

Busy, busy, busy we have been since our last newsletter went out – I don't know if I can remember everything we have done. I will just focus on the things I think are most important to you!

We have had a small restructure – this means we have changed some people's jobs so we can do our work better and now that restrictions are easing we are also busy working out rosters with clients and staff. The NDIA are changing funding models and we need to find ways to keep costs down whilst still providing our clients with the best service possible.

We have divided our services into two clusters of similar services—the residential cluster supporting people in shared homes and the individual & group based services which are mostly community based. We are very lucky to have Sue Gamble return to the administration team after many years of dedication to her supervisory role. Sue is proving to be a whiz at supporting the Cluster Managers and our clients with all the paperwork required to provide a safe service.

Our Operations Manager, Anthony (Tony) Graham, has retired and we thank him for all of his hard work. Lucy Sinclair has joined the administration team as a project officer to keep us all on track with our quality requirements whilst we transition to the new organisational structure. Lucy will be starting our client and family focus groups off again in the New Year. It will be so nice to meet face to face again, emails will go out inviting people to each meeting advising of the topics being discussed. We also have Madison Tovey now on board supporting Kat with all the IT stuff that tends to go over our heads.

We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November and presented our annual report. If you would like a copy, please feel free to contact the office. We hope that next year, we can have a full AGM with you all attending with the Board Members. Karen Brady is the new Chairperson of the Board and Karen looks forward to your input as client, family support and staff members into providing feedback about services and future planning for the organisation. All of your feedback, from individual feedback discussions, compliments and complaints and staff grievances are presented at our Quality and Compliance meeting and in my report to the Board and discussed at the monthly Board meetings.

There have been lots of discussions with developers of Specialist Disability Accommodation houses over the past couple of years. We have made some contacts with developers who are genuinely interested in building some SDA houses in Colac and we have been helping clients and families on our waitlist to connect with some opportunities. We hope that we get some firm builds starting next year!

From all of the staff at the office and the Board of Management, we hope you have a safe holiday season and we look forward to seeing you more often in the New Year!

Monica

CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN COMPETITION

Congratulations to Carolyn R, the winner of this year's Christmas card design competition.



New Cluster Managers

This November CODA welcomed two new Cluster Manager positions.

Bernice Reynolds' role as Cluster Manager—Residential Services involves supporting the residential supervisors and staff of CASS House, Jalmah, Wahroonga, Bunjji and Langdon House in what they require in their job roles and to help them achieve the best outcome. Langdon House staff are also supporting a temporary accommodation setting whilst clients are waiting for their own SDA builds.



Bernice's goal in her new role is to do the job to the best of her ability, upskill herself and pass on her residential management skills to others. Bernice is empowering residents to be more involved in the running of their home and wants them to feel happy and comfortable.



Renee Wilson's role as Cluster Manager—Individual and Group Services oversees three teams, My Supports, Empowering Pathways and The LEAP Collective. Renee is excited to announce that the LEAP Shop program will be expanding to the Murray Street Market. It's going to provide an opportunity for our participants to learn skills at another community retail setting. Commissioned sales from art and craft work created in the various LEAP Collective programs will build confidence and promote personal expression. As the Bromfield Street site is now registered as a community space, Renee and the LEAP Collective team

are focussed on not only taking our participants out in the community but also bringing the community to them with our clay house program, which will be up and running next year and hopefully yoga classes, meditation and maybe a dance class or two. The LEAP Shop also plans to open on a Saturday moving forward. This will be a skill building program for our youth. There is a gap in Colac for giving our youth retail work skills in a safe and supported environment. This will become a pathway for the participants to be successful in achieving meaningful employment after leaving school. Another exciting step forward for CODA is the development of a LGBTQIA+ disability group "Labels are for Jars". This group will celebrate the diverse community here in Colac, it will provide an uplifting expression of welcome, engagement and belonging. These programs encourage our participants to experience the world around them not through their disability but by who they are as individuals. Renee and staff are working towards changing the way that they provide support services to empower our participants to be active and visible members of the community and change their lives, one support at a time.

2021 AFL Footy Tips

This year Catherine and Brendan kindly held the 2021 Footy Tips.

Catherine really did well at adding the scores for all entrants every weekend and making sure everyone had their tips completed. Catherine enhanced her numeracy skills and overcame some challenges that came with fixture changes due to COVID interrupting footy games. Support workers were able to support Catherine to overcome the challenges when they occurred.



The Winners

1st Julie Minster

2nd Claire Farrell

3rd Candy (the dog)

Well done Catherine & thank you to all who entered this year and a big thanks to Catherine & Brendan for hosting the Footy Tips.



Staff Acknowledgments

A shout out to Ebony M for her great journal writing!

Recipe for Chocolate Cheesecake with Toblerone

Ingredients

137g OREO Classic biscuits, crushed

40g butter, melted

750g PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened

3/4 cup caster sugar

2 teaspoons gelatine, dissolved in 1/4 cup boiling water

200g TOBLERONE Milk Chocolate, melt 100g and cool slightly, roughly chop remaining 100g for decoration

1 cup thickened cream, whipped

1 sachet CADBURY Dark Flake Sprinkles

1. Combine the OREO and butter in a bowl. Press mixture into the base of a greased and base lined 24cm springform pan. Chill.

2. Beat the Philadelphia cream cheese and sugar with an electric mixer until smooth. Add the gelatine and mix until combined, then beat in the melted Toblerone. Fold through the cream then pour into the prepared base.

3. Sprinkle the Flake over the top of the cheesecake then stud with chunks of Toblerone.

Chill for 3 hours or until set.

If you would like to submit a joke, recipe or story for the newsletter, please email coda@coda.org.au or let your supervisor or support worker know.



Recipe and photo provided by Ari

The Joke

of the Day!

What did the ocean say to the shore?
Nothing...
It just waved!



Privacy

Are you happy with how CODA is keeping your information private?

If you have any concerns please contact your supervisor, Cluster Manager or CEO.

