

Over the Back Fence



Mirridong
SERVICES
— INC —

Spring
2023



Important Dates

- Sept 22** Term End - Spring Break
- Oct 2** Day Service Resumes
- Oct 4** Mirridong AGM @ 7pm
- Nov 3** Day Service Closed - No Participants
- Nov 6** Day Service Closed - No Participants
- Nov 7** Melbourne Cup - Public Holiday
- Nov 20** Staff Training - No participants
- Dec 21** Term End - Summer Break

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From the Chief Executive Officer



Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the Spring edition newsletter. We have had so many things happening around our business over the last few months and I don't think it will stop soon.

We have just had our Production night last Wednesday and wow wow wow. I am so proud of all of our beautiful people, they shone like bright stars in the night, fully decked out in costume, humour and song. This was our very first production without Darren McCubbin and I have to say we surprised ourselves. I would like to thank our clients for your persistence in practice and bringing us all so much joy, our staff, thank you for believing in them all and assisting them to be everything they dreamed they could be, and a huge thank you to Dave Phelan for his Daryl Sommers acting. The beauty of this production is that it takes all staff to contribute in some small way, those that don't participate in the production still have major rolls to play in other ways that are not always seen, you are all amazing and I thank you for your tireless work that you all do. The one thing that blew me away totally, was even in these harder times everybody is experiencing at the moment, the donations that we received from the traders around Yarram were far and beyond what we expected, so a big thankyou to you all, Mirridong really appreciate your kindness and generosity to assist us on making our big night of the year so great.

Over the next week we are shifting our Day Services programs to Apex House with some activities happening at the Devonshires Lane house. We are hoping to start the extensions to the existing Mirridong building in October, which will take about 12 months to complete. Thankfully summer will give us some nicer days to get out and about until we can organise everything to have a seamless move. This will be exciting to watch the old girl come to life again easily doubling the space we now have and giving us the ability to keep growing into the future.

I would like to welcome Jade Wanklyn as our new Residential Manager, Jade has worked at Mirridong for 10 years already and has hit the ground running, helping participants with appointments, taking on responsibility with staff and will be making contact with the families as she settles into her role.

Enjoy your week off everyone, we have a big last term to finish off the year.

Doreen Milne



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday the 4th of October 2023

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

AT

Mirridong Services Inc.

6 Church Road Yarram

We are MOVING!

Over the next year and a bit the Mirridong Day Service building is going to be extended and renovated. During this time our Day Service programs will be operating out of Apex House (121 Commercial Road) and 15 Devonshires Lane in Yarram. The administration and management team will be moving to Apex House. Our phone number (03 51 825 750) and postal address (PO Box 31, Yarram) are staying the same, however when you're planning a visit don't forget to find us at our new address.

Plans of the building upgrade and photos of progress will be in following editions of Over the Back Fence.

A bit of Spring Humour



Q: Why are frogs happy?
A: They eat whatever bugs them.

Q: How excited was the gardener about spring?

A: So excited he wet his plants!

Q: Why was the bee mad?

A: You'd be mad too if someone stole your honey and nectar.

Q: Why did the deer get braces?

A: He had buck teeth.

When I was a kid, my dad got fired from his job as a road worker for theft. I refused to believe he could do such a thing, but when I got home, all the signs were there.

The wife and I took a long, leisurely drive out to the country and pulled over to fill up our car's petrol tank and tires... She was surprised to see that the station had a fee to fill the tires and asked me, "Why in the world do they charge for AIR?!" I responded, "Inflation."

I was in the library once when a man walked in asking for some ham and cheese. The librarian politely told him that he was in a library. The man first apologized and then whispered to the librarian, "Can I please have some ham and cheese?"

Arrivals and Departures Lounge

(and Congratulations)

Day Services **welcomed Suzie Davis** to the Team in August. Suzie has joined us 3 days per week and she has enrolled herself in TAFE at Partners in Training studying for her Cert 3 in Individual Support which then leads onto the Cert 4 in Disability. Many of you will recognise Susie from her prior role at Neilson's Pharmacy where she was employed for 36 years.

Congratulations to our two newest Certificate 4 in Disability graduates; **Zane Lawler** and **Emma Travers** have both completed their certificate this term. Well done on making it though your studies.

