



From the C.E.O. - Mark Zentgraf

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Samarinda Newsletter.

This year has so far been a little less stressed as it was the same time last year and we are hoping that this remains that way.

Vaccinations remain high on our list of priorities for Samarinda as an organisation. Some of our staff, volunteers and residents have recently received their flu vaccine and late last week we were informed that Samarinda residents will receive their first COVID-19 vaccination on the week of 10 May, although the exact date is yet to have been confirmed.

Our new Community Centre recently conducted a community engagement process so that Samarinda Community Services could identify the community services priorities, unmet needs and aspirations for the centre moving forward. This information will assist us in designing the most appropriate service model for our community moving into the future.

All of our Community Services continue to flourish and grow, now that COVID-19 restrictions have been eased. In particular our Home Care Package and NDIS programs continue to grow in numbers and our Social Support team were recently successful in receiving more CHSP funding for CALD groups attending their service.

In the residential area there have been some recent changes in personnel. Karen Primmer our Residential Service Manager (RSM) has recently departed and I am covering for her in the interim whilst we recruit a new RSM. Michelle Lewin has also recently moved on and whilst we recruit a new lifestyle manager, Hershey Tanawon is covering in that position.

In January, Samarinda received a \$44,000 grant from Bendigo Bank Community Bank to purchase two new Tovertafels. One of these was for Samarinda's memory support unit and the other for Elsie Salter House. The Tovertafel is an interactive technology made to provide many moments of happiness to people in the mid to late stages of their dementia journey. These are now installed in both places and our staff will soon receive training on how to provide our residents and clients with the best experiences when utilising this resource.

Samarinda's 'The Ashy' Op shop has reopened for business and is doing a roaring trade. It is now open 6 days a week, Monday to Friday 10am to 4.30pm on Saturday 9.30am to 4pm. Please come in and have a browse and if you are clearing up the house, remember that 'The Ashy' will find a new home for your used items.

Armchair Travel



Given all the current restrictions that are in place with regards to travel and outings, we decided it was time to take travel into our own hands. With "Samarinda Airways", we are experiencing a new holiday destination each month. Our first 'trip' in January was around Australia. The residents were invited to board our plane, where we enjoyed a flight around Australia, touring some of Australia's best known tourist destinations and finished our trip with some great Aussie tucker like lamingtons and meat pies.



Our next holiday destination in February was China, where we enjoyed some incredible sites like the Great Wall of China, we learned how to do a Chinese fan dance, and ate some delicious dim sum, spring rolls and dumplings. In March, we flew to Ireland, where we were surrounded by green shamrocks and lovely local delicacies, including green cakes and Guinness! This month, our flight is booked to travel to France! Bon Voyage Samarinda!

Samarinda resident turns 100

On 14th April Samarinda resident, Patricia Bridger celebrated her 100th birthday. Pat enjoyed her big day with family and fellow residents. Special guest Dr Katie Allen – Federal Member for Higgins, also attended to join in the celebrations. “I asked Patricia what her secret was to living a long and happy life - her answer was simply just ‘live a normal life’, Katie said.”

Pat was wearing a necklace with 42 pearls representing her children, grand children, great grand children and now a great, great grandchild. She was also wearing Chanel No 5 which was launched in 1921, the year of her birth.



Photos courtesy Dr Katie Allen MP. www.facebook.com/KatieAllenMP/

Samarinda receives additional Commonwealth Funding Grant

The Community Services division of Samarinda has successfully applied for a grant under the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) Growth Funding for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Respite Services. This funding is available for aged care and disability support providers to provide respite services to older Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The grant funds will be used to strengthen the existing partnerships we have with the Chinese, Vietnamese and Indian Community Groups in the local government areas of Boroondara and Monash. These groups currently gather socially in our brand new purpose built Community Centre. Prior to receipt of this funding however, they were limited in how they could continue to support the older members of their communities and extend the reach of their activities to be more inclusive of the frail and older members and those who are financially disadvantaged.

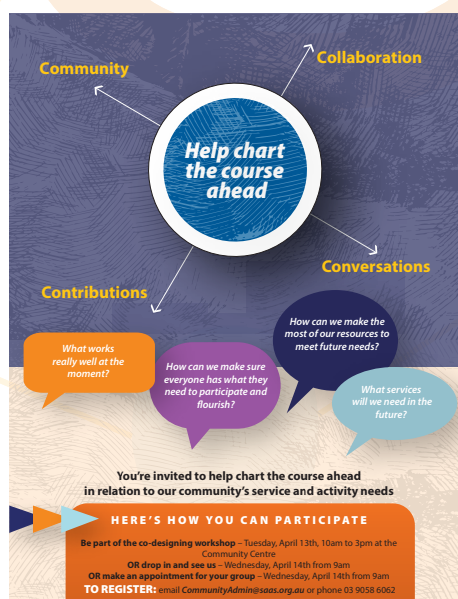
The grant will fund respite care staff with the relevant skills, experience, attitude and community language/s to ensure a successful growth in services to these three community groups.

