

# Over the Back Fence



Mirridong  
SERVICES  
— INC —

Autumn  
2024

Everyone enjoyed 'Having A Say'!



Details on Page 4...

## Important Dates

Mar 29	Term End - Easter Break
April 8	Staff Training Day - No Participants
April 9	Day Service Resumes
April 25	ANZAC Day - No Participants
June 7	Day Service Closed
June 10	Kings Birthday - No Participants
June 28	Term End - Winter Break

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# From the Chief Executive Officer



Hi All,

Lots of exciting things have been happening this term. The day services building is well on its way now with the size of the build becoming a reality at last. We won't be moving in until next year to make a fresh start, but this will give us a chance to get it furnished.

I would like to congratulate the drama activity group for the IndependDance night they put together and ran at the Yarram Country Club. The night was a blast and enjoyed by all, I look forward to attending future events and watching your hard work pay off, I also thank the Country Club for the great meal they did for everyone, it was delicious.

A group of 12 lucky participants attended the Geelong Having A Say conference again in early February. We all had a wonderful time at the conference, we stayed at the Novotel on the foreshore so we were able to walk to most events. It's an exciting event and brings another level of fun to our participants lives that they don't normally have access too, along with seeing a long list of services and new ideas available in the disability sector.

Thankyou to all those who sold tickets in our Easter raffle with an extra special thankyou to Helen Nichols, you always go above and beyond selling multiple books of tickets every time we have a raffle. We love your enthusiasm and assistance you give us.

I'm sad to say goodbye to a few more staff that are moving from the area, Grant Shanks left early February, he was an asset to our maintenance and gardening, and our vibrant Samara Beaton is moving and changing her career. Good luck to you both, I know you will do great things.

Have a great Easter break and don't eat too much chocolate, see you all next term.

Doreen Milne

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## Easter Raffle Winners



Congratulations to all of the winners from the Easter Raffle. Thank you to everyone who purchased an Easter Raffle ticket. A special thank you to Helen Nichols for selling a whopping 285 tickets. A grand total of \$950 was raised from ticket sales this year. The winners for this year are:

**1st Prize** - Helen Nichols    **2nd Prize** - Kerry Roy    **3rd Prize** - Doreen Milne

**Winners of chocolate bundles:** Ged, Trev, Staity, Risa Hirata, Brown, Steve Green and Larissa Green



# A bit of Autumn Humour



**Q:** Why did the emu cross the road?

**A:** To prove he wasn't a chicken.

**Q:** Which Australian animals can jump higher than a tree?

**A:** All of them because trees can't jump!

**Q:** Why did the Jelly Bean go to school?

**A:** Because he really wanted to be a Smartie



**Q:** How do trees get on the Internet?

**A:** They just log on.

**Q:** Why are skeletons so calm?

**A:** Because nothing gets under their skin.

**364 days of the year:** Do NOT eat anything you find on the ground. **Easter:** Go and search in the dirt for candy a strange giant bunny left for you, kids!

**F**or a high school dance, the head boy asked out the girl he liked. To get flowers for her, he had to stand in a line outside the florist for an hour. To make things worse, he had to wait another hour in a line outside the tuxedo shop. Finally, he goes to the dance with the girl. The girl wanted to have some apple punch so the boy went to get it, but to his surprise, there was no punch line.

## Arrivals and Departures Lounge

After leaving Mirridong at the end of 2023 from his full time role **Matt Bartlett returned** to the Day Service Team 2-days a week at the end of February. We welcome Matt back to the team and know he won't have any trouble picking up where he left off.

After trying to leave for over a year **Grant Shanks** finely **departed** from Mirridong in January. Grant spent a year waiting for his house to sell before he could depart for Queensland. Grant did an wonderful job as the Handy Man and Gardener taking care of all the odd jobs around Mirridong and willingly helped out wherever he has needed. We hope Grant enjoys the time with family, the warm water and the sunshine in Queensland.

**Kirsty Robinson** has **departed** from the Residential Team after 2 years. Kirsty joined the team when the two new SIL houses that were built with a government grant opened. We thank Kirsty for her commitment in supporting our residents with care and dedication and we wish her well in her new role in the Latrobe Valley.

With just shy of 5 years in the Day Service Team **Samara Beaton** is **moving** on from Mirridong and the Yarram district. Samara started as a trainee in 2019 and completed the Certificate 4 in Disability. Samara has grown into the role as a Disability Support Worker bringing enthusiasm when she delivers supports to our participants. We wish Samara well on her new role at Trafalgar High School.



# Having A Say

On the 4th of February, Participants and Staff left Yarram to make their way down to Geelong and participate in the Having a say conference.

We stayed at the Novotel which is not far from the conference held at Deakin university.

