

IMAGINING

BETTER

Imagining and achieving
better lives



Loving campus life

Community-based higher learning has arrived at Araluen! Participants, like Tim, now have the opportunity to move away from centre-based support and into the classroom.

Together with Melbourne Polytechnic, we're offering new accredited courses to help make people more job-ready.

details >>> page 3

ARALUEN

winter 2018

from the CEO



A bright future

We are now two years into the NDIS rollout and Araluen has not just survived – we are thriving. We are supporting new participants, developing new opportunities through partnerships, and five existing staff have been promoted into new management roles.

We are now case-managing more than 50 participants to move out of the family home. Over the last 18 months, 12 people have done so; in the near future, we are expecting this number to double.

Financially, we have performed better than anticipated and better than most disability organisations. Presently at Araluen, there's plenty of change and plenty of optimism.

There's one thing that we are not prepared to change, however, and that is our values. As we develop, Araluen is serious about maintaining the positive manner in which we interact with people.

We are keen to hear feedback from those we support, their families, our staff, and volunteers. I hope you enjoy this edition of Imagining Better and can keep up with all that is going on.

Ross Coverdale
CEO, Araluen

What the NDIS could mean for you



The right NDIS funding is helping people live more independently. **Find a home to love - talk to us about how it might be possible to move out of the family home.**

Court Walters
Araluen Independent Living Officer
Ph: 9439 2805
E: courtw@araluen.org



[www.araluen.org/
supports/housing](http://www.araluen.org/supports/housing)

Upcoming Events

Entries due 30th July

Araluen Archibald Prize 2018

All welcome

Tuesday
21st August 2018

Family & Carers Network Meeting

Mill Park Library
10am

All welcome

Thursday
20th September 2018

Araluen Art Exhibition
Opening Night

Montsalvat
6pm

All welcome

see >>> page 5

big achievement

We've arrived - now it's time to thrive!

A new era has commenced for those participants who ultimately want to gain more economic and social independence.

This year, Araluen Primed started offering partial support from a dedicated space at Melbourne Polytechnic's Greensborough Campus.

Being at the heart of a state-of-the art education facility is providing many previously-unavailable opportunities for the 22 participants who are now spending some of their time on campus.

As well as study for a range of accredited courses, work experience roles within Melbourne Polytechnic are available for some participants. Everyone's enjoying being part of a diverse learning community and the greater social benefits this brings. The change of environment has generated much enthusiasm about the learning process.

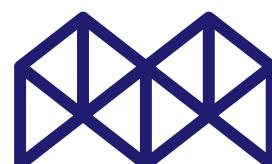
The story so far:

The first accredited courses offered in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic are now in progress. Participants are engaged in obtaining the following qualifications:

- **Certificate 1 in Transition Education**
- **Certificate 1 in Work Education**
- **Certificate 1 in Food Processing**



[www.araluen.org/supports/
melbourne-polytechnic/](http://www.araluen.org/supports/melbourne-polytechnic/)



**MELBOURNE
POLYTECHNIC**

A taste of campus life

Araluen's aspiring hospitality workers are now becoming more job-ready in a fully operational commercial-standard venue.

Chancez Cafe is open at Melbourne Polytechnic's Greensborough Campus, where great coffee and delicious nibbles are being supplied to the appreciative campus community.

Access to this professional kitchen has provided the facility we needed to offer focussed learning opportunities that build an extended range of new skills and give valuable hands-on experience.

From this base, Araluen is now delivering fully accredited courses, designed in conjunction with industry partner, Melbourne Polytechnic. This means that trainees can undertake campus-based learning whilst receiving individualised support from Araluen.

So far in 2018, nine participants have enrolled in Certificate 1 in Food Processing.

These participants are thriving in this community setting where they receive direct appreciation for their contribution to campus life.

Chancez Cafe, Greensborough, will provide further opportunities for trainees to expand their skillsets as we develop catering and baking off-shoots of this increasingly popular brand later in the year.



drop in

**Chancez Cafe,
Greensborough**

when:

Tuesday to Thursday
10am - 2pm

where:

Building A
Melbourne Polytechnic
61 Civic Drive
Greensborough
(enter via main entry)

parking:
free parking available on
Diamond Hills Drive

more info:
www.araluen.org/supports/chancez-cafe



A Above: Steve's perfecting the art of the perfect latte at Chancez cafe, Greensborough.

big achievement



10 years



Happy Birthday to us!

It's been almost a decade since Araluen launched the 'Art Connects' support at Queen's Hall, Parliament House Victoria, with the aim of furthering the aspirations of our fledgling artists to make and market great work.

Since then, well over one hundred artists have achieved exactly that, and much, much more. Along the way, we've exhibited thousands of pieces and sold over \$100,000 worth of art. Artists have been shortlisted for professional art awards, exhibited in a vast array of commercial and public galleries, won awards, contributed to many public art installations and gained recognition as grant recipients.

We have plenty planned to celebrate what's been achieved and recognise the efforts of the many people who've contributed to 'Art Connects' success. Watch this space!

Look good, feel good, do good!