Our residential team has experienced a bit of growth over the last four years growing from a team of 15 to 26 staff. This growth presented the need for a manager to oversee all of the residential activities at Mirridong. Our very own **Jade Wanklyn** has been appointed as the Residential Manager. Jade started working at Mirridong just over 10 years ago in outreach and in residential back when Curry House was around in Dougherty Street. Jade then spent 8 years in the Day Service team and during this time she also completed studies graduating with a Diploma of Community Services and a Diploma of Leadership and Management; all on her own accord. We **congratulate** Jade on her new appointment and wish her well with her new role.



This year's annual production RED FACES was a wonderful success. The yellow ducks were out in force rounding up the Mirridong all stars for our Red Faces night.

It was a great night with around 450 people in the audience and it was very nerve racking for a lot of the clients and staff. After a term of practicing the skits during day programs everyone hit the Regent Theatre for two Thursdays prior, then Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for rehearsals before the big night.

Plucka Duck was mischievous and kept the audience entertained throughout the night and gave away lots of prizes and frozen chooks from our wonderful sponsors.

Plenty of prizes were up for grabs throughout the night with some on the spinning wheel and others through raffle tickets.

There was lots of fun with Wags the dog making a mess over the judges, plus clients and staff dancing and singing enjoying the whole night. Acts included The Bob Sled Team, Raggedy Ann and Andy, a magic act, hobby horses, hula hoops and many other wonderful performances .

Everyone did a wonderful job pulling it all together and helping each other with lots of encouragement. Everyone on stage had a fantastic night and is already looking forward to what we have in store for next year. Maybe another Red Faces or Maybe not ??? WHO KNOWS

Thank you to all the local businesses listed below who generously donated goods and services for prizes on the night:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 196 Fish and Chips | Neilson's Pharmacy |
| AG Warehouse | Old Bakery Pizza |
| Bean Peddler | Turnbull Toyota |
| Betta Electrical | Victoria Hotel Alberton |
| Brown Wigg of Yarram | Woolworths Yarram |
| BWS Yarram | Yarram Automotive Centre |
| Café AGA | Yarram Bakery |
| Carina's Hair | Yarram Bargain Centre |
| Commercial Hotel | Yarram Coffee Palace |
| Coopers Mitre 10 | Yarram Country Club |
| Davis Manner | Yarram Drapery |
| Drakeford Studios | Yarram Foodworks |
| Foster FoodWorks | Yarram Fresh Flowers |
| Gippsland Bearings | Yarram Garden Supplies |
| King-Church Motors Mitsubishi | Yarram Plaza Hot Bread |
| Moores Butcher | Yarram Post Office |



Have a beer with Duncan - Slim Dusty



Plucka Duck with the prize wheel



Magic Trick - Axelle and Chris



Hobby Horses - dressage routine



Raggedy Ann and Andy



Romeo and Juliet - Taylor Swift



Wags the Dog - The Wiggles



Jamaican Bobsled Team



Finale - The golden buzzer went off!

Day Service Activities

Peg Dolls

*“If you smeeeeeeell,
what Mirridong is
Cookin?”*

If you can smell something ‘cookin’ coming from No.6 Church Rd Yarram, it’s probably the Friday cooking group, headlined by our talented client chef’s, Fionna Cross, Mandy Knight and Teresa Schek.

Throughout Term 3, our secret MasterChef’s have been cooking such delicacy’s as Creamy Chicken and Bacon Carbonara, Chicken Stir-fry with Hokkien noodles and Oyster sauce, Creamy Chicken Pesto Pasta, Spicy Chorizo Risotto, homemade Gourmet Pizzas, Chicken Parmigiana and an Old Aussie favourite Traditional Sausage Rolls.

Every Friday morning, our clients help with chopping, mixing and preparing ingredients, working together and learning new skills to produce our culinary masterpieces.

At the end of each session, clients and staff enjoy each meal for lunch and every plate has come back clean as a whistle.



Larissa with two peg dolls



Leigh and Chris



Fionna enjoying her Spicy Chorizo Risotto



Chicken Stir-fry



Chicken Parmigiana