



From the C.E.O. - Mark Zentgraf

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Samarinda Newsletter.

This certainly has been an interesting year thus far. The COVID-19 pandemic has had some obvious impacts on many of our services but has also made us become more creative about how we provide ongoing services to our community.

In our residential services we have had to be creative to ensure our residents maintained contact with their families and friends. Our staff introduced Skype calls to maintain some face to face contact, introduced window visits outside of resident's rooms if they were on the ground floor and balcony visits for those living on first floor. As restrictions have eased we have been slowly re-introducing more face to face meetings between resident's and their families in their rooms.

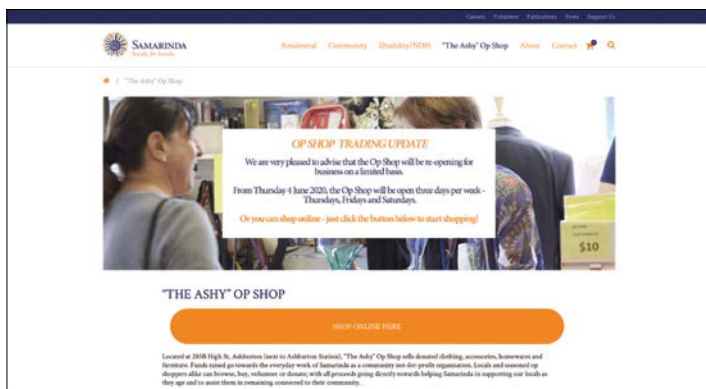
In our community services our staff have had to be creative in different ways to maintain services. With restrictions on group gatherings, our Elsie Salter House team has moved to provide individual in-home respite to clients as an option. Our Social Support Program team have provided some group activities through zoom and have been calling our social support clients to check that they are okay.

The Meals on Wheels service has continued to operate during this time with an increase in community members seeking Meals on Wheels. Samarinda did have to minimise the use of our volunteers during this time, especially those over the age of 70. We certainly look forward to welcoming them back in the near future.

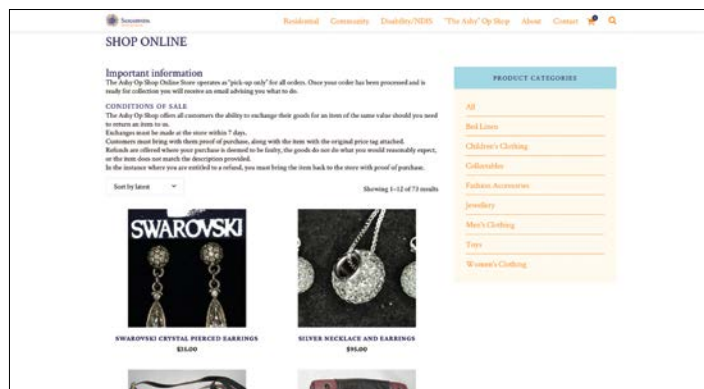
As you drive along High Street I am sure you will all have noticed that the new Community Centre located at 296 High Street is coming along. Most of the exterior building works have now been completed and the contractors are now finishing off the interior. Work has also commenced on the new car parking area and we understand that practical completion of the entire project will be towards the end of August 2020. We are all excited by this next part of Samarinda's ongoing development.

Finally, I just wanted to acknowledge that this has been a difficult time for all of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic and wanted to thank you all for your ongoing support of our organisation.

'The Ashy' Op Shop goes online



As many of you will know, Samarinda has for many years run 'The Ashy' Op Shop on the corner of Welfare Parade and High Street in Ashburton. The shop has become a mecca for bargain hunters "in the know" for everything from fashion, to toys, to collectables, to homewares and furniture. These pre-loved bargains have until now only been available face to face. And with the advent of COVID-19 the shop was closed for several weeks to keep our staff, volunteers and customers safe. This has left many regular customers frustrated and unable to scratch their 'shopping itch'.



However we are very happy to announce that 'The Ashy' now has an online store stocked with a limited number of selected items for discerning shoppers. These items are sure to be popular but will be regularly replaced as they are snapped up.

Just go to samarinda.org.au/the-ashy-op-shop and click on the button to begin your shopping experience.

We are also pleased to announce that the shop has now reopened for limited trading days:
Thursday and Friday: 10am-4.30pm
Saturday: 9.30am-4pm

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2020

Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is most often carried out by someone they know and trust, such as a family member or friend. The abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological or sexual and can include mistreatment and neglect. Rates of elder abuse are under-reported, but the Australian Institute of Family Studies estimates up to 14 per cent of older people in Australia are affected.

Monday 15th June was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). Samarinda, along with other organisations world wide, engaged residents, clients and staff to highlight the importance of the rights of older people, as prevention against mistreatment and harm occurring in their communities.

In support of clients and residents feeling safe in their communities, staff signed up to 'I Say No to Abuse' and dressed in purple. Thank you to Kaylene Cahill from Elder Rights Advocacy (ERA) who facilitated two information sessions with residents to provide information on rights as a recipient of care, including in the current context of COVID-19. Kaylene also spoke to residents about a free advocacy support service offered by ERA to residents.

Thank you to Charles and Lourdes for baking up some yummy morning and afternoon tea for residents and to everyone that joined in and dressed in purple - especially to our Community Support Workers who sent in their selfies to show their support.



A big 'Thank You' to our volunteers

Samarinda enjoys the assistance of over 200 volunteers across many aspects of our operation. May 18-24 was National Volunteer Week, so as a small token of our appreciation for the massive amount of work that our volunteers do, Samarinda provided them with a commemorative pen.

As Community Services Manager, Sandra Bygrave said in her letter to the volunteers, "This year has been another year of success for Samarinda, with considerable growth and diversification in service offerings for our local community. This could ONLY have been achieved with each and every one of you!

COVID-19 has presented an unexpected challenge and once again, you awesome people have stood beside us in responding to some new needs.

We are looking forward to having a celebration with you all once the social restrictions are lifted and our new Community Centre is finished."

NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020
VOLUNTEER
CHANGING COMMUNITIES.
CHANGING LIVES. WEEK



Mother's Day celebrations

Even COVID-19 couldn't completely dampen the enjoyment of Mother's Day for the Samarinda residents. The ladies enjoyed a special lunch and received dozens of deliveries of flowers and gifts from family and friends. Not to mention the many photos sent to them. In addition all the mothers received a special hand-made pot plant from Samarinda to help them celebrate their special day. Overall the day was a great success enjoyed by all!



Community Centre redevelopment - progress update

As reported in the CEO's introduction on page 1, the new Community Centre located at 296 High Street is progressing well. Most of the exterior building works have now been completed and the contractors are now finishing off the interior. Work has also commenced on the new car parking area and we understand that practical completion of the entire project will be towards the end of August 2020.



The view of the rear of the building from Warner Avenue - late April...



...and mid June.



The view of the front of the building from the corner of Warner Avenue and High Street - late April...



...and mid June.



SAMARINDA
locals for locals

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