

IMAGINING

BETTER

Imagining and achieving
better lives



More than great coffee

Hooray! Araluen's third cafe was officially opened recently by Vicki Ward, State MP for Eltham. Chancez Cafe at the Greensborough Campus of Melbourne Polytechnic is creating life-changing opportunities for people who want to work more independently in the hospitality industry. So far this year, thirteen Chancez Cafe participants have achieved industry-recognised qualifications by studying with the support of Araluen. There's plenty to celebrate!

details >>> page 3

ARALUEN

spring 2018

from the CEO

Opportunities are blooming this Spring

We're into our third year of the NDIS and can now see how better lives can be achieved when participants are able to embrace new opportunities that suit their support needs and lifestyle goals.

Araluen is clearly in a growth phase with many new people joining our community and long term participants receiving support in new and different ways. Change is definitely in the air.

To enable further growth and ensure quality, we have recruited new staff and managers. More will be required in the near future.

Planning is underway to commence another Chancez Café, this time in Banyule. Stay tuned.

We're also planning to commence providing support from Mill Park Library and the Epping Campus of Melbourne Polytechnic in the near future.

Back at home base, the dated buildings at Lower Plenty are being refurbished to meet contemporary expectations. The improvements are obvious.



Ross Coverdale
CEO, Araluen



Ph: 9439 2805



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www.araluen.org

Upoming Events

from
18th September 2018

'Limitless' - Ten Years of Art
Connects

Montsalvat

> see >>> page 12

Tuesday 16th October
10.00am *NEW DATE*

Family & Carers Network
Meeting - all welcome

Milley Lodge
Araluen Lower Penty

Friday 30th November
12pm

Family & Carers Network
Christmas Lunch

Lower Plenty Hotel

> see >>> page 4

Launched!

Business is booming at Chancez Cafe, Greensborough, as are new opportunities. So the celebrations were BIG at the official launch recently.

Araluen and Melbourne Polytechnic have reopened the onsite cafe at the latter's Greensborough campus - a facility that had been closed for several years and was much missed by the community.

The cafe is now offering fresh coffee, snacks and lunch to students and campus partners. It's also providing a commercial standard base for Araluen to train people in a broader range of skills that are needed by the hospitality industry. We are seeing participants flourish in this new environment and quickly gain confidence.

Araluen would like to thank everyone who has helped make Chancez Cafe, Greensborough, a reality and everyone who attended the recent launch event. Special shout out to Eddie from Melbourne Polytechnic who added a special musical touch to the event. Thank you!



^ Co-hosts, Max, and Araluen CEO, Ross, shared jokes and compared hairstyles. The Chancez Cafe launch was a happy event attended by many.



^ Araluen participants, Max, Lachie and Matt spoke at the launch of the latest Chancez Cafe and shared their experiences of student life at Melbourne Polytechnic.

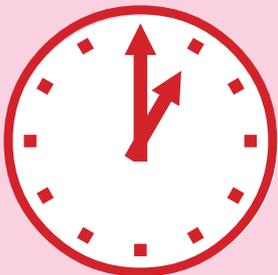
^ State MP for Eltham, Vicki Ward, played an instrumental part in establishing Araluen's presence at Melbourne Polytechnic. Thank you, Vicki!

Countdown - three of many great things about Chancez Cafe, Greensborough

3. Existing need for a hospitality service created ready-made roles that place participants at the heart of campus life. Here people make a valuable contribution whilst gaining experience and learning skills that will help many transit to open employment in the future.
2. **Thirteen participants have already achieved Certificate 2 in Food Processing whilst eighteen more have commenced learning at Certificate 1 level.**

1. **Now we can bake** - and baking means more cookies! For everyone! Cookies make people happy! Chancez Cafe is now fulfilling custom orders for delicious home-made treats and making people happy.

✓ Say it with a cookie! Chancez Cafe, Greensborough, is branching into catering and baking. Our kitchen turned out 300+ of these special order cookies for an event to raise awareness of RU OK? Day - a national day that encourages people to connect more closely with each other.



open:

New opening hours at
Chancez Cafe, Greensborough

**Monday to Thursday
10am to 2pm**

closed:

NOTE: all Chancez Cafes will close during Araluen's September break from 24th - 28th September.

event

The Family & Carers Network invite all members of the Araluen community to the annual Christmas lunch.

Friday 30th November, 2018 at 12pm
Lower Plenty Hotel

Please RSVP by 26th November
Ph: 9439 2805 or E: admin@araluen.org

Please note that lunch is at your own expense

drawing: "Angel" by Eleanor Boylen >>



celebrate

big achievement

Happy Birthday to us!

