

VOCAL POINT 120 minda

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120 Years of Minda



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Cover image: Minda Brighton
100 years ago, in 1918.

Vocal Point is the official newsletter of Minda

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conserving our precious resources.

FROM THE CEO CATHY MILLER

Welcome to the first edition
of Vocal Point for 2018; it is
certainly shaping up to be
another successful year at Minda.

There are many positive changes
occurring including the continuation of
Minda's Master Plan at Brighton, with some
exciting milestones now being reached.

65 people we support have just moved
into new accommodation at Brighton, which
combines the comforts of home with a
contemporary model of service delivery.

The residents of the new apartments
and homes on Fassina Way and Bonython
Way are loving the increased independence
their new homes afford and state-of-the-art
technologies they provide.

In the coming months, we look forward
to officially opening our four-building
Lifestyle Precinct, which houses learning-
based programs for people we support in
new, contemporary facilities.

**As well as being a big
year in terms of the
completion of new
facilities, 2018 is also
a very special year for
Minda, being our 120th
anniversary.**

Minda was established in 1898 as the
first organisation in the state providing
residential support and education for people
with intellectual disability. We started as
a 22-person residential facility based at
Fullarton, but with an increasing number
of people seeking support from Minda, the
organisation purchased the property of
William Hodgkiss at Brighton in 1909.

Rogerson Building was the first
purpose-built dormitory style building
erected by Minda on the Brighton site in
1911, followed by the two-storey Verco
building in 1914.

**Since those early days, much
has changed – not only at
Minda, but for the disability
sector as a whole, and we're
so excited to celebrate
our 120th year with our
supporters.**

There has been a great response to
our '120 Faces of Minda' on social media
which acknowledges some of the great
staff, volunteers, people we support,
corporate partners and friends of Minda
who have made a significant impact on the
organisation, and helped improve the lives
of people with disability. Look out for '120
Faces' on Facebook and Instagram.

We have also been very pleased to
welcome a new face to Minda, Paul Thorne,
who was appointed to the role of Chief
Operating Officer in January of this year. An
experienced, senior level executive, Paul has
a background in managing large scale and
complex services and we're delighted to
have him on board.

I would like to take this opportunity
to thank you all of you for your support of
Minda. I do hope you enjoy this issue of
Vocal Point.



Cathy Miller
Chief Executive Officer



FROM
THE
PRESIDENT
SUSAN
NEUHAUS



Minda's Chief Operating Officer, Paul Thorne

Welcome Minda families, volunteers, supporters and advocates to the March edition of Vocal Point, and the first for 2018.

As I reflect on my first year as President of the Board, it is evident to me that the remarkable success of Minda rests on the work of its dedicated and passionate staff, the Board and Association of Minda, our fabulous volunteers and the Minda community.

The Minda community is often referred to as being 'like one big family' and this family certainly has much to be proud of, as Minda celebrates its 120th anniversary in 2018.

At Minda, we couldn't achieve what we do without the support of a philanthropic South Australian community, and I'd like to acknowledge our corporate partners for 2018 – ADC, BankSA, Foodland, Phil Hoffmann Travel, Salary Solutions, Sarah Constructions, TerryWhite Chemmart Marion Compounding and YNA.

It is the support Minda receives from its partners and the community that helps enrich the lives of people with disability and give South Australian families much needed support.

With our focus firmly on the future and on creating a life of respect, inclusion and choice for people with disability, I was pleased to recently bring the Board and Executive of Minda together for two days of strategic planning. Facilitated by Anne Skipper AO, the two days were incredibly

valuable and really galvanised our direction for the years ahead and to ensure that we are on track to deliver the goals of 'Minda 2020'.

This year, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will be a focus for Minda and the broader disability sector, as the NDIS rollout is completed across the state; the southern Adelaide region rollout began on January 1, while the western Adelaide region rollout begins April 1.

At Minda, helping families navigate the NDIS is a priority, with people with disability and their families being at the heart of everything we do.

I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board of Minda, to thank all of Minda's supporters, who have given to the organisation, through the gift of time in volunteering, as a member of the Minda Association, as one of our donors, a corporate partner and of course, staff members.

