

# Over the Back Fence

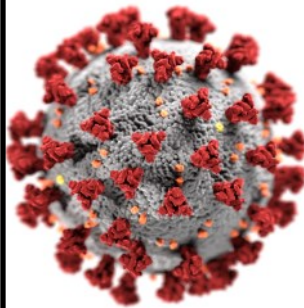


**Mirridong**  
SERVICES  
— INC —

**Winter**  
2021

## Covid, Flooding, & a Power Outage

What a challenge  
Term Two has been.



## Important Dates

- June 25 Term End - Winter Break
- July 5 Day Service Resumes
- Aug 16 Staff Training Day
- Sept 17 Term End - Spring Break
- Sept 27 Day Service Resumes

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# From the Chief Executive Officer



Hi All,

Welcome back to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter for the year. We have been busy finalizing the new supported houses that have been built, we still have a few things to check off before we can use them, but finally getting closer. We now have some great paths to make it easier for the participants to walk and roll to day services from the houses, and the grounds are looking great as they slowly get established. The houses will give some very lucky participants a beautiful place to live and be very comfortable.

Mirridong was not spared by the power outages a few weeks ago, having all services in the houses supplied by electricity, we soon organised a large generator to run the existing houses so they could get the heating, cooking and hot water back before the weekend kicked in. I would like to thank the quick response we received from Coates hire and Milno's Electrical for their speedy service. These things don't always happen smoothly, but with back up calls from standby maintenance from Coates and 4 hours standing in the rain, we finally had some huge smiles on staff and clients faces once the generator cut in and smoothly run all equipment for the next few days.

Sadly, we had to cancel the production again for this year, we had hoped that Covid would stay away but it has stepped in the way of our practices, and we are still not sure what capacity we can have in the Theater, at this stage we will aim for the end of term 1 in 2022.

The Have Your Say conference was cancelled for July, the Valid team are rescheduling now for February 2022. We have missed out on so many things over the past 12 months, but we are all happy and safe and that is the main thing.

One of our activities this term has been exploring arm chair holidays, this involves researching everything to do with a country, where to go, what to do, and then creating a plan from booking airfares, where to stay and where to go. I was lucky enough to walk into a trip to Italy a few days ago which was very exciting. I roll played the air hostess for a while then left them to explore the tower of Pisa and other great monuments worth looking at through computer visualization. You Tube is very savvy these days and makes for an enjoyable trip with cultural food added in.

Doreen Milne

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## *Arrivals and Departures Lounge*

The Day Service Team welcome **Rick Malloy** who has joined us five days a week. Rick has previously been employed at Aruma in Traralgon supporting residents with daily living in Supported Independent Living.

Second Term has seen the return of **Amy Reilly** and **Caylie Sharman** from maternity leave. It is great to have both of these women back in the team on a part-time basis.

**Marg Pettitt** has started working in a new role as groundskeeper two days a week. Marg has recently moved back to Yarram after 4 years living in Toowoomba.

The Residential Team farewell **Chris Howard** from Unit 2 and **Elinda Thompson** who worked in both Unit 2 and 3. Chris started working in Unit 2 when it was converted into a Supported Independent Living residence and helped us keep our finger on the pulse as this Unit started providing support. Elinda started out on split shifts in Curry House in mid 2019 then transferred to sleepovers in the Units when they began operation. We thank them both for their time of service, the dedication to their roles and the care that they showed to the residents they supported. Mirridong wish them the best in their future endeavours.

# A bit of Winter Humour



**This** is the first year that I have had to cancel our family winter vacation to Thailand because of Covid.... Every other year we had to cancel because of money.

**There** were four henchmen called Winter, Summer, Spring and Autumn. Their boss stood before them:  
"Winter," he began. "I need you to stay cool in the face of pressure. Ice in your veins," he said, patting his shoulder.

"Then there's you, Summer," he continued. "If the heat becomes too much for Winter, use that hot temper of yours to make sure the cops remember who they're working for.

"As for you, Spring," he chuckled, "this operation is gonna bring in a lotta \*green.\* Make sure that it keeps growing."