Nick **LYONS** Brady **FREEMAN** Debbie **LANE** Claudio **PETRI** Shane **COUTTS** Sam **FISHER** Scott **AVERY** David **COTTON** Kylie **GENTLE** Joyce **DAVIES** Trevor **OXLEY** David **WATERHOUSE** Sue **MORTER** Tim **RYAN** Robyn **RICHARDS** Lisa **BRIGHAM** Julie **POTAMIANOS** Lisa **KWAN** Nathan **PHOTIADIS** Anna **RUSS** Paul **DELOSA** Jason **HORTON** Brian **COSGRIFF** Malcolm **SLATER** Mal **PAGE** Aaron **GORAL** Dennis **ELESON** Steven **GRANT** Josh **WOOD** James **BARDEN** Evie **RENTZIS** Melissa **KENT** Louise **SPENCER** Matt **COULATTI** Cameron **VEITCH** James **DEZILWA** Huw **McCREDIE** Tony **ALLAN** Thomas **COSTIN** Kate **CHANDLER** Robbie **ROSTOLIS** Carolyn **NORMAN** Paul **PHILPOTT** Owen **ACOTT** Robert **McKENZIE** Bernadette **NEGRI** Peter **LAMERS** Sue **MARSDEN** Andrew **WORTHINGTON** Tim **McCALL** Shane **WILLIAMS** Cristina **De SENSI** Shaylah **MEREDITH** Catherine **WORTHINGTON** Kate **STEART** Peter **DIMAKOPOULOS** Henry **TRAN** Sarah **JOHNSTONE** Laura **CHIPPALONE** Maria **MARDIKIS** Jenna **PLUNKETT** Christian **OPASINIS** Nik **TANEVIC** Zeke **BECKLEY** Lauren **MILLER** Kate **REEVES-DAVIES** Dominic **MOONEY** Walter **De Lorenzi** Stephen **FEALY** Reuben **McINTYRE** Dora **De ANGELIS**

Congratulations to the 70 artists listed above who will present their work in Limitless - the tenth anniversary exhibition of Araluen's Art Connects support.

We're proud to partner with Montsalvat, Australia's oldest surviving artists colony, to celebrate a decade of great art and artists and to acknowledge the many people who have contributed and supported Art Connects - thank you!

Limitless highlights the importance of art without boundaries as well as a decade of growth, achievement and significant artistic contribution to the community by over one hundred artists. During this time, Araluen has earned a reputation for being one of the area's most prolific, original and inspiring Arts operations.



event

what:

**Limitless
Art Exhibition**

when:

20th September 2018 -
6.30 pm

Exhibition runs 18-
September - 15 October

where:

Montsalvat
7 Hillcrest Ave, Eltham

info:



[www.araluen.org/
happy-birthday-art-connects](http://www.araluen.org/happy-birthday-art-connects)



Montsalvat
www.montsalvat.com.au

Since our NDIS rollout in 2016, Araluen has delivered successful Support Coordination outcomes to people who qualify for this under the NDIS. We've helped many individuals find and self-manage their chosen supports. Here are two recent success stories.

Shane's on the move

After 18 years of wait lists, non-successful DHHS applications, assessments and endless bureaucracy, Araluen participant, Shane Coutts is moving out of the family home!

Araluen's Investigating Housing Solutions Team worked closely with Shane and his family to guide them through the rigorous and lengthy process of obtaining a Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) package. SDA is a form of NDIS funding specifically aimed at providing individuals who have the most complex support needs with the means to obtain a suitably customised, secure long-term residence. Only about 6% of total NDIS recipients will meet the eligibility criteria for this funding.

Shane's father, Neville, sums up the frustration that many families experience when faced with the vast shortage of suitable housing of the type that will allow people who have acute care needs to live more independently -

"The biggest hurdle struck in this process was the issue of not being able to get SDA funding without having accommodation and not being able to get accommodation without having SDA funding! But with support from Araluen and after a visit to the local and federal member, sanity prevailed, and the issue was sorted out. Shane got SDA and we finally got a result".

The thorough long-term planning process undertaken by Araluen housing specialists means that Shane and his family can face one of life's big changes with confidence. His new home has fully accessible features and highly trained staff.

Moving into community living is a big step for Shane and his family and we wish them all the best.

Meet Mani

'Mani' is an external participant who was referred to Araluen last year to access Support Coordination.



