

# Over the Back Fence



**Mirridong**  
SERVICES  
— INC —

**Spring**  
2021



**Ready to be lived in...almost.** Page 5

## Important Dates

- Sept 17** Term End - Spring Break
- Sept 27** Day Service Resumes
- Oct 6th** Mirridong AGM @ 7pm
- Nov 1** Day Service Closed - No Participants
- Nov 2** Melbourne Cup - Public Holiday
- Nov 22** Staff Training - No participants
- Dec 21** Term End - Summer Break

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# From the Chief Executive Officer



Hi All,

Welcome to our Spring edition newsletter. Although we have had more time in lockdown, it's been a busy few months organising this ever expanding business. We are currently organising the completion of the new houses, which is great for the residents waiting to move into them. It's such a long process but the finished product is very pleasing to the eye with all of the landscaping that has been put in and with the inclusion of a concrete road that makes mobility around the premises so much easier.

Sadly, we have said goodbye to Steve Mark, our long term Green Thumbs Team Leader, we wish you well in your retirement and look forward to your visits. Along with Steve's Retirement, we welcome Grant Shanks to the team and wish him well as he endeavours to tackle the spring grass ahead of him.

Our AGM is happening on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, I hope you can all attend, obviously depending on Covid of course. We missed out on the Having A Say Conference in Geelong that was planned in June, but we are all hoping summer will bring less restrictions and a great Conference is now booked in for February 2022.

I'm looking forward to everybody being back under the roof again, most of our clients and staff have been vaccinated now or are well on their way to having the second jab. Bring on Summer, beach days and holidays and we will all be happy. Have a great week off and enjoy the weather, we will see you all back on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September for a fresh start at term 4.

Doreen Milne



## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday the 9th of October 2019

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**AT**

Mirridong Services Inc.

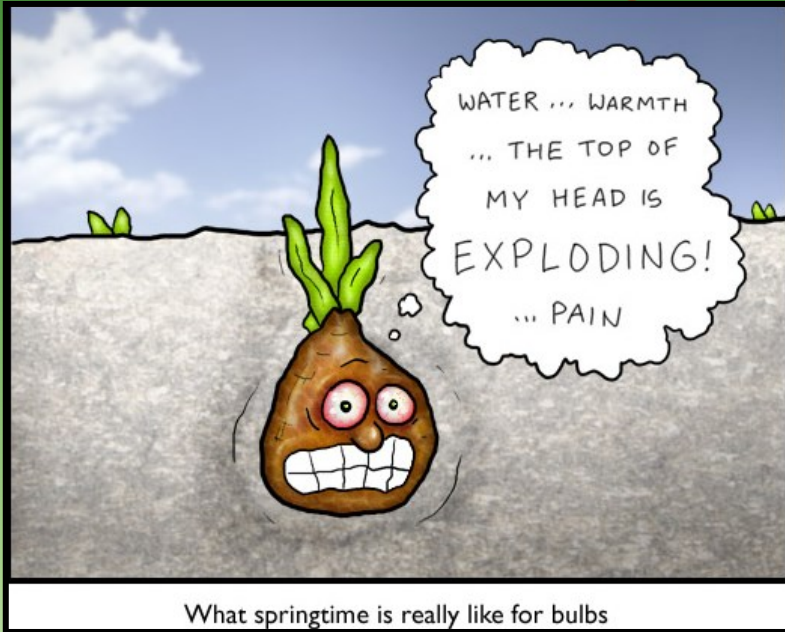
6 Church Road Yarram

## Congratulations

A very big congratulations to **Gemma Crapper** and Ben Corrie on the arrival of their daughter! There is much excitement to introduce Lola Eden Corrie to the world. Lola was born on the 18th of August at the South Gippsland Hospital in Foster weighing 4.1kg.



# A bit of Spring Humour



What springtime is really like for bulbs



**T**wo cows are standing in a field on a sunny day. The grass sways in waves from the summer breeze; a sparrow slowly meanders across the meadow. One cow turns to the other.  
*Cow one:* You know, I'm really struggling. I simply can't shake this anxiety.  
*Cow two:* I'm here for you. Tell me about it.  
*Cow one:* Well... I can't stop thinking about mad cow disease.

It lays in wait for years, and you don't know you have it until suddenly your mind starts to go. I keep thinking to myself: am I making sense? Do I feel normal? I mean, don't you worry? How do you keep it from ruining your every moment?  
*Cow two:* The way I look at it, there's no point in worrying about what you can't control. And besides, as Federal Politicians, we have access to some of the best healthcare in the world.

## Arrivals and Departures Lounge

After 11 years as the Green Thumbs Team Leader we farewell **Steve Mark** who retired from Mirridong at the end of June. Steve held a good rapport with the Green Thumbs team and other staff at Mirridong making it a difficult time to see Steve say farewell. Mirridong wishes Steve all the best for a well deserved retirement.

It would come as no surprise to learn that Green Thumbs has a new Team Leader! **Grant Shanks** took lead of the Green Thumbs team at the beginning of August. Prior to joining us Grant was the well known manager of Brown-Wigg in Yarram. Grant brings a wealth of knowledge with him as a qualified grounds keeper and he previously ran his own landscaping business.