It is because of you that for 120 years Minda has been able to, and continues to provide industry-leading services. These are vital supports that ensure South Australians with disability live a life of their choosing, a life where they are included, contribute to their community and are respected as individuals.

Susan Neuhaus CSC
President

Welcome to Chief Operating Officer

Welcome to our new Chief Operating Officer, Paul Thorne, who joined Minda on 22 January.

Paul says he has received a warm welcome at Minda so far, and he has already enjoyed seeing how staff work together to deliver outcomes for the people Minda supports.

"I've noticed there are a lot of people who have worked here for a long time and I think that really speaks volumes about the organisation," he says.

Before coming to Minda, Paul was previously engaged by BRM Holditch to provide management consultancy services following an extensive career with ECH Incorporated, having held the role of Executive General Manager, Independent Living (2008 – 2015) and Executive General Manager, Services (2015 – 2017).

Away from work, Paul loves his family, cooking and travelling. He has been married to wife Julie for 19 years and they have a four-year-old daughter Lily.

"My life is around my family, especially with a four-year-old," Paul says.

"There's a lot of Connect4, Giant Snakes and Ladders, and Shopkins – and getting beaten by a four-year-old!"

Paul, who is an experienced senior level executive with a background in managing large scale and complex services, says he was attracted to work at Minda as a values-based organisation.

"I hope Minda is somewhere I can make a difference and share similar values," he says.

One team at Reynella

Commercial Enterprises' new facility at Reynella is off to a great start, with 178 supported employees settling into their new work location as one team.

Commercial businesses which have relocated to Panalatinga Road, Reynella, are Packaging Solutions Somerton Park, Packaging Solutions Lonsdale, TRAK Furniture, Horn Australia and Wire Ware.

General Manager Commercial Enterprises, Jamie Higgins says the transition to the new site at Reynella has been very positive, with supported employees taking the move in their stride.

"The supported employees have made such a great transition and during the first few days back earlier in the year, we held a site orientation welcoming everyone to the new site," Jamie says.

"We also had a staff barbecue, which provided a perfect opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts, which were outstanding."

Jamie says many employees have mentioned how much they love the new facilities at Reynella and have also already identified career development opportunities.

"There has been great feedback so far, particularly about the shop floor environment which is very bright and spacious, plus our supported employees can see the different functions being performed by each business and that's been really positive," he says.

"We've already had some supported employees who have seen different area of operations say, 'when can I try that?' We'll start looking at rotating and upskilling our employees which will then provide a pathway for something new for them to look forward to."

The move to Reynella gives the opportunity to diversify the workforce and move people around to help in other areas of interest.

"Not only does this offer benefits in terms of supported employee growth and development, but also for business and customers," Jamie says.

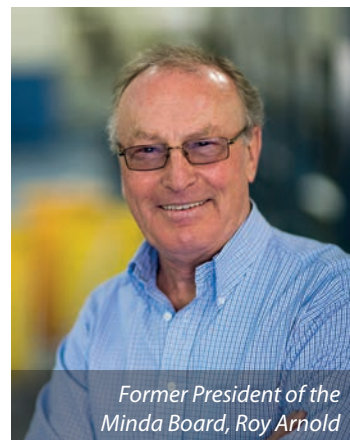
"The first phase has gone really well and we're looking forward to providing opportunities for further development."



The new facility at Reynella



David Holst with his daughter, Kim



Former President of the Minda Board, Roy Arnold

Honours for friends of Minda

Congratulations to former President of the Minda Board, Roy Arnold, and long-time supporter of Minda, David Holst, for being recognised in the Australia Day 2018 honours.

Roy was awarded an OAM for his service to people with disability and David an AM for his service to people with disability, through executive and advocacy roles, as a fundraiser, and to the automotive sector.

"They are both outstanding achievements, recognising Roy and David's tireless work in the disability sector," Cathy Miller says.

"We were also very pleased to find out that great friend and supporter of Minda, Rotary Club of Somerton Park Club President Rob Harding was awarded this year's Holdfast Bay Citizen of the Year."

In speaking of his award with CoastCity Weekly Messenger, Rob shared that one of his most treasured moments was presenting awards to the most dedicated supported workers at the Stars of Minda.

