



Caladenia

DEMENTIA CARE

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PROVIDING SUPERIOR SERVICES TO ENHANCE THE
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA.

OCTOBER 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ronda Jacobs

As I write this, Spring has sprung in Melbourne, the sun is trying to shine, and I am looking forward to warmer weather!



It has been a very busy year for Caladenia, and the end of the year feels like it is approaching quickly. Since our last newsletter in March we have:

- Seen Nicole really settle into her role as Program Manager
- Enjoyed some publicity that spawned a successful Go Fund Me program
- Refurbished our kitchen area
- Achieved our financial budget for the financial year ending 30 June
- Established a Consumer Panel of those living with dementia and their carers, so that the Board can receive advice on how we might best provide our services

Of course, these new activities occur alongside our continuous focus on members and their families, and providing the best possible care that we can - so huge thanks again to our lovely staff and volunteers who make that possible each and every day.

Our Board members are also volunteers, and we have seen some changes in the past few months. Claire Jones resigned from the Board but will remain a member of the Clinical Governance working group, and we are grateful to continue to have her expertise in quality, governance, and service delivery. Nan Yu also resigned and his excellent work will continue to influence us in the future, as he led the development

of our forward strategic plan. As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, our ex Board Chair and long standing Director Harry Moyle has retired after many years of invaluable service. Caladenia would certainly not be where it is today without Harry's passion, commitment and contribution, and we hope to honour that more fully at our AGM.

We have recruited several new Board and Committee members, and here is a brief overview of the skills we have strengthened:

Kerrie Milburn - strategic planning and communication, public relations, marketing and government lobbying

Norma Kurta - digital transformation, technology expertise and strategy

Robert Telling - aged care facility maintenance

Ayesha Fathers - regulatory and quality experience in aged care and disability

Helen Snitkovsky - governance, strategy development, risk assessment (joining the Strategy Committee)

I am excited about planning for the future of our organisation alongside such a knowledgeable and committed Board team, and thank both our new Directors and our existing members Hannah Sutherland, Jen Gladwin, Terry Maiolo and Oliver Beaumont for their support.

I hope to meet many of our members, carers, staff, volunteers and broader community at our upcoming AGM - please say hi if you see me there!

Ronda

**JOINTLY FUNDED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT.**

THE CALADENIA WAY

You may or may not have noticed what sets Caladenia apart from other similar programs and services.

It's something we like to call **"The Caladenia Way"**.

Trish Maggs, our founder had a particular vision for the services that she provided – and that vision emphasised respect from all staff and volunteers for people living with dementia at all times, and that the dignity of people living with dementia was to be preserved throughout.

These are great words and values to work by – but how these values are embodied in our day to day programs is what stands us apart.



Some examples of this that you may have noticed.

The Front Door

The front door is never left open. This means that each person arriving has to ring the doorbell and wait for staff to answer. This gives all our staff the chance to welcome members each time they arrive. Our members are made to feel special, expected, welcomed and wanted each and every morning. This also gives the staff a chance to raise self esteem by commenting on something individual – a new hair cut, the colour of a jumper, or a jaunty hat. We all need an ego boost now and then – particularly people living with dementia.

Language Used

We are particular with our staff and volunteers in the way that the day's activities are described.

- We do not **"colour in"** we do Art or Art and Mindfulness – this takes a simple activity and makes it meaningful for an adult to enjoy.

- We don't **"play games"** we do activities, and explain to our members that this activity will help with hand eye co-ordination, or balance, or gross motor skills. This can add a layer of meaning to a simple game of hookey or croquet.



I believe that small adjustments like these examples go a long way to helping a person with dementia feel useful, needed, and good about themselves in a world where everything is becoming more difficult.

If you would like to know more – please feel free to contact **Sarah** any time.



FAREWELL HARRY – AND THANK YOU!

On June 30 – Harry Moyle resigned from the Board of Directors after 28 years of loyal service.

Harry joined the then Committee of Management as Treasurer in 1996 after being headhunted by Trish Maggs, Caladenia's founder. Harry took the many handwritten notepads and accounting books, and assisted Caladenia to transition to computer based accounting. He also was integral in delegating the operational finances to the Administration Assistant and Co-ordinator, allowing the Committee to begin their new role as strategic leaders.

Harry was an integral part of the planning and execution of the renovations and extensions at Meadowbank House. – I would hate to add up how many Kilometres up and down Whitehorse Road and Maroondah Highway Harry has done over the years.

Harry was integral along with Hamish Russell in the work to transition Caladenia from an Incorporated Association to a Not for Profit Company Limited By Guarantee. The new Constitution and Governance Policies were a large piece of work that was undertaken at that time and these policies have allowed the robust and transparent governance of our organisation for the last twelve years.

When I started at Caladenia in 2001, I had experience in other social programs and a passion for working

with people living with dementia. I had undertaken some smaller leadership roles in other organisations – but it was Harry who taught me to become a strategic thinker and a leader.

Harry's ability to look at a question, a problem or a proposal from all sides and see all possible outcomes is a skill that I have consciously developed with him as my model. His unflappable demeanour coupled with a ridiculous sense of humour has motivated me to develop the same calm leadership style, infused with the ability to laugh at myself, and to see all feedback as an opportunity to change and grow.

Harry has fulfilled his role as both Treasurer and Chair, and has guided the organisation from a small 4 day program with an operating budget of two or three hundred thousand, to the entity we are today. Caladenia owes much to Harry, and I am pleased to say he is not stepping back entirely, but will still assist as Ambassador, and with fundraising when the need arises.

Thank you so much Harry – from the **Staff, Volunteers** and your fellow **Board members**.



SAVE THE DATES!

Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 24th
October**

AGM will be held at 7pm.

When business of the evening is concluded – we will hear stories from some of our members and their families.

A light Supper will be served.

Christmas Party

Monday 9th December

Caladenia Christmas Party for all our members, their carers and our Volunteers from 11.00am until 3.30pm.

Further information will be given closer to the date

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 27th September **CLOSED for Day before AFL Grand Final**

Tuesday 5th November **CLOSED for Cup Day**

Saturday 21st December **LAST Program Day for 2024**

Tuesday 24th December – 1st January 2025 **CLOSED**

Monday 6th January 2025 **Programs Commence**

CONGRATULATIONS CALADENIA!

Caladenia Dementia Care was awarded with a 2024 Casey Volunteer and Community Award for our contributions to the Community.

We were represented at the awards ceremony by Harry Moyle – Past Board Chair, Sarah Yeates – CEO, Volunteer Rhonda Carson, staff members Wendy Kenney, Yvonne Chappell, and Christine Waixel and our Nominators Beth and Randall Reimer.

Thank you so much for this award – it reflects the work of all our staff, our volunteers and the Board.



QUILT RAFFLE



If you would like to buy tickets in our upcoming Quilt Raffle – please give us a call!

Tickets will be available shortly to win this gorgeous handmade queen size quilt. The quilt has been donated by Quilters Anonymous; and is worth \$2000.

Second and Third prize are some beautiful homewares and treats hampers valued at over \$200.

Call **9727 2222** - don't miss out!!



THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS DONORS:

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