

Over the Back Fence



Mirridong
SERVICES
— INC —

Summer
2023



Didn't we used to have walls and a roof?

Day Service renovation details on page 6 -

Important Dates

Dec 21	Term End - Christmas Break
Jan 15	Staff Training Day - No participants
Jan 16	Day Service Resumes
Jan 26	Australia Day - No Participants
Feb 4	Having A Say Conference until Feb 8
Mar 11	Labour Day - No Participants
Mar 23	Term End - Easter Break
Apr 8	Staff Training Day - No participants
Apr 9	Day Service Resumes

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ CEO Report
- ◆ Summer Humour
- ◆ Day Service Activities
- ◆ Renovations
- ◆ Temporary Measures



More than just good business



Registered NDIS Provider

From the Chief Executive Officer



Hi All,

Welcome to our Summer newsletter. It's been a huge last term with many bustling activities happening around the services. We have moved into the Apex building with some activities being held at Devonshire house and thankfully the transition for all staff and participants has been a really good experience.

Our Day Service building is just a shell with new concrete now on 2 areas and frames starting to turn up. The builders break for Christmas now and so we will see more action in the new year. It's very exciting to think we should be back in the new building by the end of 2024. We have uncovered some old yellow floral wall paper that I will have put into some picture frames to showcase some of the past to bring with us into the future. I also had an idea to put some of our old photos into some wall paper to showcase in some areas around the building, this will be a lovely way to see pictures from the past and not just have them sitting in boxes and albums. I am really looking forward to the transition.

There have been a few staff movements in our sector, we said goodbye to our long term team leader Kerrie Dessent who is off for some well-deserved holidays and retirement. I am sure the staff and residents in Curry House will miss her valued input. We said welcome back to Rick, he missed us so much he had to return ☺ along with a few other residential staff that have started, we welcome you all and appreciate the work you are doing to assist the residents.

It's been a pleasure watching the different activities evolving around Mirridong, we had a group make a large amount of Christmas decorations over the term and then sold out in one morning session sitting outside of the Op shop. The support that the community in Yarram give to our participants is almost overwhelming. Its heart-warming to see how far acceptance has come for people living with intellectual disability, the changing of the words used and the welcoming spirit that is shown is a beautiful sight to see.

To everyone have a wonderful holiday season, enjoy your families and friends and come back refreshed and ready to do it all again in January.

Doreen Milne

Congratulations

Gemma Crapper and Ben Corrie

welcomed

Alby Sage Corrie

into the world on

December 6th, 2023

with a birth weight of

9.34 pounds

and a height of

54cm



A bit of Summer Humour



Q: Why can't basketball players ever go on vacation?

A: They would get called for traveling!

Q: Why did the teacher jump in the pool?

A: He wanted to test the water.

Q: What happens if you throw a red sun hat in the water?

A: It gets wet.

Q: What did the sun say to the sand?

A: I'm hotter than you.

Homes are so expensive in my area I had to move into my friend's bouncy castle. The rent's pretty expensive, but it's mostly due to inflation.

A boy and his grandmother were having a chat about the rising prices of commodities.

"When I was a kid, you could go to the grocery store with a dollar and come home with enough food to feed your family for weeks!" she lamented.

"Well, Grandma," the youngster responds, "we recently learned about it at school, and that's called inflation."

"Not inflation!" exclaimed granny. "It's all the security cameras they have today!"

Arrivals and Departures Lounge

After sixteen years supporting Curry House residents with thirteen of those as the Residential Team Leader, **Kerrie Dessent departed** from Mirridong at the end of October. Over this time Kerrie built strong bonds with those she supported and was definitely part of the Curry House family. Kerrie will no doubt be fondly remembered by the residents and we hope that she enjoys a different pace in life. Thank you Kerrie for supporting our residents for so many years and providing them with stability in their home.

Kathy McGillivray also **moved on** from the Residential Team at the end of October. Kathy joined us just over a year ago and spent most of her time working in Curry House, while also filling in at Unit 2 and Unit 3. Thank you Kathy for supporting our residents in their daily lives and for plugging holes in the roster.

The Day Service Team **farewell Matt Bartlett** as Matt departs his current home town of Sale and moves into Warragul. Matt started at Mirridong in July 2021 after completing his industry placement with us. Matt has built a great rapport with the participants over his time and we wish Matt and his family well in the next chapter of his life in Warragul.

Day Service **welcomed** back **Rick Malloy** at the beginning of Term 4. Rick left us at Easter, but after 6 months in Adelaide he couldn't stay away. We know that Rick will slip right back into where he left off and it will be great to have him back on board.