He turned for the door as Autumn stood up.

"Boss!" he sputtered. "What about me?"

The boss turned back, shaking his head.  
"Sorry, son. You're just the Fall guy."

**A** wife texts her husband on a cold winter's morning:  
"Windows frozen, won't open."

Husband texts back:  
"Gently pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texts back 5 minutes later:  
"Computer is really screwed up now."

## Power Outage

The wind and rain delivered to Gippsland on the 9th of June 2021 sure did knock the greater Yarram district around. The township of Yarram was without power for 22 hours, yet Mirridong (and the rest of Church Road) was without power for a further 3 days! With nine Mirridong residents



200KVA Diesel Generator

residing in three residences two days without hot water or heating was long enough. The pictured generator was hired to return life to normal. The generator was delivered on Friday the 11th at 4pm and was unloaded by sliding it off the back of the pictured tilt-tray truck. After a number of hours to get it connected and some troubleshooting the residences were able to turn their heaters and hot water on at 9pm.

# Day Service Activities

## Courthouse Visitor Information Centre

The Courthouse Program is a unique and rare opportunity for the clients to interact with the community in a meaningful and rewarding way. The clients apply themselves to multiple tasks suitable to their abilities in the operation of the Information Centre/ Art Gallery.

As part of their daily routine the clients attend to flags and signage, turning on lights, opening up the filing cabinet to place the cashbox in the Gift Shop after checking the 'float' is correct, folding and restocking brochures on display, visiting the DSE to collect brochures, cleaning, checking supplies at the Courthouse and filling out a checklist so we can restock from Mirridong, keeping statistics on visitor numbers passing through our centre, completing sales in the Gift Shop and keeping the stock in order, helping record statistics and sales on the computer and assisting tourists whenever possible with information and handing out brochures.

As well as these daily tasks the clients operate a produce market from the Courthouse every Friday with produce grown at Mirridong and donated from the community. This activity is a particular favourite.

Clients regularly interact with volunteers, Art Gallery Committee and staff from the Sale Information Centre under which we operate. These people have come to know our clients well and enjoy engaging them in conversation.

Despite the list of activities and skills used in our program the primary goal is for our clients to feel valued and accepted. The ease with which the community interacts with our clients with such genuine interest and acceptance certainly reinforces this. They are challenged in ways that expand and validate who they are.



Leigh and Lindsay folding pamphlets



Leigh signing visitors in on an i-pad



Anita keeping visitor statistics

# Day Service Activities

## Client Craft

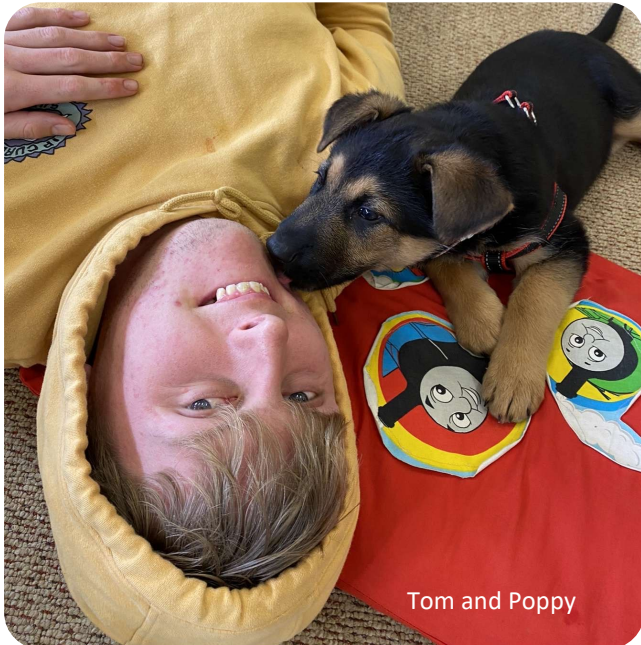


Fionna made this rug in Craft in Term 1 & 2. Fionna has done a great job weaving the material in and she was happy with the final product!



After brain storming ideas for Individual Projects with Mary and Axelle, they decided that Sparkle gem art is going to be their next project!

