



Encounter Centre Inc



# **NEWSLETTER**

January 2019

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## Board Briefs

I hope everyone had a good break and are ready to go again. Some of us tend to struggle with the hot weather, but at least the other side of it is that our solar panels are doing well.

We have virtually every participant signed up with a plan, so we will be moving into recruiting mode because we need more participants, which may mean that we need more programs. The latest group outings to a cricket game and the Museum were very successful and enjoyable, so we hope to continue providing interesting outings to events that our participants have requested.

As Carol Philp is away sick, we have employed Michelle Dugmore to take on Program Leadership as well as helping Bruce with some administrative duties. Lyndall Mather is also now part of our team, after previously being employed by Calvary.

Bruce has announced that he will be retiring, so the position of Centre Manager will now be advertised.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped out at the recent Bunnings Sausage Sizzle which raised \$550 and the distribution of the phone books, which raised \$1,280. We have applied to the Electoral Commission to have them use our premises for the next Federal Election, probably in May 2019 so, if selected, we will have the usual sausage sizzle, nursery and shop open for sales.

The Ocean Street shop did reasonably well over Christmas with sales totaling \$4,028 so thanks to those volunteers for helping out over the break. Getting our Website up and running is still our highest priority and Jamie and Patricia have assured us that they are nearly there.

There are other things we are hoping to do this year, as well as recruiting more participants. These are the replacing of our kitchen oven, the up-grading of our kitchen area (both needing grants) and stabilizing our paid, part-time staff numbers. We will also be setting up a marketing plan around our new website to improve our participant numbers, product sales and awareness in the market place.

**Ian Driver** (Chairman)

## *Bruce's Bit*

We have had a busy start to the year with some new participants joining us and new staff, as mentioned above.

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped over the Christmas closure by opening the Ocean Street shop and to Peter and Marie who came in to water the plants in the nursery.

After many months, we seem to be fully over to NBN and our phones working as they should. There have been a few times where our advertised number hasn't been connecting. If this happens, our alternative number is 8552 9326.

We also welcome new volunteers, Marian Sutcliffe – Nursery / Paintshop, Malcolm Galpin - Nursery, and Derek Bowman – Literacy and Computer tutor.

Erica keeps a record of attendances from the sign on sheets. The total amount of volunteer hours for 2018 is 45,318 hours. This is 1300 more than for 2017. Volunteering Australia suggest that a monetary value of \$25 per hour be used, which gives a dollar value of \$1,133,000. What an amazing input our volunteers give to the Centre. Your help is highly valued!

**Bruce**

## *Around the Workshops*

Hi Everyone; welcome back to the 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter for 2019. I hope everybody had a good break over the Christmas close.

Shop sales over the Christmas period were quite good, and the alphabet trains eclipsed everything recording the highest percentage of sales AGAIN!

Production is back in full swing, both in the workshop and paint shops.

A few of our volunteers have not returned from holidays so Wednesdays and Thursdays are a little low on workers in both departments, so if you want to or may know someone who would like to do some volunteering, please let Bruce or myself know.

On January 24, the Thursday that hit 47.8 degrees, we closed the workshop at 1.30pm as the temperature hit 38 degrees inside; far too hot to function!!

Hopefully we won't get TOO many of those days.

Thanks to all our volunteers; and we look forward to a fruitful 2019

Cheers.

**Jamie.**

## *Ocean Encounter*

*(People supporting People)*

We Hope everyone had a great Christmas break and you are all excited about the New year and what it may bring. How thrilled we are to have a familiar face to some, with Michelle Dugmore now employed to work with our crew. We look forward to showing her all the great things we do here at our program.

Our cooking and sewing programs have started again and the delicacies that are being served up certainly popular. How lucky we are to have a dedicated group of volunteers who assist in our sewing program to help whip up some cute little fabric bunnies, just in time for Easter. Everyone was "hopping" mad about their cute little creations. Surfing SA is again running their program at Middleton Beach which begins February 1. This is a great opportunity to get out into the ocean and learn the basics of surfing or body

boarding. The participants always have a great time and we thank Surfing SA for this wonderful opportunity.

Our marvelous musician Margie has teamed up with our resident muso Nick Potter who is back on deck to serenade their groupies on a Thursday morning. Lots of joyful singing and dancing to be had with these two, ensure we are all thoroughly entertained.

We are all sending lots of love and healing vibes to Carol as she will be away for a little while and we look forward to seeing her back on deck when she is fit and well.

**Lyndall.**

### *Encounter Life*

Welcome Participants, Tutors and everyone to the New Year. I hope it's been a good start to the year for you.

We will run through this year with 4 x seasonal blocks of 'Summer', 'Autumn', 'Winter' and 'Spring' which will be 12 weeks long. During school holiday weeks, we'll run a modified program including outings and alternative activities.

Our first noteworthy activity was an outing on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Art Show. We had a very cultural time and Johnny Bruce acted as our "Paparazzo" (photographer)!

We intend to restart an ongoing Vegetable patch project at the Centre and will be visiting Middleton Beach on January 30<sup>th</sup> to beach comb supplies for scarecrows that will be a design and construct project.

Cheers everyone.

