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# MCAnews

## Celebrating 20 years of service to the Manningham community



Opening of Melaleuca Lodge 1

Sir Reginald Swartz 3

National Respite for Carers 3

Donations Delight 4

### Celebration!

The theme of this edition of MCA News is very much one of celebration. By all measures the summer of 2005/06 has been an extraordinarily successful time for MCA. Three applications to the Australian Government for funding of new programs were successful, two food safety awards were received, one of MCA's senior staff was selected for a prestigious Aged Care Clinical Fellowship and more donations were received for vital equipment and projects.

It has also been marked by the opening of a building extension, the completion of a new secure garden and the completion of the life of a prominent Australian with a close past connection with MCA.

### What's happening around MCA?

#### CELEBRATION OF AN OPENING - Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge

The construction of a 10-place extension to Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge, which commenced in January 2005, was completed in late August and fully occupied by new residents in October 2005.

The official opening ceremony was held on 9 December in the new lounge at the Lodge. The Mayor of Manningham, Cr Pat Young, welcomed guests and provided a background to the project

before introducing the Honorable Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and Member for Menzies to open the extension by unveiling a plaque. Guests then heard from Cr Bill Larkin, Chairman of MCA, before enjoying afternoon tea and a tour of the completed works. The extension would not have been possible without the allocation of new bed licenses by the Australian Government in 2004 and Council agreeing to provide the up-front capital. For its part, MCA has agreed to repay this capital via accommodation bonds received from new residents.



Cr Bill Larkin, Cr Patricia Young and the Hon Kevin Andrews MP at the official opening of the Lodge extension.

## CELEBRATION OF AN AWARD - Aged Care Clinical Fellowships

Aged Care Clinical Fellowships are funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. They are designed to assist Registered Division 1 nurses currently practicing in residential aged care homes to acquire practical knowledge and skills in promoting best practice, and provide leadership to others in improving clinical practice.

The application and selection process is very competitive, with only five people being awarded Clinical Fellowships nationally each year. MCA supported an application by Cheryl Lyon, Director of Nursing at Cassia House, for a Fellowship and was thrilled when she was chosen as a recipient for one of the awards. Cheryl is the first Victorian to receive a Fellowship and as part of this she will undergo a six-month worksite program that includes two, five-day intensive training residencies at the Joanna Briggs Institute in Adelaide and lead a best-practice project in Cassia House. A final report on the project will be promoted widely across the residential aged care sector.

## CELEBRATION OF A SUCCESS - Five Star Food Safety Awards

Coinciding with the commencement of Kylee Coxall, Hospitality Coordinator, MCA decided to enter Doncaster Melaleuca Lodge and Cassia House kitchens in Manningham Council's Five Star Food Safety Awards. These awards give businesses in Manningham the opportunity to showcase their commitment to providing customers with safe, high quality food. The Five Star Food Safety Awards are only presented to those businesses considered excellent operators and leaders within the local food industry. MCA is delighted to announce that both kitchens passed an independent assessment with flying colours and are now in the running for Council's Food Business of the Year Award.

## CELEBRATION OF A NEW SERVICE - Community Aged Care Packages

MCA has a firm commitment to providing a range of services for older people in the City of Manningham. In recognition of the growing demand for support to be provided in the home, and in conjunction with Manningham City Council, MCA lodged an application for Commonwealth Government subsidised Community Aged Care Packages (low care) in the 2005 aged care approvals round.

The quality of MCA's application and its good reputation certainly helped in this hotly contested process, resulting in 30 packages being received for use by eligible residents in Manningham. The core service provided will be case management for older people with complex needs, which supports them to remain at home rather than move to a residential aged care facility.

Recurrent funding for this new service is expected to be in the vicinity of \$360,000 per annum.

Following a selection process, Valentina Lamevski was appointed as Coordinator of the service. Val is a Registered Division III nurse with several post graduate

qualifications and has worked in various case management positions over the last seven years. She commenced work for MCA on 20 March 2006.

## CELEBRATION OF A COMPETITION - Banksia Secure Garden

Greener Image Landscape and Design completed the new Banksia secure garden adjacent to Grevillea House in December 2006. This garden provides a quiet and safe area with pathways and raised plant beds for residents in the Banksia area of Cassia House and clients of Grevillea House PAG. As the plants grow and fill out the spaces, this garden will become an increasingly attractive venue for outdoor activities. Construction would not have been possible without the support of the Ian Rollo Currie Estate Foundation and funds raised through the breakfast with Kevin Bailey and 20th anniversary dinner.

*Banksia Secure Garden*



## CELEBRATION OF A LIFE - Sir Reginald Swartz



On 2 February 2006 Sir Reginald Swartz passed away at the age of 94. He will be remembered by many older Australians as a long-standing Federal MP,

who served in the Menzies, Holt, McEwen and Gorton governments. He was a parliamentary secretary for commerce, and then trade, from 1952 to 1961, and then Minister for repatriation, health, social services, civil aviation (1966-69) and national development. He was Leader of the House of Representatives from 1971-72, when he retired from Parliament. Very few people would be aware that Sir Reginald, as Minister for health, introduced legislation to commit the Commonwealth to financially support nursing home services and that he was Chairman of an interim committee prior to the establishment of the Board of Manningham Centre in 1984. He then went on to serve as a member of the Board from its inception in 1984 until he moved to Queensland in the late 1980's. He was a great man who humbly served the Australian community both at a national and local level.



