

Over the Back Fence



Mirridong
SERVICES
— INC —

Summer
2022

Elf falls under boat . . .
The spirit of Christmas still buoyant . . .



Important Dates

Dec 22	Term End - Christmas Break
Jan 16	Staff Training Day - No participants
Jan 17	Day Service Resumes
Jan 26	Australia Day - No Participants
Jan 27	Day Service Closed
Feb 20	Having A Say Conference until Feb 23
Mar 13	Labour Day - No Participants
Apr 7	Term End - Easter Break

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From the Chief Executive Officer



Hi All,

As we wind up yet another year at Mirridong, I would like to thank all of the staff both in Day Services and Residential for the hard work you are all putting in. Mirridong has grown immensely over the last 3 years both in infrastructure and staff, it's a pleasure to see how committed everybody is to maintain our small community and help the clients reach their potential in every way they can.

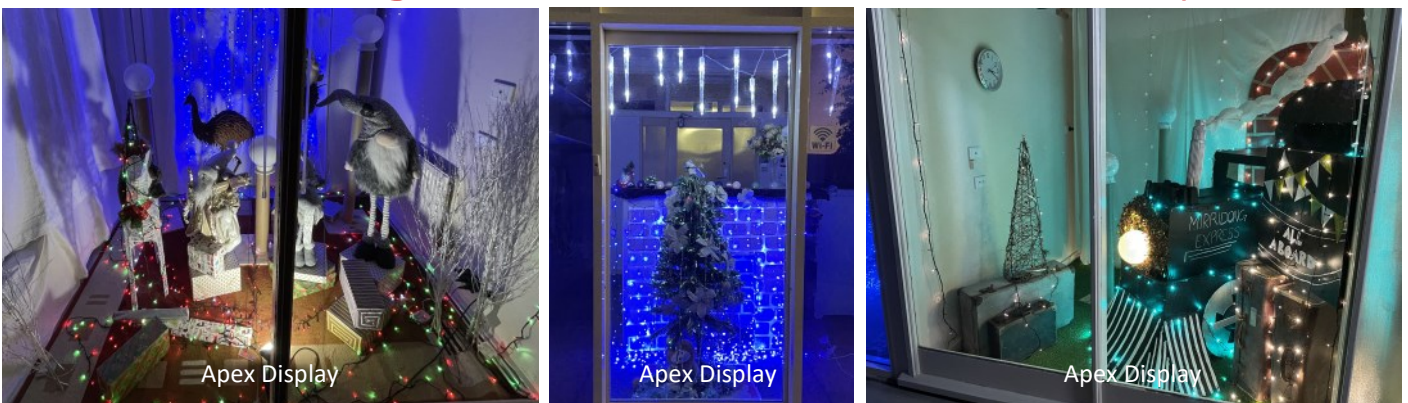
I hope you all have been down to Apex house to see the lovely Christmas window display. Liz has outdone herself again this year with the help of Kath, Emma and a few others helping out, it's a credit to you all, just like having our own Myers windows.

As we move into 2023 we hope to get our building works started at Day Service and Lawler St. It's difficult to get builders on board with the amount of work going on for Trades along with the floods and fires that have happened and are still happening around Victoria. My heart goes out to families that have lost everything at this time that is meant for families to come together. It's a timely reminder to us all that the stuff we fill our houses with has no meaning in times of disaster, the true value of life comes from the family and people around you that support and love us all.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday, be grateful for what you have and appreciate those around you, I will see you all again next year.

Doreen Milne

Mirridong Christmas Display



A bit of Summer Humour



Q: Why do scuba divers fall backwards to enter the ocean?

A: If they fell forwards, they would just fall into the boat.

It was Christmas Eve at the butchers and a woman was anxiously looking through the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one.

In desperation she called over a shop assistant and said, 'Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?'

'No, madam,' he replied, 'they're all dead.'

Q: Why do fish swim in saltwater?

A: Because pepper makes them sneeze!

Q: What is the difference between a piano and a fish?

A: You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish.

