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Caladenia Dementia Care

Providing superior services to enhance the quality of life for people living with dementia

MARCH 2018

Vale Corey



On the 23rd of January Caladenia lost a team member and a friend.

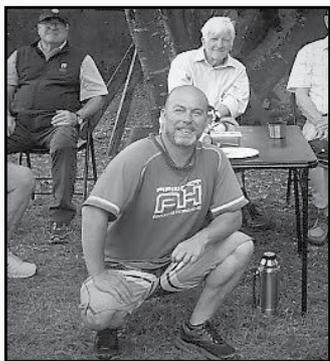
Corey Lancaster passed away peacefully in his sleep from natural causes.

Corey came to us just over 2 years ago, fresh from completing his Certificate IV in

Lifestyle and Leisure. As he sat in my office telling me why he had switched careers, and how much he wanted to work in a field where he could really make a difference, I thought, “We need this bloke on the team.”

Corey did not last long as a volunteer; he was soon made a casual bus driver, and then an activity assistant and program leader. He fitted in with our crazy but dedicated team instantly, bringing so much passion and genuine enjoyment to his role and to his peers.

Corey made himself almost indispensable from the very start. Nothing was too much trouble, he ended up with all the bits and pieces jobs –



working as many hours as he could wrangle out of us. He drove the bus, he planned programs, he led activities, he assisted with personal care in a respectful and dignified manner, he drove us all nuts with his terrible jokes and his strange lack of general knowledge.

Corey had found a career, a workplace and a team that he loved. Family and friends at his memorial said over and over that he had found his “dream job” and that he was the “happiest he had ever been”. From our point of view we had found a team mate and friend who was eager and willing, who was keen to learn, and ready for anything.



So far I’ve painted a picture of a vibrant man full of energy – but Corey could also temper that energy with a calm and relaxed vibe when needed. He was gentle and kind, keeping pace with the frailer, slower club members, and moving naturally at their pace.

Corey had a genuine respect for people – all people. This shone through in all he did, and everyone he worked with felt it. Corey had a smile for everyone, and a naïve yet curious nature. Some of his questions and inexplicable knowledge gaps had us roaring with laughter, while he tilted his head at us with a questioning look. He was quite happy to join in the laughter – even at his own expense.

I cannot believe that he had only been with us a couple of years – he felt like family. He fitted.

Corey once told me that not only had he found a job he loved – he had found a workplace where not only was he considered young – but he was also considered tall!

Rest peacefully Corey.

Your many friends at Caladenia.

Fundraising - What's On:

- Spring Bulbs – orders due back by 4th April - please contact Caladenia for brochures.
- Trivia Night – Friday 20th April - please contact Caladenia for details and bookings.
- Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – Sunday 12th August.

Flexible respite at Caladenia.

You may have noticed that we are busier than ever – and are now offering 5 in house club programs a week as well as 5 community based programs.

The new Flexi Respite programs are funded under the Commonwealth Home Support Service, (CHSP). This is the same body that funds home care, personal care and meals on wheels.

The Flexi respite programs run regularly on a Monday and Thursday and are based in the Community. There is also a Drop In Day (based here at Caladenia) one Saturday a month, and limited in-home respite where a trusted worker can be booked to come into your home to care for your family member, whilst you go out.

At this point the attendance list for these programs is fluid - with some folk booking a permanent spot and others deciding week to week if they will attend depending on the program or venue.

The Flexible respite Programs are planned from the office to ensure appropriateness of venues taking into account members interests, needs and goals.

Each program is staffed by a Program Leader and an Activity Assistant who where possible are the same each week to provide consistency and familiarity.

Some of the venues and activities have been Morning Melodies at the York on Lilydale, Mini Golf at Heathmont, Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, the river and lunch at Warrandyte and Schramm's Cottage. Some upcoming activities include Allowyn Gardens, the National Steam Centre and an Op Shop Hop!

If you have a specific venue in mind – let us know! Or if you have a specific need for respite on a one off basis, please call us to discuss.

We've got the floors covered!

**Caladenia's Carpet was really worse for wear,
Underfoot for 14 years, T'was scarred by foot and paw and chair.**

**The final straw, the real last gasp, the end of carpet's life,
Came one day at half past two – and involved a carving knife.
The threads were bare, the weft was warped, the pile was flat, flat, flat.
And adding to the floor's demise - it had become crumb habitat.**

I wrote a thing – I checked it twice, I got a guy to measure thrice

We had a chat, he sent a quote, I wrote a note and quoted price

The note I sent to Bendigo Bank – with pictures of our floors

And asked if maybe, just perchance as funders and mentors

Rowan I wrote – I wonder if you would go that extra mile

And consider buying Caladenia spanking new shag pile!

So they gave us a grant, and we're forever indebted,

We chose our new carpet and I've not yet regretted,

The colour, or style – they go great with the place,

And of crumbs and weird stains – not a solitary trace.

Our appreciation goes to the Bendigo Bank

If you love our new carpet – you have them to thank.

Just one word of warning – just a suggestion

Don't drop anything on it – You'll be banned without question!