When Support Coordinators first met Mani, they quickly recognised that immediate measures were required - and possible - in order for Mani to maintain a basic quality of life, let alone achieve a great one.

Mani was at high risk of isolation due to grave health concerns and issues relating to his home. His one remaining relative and advocate was overwhelmed by the task of navigating the NDIS to find the multiple providers required to support Mani's complex health and personal needs.

Araluen's Support Coordinators undertook thorough, collaborative action to explore increased support options for Mani, such as

- **liaising with hospital medical personnel**
- **employing a commercial cleaning company for a full house and yard operation; and**
- **working with a support provider to help build a team of culturally sensitive and experienced workers**

Ten months later, it's satisfying to report that Mani's circumstances and his outlook are very different. Many of the on-going services that allow Mani to live an ordinary day-to-day life have been secured. His home is now well-maintained and Mani has a support team behind him. Mani's enthusiasm and confidence has grown as his fear and anxiety has decreased. We hope that this is just the start of a much, much better life for Mani.

find out about Support Coordination



Kim Dodgson

Manager- Support Coordination
Ph: **9439 2805 - ext 114**
E: **kimd@araluen.org**

Court Walters

Coordinator - Exploring Housing Options
Ph: **9439 2805**
E: **courtwa@araluen.org**

From gloomy to roomy

The Interior Design Fairies recently paid a visit to the Orana Building at Araluen, Lower Plenty. They busily set to work revamping the main room, dining area, music room and a program room that have had little attention over many decades. The foyer area was also extended and is now a welcoming, light-drenched space.

Gone are the out-dated, cold brickwork, dark brown ceiling beams and maze of fluorescent ceiling lights, wires and general unsightly visual clutter. These are replaced with fresh white surfaces that enhance the warmth of the original timber ceilings and floors and Orana make feel bigger, happier and modern. > >



^ Before



^ After The Orana building has been transformed from a room belonging in a 1983 issue of 'Home Beautiful' to a much better space to be in.

DC/Hurstbridge

Save the date

They're back! Take a walk down Memory Lane with Drama participants from Hurstbridge and Diamond Creek when they present a brand new original production.

"Araluen's Decade Parade"
Diamond Creek/Hurstbridge Drama
and Art Extravaganza

Friday 14th December, 2018

- matinee and evening performances -
Eltham Little Theatre



More information coming soon on Facebook & Instagram or register your details to join Araluen's mailing list -

Ph: 9439 2805 or E: admin@araluen.org



^ Hamish is feeling the groove! Participants from the DC/Hurstbridge Drama group will act, sing and dance their way through pop culture history.

Andy Griffiths returns!

Araluen Primed Literacy participants are eagerly honing their reading and public speaking skills in readiness for their annual night in the spotlight.

Best-selling children's author, Andy Griffiths, will once again join Primed participants for the launch of his latest book, 'The 104 Storey Treehouse'.

This annual event provides huge motivation for participants to continuously improve their literacy skills - and eat ice cream!

Andy is always generous with his time and happy to autograph his books. These can be purchased on the night or brought along with you.

event

"The 104 Storey Treehouse" Book Launch and Signing

Tuesday 30th October, 2018 at 6.00pm
Heidelberg Theatre

- Booking is essential -
Contact Kim Hawley

Ph: 9458 1242 or E: kimh@araluen.org



with gratitude

Community spirit

Araluen is proud to be part of the local communities in which we operate. We partner with other like-minded businesses, individuals and organisations to create meaningful opportunities that enrich the places where we live, work and play.

We'd like to say 'thanks' for some of the generous support that helps place participants in the community where they're able to fulfil a range of valuable on-going roles.



Diamond Creek
Community Bank® Branch



^ DC Community Bank Chairman, Barry, enjoys the opening of the first 'Better Together' Exhibition with artist, Kylie Gentle (and Elvis). The Bank provided \$1,500 of funding to support the participation of Araluen's artists in this six month long travelling art show.



^ Our Chancez Cafes are in demand - we're now planning our fourth with Banyule City Council. Thanks to East Ivanhoe and Bendigo Community Bank Branches for their generous support to kick start the project.

A recent crowd-funding campaign held in conjunction with Montsalvat raised \$3,550 towards Araluen's tenth anniversary exhibition, Limitless. We thank all donars and hope they will visit the exhibitor. Thank you from 70 VERY excited artists.

see >>> page 5



What does inclusion mean to you?