Community engagement workshops

Samarinda Community Services recently commenced a very special project in which the primary objective is to be guided by the local community in the design of future services.

All interested parties were all invited to help chart the course ahead in relation to our community's service and activity needs. Workshops and input sessions were held in the Community Centre over two days 13/14 April. Sessions were attended by 126 staff, clients, community members, volunteers, Samarinda board members and state and local government representatives.

Results of the workshops will be released in the near future. Stay tuned!



SAMARINDA locals for locals



New Serious Incident Response Scheme introduced

As of 1st of April 2021 a new incident reporting scheme was brought into residential aged care. This is called the Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS) and this will replace the prior Mandatory Reporting Scheme.

SIRS is a new initiative to help prevent and reduce incidents of abuse and neglect in residential aged care services subsidised by the Australian Government. SIRS sets new arrangements for approved providers of residential aged care to manage and take reasonable action to prevent incidents with a focus on the safety, health, well-being and quality of life of aged care consumers.

The SIRS will have 2 key components. These are:

- Incident management obligations, and
- Compulsory reporting obligations.

Incident management obligations

The SIRS requires every residential aged care service to have in place an effective incident management system – a set of protocols, processes, and standard operating

procedures that staff are trained to use. This means adopting a systematic approach to minimise the risk of and respond to, incidents that occur in a residential care setting. An incident management system is vital in supporting residential aged care services to effectively manage risks to their consumers, visitors and staff.

Samarinda already has a robust incident management system in place so this is unlikely to change, however where things will change is in our compulsory reporting obligations where there has been an expansion in reporting.

Compulsory reporting obligations

In addition to managing all incidents, approved providers will be required to report serious incidents involving aged care consumers to the Commission, and the police where the incident is of a criminal nature. This reporting includes incidents that occur, or are alleged or suspected to have occurred, and will include incidents involving a care recipient with cognitive or mental impairment (such as dementia).

Probus Club of Ashburton donation

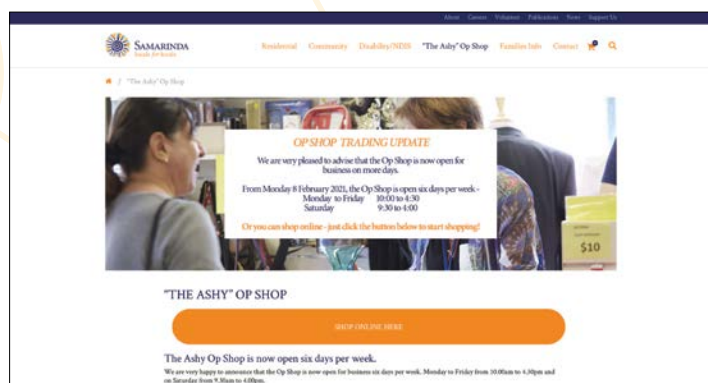
Recently Samarinda received a very generous donation from the Probus Club of Ashburton. The donation comprised not only \$5000 cash, but also a laptop computer and data projector.

Formed in 1993, the Probus Club of Ashburton has met monthly for members to enjoy social interaction, friendship and fun. Unfortunately a decline in membership in recent times has meant that the Club has had to reluctantly close. This sad occurrence though has had a silver lining for Samarinda, as it resulted in these donations.

Club President, Ruth Cruttenden made the presentation to Samarinda Chair, Bob Stensholt.



'The Ashy' Op Shop is reopen for business



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. However with the advent of COVID-19 the shop was closed for several months to keep our staff, volunteers and customers safe.

We are pleased to announce that the shop has now reopened for more trading days:

Monday to Friday: 10am-4.30pm

Saturday: 9.30am-4pm

Be sure to come in and grab a bargain quickly, because the shop is busier than ever!

And don't forget that 'The Ashy' now has an online store stocked with a limited number of selected items for discerning shoppers.

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

New Community Centre is going strong

In September 2020 the newly completed Ashburton Seniors Centre was, thanks to COVID restrictions, 'virtually opened'. Samarinda Community staff were finally able to occupy the building in November and since then, the new facility has been ramping up as restrictions eased. Now the building is a hive of activity, with offices of busy people and clients and community making full use of the fabulous, modern facility.



Exterior of the building from the corner of Warner Avenue and High Street



The reception area.



The Chinese community group making use of the fabulous new facilities. They are just one of the many community groups taking advantage of the building.



SAMARINDA
locals for locals

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