The Residential Team **welcomed Kathleen Prestianni** at the beginning of November. Kathleen brings with her seventeen years of experience from the nursing and health-care industry from various roles at YDHS. **Ebony Griffiths** also **joined** the Residential Team in mid November. Ebony is new to the district and the disability industry having previously lived in Mildura. We welcome Kathleen and Ebony to the team and hope that our residents and staff help you settle into your new workplace.

Day Service Activities

Drama/Music

The new Drama/Music program has had a successful term. Teresa, Mandy, Min, Fionna, Kyle and Jordan enjoyed playing various musical instruments to different beats and singing and dancing to songs they each choose.

They were involved in writing and performing two mini plays this term. One was called "Escape from Oz" and the characters were Wednesday Adams, Raggedy Ann, Greg Wiggle, Dorothy and The Witch. The other was Christmas themed and the characters were a Naughty Elf, Good Elf, Mrs Santa, Santa and Rudolf.

Everyone did an amazing job learning lines, choosing their outfits and performing for the camera.



Gardening

The recent humid and wet weather has seen the vegetables in the new planter boxes really take off. There has been more produce than the gardening group can eat with the extra sold at market or given to staff. A new hot house has been built which will see us growing through next winter. We reckon this one should last for years. The previous two plastic hot houses collapsed and blew away in rough weather.



Creative Textures

In Creative Textures this term clients worked on different projects such as sheep made out of pom poms, daisy lullaby and Christmas pots. The clients enjoyed the program very much.



Mandy with pom pom sheep



Christmas pots



Chris with daisy lullaby

Day Service Activities

Sewing

A productive and interesting program with 3 ladies making some creative items. The ladies chose items they wish to make. They have made cushions, bags, table runners and Christmas items including stocking and stars.

The ladies are encouraged to try making a variety of things to increase their skills. The ladies learn how to pin and cut out the project, sew in a straight line and the importance of ironing the item before sewing.

Some items have been put into the Yarram Agricultural Show with Anita Triantafyllou's table runner receiving 2nd place.



Anita with her prize winning table runner



Larissa with a horse cushion



Min with her Christmas Stocking

MAFE
Mirridong Adult Further Education

MAFE group finished Term 4 with pride by running a small stall at the Mirridong Op-shop selling hand-made Christmas ornaments.

Our project was designed to give the participants a true to life experience, to raise funds and gain their confidence in money handling.

This term, clients were keen to learn about money and staff offered some games related to their requests. Also, staff suggested having a pop-up shop to raise money in real life. At the beginning, the participants were very excited and somewhat nervous. Planning was part of this project, such as searching what to sell, how to sell, when and where to have a stall, advertising methods and more. Clients also went to the bank to get a float which turned into a role play game to calculate the change. As the preparation went by, they became happier and more confident.

In the end, we sold all of the ornaments and raised \$87.60 in total from both the Op-shop stall and the Courthouse Market. Thank you to the Mirridong Op-shop for allowing us to set up a stall! And thanks to Nicole for selling ornaments for us at the Court House and everyone who was involved in this project.



Deb, Anita and Larissa



Extension @ Day Service

The much anticipated expansion and renovation of the Day Service building at 6 Church Road started during the first weeks of Term 4. The extension includes a new activity room, two quiet rooms, a lunch room for 40 with a retractable wall opening onto the existing lunch room, new accessible kitchen and accessible bathrooms, a sick bay and five new offices. The renovation side will include new windows, remodeled male and female bathrooms and new floor, wall, and ceiling coverings. The old office will become the staff room, the old CEO's office will be extended to become the board/meeting room, and the old kitchen will become the exercise room.

