

IMAGINING

BETTER

Imagining and achieving
better lives



There's no place like home

"Having people I like over and inviting my mum for Christmas dinner are the best things about my new house" says Lewis, who recently moved out of home to live with his mate, Matt. Araluen's Investigating Housing Options team worked closely with Lewis, his mum Louise and Matt to plot a thorough path to more independent living.

details >>> page 3

A R A L U E N

December 2018

from the CEO

Another big year at Araluen!

I would like to thank all involved at Araluen for contributing to such a busy and dynamic year. May you each have a Merry Christmas and enjoy the break over the festive season.

We are so fortunate to have highly motivated staff teams who are committed to imagining better ways of supporting our participants.

We're also fortunate to enjoy positive relationships with families and members of our community. Together, we are re-imagining support under the peculiarities of the NDIS and seeing many new ways for people to live great lives emerge.

There are more than 6.4 million individuals who volunteer their time in Australia. The value of volunteering has been declared to be worth more than the Australian mining industry – its monetary value is over \$200 billion a year. A big thank you to all of our volunteers for your tireless and much-loved efforts again this year.

The Board are doing an excellent job to ensure that we are well governed, assessing the changing landscape of the disability sector but remaining firmly focused on the individuals who rely on our support.



Ross Coverdale
CEO, Araluen

key dates:

Day Support Service Holiday Dates

Day Support Service closes:
Friday 21st December 2018
12 noon

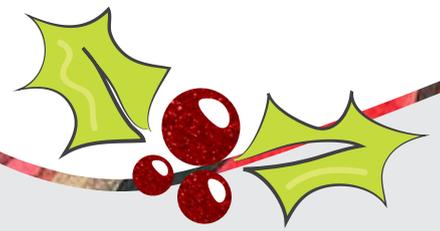
Day Support Service resumes:
Tuesday 29th January 2019

Araluen's Administration will operate intermittently during this time. Our full 2019 Day Supports Calendar can be found here:



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

We wish all members of our community a happy, restful and safe festive season. We look forward to seeing you in 2019 as we continue to work together to achieve great lives!



Lewis and Matt: A Housing Success Story

Lewis and Matt are two friends who both wanted to move out of home for the first time. Matt had just finished his degree and had been working with Lewis to build the independent living skills base he needed to achieve this.

One day, Matt and Lewis were working together and the discussion of where they were going to live and with whom came up. It was then that they had a lightbulb moment: "Why don't we live together?!"

Lewis, his mum Louise and Matt worked with Araluen's Investigating Housing Options team to research residential arrangements that might be suitable and determine the range of supports that Lewis would need to live in a more independent environment. It was eventually decided that the best scenario was for Lewis and Matt to move into a rental property together with a third housemate.

Lewis is the lead tenant of the property. Matt is paid a wage for providing eight hours of direct support to Lewis throughout the week. However, usually Matt is just a regular housemate who enjoys living with Lewis. All three housemates contribute to rent and bills.

Louise has peace of mind knowing that Lewis is living with other people who don't have a disability who support him to be safe and meet his daily living requirements.

The right NDIS funding makes it possible for people to investigate better housing options, build the capacity for independent living, purchase in-home supports and transit to a better, more ordinary living arrangement that's been designed based on individual lifestyle goals and needs. Araluen can assist you at each step of the process!



30
people

have been assisted by Araluen to explore living options and move to a home that's better for them.

learn more:



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

contact:



Jenny Tomlin

Manager - Investigating Housing Options

Ph: **0410 647 359**

E: jennyt2@araluen.org

best support



"My mum was the best cook in the world! My highlight this year was being taught how to make her best recipes for my family by Stuart and putting these in a cookbook that's in memory of my mum. Linda is helping me write this in Literacy."

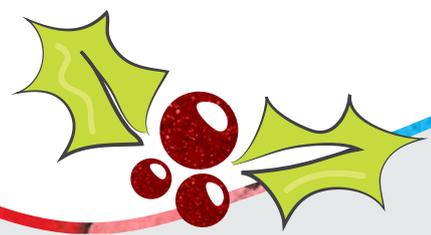
- Adam

budding chef and cookbook author

'Skill Development' is a unique support offered by Araluen that provides intense focus learning in a set timeframe. This enabled Adam to achieve his specific goal by working one-on-one with a professional chef after hours at Diamond Creek. Staff at DC are supporting Adam to improve his literacy skills by designing an individualised learning path that's engaging and meaningful to him.