Anon



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The first two months of 2018 have been very eventful at Caladenia and I want to express the appreciation and the respect that the Board has for all our staff and volunteers and especially for Sarah Yeates, our Manager.

Sarah has provided outstanding leadership to her team through this challenging period.

As a Manager, over many years, she has shown her ability to plan, organise and control the activities of Caladenia. The last six months have seen her leadership at the fore and her empathy for her team members has resulted in the effective conduct of, and expansion of, our programs during this trying period.

Last September, we changed our strategy with respect to overnight respite. We had received a grant to provide flexible (overnight) respite to people living with dementia in our area. After much consideration and research it was decided that the property at 13 Hilledge Lane was no longer appropriate to utilise as an overnight respite centre. Necessary building alterations and improvements turned out to be uneconomic. It was decided to realise the value of the property and a successful sale was settled late in February.

As a result, it was necessary to develop new flexible respite programs to utilise the additional funding. These new programs commenced in October 2017 and have resulted in an increased workload on existing staff and the appointment of several new staff to enable us to cope. It was necessary also for Sarah to mentor two existing team members to develop, promote and implement the new programs. This process continues as you read this Newsletter.

More recently Sarah has had some personal challenges requiring her to have some unplanned time off.

During Sarah's absence, Bronwyn and Leanne stepped up and managed Caladenia and maintained the activities along with the team of staff and volunteers. I know that Sarah has thanked the staff and volunteers for this support and the Board has also noted the wonderful effort put in by everyone to maintain and support our programs and our members.

Then in late January the staff, volunteers and program members experienced the unexpected death from natural causes of a very popular team member, Corey Lancaster. Sarah reacted quickly and positively and organised a staff meeting to enable distribution of the "news" and support for individual team members both informally and formally. Following the tragic event, it was very impressive to see the level of care, consideration and support from Sarah to her team and between individual team members.

Also, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Gerda de Clercq as she retires from the Board. Her contribution to Caladenia spans many years as a carer for her husband who was diagnosed with dementia, as a volunteer and as a Board member. She has been one of the quiet achievers who has supported and contributed in so many ways to the success of Caladenia over many years. Thank you Gerda.

Gerda's retirement from the Board opens the opportunity for the appointment of a replacement. If you are reading this newsletter and you would like to contribute to the administration of a wonderful community based charity, please contact me to discuss. My mobile number is 0425 729 769 and I can also be contacted by email at hjmoyle@gmail.com.

Harry Moyle

Board Chair

NEW VOLUNTEERS:

We welcome Rosalia Alfonso, Rosemary Haysom, Margaret King, Anne Overton and Glenda Thompson to our team of dedicated volunteers! We hope you enjoy your time in our programs!



Donors

Thank you to all of the following generous donors:

All Trails Bicycle Tours

Beryl Gibson

Betty Tibballs

Brideson Family

Bunnings Croydon

Cath Lloyd

Cherry Tree Village Garden Club

Chirnside Park Senior Citizens

Christine Fyffe MP

CWA Mooroolbark Branch

David Duce

David Maggs

Deborah Gilmour

Deborah Wallis

Faith Allen

Gary Burgess

Geoffrey and Moira Hughes

Harry Moyle

Healesville Greyhound Racing Association

Helen Wood

Jill Drew

Jo Dougherty

Kate Johnson

Linley and Les Wallis

Lynn Reddaway

Margaret Chandler

Margaret Hopstaken

Mary Semple

Melanie Waanders

Meredith Veneziani

Michael Jeffares

Mooroolbark Community Bank

Mooroolbark Theatre Group

Philip and Susan McDonald

Rotary Club of Lilydale

Sandra McDonald

Sarah Yeates

Sharon Brunton

Stan Wartens

Teresa Harrison

The members of the CC&C Mt Evelyn Garden Club

Tony Smith MP

Wallie Quittenton

Walter Kane

Thank you to the family and friends of Patricia Maggs, Nella La Morticella, Ernie Meyer and Mary Wycisk for In Memoriam donations.

Also to the family and friends of Betty Tibballs for donations in lieu of gifts in celebration of Betty's 90th birthday.

TONY SMITH RECOGNISES CALADENIA VOLUNTEERS



On December 2nd last year – Caladenia's Volunteers (all 46 of them!) were nominated for a local Volunteer Award given by Tony Smith and awarded at his Community Morning Tea.

Accepting the Award on behalf of all our volunteers was (from left to right) Shirley Lupton, Martin De Wit, Melanie Starks, Betty Tibballs and John Haysom.

We could not operate without our volunteers, and nominating them for this award is a small way to say thank you.

Caladenia Closure Dates

Caladenia will be closed on the following public holidays:

Friday 30th March

Monday 2nd April

Wednesday 25th April

Monday 11th June

Caladenia Trivia Night

Book a table now for our fabulous Trivia Night including Silent Auction and Games

Only \$15 a head

Call us on 9727 2222 to book your spot

Help us with our fundraising!

FRIDAY APRIL 20TH 7:00 PM SHARP

MOOROOLBARK BOWLS CLUB

BYO NIBBLES – DRINKS AT BAR PRICES