Arrivals and Departures Lounge

After twelve years supporting Curry House and Lawler Street residents, **Narelle Barlow** retired from the Residential Team in the middle of October. Over this time Narelle built caring relationships with those she supported and will be fondly remembered by the residents. We hope that Narelle enjoys a different pace in life.

At the end of this term **Lochlan Sketcher** is **departing** Mirridong and Yarram. Lochlan started as a trainee at the beginning of the year studying the Certificate 4 in Disability which he has now completed. He has decided to move to Rochester for a change in scenery. We wish Lochlan all the best in his new pursuits and thank him for being part of the Day Service Team.

Starting as a Day Service trainee in 2018 **Alice Gordon** completed her Certificate 4 in Disability in 8 months. After working shy of 5 years at Mirridong Alice has decided to **depart** from Day Service at Mirridong and finish up at the end of the term. We thank Alice for her commitment in supporting our participants and hope you find your new endeavours rewarding.

Rebecca Shanks will **depart** from Mirridong on the 1st of January 2023 after working for 3 years as the finance officer and then another year in the Residential Team. Bec and her family are moving to Queensland in the new year; we hope you all enjoy the weather up there. We thank Bec for filling the gaps in the roster over the last year and for taking care of the finances while she was Finance Officer.

Anneli Van-Nes joined our Residential Team in October starting in Unit 4. Anneli's family relocated to the district earlier in the year. Anneli brings with her a Certificate 4 in Disability and industry experience having previously worked in supported residential living in South-east Melbourne since 2017.

The Residential Team has also **welcomed Taylor James** during December. Taylor has started supporting residents in Unit 4 and is part way through studying the Certificate 4 in Disability. Prior to his career change into disability Taylor was a chef and personal trainer.

Day Service Activities

Pet Care

As part of the programming for Pet Care, Mirridong staff members Peter, Jade and Collin thought it would be logical to expand the program content to exploring local Agribusinesses and hobby farmers given the rural community we live in. During 2022 Mirridong clients have been able to visit, learn, discover and have fun at a variety of farms in the local area. The two stand out excursions Debbie, Larissa, Sara, Anita and Fiona participated in this term were the visit to Beloka Kelpie Stud at Welshpool and Fay Lakes hobby farm of exotic animals.

The excitement for staff and clients was palpable as we stood by the fence as Fay called to her pet camels, emus and donkey and they came thundering down the hill to greet us. Slightly nervous clients and staff really enjoyed feeding the camels carrots and bananas.



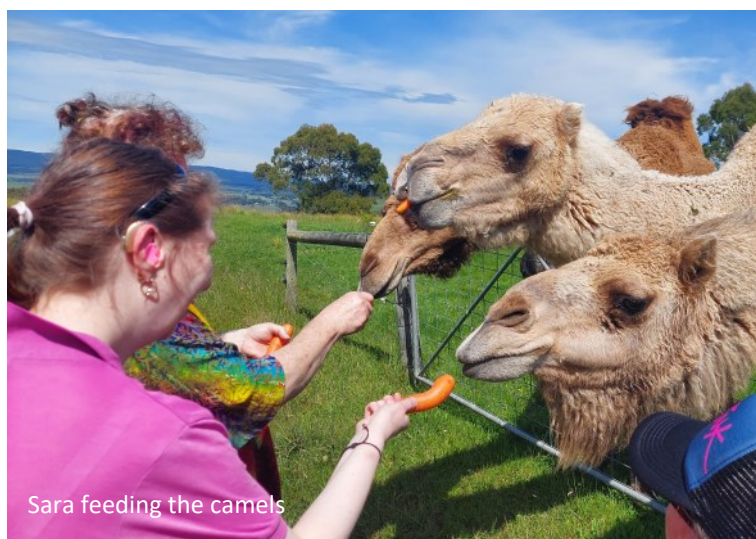
Anita, Anneke (Back - Beloka Kelpies)
Jade (Support Worker) and Sara