Mary and Axelle both in the process of doing there 'sparkle gem art' both ladies have taken a great liking to this and are doing a great job!



## Poppy

Mirridong has welcomed in a new worker! Her name is Poppy the German Shepherd puppy, all the clients love her, she also loves them right back! Poppy is going to be a therapy dog for all the clients, she is growing up around the clients, everyone is going to love watching her grow up and become a beautiful dog. Poppy can help people when they are feeling down or when you just want to play with her.

Here is Tom playing with Poppy.

**POSTPONED**  
**Mirridong All-Stars**  
**Annual Production**  
**AGAIN**

The annual production has been postponed yet again until early 2022. Production rehearsals had started this year but lockdown 4.0 quickly put a stop to them and created an uncertain environment to plan. After 20 successive years of the Mirridong annual production the now planned 2022 production has not seen anyone on stage since the 2019 Mirra-Mia. This news has been sad for all involved.

# Building Works

Building Better Regions Fund

Since Easter construction has felt to be at a slow pace as these residences have their finishing touches completed; it has felt as though completion is just out of reach. Hopefully completion is actually quite close as most wrinkles have now been ironed out. The landscapers have put in a significant effort between wet days to prepare the garden beds, installed paths and garden edging and planting a large number of plants, both ornamental and edible. Cleaners have been throughout both buildings. The final stages left include having a certificate of occupancy issued, having the houses registered with the NDIS and sourcing furniture for the shared living spaces.