"Congratulations Rob, David and Roy for your many years of service to the South Australian Community and in particular, your support of Minda."



Rob (right) awarding John from Packaging Solutions a Pride of Workmanship Award



The Modbury office is situated in a great location on North East Road



Cathy Miller and Minister Katrine Hildyard outside the Modbury office



Minister Hildyard and Cathy Miller officially open the Minda office

Our Modbury Office Opening

Minda has celebrated the official opening of the Modbury office, meaning people with disability and their families in the north-eastern suburbs can now access a variety of support services and programs.

South Australian Minister for Disabilities Katrine Hildyard cut the ribbon to the Disability Choices office at 928 North East Road, Modbury, with Chief Executive Cathy Miller on November 23.

The launch was attended by about 40 people, including Federal Member for Makin Tony Zappia, Dignity for Disability candidate John Duthie, Minda Board members and representatives from South Australian disability organisations, including SCOSA, Bedford and Cara.

Cathy says the opening of the Modbury office represents a significant milestone for Minda, strengthening the organisation's metropolitan presence and meeting a growing demand from local families in Adelaide's north east.

"People with disability living in Adelaide's

north-eastern suburbs will now have access to a greater range of day programs, in-home support, advice, advocacy, training packages, allied health services, recreation and leisure, housing and employment opportunities," she says.

Cathy says with advent of the NDIS, the need to expand Minda's service offerings became clear and the organisation was proud to open its Elizabeth office in February.

"In the months following the February launch, it became increasingly apparent that an expanded footprint into the north-eastern suburbs was necessary," she says.

"The opening of our Modbury office gives Minda the opportunity to offer comprehensive support to South Australians, who have not previously been able to access our services, and empower people with

disability and their families to make informed choices about their future, through expert advice, advocacy and consultancy."

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) started rolling out to eligible adults in the north-eastern area in October.

"Our Disability Choices office will offer extensive NDIS preplanning advice and consultancy, to help families build an understanding of how the NDIS works and to ensure people can access services when and how they need them," Cathy says.

As well as the benefits for people with disability and their families, the expansion will bring over \$20 million annually to the local economy, increase jobs growth in the region, and contribute to the overall economic benefit for the community.

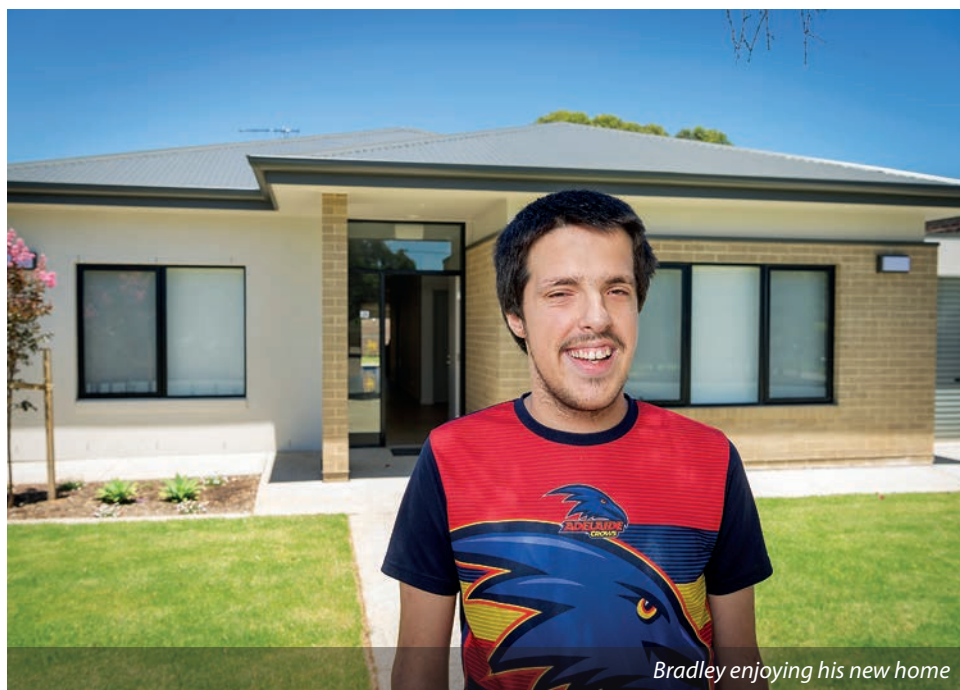
"I would like to thank everyone who has helped make Minda's vision for our Modbury office a reality; it means more South Australians with disability and their families have a greater opportunity to get life-changing support when and how they need it," Cathy says.