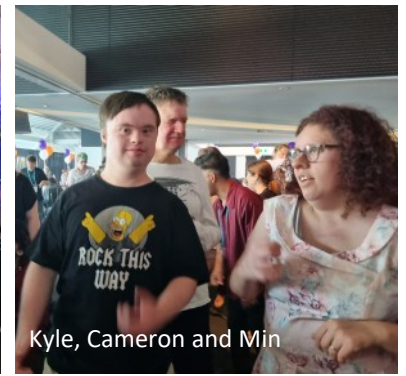
This conference runs over two days, It gives participants a voice to be heard and plenty of fun activities to try in between.

There are also ceremonies and talks which everyone enjoys.

While walking through the displays participants can collect merchandise bags to take back home.



Steven at the stage side



Kyle, Cameron and Min



Steven and Kyle in Vic Police gear



Lindsay and Fionna at the carousel

Over the course of the week we enjoyed many other fun activities, this included

- Swimming in the Novotel Pool
- Checking out the foreshore
- Attending red faces
- Dinner disco
- Shopping at Torquay
- Going to the beach
- Ferris wheel



James sleeping on the trip home



Mirridong Crew out for dinner



# Torquay

On our last day of the Having A Say journey we went shopping and sight seeing in Torquay.

Participants enjoyed relaxing and taking in the fun week that was had by all.

We went down to walk around the beach and dip our toes in the water, it was a beautiful day to end our amazing trip.

Later that day went shopping around the outlets to look for something nice to take back home with us.

Overall it was a great time had by all at the 2024 Having A Say Conference.



Zane, Kyle, Joel, Brian and James at Torquay Beach



James, Brian, Joel, Kyle, Zane and Samara at Torquay Beach

## Summer Program

During the holiday program a group of us went down to the Waratah Bay Caravan Park. We picked up everyone in the buses and cars from the housing at Mirridong. Everyone was excited about the day ahead. First stop for our trip was in Foster. We got out of the vehicle's and walked around the town of Foster looking in the shops and doing a little bit of shopping. We then continued on to Waratah Bay where we stopped at the caravan park for lunch. We had lunch in the BBQ area and had a look at the beautiful views of the ocean. The caravan park owner happened to be Teresa's cousin Jimmy. Jimmy was encouraging and making sure everyone was having a good time. Teresa and Jimmy had a good catch up while we were there. Everyone brought their own packed lunches and a few of the clients were trying to find koalas in the trees. We drove down to the beach after lunch and got everyone out at the beach walk way. Everyone got the chance to go down and see the beach and watch the waves roll in. After the beach we went for a drive into Sandy Point just to see what was down there. On the way home we stopped in at Foster and Kath grabbed everyone an ice cream from her FoodWorks shop at Foster.



Steven, Axelle, Kevin, Mandy and Allan

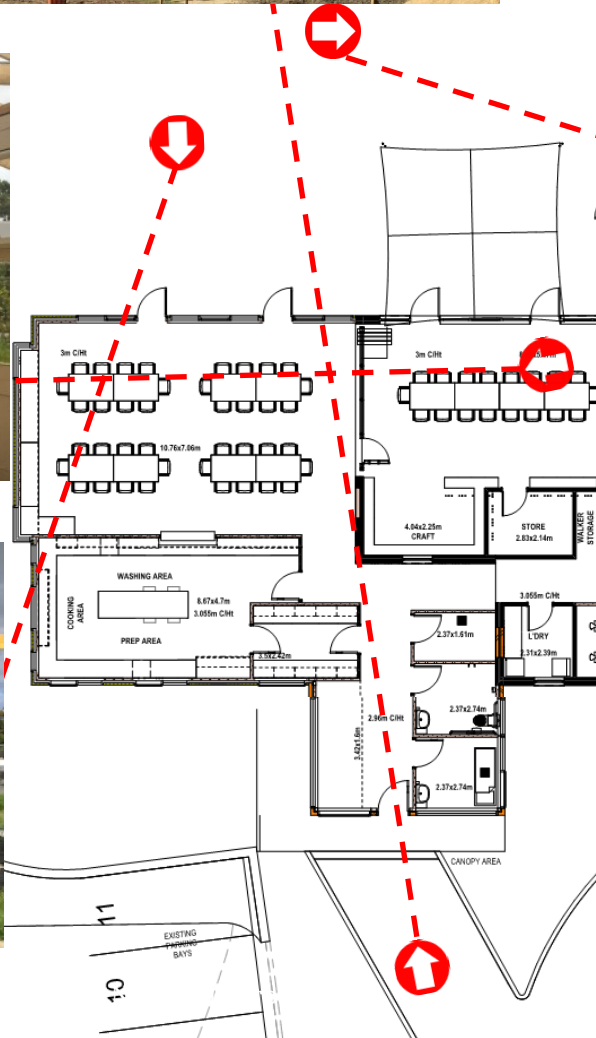


Mirridong Crew at Waratah Bay



# Extension @ Day Service

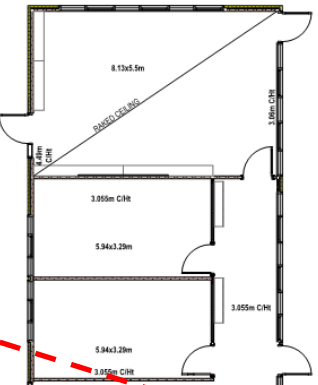
Any reasonable person would expect a significant amount of work to have taken place in the past 3 months at our construction site; and yes that has been the case. In early January the framing for the dining wing arrived and was erected. The slab for the office wing was boxed and laid in January. In early March a crane arrived to erect the frame for the new north activity wing with the new office wing being stood up mid March. All the while there has been a lot of new pipes going in the ground in all directions to connect up a new sewage connection, new water connection for fire services sprinkler system and electrical services. At the end of March plumbers have been back on site to start on the installation of the new plumbing.