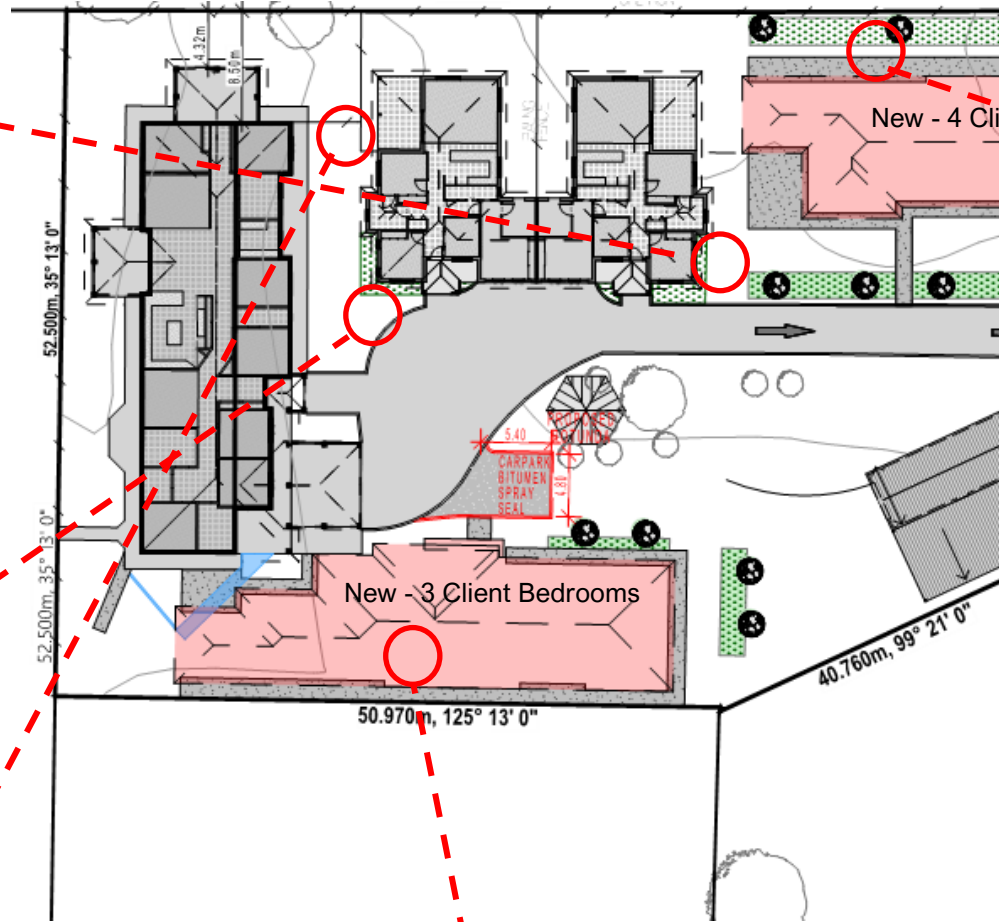
20th - New turf and deciduous trees



22nd March - New gravel path and garden beds



20th May - Garden mulch being pumped



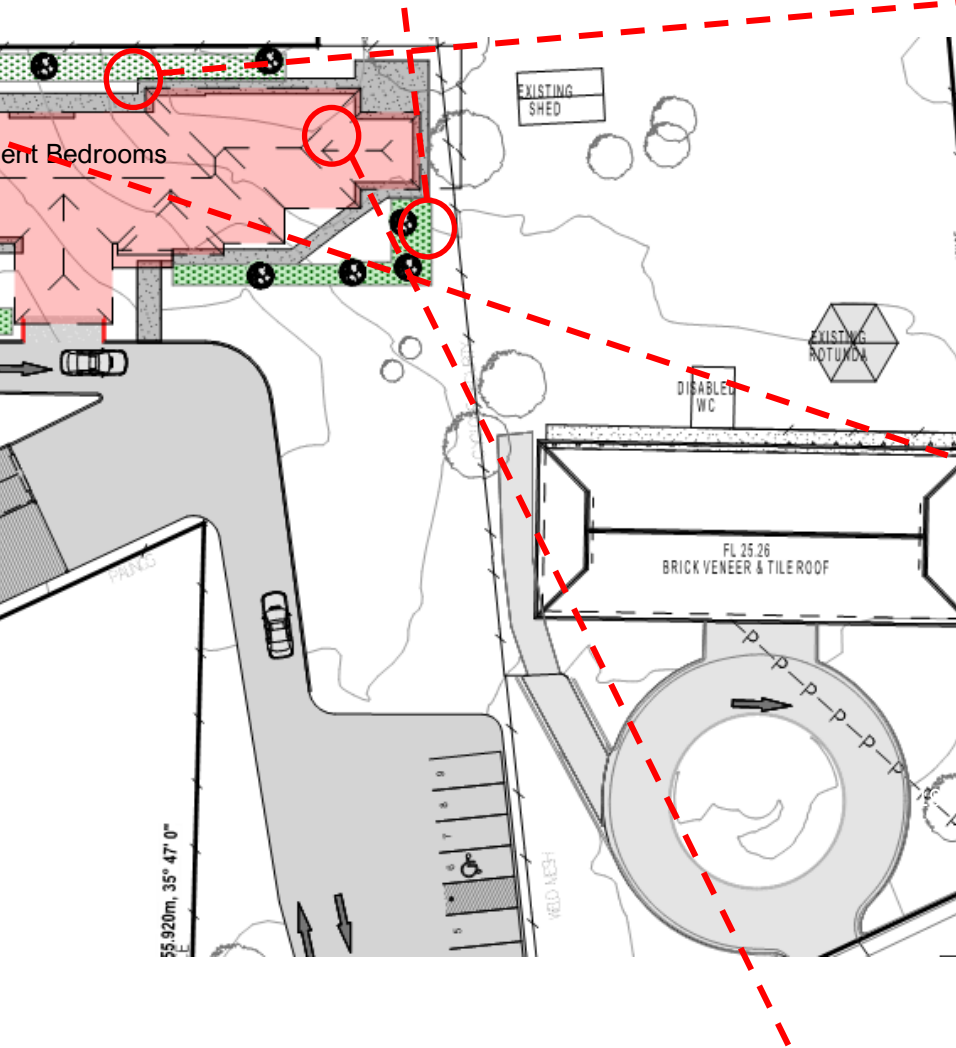
30th April - Disabled En-suite



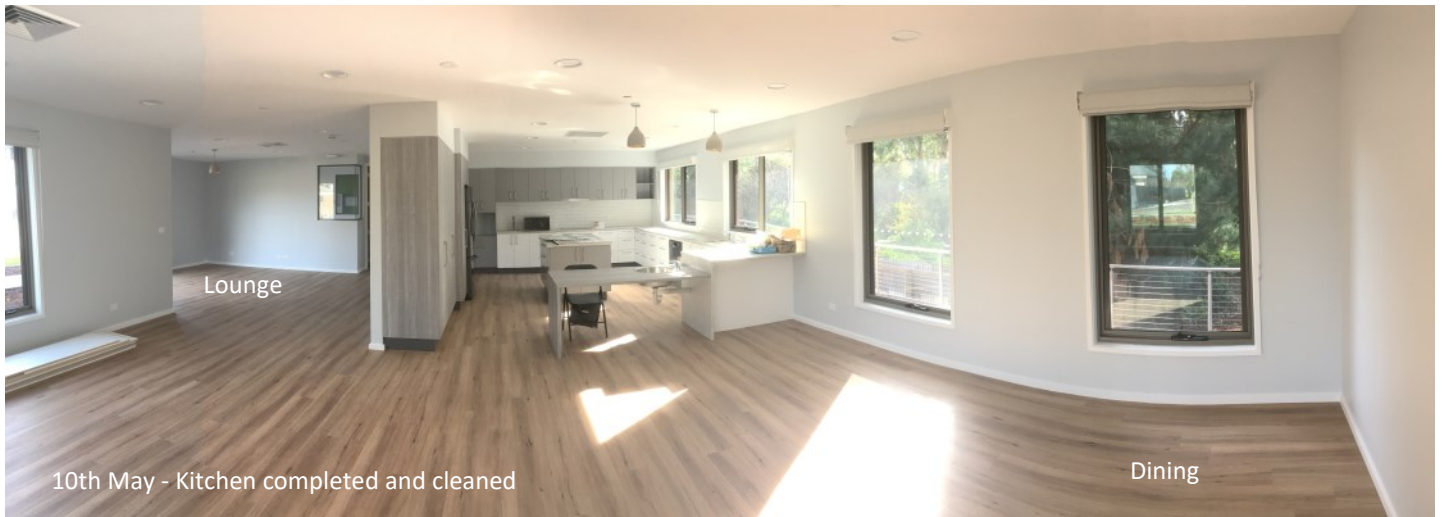
20th May - Garden completed



1st May - Retaining wall with extra concrete and stainless handrail.