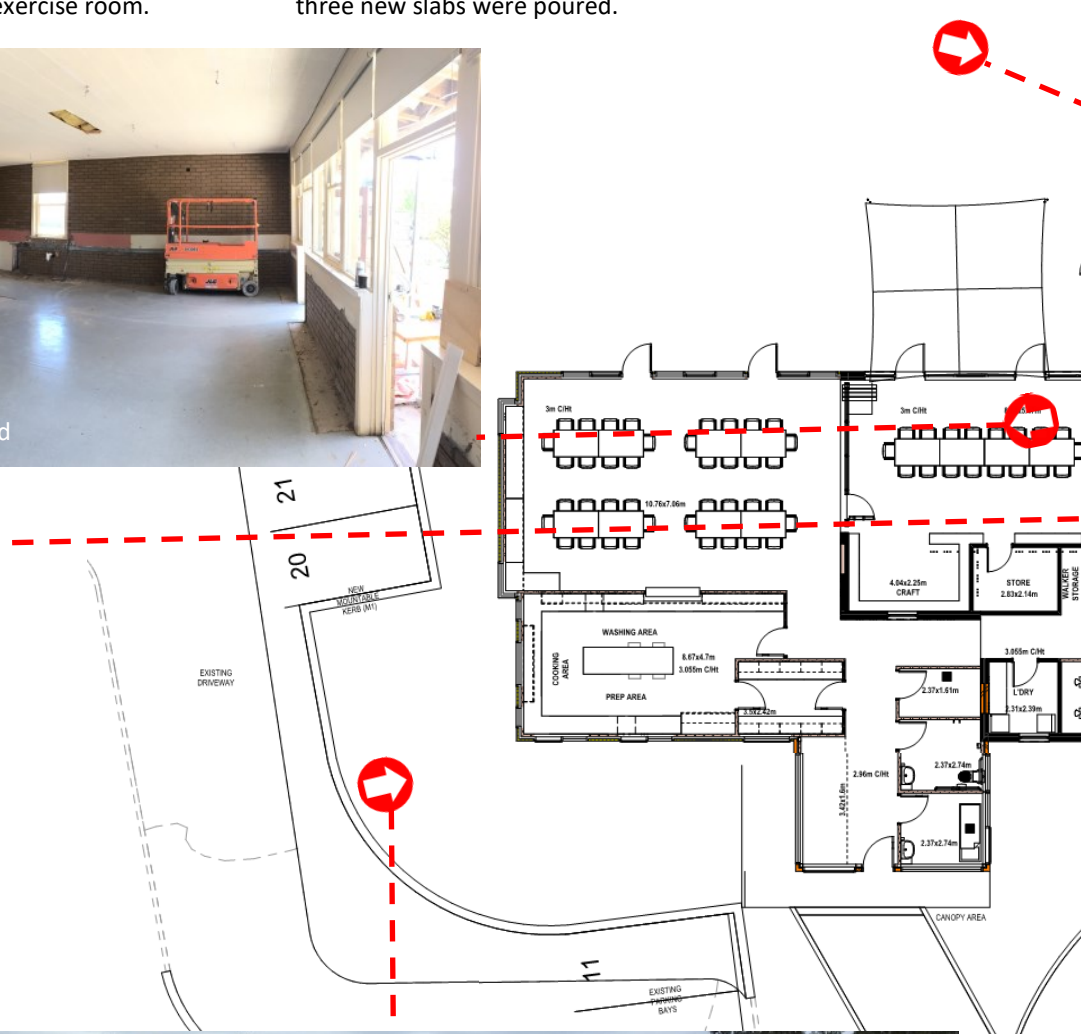
Demolition works commenced with the stand alone store rooms, quiet room and toilet at the back of the building. Most of the ceiling throughout the building was then removed along with the asbestos. Asbestos removal initially involved removing the eve linings and other odd locations; this task grew bigger than originally estimated as more asbestos was discovered hiding underneath the carpet and vinyl throughout the building. The walls of the existing building were cut away where the new extension will join, then the waste water piping was installed before the footings were dug and two of the three new slabs were poured.