Nillumbik Shire Council wants you to tell them! You can by visiting 'Better Together' - a travelling art exhibition hosted by the Council and featuring work by artists from Araluen.

From now until the end of the year, pop up exhibitions will appear throughout Nillumbik. As well as viewing some great art, you can collect a postcard to write your feedback on. Responses will be used to shape Council's new four-year Disability Action Plan. Postcards and a drop box can also be found at Araluen Administration or see below. ✓



how to have your say
visit an exhibition, go online, > >
fill in a postcard or make a
phone call!



<https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/DAP>

where to go:
see our current schedule on
page 12 for exhibition details



who to chat to:

Angela Clare

MetroAccess Project Officer

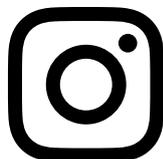
Ph: **9433 3379**

E: inclusion@nillumbik.vic.gov.au



Get social with Araluen

Keep up with what's happening at Araluen when it happens! With multiple base locations, over one hundred community-placed supports and a constantly growing list of initiatives and achievements, Araluen always has news to share. Don't miss out!



Araluen Centre

Better Together

A travelling art exhibition by artists from Araluen and St John of God Accord

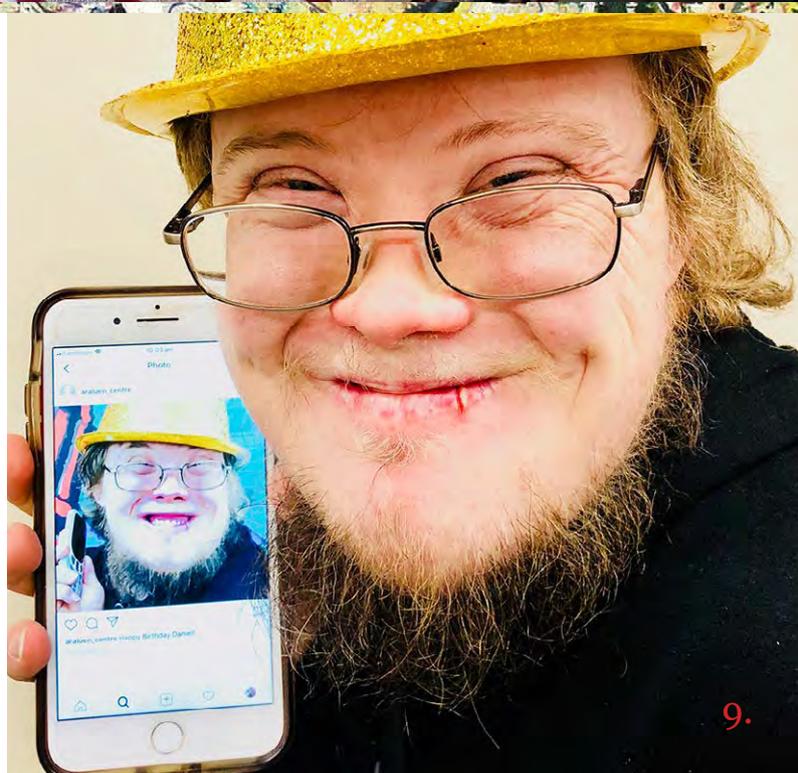
Part of community consultation for Council's Disability Action Plan



Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek, Eltham, Doreen & Mernda **Community Bank**® branches and Kinglake branch



Evie shared her thoughts on how to make Nillumbik more inclusive for people with disability at Hurstbridge Community Hub



Comings & goings

The opportunity that the NDIS represents to develop unique supports means that Araluen is recruiting fresh faces to fulfill existing and new roles throughout the organisation. Some significant changes have recently occurred within our Human Resources area.

After almost 20 years of extraordinary commitment to Araluen as Human Resources Manager, **Marj Canty** is beginning the transition to retirement. Marj has been an integral part of Araluen's development and has helped take us from a struggling organisation in the late 1990's to our healthy and progressive position today.

In addition, **Marg Welch** has retired. Marg has made a wonderful contribution to Araluen over her 5 and ½ years as Payroll Officer. This is the end of Marg's work career.

We thank Marj and Marg for their contribution during their time at Araluen and wish them both long, healthy, happy retirements!

A large number of applications for the HR Manager's role were received. We welcome onboard **Belinda Papa**. Belinda has strong commercial and not-for-profit experience gained in the health, security, logistics and hotel management sectors. She has obtained both a Diploma in HR and a Bachelor of Business.

