



From The CEO

Kristian Dauncey

Chief Executive Officer

On 25th March 2017, Knoxbrooke celebrated its Golden Jubilee in true Knoxbrooke style. All preparations had been done, the scene was set and the weather was perfect. It was now time for the Knoxbrooke community to come together and celebrate all that is good about Knoxbrooke. What an unforgettable celebration it was!

During the day, it was an honour to make a small presentation of thanks to three Rotarians who moved Knoxbrooke from being an idea into a reality and in record time too! The founders represented on the day were: Ken Miller, Ron Johnson and Lyall Williams.



Pictured: Ken Miller, Ron Johnson, Lyall Williams, Pat Dalton QC – President, Federal Minister Alan Tudge and Kristian Dauncey - CEO

The crowd of over 300 people were entertained by an opening rendition by the School of Hard Knoxbrooke of melody bells followed by a series of wonderful speeches and then the grand finale being a sneak peek of the upcoming Burrinja Production – Grease Frightening!



Pictured: Federal member Jason Wood MP dancing in Grease Frightening



Pictured: Meg & Jasmine performing a musical item featuring bells



Pictured: State member Shaun Leane MLC talking about the value of employment in social enterprises like Yarra View Nursery



Pictured: State Member Nick Wakeling MP with Pat Dalton QC - Knoxbrooke President and Knox City Council Mayor Darren Pearce unveiling the memorial plaque to Ms Jackman

My thanks to everyone who attended, the behind-the-scenes support crew and the many dignitaries who attended in their own time.

Some days after the golden jubilee celebration; Knoxbrooke held the sold-out Grease Frightening production. It was my first experience and it was awesome!

Knoxbrooke and the NDIS

As we all know the NDIS is not far away and Knoxbrooke is here to assist you. The NDIS is scheduled to be rolled-out on 1 November 2017. Most people will be transferring from the current system to the NDIS between now and 1 November 2018.

Knoxbrooke has already held 4 NDIS information sessions and has over 20 more sessions booked for families and carers. Each session is limited to 12 people. By keeping the sessions small, we wish to give you opportunity to ask the questions that are important to you.

In surveys undertaken last year, Knoxbrooke was informed that people would like to see more flexible services from us. In particular, supports are required in the home to provide respite for families and carers and skills building for individuals. Under the old system, Knoxbrooke has been restricted in what it could offer but under the NDIS, Knoxbrooke can now truly provide you with the supports you want, when you want it.

To this end, I am pleased to advise that **Knoxbrooke 365** was launched at the VALID expo on 7 June 2017. Knoxbrooke 365 is there for you and is available from **6am-10pm, 365 days per year including overnight** if required. If you would like to know more about Knoxbrooke 365, please call us or find out more at the information sessions. In a short time, we have had tremendous interest in Knoxbrooke 365.

Glen Bowen

General Manager

Knoxbrooke Community is closed on the following inclusive days:

- No service:** Monday 12 June 2017
- No service:** Monday 10 July 2017 to Friday 14 July 2017
- No service:** Monday 25 September 2017 to Friday 29 September 2017
- No service:** Monday 6 November 2017 to Tuesday 7 November 2017



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Update

It is now only 6 months away for Knoxbrooke participants to start joining the NDIS, so I will continue my contribution to the Knoxbrooke Talk on preparing for the NDIS.

CARER NDIS INFORMATION SESSIONS

Knoxbrooke is continuing to provide NDIS carer information sessions throughout 2017. If you haven't already signed up to come along to one of the sessions, I encourage you to make the time to come along. Please see the enclosed flyer outlining the dates, times and venues.

GETTING YOU READY FOR THE NDIS

In the last edition of Knoxbrooke Talk I published "10 Top Tips" to get you thinking about preparing for the first NDIS planning meeting for the person that you an advocate for. (Source: <http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au/10-top-tips-preparing-for-the-ndis/>)

If you haven't had a chance to action the suggested approach to in these "10 Top Tips", I encourage you to refer back to the last edition of Knoxbrooke Talk and for the person that you advocate for, start today by:

- ◇ writing down everything that is important
- ◇ getting evidence from a doctor verifying the person's disability/ies:
 - *by type
 - *permanency
 - *how it effects the person's life
- ◇ book in and come along to a Knoxbrooke NDIS carer information session
- ◇ asking Knoxbrooke staff for any help in getting ready
- ◇ remembering to ask for a face to face meeting with the planner
- ◇ also, remembering to bring someone along with you to the planning meeting



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.



Rewind to 31 July 2016
Sensory Garden Working Bee clearing
By Knoxbrooke Staff and Family



6 May 2017
Sensory Garden Working Bee New Raised Garden Beds installed
Project of Rotary Club of Ferntree Gully

Thanks to the hard working Rotarians for:

- ◇ demolishing the old garden bed brick wall
- ◇ removal of the old bricks
- ◇ moving all the existing soil into the new garden bed enclosures
- ◇ providing new top soil
- ◇ constructing 3 new fabulous raised garden beds for our sensory garden area



ALL DISPOSAL FEES, LABOUR AND MATERIALS FREE OF CHARGE!

That's so awesome and Knoxbrooke thanks all of you for your efforts to help us.