[www.araluen.org/
skill-development](http://www.araluen.org/skill-development)



Summer fun with Araluen

Araluen is offering heaps of fun activities for people who want to participate in community activities during the holidays.

Araluen's Saturday Recreation support operates during the rest of the year and is very popular with people who want to build new friendships and enjoy new experiences. The timetable changes each month and Team Leader, Debbie, is always happy to hear your suggestions about what you'd like to do and where you'd like to go. Group camps and holidays are also organised.

Join in the fun this summer:

Some of the activities on our January Timetable include:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday 14th January | Beach Day |
| Tuesday 15th January | Movie and Lunch |
| Wednesday 16th January | Scienceworks |
| Thursday 17th January | Melbourne Zoo |
| Friday 18th January | Healesville Sanctuary |

Contact Debbie for a full timetable and further information >>>



man with a plan

"I'm multi-skilled. I spend my time learning skills to create my own opportunities and get better job outcomes for myself. Doing lots of different things makes me better connected."

- Dennis

networker, the smiling face of customer service, aspiring app developer, artist, socialite.....

Dennis shines at Chancez Cafe front of house where he can maximise opportunities to learn customer service and hospitality skills that are sought by industry - when not busy following his many other goals and interests! Thirty people have completed certified training in Araluen's Chancez Cafes.

summer recreation:



when:

Monday 14th January - Thursday 24th January -

learn more:



www.araluen.org/recreational-saturdays

contact:



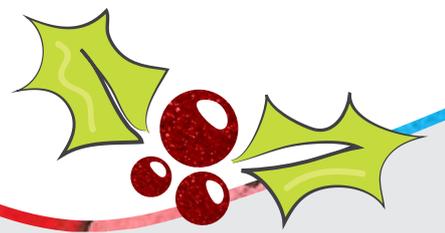
Debbie Hughes
Coordinator - Recreation
Ph: 9439 2805 ext: 164
E: debbieh@araluen.org



You can join in if you have the right NDIS funding. Call us to find out .

NDIS





Araluen's Decades Parade

The Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge Drama Group are back with this year's annual showcase performance that will transport the audience through the ages.

Araluen's Decades Parade is the new, original, all-singin', all-dancin' production that has been designed and choreographed to allow each performer to present their individual talents and ideas and build upon the skills and confidence developed over previous years.

Each budding star will take to the stage to showcase the decade in which they were born by dramatising memorable songs and events that occurred during that time.

Bookings for the evening performance are essential and tickets are now available for \$10.30. It's not necessary to book for the matinee and entry is free, though voluntary gold coin donations are appreciated.

Everyone's welcome – we hope to see you there!



event:

Araluen's Decades Parade

Date:

Thursday 13th December 2018

1.00pm & 6.00pm

Venue:

Eltham Little Theatre

1603 Main Road
Research, 3095

Bookings:

www.trybooking.com/WAFM

(evening show only - just come along to the matinee)

<< Budding star Shane is ready to let loose and hang ten at the upcoming Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge drama performance

Giving that's GORGEOUS

Diamond Creek/Hurstbridge participants are multi-talented! The Art Connects Christmas Market will be held again with the DC/Hurstbridge drama production (see above). All work is produced in DC's Bunjil Art Studio.

A range of one-off, quality handmade art and ceramics pieces will be available in the foyer at Eltham Little Theatre on performance day. These works of art are reasonably priced and by purchasing, you support the creative efforts of artists who work at Araluen!



Art Connects Christmas Market

Date:

Thursday 13th December 2018

11.00am to 8.00pm

Venue:

Eltham Little Theatre

1603 Main Road
Research, 3095

<< Make Christmas wishes come true for discerning people in your life by giving a unique gift. All items on sale at the Araluen Christmas market were designed and handcrafted in our Diamond Creek studio.