**Greg.**

### *Gone Fishing*

January 29: The first day back after the long school break and what a lovely day it was – 23 degrees. So we headed for the park under the Hindmarsh Island Bridge at Goolwa. With a nice bit of shade to relax under and with the river bank close by we were enticed to cast in a few lines, resulting in two good sized carp. Of course the pelicans really appreciated our donation.

It was just great to be back. The company was great catching up with our friends and of course a good start to the year landing some fish.

**Steve, Gary, Carey and Eric.**

### *Let's Do Cooking*

**January 8 & 10** > Hash Brown Quiche  
Lots of prep for a very enjoyable meal

**January 15 & 17** > A mixed week due the very hot conditions.

Meat balls with pasta

A cold meat salad > just right for the hot weather

**January 22 & 24** > Another mixed week

Fresh Fruit Salad in Orange Juice

Thursday Group at The Computer Lounge at the centre looking for recipes.

**January 29 & 31** > A very easy recipe.

Pasties were yummy and enough to take home.

### *Art on Tuesday with Wendy*

The group are making owls from 2ltr plastic milk containers; very creative and colorful work.

We finished the month with hand-blown and painted roosters.

### *Pelican Aktion Club*

January 7: We started the year with a disco with our resident DJ, Nat.

Before the disco we held a meeting to organize our program for the next 6 months.

January 14: BBQ at Kent Reserve > hamburgers with salad, sauce and fried onions.

January 21: Mystery Tour to Milang.

We all enjoyed the cooler weather and cold meat and salad followed by fresh fruit for dinner.

January 28: No club – Public Holiday.

### *Other Activities*

#### **Friday Night January 11.**

Big Bash League (Strikers v Stars) at Adelaide Oval with Hungry Jacks being the choice for a meal on the way home.

#### **Saturday January 19:**

##### Tour Down Under

The weather was perfect and lunch enjoyed at the Middleton Bakery.

We watched the tour at Middleton; waved our flags and cheered the riders on, followed by afternoon at Goolwa.

**David H** (for Cooking, Art, Pelicans and other Activities)

### *Encounter People*

My name is Hilary and I was born in the U.K. near Stonehenge. My family migrated to Australia in the early 1970's when I was 9 years old. I travelled with my parents and older sister. It took nearly 8 weeks to get here by boat and we travelled to South Australia to be with other family that had moved here 3 years earlier. Like all good 'POMS' in that era, my family moved to Elizabeth which was a vibrant and exciting satellite city at the time, and we joined all of the other families who had made the move and were preparing to start their new lives in the new country. Unlike many families of this era, my family embraced the new country and culture, my parents became citizens. They even shifted their allegiance to supporting Australia over England in sporting and World events at the time, much to the frustration of family still living in U.K. as my father enjoyed the bragging rights with Australia constantly beating U.K. in cricket and other sports.

I matriculated and went on a long hiatus with my partner in 1983 to Melbourne, Sydney and eventually ending up in Alice Springs where I worked as a Drama Teacher at Araluen Arts Centre and as a Youth Worker for a crisis accommodation service for 7 years. I returned to SA in 1998, with my toddler daughter in tow and pregnant with my twin boys - what a lovely surprise for my family! After 8 years living in the North and raising the 3 children as a single parent, I managed to go to University at this time and start my Bachelor in Social Work whilst the children attended school; the family decided to make the sea change and move to Victor Harbor. It was the regular Christmas holidays spent in a beach house in Goolwa that encouraged the family, my sister and mother included, to move permanently to

the Fleurieu. I worked as a disability support worker whilst completing my degree and completed my final placement at Disability SA in Victor Harbor where I was able to join the Psychologist in delivering the first therapeutic Lego Group for children with autism and ADD. I also assisted Gus Telford with his role as Tenancy officer and continued the men's group with ABI and helped with the after school basketball program for people with disabilities. Having family who have autistic spectrum diagnosis and challenges, has encouraged me to continue my work within the disability field and I was successful in applying to the NDIS as one of the original Planners in 2013. Working with the NDIS in St. Mary's, ACT as a team leader and returning to the Noarlunga office that was placed in the Centrelink building led me to starting my own business after resigning from the NDIS in 2017. Daisy Hills Services, my current business is now in its second year.

After all of my experiences working within the disability sector I was privileged to gain the role of NDIS Coordinator at the Encounter Centre Inc. I must add that this has been a wonderful and challenging role that has brought me a lot of satisfaction whilst assisting everyone and their families / carers to understand the new funding scheme for disability that has been implemented by our Commonwealth Government. I am currently working in the afternoons at the Encounter Centre and

am still available for assistance with your NDIS plan or review. I also operate as a Support Coordinator, Therapist and lead for Social Skills groups with Daisy Hills Services. I have a practice room on George Main Rd opposite the Police Station in Victor Harbor where I see clients for counseling and clinical hypnosis supports for positive psychotherapeutic services. My children are now all young adults and I am still very excited and grateful to be living and working across our amazing coastal region. I go to Kangaroo Island to work for the first week of every month and this is also one of my passions, to support the very isolated, vulnerable and marginalized of our extended community.

***Hilary O'Moore.***