Scott Buckland

*General Manager
Knoxbrooke Enterprises*

Annual wage assessments are currently underway across all our enterprises for all our supported employees. These are conducted by independent external assessors. It can be a stressful time for those involved however it is a process that just must be done and ensures wages are set fairly under the Supported Wage System. Knoxbrooke moved to the Supported Wage System last year because of the government's own wage setting tool, BSWAT, being determined in court as invalid.

Importantly, all employees who were being paid under BSWAT have could apply for a special one off payment from the federal government. Applications closed at the end of April 2017. The next stage of this process is now underway where all those who applied and received confirmation they are eligible for a payment are now requested to apply for their payment. Please go to the DSS website for more information.

Last week we had our annual 'check up' for our ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems certification and our National Standards for Disability Services accreditation. I am pleased to advise we came through the audit strongly, recognising the solid systems and processes Knoxbrooke has in place.

Earlier in May Kristian Dauncey and I attended and presented to the National Disability at Work Conference attended by 400+ key personnel from Australian Disability Enterprises across Australia. Our presentation on the great work being done by Knoxbrooke commercially was very well received and we gained confidence from the conference that Knoxbrooke Enterprises is heading in the right direction.



Yarra View Nursery (YVN)

Rounding out the month of audits, assessments and external checks, Yarra View Nursery had a spot visit from Worksafe early May as part of a blitz on safety at Nurseries across Victoria. I am very pleased to advise that Yarra View Nursery rated very well when compared to others. Well done to all our staff and supported employees on setting and maintaining our safety standards. This does not mean we become complacent. Safety is and will always be the highest of priorities and a major focus and discussion topic at all our employee meetings.

The long anticipated order for Aldi went instore mid April and was a great success. 'The shed' was transformed into a packaging production line in the weeks leading up to the final process which was then done with precision timing. All employees should be very proud of what was achieved with the product. Work has already commenced on the next program due for delivery instore during October. Watch this space...

Deliveries to the Level Crossing Removal Projects (LXRA) that we have been working on for some months commenced in April and have continued each week since with expected completion mid June. A total of 130,000 plants and trees will have been supplied on completion. Both the Bayswater and Heatherdale stations are now fully operational and many of our plants are already on display in the precincts.

During April the LXRA team visited YVN again to produce a video. This video shows YVN at its best again and is now available to view on the LXRA website. Stars of the show were Jonathan and Suzy. A fantastic (and brave) effort by both of you. The video was also posted on Daniel Andrews Facebook page, receiving 41,000 views and over 1500 Likes!

The pedestrian crossing is nearing completion with the final landscaping works completed late May. We look forward to the official opening very soon.



Home of Garden Lovers (HOGL)

Steven Touzel joined HOGL late April as Retail Manager replacing Jade Geddes who is leaving us for a sea change to Gippsland. I think there are many envious staff of Jade's plans! I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Jade for her service and support in lifting the standard of HOGL during her time and setting us up for future growth and opportunities. Steven joins the team with extensive retail nursery experience, most recently at Rivers of Yarrambat, a premium and very well established nursery, café and gift shop. I look forward to working with Steven to continue the HOGL journey.



The 2017 Mothers' Day sale has been and gone. An amazing effort by all involved with another record set for sales over the weekend. Thank you to all employees and families who supported the sale, it was great to see so many from the Knoxbrooke family be involved. These 'events' have an great atmosphere and are becoming widely known as the place to be. We are already discussing plans for the next sale 'event' to be bigger and better again.



Bare root tree stock arrives early June so if you are in the market for some new trees we have a great range on its way. 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 offers that full Plant Nursery offer, backed by industry leading service and garden advice.



Yarra View Horticulture (YVH)

Since our last issue there has been some major changes at Yarra View Horticulture. Unfortunately, the very difficult decision to cease operating our own crews was made late March due to significant financial losses over many years. Importantly, all supported employees were offered roles at Yarra View Nursery or Knoxbrooke Outsource with all but one taking up this new opportunity. This has been an extremely difficult period for those involved and I personally have been very humbled by our supported workers and their families in their support of the changes.

Moving forward YVH will operate under a sub contract model. YVH remains a very important business unit contributing to the overall operating income which assists in Knoxbrooke Enterprises continuing to provide ongoing employment and training opportunities for 145 supported employees.

Knoxbrooke Outsource (KO)

It's been a very busy few months at KO too with our first big delivery of kindling into Bunnings. I am told some daily records of the number of bags of kindling produced were broken by the team in the lead up to the delivery. Well done to the entire KO team.

We have also recently commenced packaging work for a new client in a completely new industry for us which is very promising and during April the packaging of dry goods for YVN's bonsai range was transferred to KO to improve productivity and streamline the process.

Congratulations to Raymond and Tara on the safe and healthy arrival of Sophie. Enjoy this amazing time in your lives.



Workplace Gender Equality Report

In accordance with the requirements of the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 (Act), we wish to inform you that, on 7TH June 2017, Knoxbrooke (including Knoxbrooke Enterprises Ltd) lodged its annual public report with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

A copy of this report is available from Paul De Stefanis - Financial Controller by email or in hard copy. Contact: Paul De Stefanis on email paul@yvn.com.au or mobile 0414 359 821.

As employees of Knoxbrooke Inc. and Knoxbrooke Enterprises Ltd you may make comments on the report to us by emailing paul@yn.com.au or to the Agency.

Please refer to the Agency's guidelines on this process on their website www.wgea.gov.au.