20th May - Raised vegetable boxes and folding clotheslines.

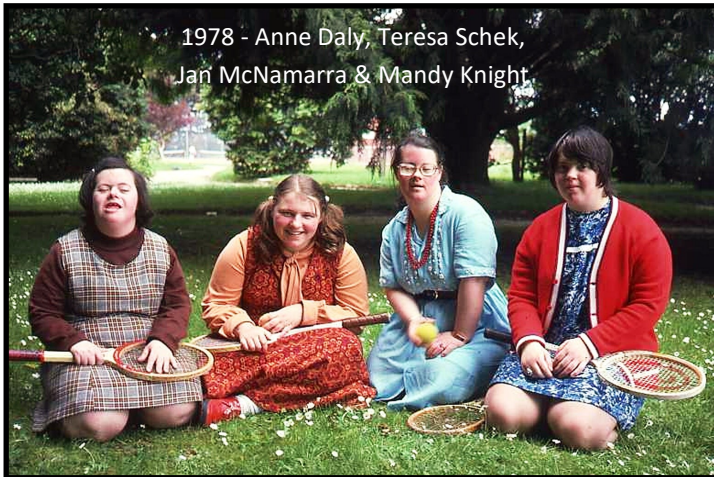


10th May - Kitchen completed and cleaned

Lounge

Dining

# Mirridong in The Past



## Birthdays

July	August	September
Tom - 2th	Steve M - 11th	Allan - 5th
Joel - 4th	Liz - 11th	Sarah - 8th
Teresa - 11th	Leigh B - 16th	Doreen - 13th
Gregor - 13th	Narelle - 18th	Johanna - 22nd
Brenda - 20th	Sue - 31st	Larissa - 22nd
Chris - 23rd		