The team from Telstra and a volunteer from Phil Hoffmann Travel help with the move



Volunteer Max helps Kaylene and Anthony move into their new home



Bradley enjoying his new home



Wendy Fraser (right) with Joe and Olga Fassina

Master Plan Update

Twenty-eight people Minda supports have settled into nine new homes on Repton Road during a busy period of moving in November, and from 21 to 23 February, sixty-five people moved into their new accommodation at Minda Brighton.

Married couple Anthony and Kaylene are among the 28 people who have moved to Repton Road, and say they are delighted with their new two-bedroom home.

"It was such a mammoth effort and

I would like to thank all of the staff and community volunteers who did such a fantastic job helping residents with moving and unpacking," Senior Manager Accommodation, Wendy Fraser says.

The newly completed accommodation – nine homes on Repton Road, nine homes on Fassina Way, the new apartment building on Fassina Way and the new apartment building on Bonython Way – have been built as part of Minda's Master Plan.

Journey to Fassina Way

Fassina Way is the new road which has been constructed at Minda Brighton, running parallel to King George Avenue.

The road is a tribute to long-time Minda supporter Joe Fassina, with the street sign presented to Joe on his 90th birthday to recognise his support and contribution to Minda.

The family has an association with Minda through Joe's daughter Dallas, who lives at Minda, with the family donating the home which Dallas lives in with other residents.

The Fassina family also owns Fassina SA Family Liquor Stores, with the company generously supporting Minda events and having Minda coin collection units in its stores for customers to donate to Minda.

Celebrating 120 Years of Minda

This year Minda celebrates 120 years and we're looking forward to commemorating the milestone throughout 2018.

We've launched a special 120-year logo, and keep an eye out on social media for 120 Faces of Minda, as we share some of our familiar faces from around Minda on Facebook and Instagram.

Cathy Miller says celebrating 120 years is an amazing milestone and gives an opportunity to acknowledge and recognise the many supporters of Minda, from our customers to staff, volunteers, family, friends, corporate supporters, sponsors and the wider South Australian community.



“It is clear to me that the great success of Minda rests on the work of its capable and dedicated staff, our customers, our Board, volunteers and of course the Minda community.”

“As the organisation broadens its focus to embrace housing options, aged care, seniors living, social enterprises, education and training, consultancy and advocacy, Minda must become much more than a disability service provider, and the Minda 2020 strategic plan ensures we continue to remain a leader and support people with disability to live extraordinary lives,” Cathy says.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, Board, Association and supporters of Minda who are all focussed on progressing our vision and ensuring that we are passionate, respectful, accountable, innovative, successful and ethical in all that we do.”



Annual General Meeting in Verco Hall in 1916 with Lady Galivay (wife of Governor) presiding and Mr Redman (Supt) reading report



Matron Burnell in 1948, with a team of nurses on the steps of the building now housing the South Australian Learning Centre

Partnering with Sarah Constructions

We are proud to announce that Sarah Constructions has come on board as a corporate partner for 2018.

Sarah Constructions is delivering Stage 2 of Minda's Master Plan and has been an integral part of the South Australian building and construction industry for over 50 years.

Cathy Miller says Minda is delighted to have Sarah Constructions as a corporate partner: "Awarded Master Builders (MBA) Commercial Builder of the Year 2017, Sarah Constructions works on the ethos of putting people first; their priority is always the client and the customers' needs," she says.

"Not only is Sarah Constructions helping turn the Master Plan into reality, but they have also provided people with disability with the chance to engage in meaningful work and develop skills in the construction industry in roles including gatekeepers, administrators and general labourers."

Sarah Constructions is 100 per cent South Australian owned and is passionate about supporting growth opportunities for our state.

Employing more than 300 South Australians, Sarah Constructions has diversity and depth to manage large and complex builds, while remaining nimble enough to react to the demands of fast track and alterations projects.