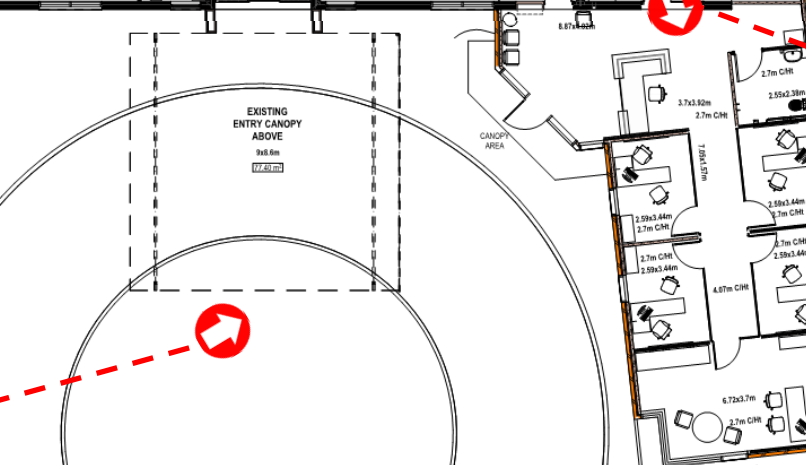
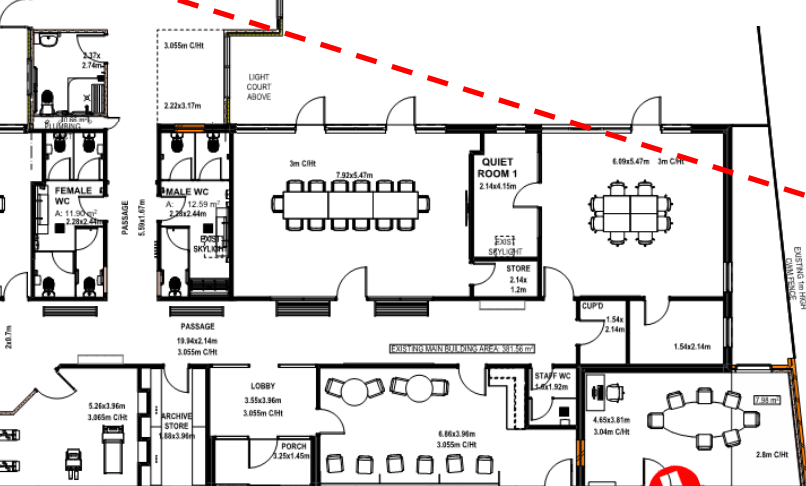




15/03 - New north wing framing



4/03 - Crane erecting north wing framing



25/03 - Administration offices



27/10 - CEO and administration office slab boxing



# Indepen **DANCE**

Drama group, clients and staff together created the idea of bringing an all-abilities dance and disco to Yarram. Clients help choose themes and ideas for the night. We had an Easter theme this time with clients making baskets for the table decorations. Clients chose the music list and prizes on offer on the night. Everybody enjoyed a dinner and desert and dancing at the country club. It was a great social night with some client's family attending to enjoy the night. We had prizes for best dressed (Leigh) lucky door prize (Brian) and dancing prize (Min).

We are already planning our term two dance with the theme being Rainbow Colours on Thursday 27th June.



Steven, Axelle, Kevin, Mandy and Allan



Anita, Chris and Axelle



Steven and Kevin



Fionna and Janine

**Fishing** This term of fishing was a successful term. Sometimes the weather didn't play nice for us and trying to work in with the tide was difficult but we got there on the majority of days. Everyone caught their fair share. We went all over the place this term from Port Albert, Port Welshpool to Mcloughlins beach. The place that we had the most success was Port Albert while also being able to get some fish and chips for lunch on the odd occasion.



Deb, Kylie, Kevin and Zane

**All-abilities Disco**

# Indepen **DANCE**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of June**  
6pm to 9pm

Booking Essential – Book your place on 0429 825 550

## Yarram Country Club

322-340 Commercial Road, Yarram

This Term's Theme is Rainbow Colours  
(Dress up optional)

Prizes for:

- Best Dressed -
- Dancing -
- Lucky Door -

2 Course Meal \$5 Door entry  
Main and Dessert Support Staff Free Entry  
\$20 per person Drinks at Bar Prices

Join our Facebook group for event info