Familiar faces- recognising outstanding service

"Araluen is extremely fortunate to enjoy a staff turnover rate that is low for the industry in which we operate. As a result, our participants receive consistent support from experienced, dedicated, well-trained people who really know and care about them. It was pleasing and extremely satisfying to recognise eleven landmark anniversaries at our recent Annual General Meeting. We thank these staff for their extended commitment to Araluen."

- **Bruce Martyn**
Chair, Araluen

15 Years Service
to Araluen

Jen Hamilton
Rodney Steven

10 Years Service
to Araluen

John Blazé
Kerryn Cowell
Chris De Paiva
Kim Dodgson
Carol Hourigan
Lara Hynes
Bec Ludlow
Julie Morgan
Sharryn Spinks



above: Instructor, Sharon Spinks
above right: Finance Manager, Julie Morgan, is congratulated by Bruce Martyn, Araluen Chair. Pictured with husband Laurie.

New faces - introducing our new team members

In the NDIS world, it's necessary to create an environment for innovation in planning and delivery of supports and to build strong business systems and processes. Araluen's growing! As participant numbers increase, we also welcome on board new staff who will each play a role to ensure that Araluen is able to do what we do best - provide imaginative, participant-driven support - well into the future. We welcome these new staff to the team.

Peter Bain
Chief Operating Officer

Peter commenced in November and brings a strong operations management background and solid leadership skills to this new role.

Past appointments for Peter include Chief Financial Officer of Back in Motion, Director of Operations at the Australian College of Emergency Medicine and General Manager of Corporate Services at homeless support organisation, Home Ground Services.

Peter will provide line management to Araluen's finances, business systems, IT, governance, marketing, fundraising, intake, OH&S, facilities and transport.

Gareth Streistermanis
Service Development Manager

Gareth started with Araluen at the beginning of August. He oversees Primed, Chancez, Recreation, Skills Development, Out-of-Hours Support and In-Home Support.

Gareth comes from the social enterprises sector, where he was utilising his corporate background to oversee the running of a group of op shops.

Gareth is excited to see what new partnerships can be built as Araluen expands into Whittlesea and he is "looking forward to working with some very talented people in making Araluen even bigger and better than it already is".

Sue Mounsey
Learning & Development
Manager

Sue started at Araluen in mid-November. For the past few years, she's been raising her young son and volunteering in the area of environmental sustainability.

Before becoming a mum, Sue worked as the Learning & Development Manager at Yarra Valley Water and Lonely Planet Publications.

Sue's enjoying the return to work and looking forward "to enabling staff to develop and grow for the benefit of themselves, the participants and the longevity of Araluen".

Party time!

Araluen's Art Connects program has celebrated ten years of success. The **Limitless: 10 Years of Art Connects** exhibition highlighted the importance of art without boundaries as well as the artists' ability to grow, progress and create without limit.

It's fitting that the anniversary showcase was held in partnership with Montsalvat, Australia's oldest surviving arts colony and an iconic cultural hub that plays a significant role in supporting local artists. Araluen partnered with Montsalvat to stage the month long exhibition which received strong feedback and drew a new audience to our work.

We thank Montsalvat for their outstanding support and everyone who made a contribution to the success of this show. Here's to another ten years of unstoppable growth and achievement!



Pozible

^ Financial assistance was received from the Diamond Creek Community Bank who continued their generous support of our DC-based artists and through a Pozible crowd-funding drive. Thank you!

Connected 18

Cristina De Sensi, Laura Chippalone and Kate Chandler all had beautiful work short-listed for the State Trustee's "Connected 18" Art Award at Federation Square. Congratulations to Cristina who received a Highly Commended Award for her ceramic dish set.

^ Artists Kate and Kylie enjoyed their time in the spotlight at our recent exhibition launch at Montsalvat. Over 80 artists presented two dimensional and ceramic work in our biggest, most inclusive show yet. Well done!

And the winner is....

Standby. The Art Connects Portrait Prize is now closed. Thanks to the hundreds of people who voted to determine the winners. These will be announced on our Facebook page soon.



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new participants:
Ph: 9439 2805
E: intake@araluen.org
www.youtube.com/user/AraluenTV

www.araluen.org

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