

CODA Newsletter April 2022



Hi All,

I am so glad the summer days have passed and we are now moving in to my favourite season of the year. I love the gentle warmth of the evenings and the changing colours of the trees.

Staff changes at this time of year are also more frequent and we have had many changes of staff over the summer with the following staff either moving on to other roles or retiring: Mary Szymanski, Franca Monaco, Melinda Bull, Bernadette Daly, Karen Quintero and Rene Peters. We wish these staff all the best for their future adventures. Olivia Goto & Joyce Stringer have also resigned from their permanent roles whilst they work for others but still continue to work for CODA and we thank them for their continued support. The following staff have recently joined the CODA team, please welcome them as you meet them Charmaine Davis (reception), Beth Carbone, Kerrie Moynihan, Riju Karin, Matthew Clarke, Lauren Nye, Ashlly Cruz, Jessica Taylor, Kerrie Hogan, Madison Foster and James Grimmer.

It is busy, busy, busy in the CODA office as someone in the CODA family would say. The office staff are beaver away trying to get all of the face to face meetings back in place for both our clients and staff – lots of meetings to update paperwork happening! Our three-year strategic plan is coming to an end in June, so we are currently talking to all of our 'stakeholders' – the people that use our supports, the people that support our clients and the people that we partner with, to get feedback about the services we provide and how we can change and improve to meet the needs of our clients in the coming years. Lucy Sinclair will be hosting client focus groups and we will be putting out a survey via email shortly for staff and for family members supporting our clients. Please feel free to put forward your ideas through these pathways or you can jot down any ideas for improvements or new activities in a letter or email to the office.

As a registered disability service there are still many government directions we still have to apply and we still have different directions for the different types of services we provide. We ask for your continued understanding as we apply the processes that the government determines in order to keep all of our clients and staff as safe as possible.

Please let us know if we can help you access vaccinations or with any other information you need to stay safe and healthy.

- Monica



Individual and Group Services Cluster Update

What an exciting time! Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Eliza Phillips. Eliza has decided to step away from being a supervisor of service for the Empowering pathways group. She thought long and hard about this and where she wishes to go on her path within the disability sector that she loves so much. Eliza has always had a big heart for helping our participants reach their goals and decided that that is where she wanted her focus to be moving forward.

Thank you, Eliza, for all your hard work and I know that our participants love having more time with you now.

Megan Billing has been a shining star and has stepped up to supervise both Empowering Pathways and My Supports service. Megan is learning lots and is thankful for the support staff that are going above and beyond to help when required.

Soon we will be hearing the pitta patter of tiny baby feet. Hannah Devine our Leap shop Coordinator is leaving to have her baby. We have all enjoyed watching the bump grow and look forward to having cuddles when bubs is born. Hannah, we hope you get some much-deserved rest before the real fun begins.

We started a colourful brick wall to brighten our Bromfield street community space. It is called BUILDING OUR VISION – One brick at a time! CODA Staff and our participants can decorate a coloured brick and place it on our wall. This is to celebrate each other and add ideas to improve our services.

Teamwork makes the dream work, and we are all about that!

- Renee Wilson

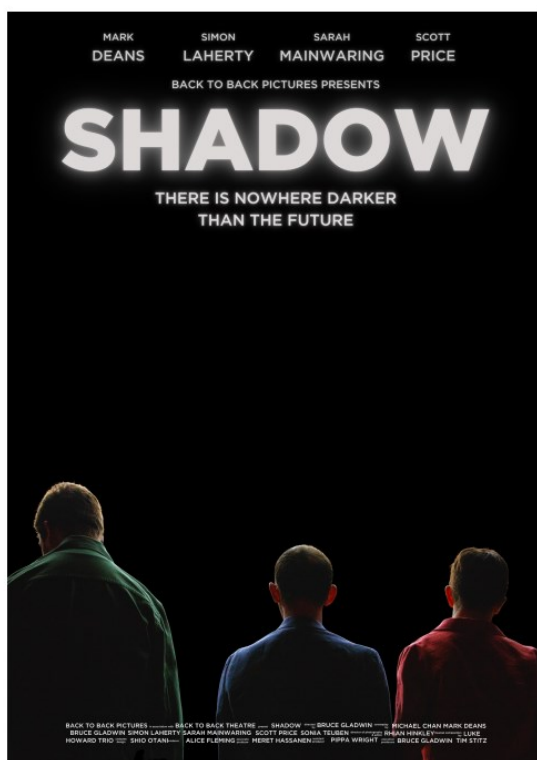


Back To Back Theatre

Jeremey Lang couldn't be more excited to share the news of the newest Back To Back Theatre Project 'SHADOW' which premiered earlier this month in Austin, Texas. Back to Back Theatre has received international acclaim for its work, becoming the first Australian company to win the International Ibsen Award. The almost \$400,000 award, known as the "Nobel Prize for theatre", was awarded to the theatre group by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture on Monday, March 21. The award recognises the theatre group, which is well known for its neuro-diverse ensemble of actors, for bringing "new artistic dimensions to the world of drama or theatre".

Jeremey and the rest of the crew have been working extremely hard on 'SHADOW' as its their first feature-length film. After 2 years of complications and COVID restrictions their dedication has finally paid off. As Ensemble member, co-writer and star of the film Scott

Price quoted "SHADOW is a story that needs to be told, it's about Artificial Intelligence and disability activism. The fact that it is premiering at a festival such as SXSW shows that it is a beautiful piece of work, and the importance of telling stories from perspective of people with disabilities."



Based in the regional centre of Geelong, the company is one of Australia's most globally recognised contemporary theatre companies and tours extensively locally, nationally and internationally. Back to Back Theatre creates new forms of contemporary theatre imagined from the minds and experiences of an unique ensemble of actors with disabilities, giving voice to social and political issues which speak to all people.

To Jeremey and everyone that's involved in 'SHADOW', you should be so proud of your amazing work.

Recipe for Easter Rocky Road

Ingredients

- Dark chocolate 200g, chopped
- Milk chocolate 200g, chopped
- Butter 50g
- Golden syrup 1 tbsp
- Rich Tea biscuits 100g, broken into small pieces
- Mini marshmallows 100g
- Crunchie bars 2, roughly chopped
- Mini eggs 40 of mixed (or your choice)

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.

The joke of the day

Why did the scarecrow win an award?

Because he was 'out-standing' in his field.



Method

Step 1

Gently melt both chocolates, the butter and golden syrup in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of simmering water (or heat in short periods in the microwave, stirring in between).

Step 2

Stir in the biscuits, marshmallows and Crunchie bits. Line a brownie/cake tin with a double layer of baking paper then tip in the chocolate mixture and level out as much as possible (it will be quite uneven on the surface).

Place and push the mini eggs down onto the surface of the mixture in the tin. (can cut some of the eggs in halves if needed).

Put in the fridge to set for 4 hours or overnight.

Cut into Squares to serve.



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.