25/10 - Lunch room - fittings removed



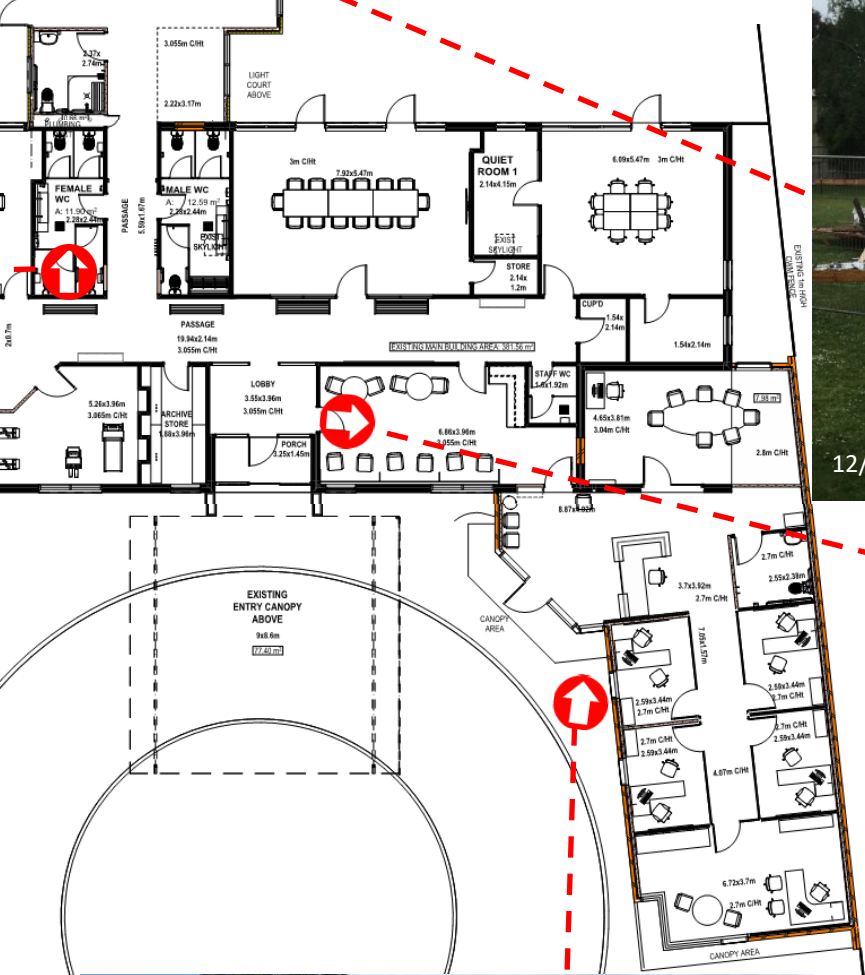
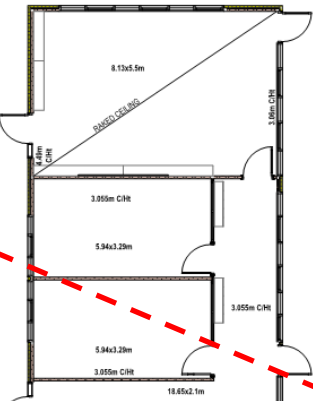
26/10 - Female Toilets



15/12 - New dining room and kitchen slab



15/12 - New north wing slab



12/10 - Demolition of store rooms



26/10 - Administration office



27/10 - CEO and administration office

Temporary Measures

On the 25th of September at the start of spring break the Day Service and Administration teams took on the daunting task of moving everything out of 6 Church Road Yarram into our temporary spaces at 121 Commercial Road (Apex House) and 15 Devonshires Lane (Devon House). All of the administration team moved to Apex. The base for Day Service programs became Apex House with the activities being spread over the two buildings. Numerous trips to the tip were completed as it was finally time to rationalize what we keep and no longer hold on; that said, a lot of things were still stashed away in any storage place we could find around our sites.

Numerous modifications have been made to both Apex and Devon including installing shelving, connecting up the dishwasher, adding filtered water, plumbing for washing machines and leveling the courtyard at Apex to install synthetic grass.

Setting up Devon has involved the most work as the maintenance crew built a ramp up to the pergola, a ramp from the pergola into the house, fixed the driveway, connected the computer network from Unit 4 and finally built an all weather concrete path from residential.



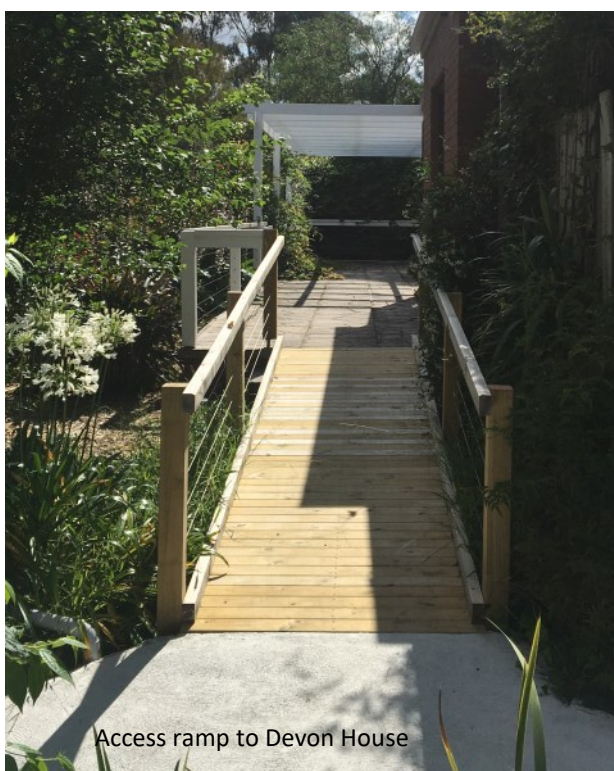
Path to Devon House



Apex Courtyard - leveled for synthetic grass



Devon House



Access ramp to Devon House



Steven and Collin at Devon House