



Caladenia

DEMENTIA CARE

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

APRIL 2021

CALADENIA'S RECOVERY FROM COVID

What a year 2020 was. I wrote so many updates last year, I'm sure you are all well aware of the work the staff did, and the lengths the team went to to stay in touch and support the Caladenia Community through the events of last year.

I would just like to add a special thank you to the staff team. Every single staff member worked so hard last year to think of additional creative ideas that would assist our members and their families, as well as our volunteers and fellow staff members. It was not easy for professionals whose passion is to work with people, to suddenly work in isolation, and only communicate through phone, computer or paper activities. The team were amazing. Thank you.

This year has seen us open up our programs 5 days a week, they don't look quite like they used to. Social distancing guidelines and mask recommendations have changed how many people we can invite into the building and how we socialise and communicate.

There are some of our frailer members who we have been unable to invite back to the programs at this time, and they continue to receive phone calls and activity packs.

I am writing this article just as we enter a five day "circuit breaker" lockdown, so once again our programs have been suspended.

Following in tandem with our sister organisations, and with advice and recommendations from both the Commonwealth and State governments, we proceed cautiously and have plans over the coming months to continue the five programs that are currently running, and to process and review the backlog of referrals for service that came through during our lockdown last year.



Our **My Aged Care Portal** has just reopened to new referrals this week, and we hope to slowly welcome new clients to our programs.

Once the restrictions on passengers in buses ease, the program staff will be able to look at planning to slowly return to community based programs in the coming months, but of course it really all depends on subsequent lockdowns and the chance of community transmission of Covid-19.

Please be reassured that the staff are doing everything in their power to bring our programs back, but they are working under several different sets of guidelines and recommendations. We want to ensure that we can invite people back safely, and ensure that we are managing all the risks involved with getting out and about again.

Thank you all for your patience, we appreciate you all.

Sarah Yeates - CEO

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

MEET ONE OF OUR STAFF MEMBERS

Hello everyone, let me introduce myself, my name's Nicola, I am 28 years old and am the new bus driver here at Caladenia. Here I am with my husband Adam on our wedding day, wedding pictures are not cheap, so I will use and abuse these pictures for as long as I can! I say new, I have been here a year now. I have had the pleasure to meet some of you already, and hopefully now that we're back into the swing of things, I will get to meet some of you in the coming weeks and months! So, here is a little back story on myself.

My husband and I met back in the UK at our previous workplace, we both worked as London Bus Drivers for 8 years – it was love on the buses! I drove many different routes in and around London, both on single decker and double decker buses. We always talked about making the move to Australia from early on in our relationship. We had plans to move here in September 2020, but after our wedding on 6th of January 2020, on our honeymoon, we decided 'why wait?' and booked our flights for 5 weeks later and arrived here on the 27th of February 2020. Thank goodness we decided to come early, as we probably would not have been able to move here due to COVID-19.

I applied for jobs on our arrival, and had interviews lined up quickly, one of them being with Caladenia.



As soon as I arrived for my interview with Leanne and Bronwyn, I knew instantly that I wanted to work here, the friendliness of staff, the happiness and joy I felt belting off the members, I knew this is where I wanted to work. Thankfully, I got the job! I started on the 11th of March 2020, went on a few trips out with Hayward, where he was showing me the ropes, all just a few short days before Caladenia had to sadly close its doors for Programs due to going into lockdown.

Little did we all know that our lives were quickly thrown upside down due to the Global pandemic. This was not what my husband and I signed up for! We were looking forward to travelling, beach days, hiking and exploring the beautiful country we had moved to, instead we were a newly married couple stressed and concerned, both restricted to our households, doing not a lot, like the rest of Victoria. I was worried and anxious; I had recently started and was concerned what that meant for me.

Sarah, Leanne and Bronwyn quickly put their thinking caps on, and came up with a plan for us all. Wow, what an amazing, busy lockdown I ended up having! The new skills I have learnt, have been amazing and I will never take them for granted. I made daily phone calls to our members, had zoom calls, skype calls, made activity packs and deliveries, where I was lucky enough to meet some of you. The longer lockdown progressed, the more skills I began learning, and showing off some of the skills I had, it was great, after 8 years of professional driving, I began to explore, gain and enhance my skills which was fantastic. Doing all this made me realise that I enjoyed it so much, that I have started an online Certificate IV course. I have made many friends here at Caladenia, which is amazing, everyone has been so welcoming.