The administration team has grown to now consist of three staff. **Elizabeth Brinker-Ritchie** has joined the team on a part time basis five days a week. Elizabeth has previously held roles in business administration along with running the family business for twelve years.

Day Service has welcomed **Matt Bartlett** to the team. Matt approached Mirridong to provide him with industry placement while he was studying the Certificate 4 in Disability. Now that Matt has finished his industry placement we are very happy to welcome him onboard on a part-time basis.

We also welcome two newly arrived employees to the Residential team.

**Anita Robbins** joins us after moving to the Yarram district from Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs just over two years ago. Anita brings a wealth of experience having previously worked for three years in DHHS Eastern region in supported accommodation and four years in day service programs with Interchange.

**Esther Robbins** also made the move from the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne to Gippsland just over two years ago. Esther is new to the disability industry but has had industry exposure in her formative years. Esther has taken a leap into the disability industry after spending most of her career so far in hospitality.

# Day Service Activities

## Art, Craft and Music

During Term 3 Victoria entered into No 6 and No 7 lockdowns. Staff began to get their thinking caps on to engage and encourage clients to expand their creative side.

Beauty group saw staff twisting embroidery cottons into hair adding a burst of colour, nail polish colours to match, face masks, and make-up.

Between lockdowns we had high school student Lachlan undertake work experience. Lachlan brought in his own DJ equipment, we shut the blinds and created a mini disco for the music group with assistance from D.J Jas (Jason Hoddinott).

Craft group created and designed visual art diaries using a variety of textures.

A final hooray to Johanna who finished her latch hook after months of hard work and Mandy for knitting up a beautiful scarf with dedication each week.



Debbie with hair cottons and matching nail polish



Mandy with her knitted scarf



Jason and Lachlan



Diary covers made by Chris, Min and Johanna

# Day Service Activities

## Swimming

Participants travel to Traralgon Aquatic Centre each Wednesday for Swimming; except during lockdown. This is a new modern spacious facility that has a water playground, three pools, spa's and a sauna. The disability changerooms are heated which makes it more comfortable when changing the participants clothes.

Our group enjoys swimming, floating with noodles and doing exercise in the hydrotherapy pool. After we have lunch at the Traralgon Centre Plaza and wonder around the shops. Participants enjoy the day out and look forward to this each week.



Linda (Support Worker) and Teresa



Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre

## Kevin Gain's Tyre Change

On Tuesday the 31st of August we had a flat in the Green Thumbs bus. For our Tool Time activity we thought this would be a great opportunity to get Kevin out and refresh his skills. Kevin was very excited about being involved in this particular activity. Kevin showed lots of interest in the removing of the flat tyre and installing the fixed tyre back onto the bus.

Kevin was very efficient in the way he went about changing the tyre, he had lots of knowledge and didn't need much assistance at all. We were very proud of Kevin for his efforts and Kevin was very rapt with himself also. Kevin found a lot of enjoyment in this task and cannot wait to participate in more hands on activities like this.



## Building Works



Unit 5



Unit 4

### Ready to be lived in....almost

The Sustainable Supported Living for Disability Participants project is almost complete. Over the last couple of months builders have been finishing the minor touches. While this has been happening the compliance paperwork with Wellington Shire and the NDIS has been completed. The two residences which will soon be home for seven NDIS participants. Mirridong will plan an official opening with a date to be announced soon; so long as we don't go into lockdown again.

# Connecting Up

These valuable pieces of information technology infrastructure (pictured right) may not be exciting to look at, but they provide a valuable service to the every day operation of Mirridong.

Through the Connecting Up program in conjunction with Cisco, Mirridong was able to purchase fourteen 1830 Access Points and five C2960X-24PS network switches at a significantly reduced rate estimated to be a 64% discount from the recommended retail price.

This high quality network infrastructure has enabled Mirridong to build a reliable network backbone that now provides network and internet connectivity to all buildings on the Mirridong site. Connected to this network backbone is the fourteen wireless access points which provides WIFI access to both residents, day service participants and staff. This installation has granted residents the freedom to browse content of their choice on smart TV's and tablet devices that they haven't previously had.

*"Connecting Up (Part of the Infoxchange Group) is a not-for-profit social enterprise that has been delivering technology for social justice for 30 years. With 150 staff across Australia and New Zealand, we tackle the biggest social challenges through the smart and creative use of technology"* ([www.connectingup.org](http://www.connectingup.org)).

Mirridong Services is tremendously appreciative of the generous discount made by Cisco and Connecting Up to our service.



Cisco network switch



Cisco WIFI Access Point

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## Birthdays

October	November	December
Brian - 3rd	Anita T - 2nd	Nicole H - 6th
James - 18th	Axelle - 3rd	Grant - 9th
Gayle - 20th	Zane - 5th	Samara - 11th
Irene - 27th	Debbie - 17th	Peter O - 23rd
Mandy - 30th	Jayne - 19th	Collin - 31st
	Mark W- 24th	