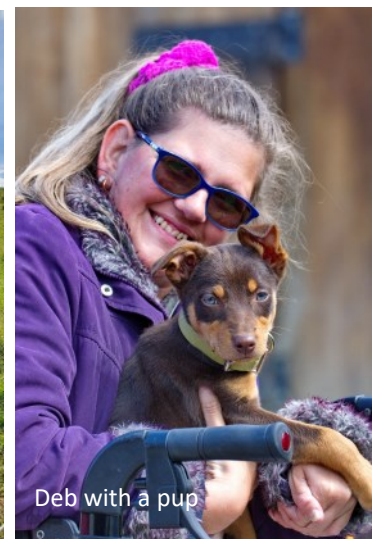
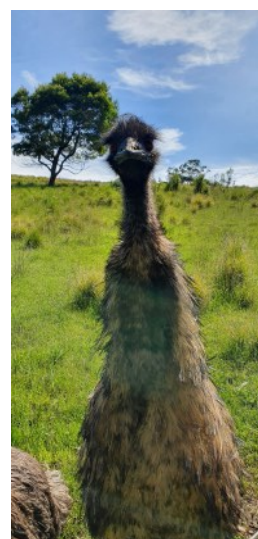
Paul McPhail

They were so big. Even though the emus were crazy looking the clients reckoned they were cute. Clients also engaged with pigs, geese, emu chicks, a python, tree frogs and were invited to sign the visitors wall. Thanks for a great morning Fay. What an adventure.

Anneke Homan at Beloka Kelpie Stud was very kind to put together a wonderful hands-on educational display for us featuring their top working dogs and cute cuddly puppies. Mirridong clients loved meeting the dogs, holding the pups, walking them on lead and watching the sheep herding display by the adult dogs. Paul MacPhail from Beloka Kelpies was extremely knowledgeable and informative. Paul even gave Peter a few tips to take home in training his young German Shepherd, Nellie. Mirridong staff are very grateful to Anneke and Paul for volunteering their time for our clients. An awesome experience.



Sara feeding the camels



Deb with a pup

Day Service Activities



Larissa and Axelle

Board games and Jigsaws was a new activity for this term which most of the clients seemed to enjoy having a choice between playing board games such as trouble, operation, snakes and ladders with many a fun filled afternoon laughing and getting excited when they beat the staff. Some decided to do jigsaws on occasions with help from staff members when needed. Also at times some clients wanted to play UNO which they totally enjoy especially when they get to play draw 4 cards on staff members. Most of the clients are looking forward to doing this activity next term.

Board Games and Jigsaws

Mirridong Makes a Slam Dunk in Sale!

Every Thursday, a group of staff and clients go to the Gippsland Regional Sports Centre in Sale to play Basketball with another day services group (George Gray) from Sale.

Clients Kevin Gane, Kyle Fear, Steven Ferguson and Tom Nicholls are supported by Samara Beaton, Matt Bartlett and Zane Lawler to further their socializing and skills in a team environment.

Clients are split into two teams and are each given an opportunity to have a go and score a goal no matter their ability. Some of the skills shown by some of the clients are amazing and the teamwork is truly inspiring.



Tom shooting for a goal



Steve on the go.



Kevin



Kyle

Day Service Activities



Axelle and Debbie



This years Great Chase was rescheduled to the 7th of October after the Queens Memorial public holiday turned up at the last minute on the original date the 22nd of September.

A fun day was had by all with over 200 people attended the day from community organisations like George Grey, Opal Aged Care, and the Sale Specialist School.

The day included a BBQ lunch, live music and face painting.

Each community group that attended was allocated greyhounds when they registered and then receive points based on what position the greyhounds get in each race. At the end of the day Mirridong finished in 5th place out of 8 groups.



Fionna



Kyle



Jason & Greyhounds



The International Day of People with Disability was celebrated on the 3rd of December with local activities taking place in Traralgon on the 2nd of December. A group of Day Service participants attended the day and enjoyed wheelchair basketball, soccer, bocce, beanbag toss and a silent disco (headphones were provided).

The group enjoyed the variety of activities and it gave some of our participants a chance to try something different. After a morning of activities a BBQ lunch was supplied for all to enjoy.



Fionna and Min at the silent disco



Kev on the Blender Bike

Mirridong participants and staff