Now I am back to driving the Bus and creating all your activity packs! I finally get to see you! I am so happy that we're nearly back to 'normal', I am excited to meet you all. Come say 'Hi' if you see me!



The last London Bus I drove.



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2021

G'day to all you Friends of Caladenia who receive this Newsletter. I am drafting this document in another period of relative isolation – hopefully only five days and not the 112 days we experienced last year in Melbourne.

Since the start of the pandemic conditions last year, our wonderful Caladenia Management Team, Programme Staff and Administration Staff have "pivoted" our care and support programmes from their traditional format to a totally different and still evolving format. As a Board member, it has been fascinating to observe the application and determination of our Staff to maintain meaningful support services to carers and people living with dementia. The Caladenia Team have also been assisting other community care entities in supporting their programme members. It has been very gratifying to see the free exchange of time, knowledge, information and news between local organisations.

The leadership of Sarah Yeates throughout this time has been exemplary.

And I wish to draw everyone's attention to April 2021 being the 20th anniversary of Sarah's commencement of employment as our Manager/CEO. The Board and I congratulate and thank Sarah for the last 20 years of exceptional performance in maintaining and developing the "Caladenia Way" of caring and supporting people living with dementia in our community.

I invite all of you to make a tax-deductible donation of \$20 to Caladenia to recognise Sarah's contribution – see attached donation form or make your donation online at www.caladenia.com.au. These special donations will be used to acquire and install a suitable water feature to increase the sensory enjoyment in our garden.

Our Board of Directors has continued to meet regularly via Zoom supporting our CEO and Staff with any new tools and keeping in regular contact by telephone and email.

Thank you for your continuing interest in Caladenia and its Mission. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any matters in relation to Caladenia, this Newsletter's content or our Board.

Regards,
Harry Moyle
Mob 0425 729 769
Email hjmoyle@gmail.com

TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION OF \$20 TO RECOGNISE SARAH'S CONTRIBUTION, DONATIONS CAN BE MADE:

Online at www.caladenia.com.au

or by

Direct deposit to Caladenia Dementia Care
BSB 033 107 / Account No. 365 924

or by

Credit Card over the phone 9727 2222

or by mail to:

Caladenia Dementia Care
PO Box 685
Lilydale VIC 3140

with this slip on the right:

All donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.

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ISN'T IT IRONIC

As Alanis Morissette so aptly said.

We were so proud of this newsletter with its catchy new look (Thanks Carmen!) fresh logo and witty heading.

I was cleaning up the other day and found some spares. I had to laugh. Who could have possibly predicted what would occur and what events would unfold exactly 12 short months later?

I wonder if the phrase "2020 vision" will ever have quite the same meaning?

THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS DONORS:

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Del Zwar

TWENTY TWENTY

Twenty twenty.

The year we stayed home and discovered the joys of mask rash. The year we worked from the comfort of our own centrally heated houses.

The year of Zoom, of Houseparty, Snapchat and Teams.

The year we were connected by electronics, but so alone for much of the time.

Twenty twenty when the sky was silent for months, No planes, no one travelling, everyone at home.

Wet teddy bears staring over the fences at children who walk just once a day,

Rainbows woven into cyclone wire and painted on gates.

The best and worst of humans, self-sacrifice alongside selfishness and greed.

Twenty twenty when fear and stupidity trumped kindness and common sense.

The year that otherwise sane people hoarded toilet paper, and yeast. The year that big media gets a bed sore that never heals.

Bloated with greed and the need to be right instead of true. Twenty twenty where winter ended with a forest of spoons on the roadsides.

Twenty twenty one.

A chance to learn, to grow and to change.

Those who are willing will lead the way, but we must hold them accountable.

The chance to cast off what was and embrace what could be.

And we can take off our masks and smile at one another once more.

SJY