Cathy Miller with Sarah Constructions' Director James Sarah and CEO Adrian Esplin



Christopher Villani of Foodland presenting a Service Excellence award to Lachlan at Stars of Minda and one of Minda's coin collection units

Foodland

'The Mighty South Aussies'

Congratulations to our wonderful corporate supporter, Foodland, on winning the Roy Morgan Supermarket of the Year Award.

Foodland was rated as having the most satisfied customers Australia wide. This is the third time in five years Foodland has won Roy Morgan's Supermarket of the Year award.

This latest win caps off a successful 12 months for the Foodland brand. During this period Foodland has also won Canstar Blue's Supermarket of the Year award, National Store of the Year (McLaren Vale Foodland), International Retailer of the Year (McLaren Vale Foodland) and continued its growth strategy through opening six new stores and refurbishing a further six.

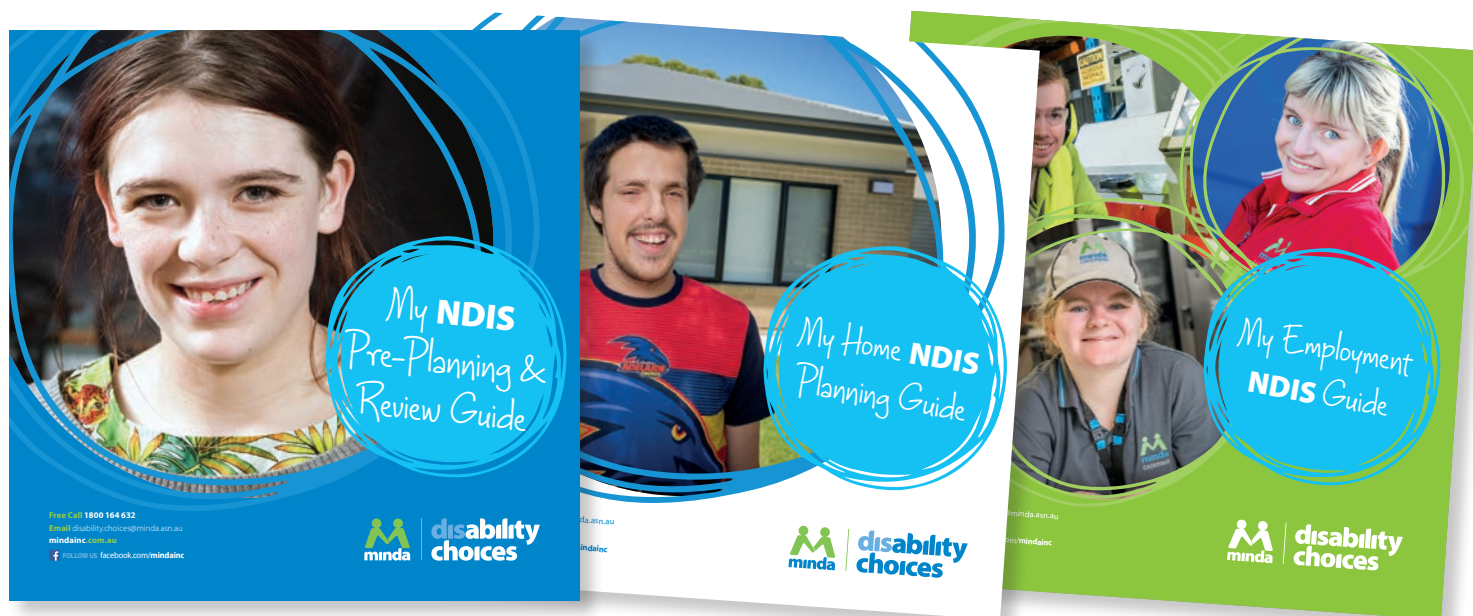
Foodland Chief Executive Officer Con Sciacca says Foodland is well known for its values, 'trusted, reliable and honest'.

"Listening to our customers and providing them with the best possible customer service is at the cornerstone of what being a Foodland retailer is all about," Con says.

"I'm proud to say that Foodland, 'the Mighty South Aussies', is showing Australia how it is done."

Foodland is a great supporter of Minda and is helping create and maintain employment for people with disability through providing the opportunity for Minda's Packaging Solutions team to supply and package their domestic products.