Our artists are talented, unique – and fundraising! With the support of Montsalvat, we're planning our biggest, best exhibition yet. To find out more about this project, check out our video on the Pozible crowdfunding website or on our website. You can support our artists by donating, sharing the video via social media and, of course, attending the exhibition!



or

<https://montsalvat.pozible.com/project/araluen-exhibition-project>
www.araluen.org/happy-birthday-art-connects

Montsalvat

Pozible

events

what:

Art Connects 10th Anniversary Exhibition

when:

20th September 2018

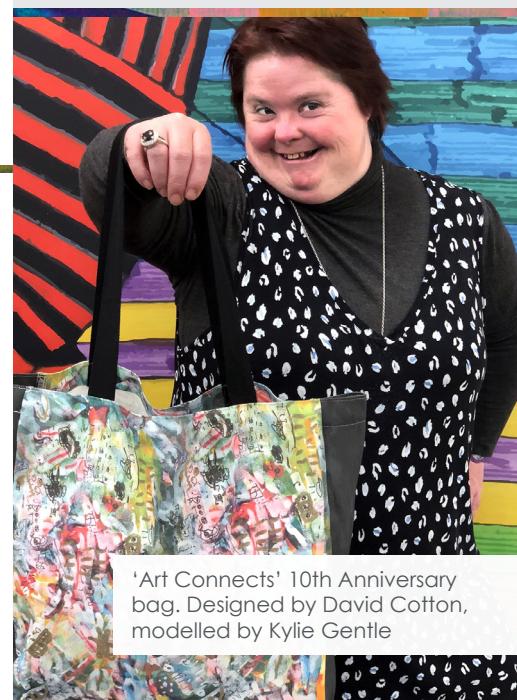
6pm

where:

Montsalvat
Hillcrest Ave, Eltham

learn more:

www.araluen.org/happy-birthday-art-connects



'Art Connects' 10th Anniversary bag. Designed by David Cotton, modelled by Kylie Gentle

join in - win a prize

Announcing..... The Araluen Archibald Prize

Over the past decade, artists working at Araluen have received lots of love and plenty of support, recognition and encouragement. Now we want to give something back!

We're excited to announce the first ever Araluen Archibald Prize. All members of the Araluen community have the opportunity for their likeness to be captured by an artist working within the 'Art Connects' support.

It's easy to enter - just provide a few details, then sit back and wait for the magic to happen.

**Prizes will be awarded to the winning artists and sitters.
Place-getters will be determined by public vote.**

Get in quick. To be as inclusive as possible, each artist will only be able to produce a limited number of entries. The rules and further information can be found on our website:

www.araluen.org/happy-birthday-art-connects



The uncanny likeness of Araluen CEO, Ross Coverdale, has been captured down to the smallest detail by artist, Kylie Gentle >>

how to enter



Ph: 9439 2805



admin@araluen.org



www.araluen.org/happy-birthday-art-connects



Nominate your artist (or we can match you). Remember to include your contact details and a photo of yourself.



contact us **by 30th July**
Judging will
occur in August.

Bill visits Araluen, Rosanna

In April, Federal Opposition Leader, Bill Shorten, chose to conduct a Media Conference at Araluen, Rosanna. Bill was accompanied by Jenny Macklin, Member for Jagajaga and Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services.

Bill and Jenny spent time speaking to Araluen participants, staff and parent Chris Talintrye before addressing the media pack to state Federal Labor's intention to fully fund the NDIS should they govern.



Jenny Macklin and Bill Shorten chat with Chris (left) and Rochelle (above)

creating a more efficient workplace

Corporate Services - interesting people doing interesting things

Change is occurring at Araluen across the entire organisation. Better technology and robust IT systems mean our staff can focus on what they do best - provide industry-best support to our participants.

The need to upgrade our IT systems is recognised in Araluen's current Strategic Direction strategy and much work has already been completed behind the scenes to put better software and equipment into place. Fortunately, our stronger than expected financial position means that some future improvements can be fast-tracked.

Some recent implementations that will drive greater efficiencies, save staff time and reduce operating costs include:

- the rollout of an automated staff time and attendance system to replace time-consuming manual paper timesheets. Staff will also be able to use their smartphones or computers to access their roster and pick up additional shifts if desired. iPads will be coming to all sites to serve as login kiosks as part of the project.
- a partnership with Australian IT company, Enablis, to further the on-going development of our Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform. Upgrade and installation works have begun across all locations. We are nearing a complete changeover of all of Araluen's internet and telephone services, resulting in the consolidation of approximately ten different provider contracts and the replacement of all landline phone services. This includes new telephone handsets, with a projected go-live within the next four months.

These new systems will be complemented by hardware renewals (including new laptops and desktops) and security upgrades for web-based and email services.

One of Nillumbik's best

Head to Montsalvat to see the work of artist, Brady Freeman, a finalist in the Nillumbik Prize, 2018.

The Nillumbik Prize celebrates contemporary works of excellence by artists with a Nillumbik connection. This is Brady's third time being shortlisted as a finalist, a BIG achievement which cements his place alongside the top professional artists from the region.

You can vote for Brady for the People's Choice Award by visiting the exhibition. Entry is free, so don't forget to cast your vote!



^ above: Brady Freeman and parents, Sally and Jeff, celebrate at the opening of the Nillumbik Prize Award exhibition.

The Bin Men

▼ below: Trevor Oxley, the original bin man, pictured with Vicki Ward. Trev's passion for trash and recycling inspired Araluen's latest art exhibition, 'The Bin Men'.



Thanks to everyone who visited our recent exhibition, 'The Bin Men' at Eltham Library Community Gallery.

This well-received show featured work that focussed on the concept of environmental sustainability by artists Shane Coutts, Josh Wood, Trevor Oxley, and David Waterhouse.

The exhibition was supported by Nillumbik Shire Council and opened by Vicki Ward, MP.

what:
The Nillumbik Prize

when:
until 22nd July
where:
Montsalvat
Hillcrest Ave, Eltham
learn more:
www.montsalvat.com.au

Araluen
PO Box 142, Lower Plenty, 3093
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new participants:
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E: intake@araluen.org
www.youtube.com/user/AraluenTV

www.araluen.org

A R A L U E N



Araluen_Centre