke Board Members and various others from government and industry attended the event. The launch has made front page in local papers and is being showcased on several government websites and in social media. The Social Procurement Strategy is the first phase of improved access to government and industry contracts for Social Enterprises in the future. The nursery, our people and our products absolutely shone on the day and we all should be extremely proud.

In January a 'Team Leader' training program commenced with a small group of supported employees. The group will meet each week to develop their skills and discuss what makes a great team leader in preparation for new roles in the future.

We are currently seeking nominations for a new committee that is being established. The Employee Representative Committee (ERC) will meet each month with management to discuss issues that have been raised by employees. Other employees will be encouraged to raise their issues with the committee members.

Knoxbrooke Enterprises introduced a new Heat and Fire Management Policy during December. Sites will be closed on CODE RED days only. On all other days, regardless of the forecast temperature or if a Total Fire Ban has been declared all sites will remain open and fully operational. Weather and fire conditions will be monitored very carefully and appropriate action taken as needed.

Yarra View Nursery (YVN)

We received formal notification from VicRoads that construction of the long awaited pedestrian crossing on York Road will be commencing in April and be finished in June.

The nursery is a buzz at the moment with a number of big orders well underway for major retail clients and the Level Crossing Removal Projects. The diversity of the products required for each project is a new challenge for YVN. We anticipate a very strong second half of the financial year and have good indications for future business from these new customers.

The major nursery improvement works are almost complete. Recent tours of the nursery by a range of customers and dignitaries have allowed us to present at a very high standard and I am confident of further new opportunities in the future.

Amelia Cabret, Sales and Marketing Manager for YVN has a new hobby in flying drones and took some awesome shots of the nursery recently which are published over the page. Enjoy!

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Yarra View Nursery at its best!



ADE Exhibition

MP Rachel Carling-Jenkins, Scott Buckland, Premier Daniel Andrews, Amelia Cabret and Ron Barbaroux in front of the Knoxbrooke Enterprises stand at Parliament House.

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Thank You for Your Service

Robert Cronin retired in February after over 50 continuous years working at Yarra View Nursery (including service with St John of God). Congratulations Robert on a wonderful achievement. All your friends from Yarra View Nursery wish you all the best in your retirement.



Home of Garden Lovers (HOGL)

The new HOGL website was launched in December and is receiving regular feeds from the Facebook posts. The Christmas period was very successful and we have big plans to continue the development and growth of the retail business through new marketing, special events and new products.

New driveway signs were installed late last year and we are currently finalising designs to upgrade the large road signs at each end of the 120m road frontage we have.

HOGL is a wonderful space to visit, just to browse for that special gift or to completely fill your garden. With a perfect mix of YVN stock and lines from premium growers to compliment, HOGL now offers that full Plant Nursery offer, backed by industry leading service and garden advice.



Yarra View Horticulture (YVH)

YVH is currently operating with 2 crews focusing on commercial and council work. A number of long term domestic clients have been carefully shifted to contractors.

A third crew is doing some great work, upgrading the Knoxbrooke site gardens in preparation for the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Knoxbrooke Outsource (KO)

The KO team enjoyed their first combined Christmas party in December, starting a new tradition of combined KE events.

Our key clients continue to provide a solid stream of work and we are in discussions with others for new work. At KO we produce and package a very broad range of products including our own kindling range, confectionary, herbicides, medical components and educational products.



Enjoying Christmas at YVN!