Foodland stores also host Minda coin collection units to help generate awareness of Minda and funds for people with disability.



NDIS Planning Meetings

With the continuation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) rollout, Minda has been working hard behind the scenes to ensure the people we support are best prepared for the transition.

Minda's NDIS Transition Team has been meeting with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), to develop Supported Independent Living quotes (SILs) for people living in Minda Accommodation.

Minda's preparation of information, and coordination of the planning meetings, support of customers, families and stakeholders is aimed at ensuring the outcome of a comprehensive and suitably funded NDIS plan.

We are also pleased to introduce a team of Customer Relationship Officers to Minda, who connect Minda customers, their families and carers to services across the organisation.

"Forming part of Disability Choices, Customer Relationship Officers provide the people we support and their families with a consistent point of contact and will ensure National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plans are effectively and efficiently implemented," Senior Manager Disability Choices, Gai Dawe says.

Minda has also developed a series of

workbooks to help people get the most out of their NDIS experience.

"After the great success of Minda's NDIS Pre-Planning Guide we wanted to offer specific workbooks for key services; the MyHome NDIS Planning guide is to help people considering supported disability accommodation, and encourages them to think about goals for future living arrangements," Gai says.

"In addition, the MyEmployment guide has been created to help people preparing to leave school, or seeing employment; it asks them to think about their goals for their career and helps in developing a better understanding of the process of transitioning to employment under the NDIS."

The workbooks have been developed to use in conjunction with NDIS Planning Guides.

"The guides are really helpful in navigating the NDIS, but there are so many different ways you can get in touch with Minda's Disability Choices, including online via our MyChoices (mindainc.com.au/mychoices) web-based planning tool and by phone," Gai says.

"All of these services are free and we're here to help you get the best from the NDIS."

For more information, please contact Minda's Disability Choices team on 1800 164 632, visit mindainc.com.au/mychoices or Minda's website.



NDS Membership Recognition

Minda has been a member of National Disability Services (NDS) for 30 years and was awarded a NDS Membership Recognition Award.

Cathy Miller recently accepted the award, presented by NDS President Joan McKenna Kerr and NDS Chief Executive Ken Baker to commemorate Minda's long standing partnership with NDS.

Ken Baker says the partnership has contributed to the growing strength and influence of the disability sector and reflects the joint commitment to providing quality services and life opportunities for people with disability.



Charmaine enjoys smelling the roses with Viv



Lindsay thinks Viv looks like Julie Andrews!

Volunteer Profile: Viv Owen

Viv Owen has been volunteering at Minda's aged care facility, PKC, for nearly three years – and says she enjoys making a small difference to people's lives.

"Sometimes it's the little things that mean a lot ... helping someone to smell the flowers, seeing the joy it brings," she says.

Viv visits PKC on behalf of the St Jude's, Brighton, Community Visitors Scheme, an Australian Government Initiative.

The scheme matches volunteers with aged care recipients to provide friendship and companionship.

Viv has been visiting Charmaine and Ron at PKC every Monday morning. She says her

conversations with Charmaine can be a little bit one-sided.

"But I was really pleased to hear her say 'Christmas card' with a big smile on her face when I gave her one back in December," Viv says.

"Over the time I have been visiting I have taken pages of stickers in for her to do, some colouring in, and I read stories to her.

"More recently, I've been helping her to finish her breakfast if necessary, and then take her out around the lovely grounds at Minda. She shows that she enjoys this by clapping her hands in anticipation, which is heart-warming."

Viv says Ron enjoys looking at the local Messenger newspaper which she brings in from home.

"We talk about items of interest to him in the paper. I think it helps him to keep in touch with the world a little," Viv says.

"We also work on simple craft activities and I have a few 20-piece puzzles which we enjoy doing together. If Ron's keen, we go out for a walk, sometimes heading to Isabel's Café to read The Advertiser."

Viv says she's recently made another friend in PKC, Lindsay: "Lindsay is really personable and chatty... he loves going out for walks around Minda... he certainly knows who I am, but he often calls me Julie Andrews!"

Thank you, Viv, for providing friendship at PKC; we really appreciate what you bring to Minda each week!