Gina Talmage has worked in community housing and commercial environments. She has qualifications in Financial Services and Payroll Foundations. Gina is Araluen's new Payroll Officer.

We welcome Belinda and Gina to Araluen and look forward to enjoying productive working relationships with both.

Key appointments have and are being made that will drive Araluen to grow in the NDIS market as an innovative leader of prime disability supports. Keep an eye on future issues of 'Imagining Better' to meet some of our new staff members.

Creating a rewarding experience for Araluen staff

Araluen is extremely fortunate to benefit from a stable, skilled staff body and turn-over rate of personnel that is well below the industry average.

Because the contribution that staff make everyday is unquantifiably valuable, Araluen has launched 'BETTER Benefits' - our very own staff rewards scheme that gives permanent employees discounts from hundreds of retailers.

Significant savings can be made on a wide range of products and entertainments, from grocery shopping and petrol to speciality gift items and leisure purchases.

As Araluen grows, continued investment to maximise the potential and wellbeing of our people is important. Our aim is to attract, engage and retain an industry-best workforce by making Araluen a great place to work!



BETTER BENEFITS

<< Araluen's permanent staff can now save money from a huge range of retailers with the recent introduction of our very own rewards scheme.

day supports calendar		2019
Monday 14 – Thursday 24 January 2019	Summer Recreation Program	
Friday 25 January 2019	**Staff only return – Day Support Planning and Professional Development Day	
Monday 28 January 2019	**Australia Day Public Holiday	
Tuesday 29 January 2019	Participants return	
Monday 11 March 2019	**Labour Day Public Holiday	
Friday 19 April 2019	**Good Friday Easter Public Holiday	
Monday 22 April 2019	**Easter Monday Public Holiday	
Thursday 25 April 2019	**Anzac Day Public Holiday	
Monday 6 May 2019	Staff only – Day Supports **Planning and Professional Development Day	
Monday 10 June 2019	**Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	
Tuesday 11 June – Friday 16 June 2019	**Day Supports Closed (Staff Annual Leave)	
Monday 5 August 2019	Staff only – Day Supports **Planning and Professional Development Day	
Monday 23 September – Thursday 26 September 2019	**Day Supports Closed (Staff Annual Leave)	
TBC - September -2019	**AFL grand Final Public Holiday - TBC	
Monday 4 November 2019	**Day Supports Closed (Staff Annual Leave)	
Tuesday 5 November 2019	**Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Friday 20 December 2019	Last Day for Day Supports, finish at noon	
Friday 24 January 2020	**Staff only return – Day Supports Planning and Professional Development Day	
Monday 27 January 2020	**Australia Day Public Holiday	
Tuesday 28 January 2020	Participants return	

**** On those days marked with asterisks, Day Supports will be closed. Participants do not attend on these days.**

Please note each Day Support & Residential Unit will schedule its own special events and notify participants and parents/carers separately. Contact individual Unit Team Leaders for further information.



Art explosion!

From Diamond Valley Library to Montsalvat to Federation Square to St Andrews, Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge, artwork from Araluen is popping up everywhere!

There really is too much to report on in this space so we're sticking with a few special mentions.

Remember - you can keep up to date with our artists on Facebook or Instagram.

Congratulations

Kate Chandler, Laura Chippalone & Cristina De Sensi who are finalists in the Connected 2018 Art Award to be held at Federation Square in October.

Brady Freeman - winner of the Nillumbik Prize Full Monty Award! This award is for the best artwork as voted by Montsalvat volunteers and staff.



1.



2.



3.

event

what:
Better Together Travelling Art Show

Exhibition 3
where:
Diamond Creek Community Bank
77/75 Main Hurstbridge Rd,
Diamond Creek 3089
when:
on-going

Exhibition 4
where:
Wadambuk St Andrews Community Centre
35 Caledonia St, St Andrews 3761
when:
17 September - 1st October
Monday to Thursday
- 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Coming soon:
Eltham Library &
Eltham Leisure Centre



[www.araluen.org/
community](http://www.araluen.org/community)

1. Kate Chandler - finalist in the Connected 2018 Art Award
2. Joyce Davies and Jason from DC Community Bank where her work is now on display
3. Paul Delosa at the opening of Better Together 1 at Diamond Valley Library

Araluen
226 Old Eltham Rd, Lower Plenty, 3093
Ph: 9439 2805
E: admin@araluen.org
new participants:
Ph: 9439 2805
E: intake@araluen.org
www.youtube.com/user/AraluenTV

www.araluen.org

A R A L U E N

Araluen Centre