*Maree Lucas, Grevillea House PAG Manager.*

## National Respite For Carers Program

The National Respite for Carers Program (NRCP) is an Australian Government initiative aimed at contributing to the support and maintenance of caring relationships between carers and their dependent family members or friends. It helps by providing access to information, respite care and other support appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances, and those of the people for whom they care. The 2005/06 Australian Government budget committed \$207.6 million over four years to build on the Government's current investment in supporting carers. Of this total, \$61 million was allocated to provide overnight respite in community respite houses and \$95.5 million for respite to assist employed carers.

In late 2005 the Government invited organisations to apply for recurrent funding to establish or extend NRCP overnight respite in community respite houses, and respite to assist employed carers. MCA lodged applications for both programs on the basis of identified local needs, particularly for carers of people with dementia. On the recommendation of the Department of Health and Ageing, and the Minister for Ageing, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, MCA was delighted to learn that funding was approved for both applications!

Funding for the overnight community respite house will amount to \$470,000 in the first full year of operation plus a one off establishment grant of \$20,000. To implement this new service MCA will construct an extension to Grevillea House Planned Activity Group managed by Maree Lucas. This is expected to cost approximately \$350,000, for which there is no Government funding. The house will have single rooms with private ensuites for people with dementia. It will accommodate four people for planned respite and one person needing unplanned emergency respite. During construction of the extension up to three people will be accommodated in converted single rooms in the existing part of Grevillea House. This service is expected to be available from early April 2006.

Funding for the respite support service for employed carers will amount to \$300,000 in the first full year of operation. This program aims to deliver, or broker the delivery of, flexible and responsive respite to carers who work, or who are seeking work, to assist them in balancing their work responsibilities and their care of frail older Australians. This service will also be operated from Grevillea House and be integrated with existing programs for people with dementia as well as the new overnight community respite house. It will offer extended operating hours for day activities, referrals from other day programs not able to offer extended hours, and tailored responses to meet special needs of employed carers. It is anticipated this service will be operational by the end of April 2006.



*Site of the overnight cottage respite extension.*



## Donations Definitely Delight and Deliver Dreams

The generosity from a number of benefactors has been particularly evident over the summer period. The Christmas appeal for donations towards the construction of a new garden adjacent to the flagpole outside Cassia House raised \$2,305, taking the total for this project to \$16,360. A lot of effort is still being made towards raising the remaining amount of \$13,640 to fully fund the flagpole garden.

MCA was also blessed with grants from the following philanthropic Trusts:

	Amount	Purpose
Collier Charitable Fund	\$8,500	Weighing platforms (two)
Eric Ormond Baker Charitable Fund	\$12,000	Arjo Carendo Multifunction Hygiene Chair
Pierce Armstrong Trust	\$2,000	Tub chair
Selwyn Henry Langston Estate	\$10,000	Arjo Carendo Multifunction Hygiene Chair
The Jack Brockhoff Foundation	\$7,000	Electric Hi-Lo beds and mattresses
Tobin Brothers Foundation	\$1,800	Tub chair
William Angliss Charitable Fund	\$1,000	Reminiscence workshops for residents with dementia

These items were suggested by staff as equipment that would provide residents in both the Lodge and Cassia House with an enhanced quality of life and support. The tub chairs for example, unlike those found in fashion furniture shops, are tilt adjustable chairs with deep foam cushioning mounted on a mobile base. They are designed in a

deep tub shape to provide a supportive, semi-reclined seating position for frail or disabled people. The tub chairs enable residents to hold themselves upright in a normal chair or wheelchair so they can be safely and comfortably transferred, and therefore more able to participate in the activities of the aged care facility. MCA greatly appreciates the generosity of all its benefactors and publicly records its sincere thanks.



TBF present MCA with a cheque towards the purchase of a tub chair. (L-R) Martin Tobin - Managing Director, Tobin Brothers; Ross Dawson - Chief Executive, MCA; Kirsty Marshall - guest presenter, MLA; and Lawrence St Ledger - Chairman, Tobin Brothers Foundation.



## Australian Government Directory of Services and Programs for Older People

The Minister for Ageing, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, launched the Australian Government Directory of Services for Older People in late January. This Directory will be distributed to more than 10,000 organisations including community aged care providers, aged care homes, aged care assessment teams and Commonwealth Carelink Centres. Topics such as work, health and aged care, and finances are covered. Copies can also be obtained directly from National Mail and Marketing via telephone 02 6269 1000 or e-mail [nmm@nationalmailing.com.au](mailto:nmm@nationalmailing.com.au) [Source: VAHEC Bulletin, 10 February 2006]

*Yesterday is history,  
tomorrow is a mystery  
but today is a gift.  
That's why it's called  
the present.*

*Source unknown*

*Experience is that  
marvellous thing  
that enables you to  
recognise a mistake  
when you make it  
again.*

*Franklin P. Jones (1853-1935)*

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