Now that's a wrap!

Minda's Christmas Gift Wrapping in Adelaide Arcade throughout December has raised an incredible \$12,000 for Minda.

With almost 100 volunteers wrapping gifts from December 1 to Christmas Eve, Volunteer Services Manager Lauren Halliday says we couldn't have done it without our wonderful volunteers who donated more than 450 hours for the month.

"Raising \$12,000 is a fantastic result, which wouldn't have been possible without everyone who so generously donated their time," Lauren says.

"There were certainly some very busy days especially as Christmas got closer, and we're so grateful for our volunteer support.

"Thanks especially to those who went above and beyond by volunteering for multiple shifts and filling in at late notice for additional shifts."

Minda has been gift wrapping in Adelaide Arcade since December 2013, with the opportunity provided by Minda donor and head of Adelaide Arcade Andrew Jonats.

Thank you to Andrew, the team from Adelaide Arcade and all of the volunteers for their generous support!

Volunteer Appreciation Event

To celebrate International Volunteer Day and recognise the dedicated work of volunteers across the organisation, Minda held a Volunteer Appreciation Event in December of last year.

The event was held on the lawns at Minda Brighton, with about 70 volunteers (including staff volunteers), Board members, executive and senior managers enjoying a relaxed evening of live entertainment, canapes, drinks and lawn games.

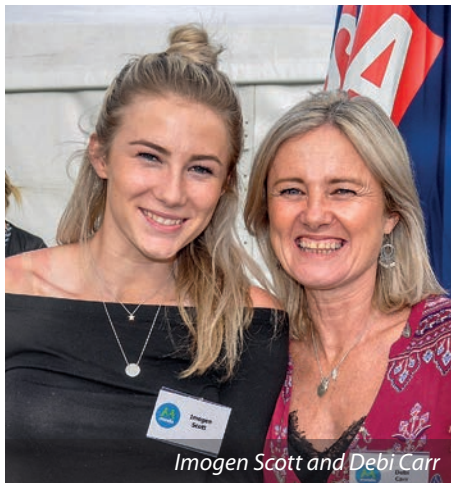
Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers – we appreciate everything you do for Minda!



Sue Wright, Rosemary Saunders, Alex Doran and Enid Johns



Janet Wang, Carol Wilks, Colleen Dennehy



Imogen Scott and Debi Carr



Wendy Aistrophe and John Cameron



Mardi Sunderland and Lauren Halliday



Max Packer, Gary Dawe, Darren Chapple and Nicole Chapple



Star Volunteer Award Winner

Congratulations to Janet Evans who is our **Star Volunteer for the March quarter!**

Janet has been volunteering at Sturt Cottage Craft for some years now and has become a familiar face within the program.

Team leader at MyPath and ReConnect, Hollie Victory, says Janet dedicates her time to the people participating in the program and has built up a strong rapport with many.

"I will often come into Cottage Craft and find Janet sitting with a group of participants, having a chat about things that are going on in their lives," Hollie says.

"She will encourage the ladies to engage in conversation between each other, which brings a bigger sense of community within the group and takes an active role in assisting the ladies to learn new skills."



The trading table looking out over the stunning golf course

A Hole in One

The Women's Minda Golf Day at the stunning Glenelg Golf Club on 13 February, was a great success raising over \$4,500 for Minda.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day by baking delicious treats for the trading table and a big thank you to Glenelg Golf Club for their amazing support.

See you again next year for the 50th year of this event!



Rodney Norris at work at Electronic Recycling Australia

Rodney's Person-Centred Approach

Rodney Norris has switched from a career in accounting, manufacturing and business management, to a career at Minda – and he hasn't looked back.

Rodney, who is now in his sixties, completed a Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) at the South Australian Learning Centre (SALC) last year after life took an unexpected turn.

"My career background is in accounting, manufacturing and business management working for Pacific Brands Ltd and I also spent eight years in the north-west of Western Australia working in the mining industry for Rio Tinto," he says.

"I had planned on retiring but unfortunately lost my wife two years ago during heart surgery, which obviously created a massive vacuum in my life. I needed to do something meaningful and positive, and my son suggested that I should look at working with people who needed support."

With an extensive list of career achievements and broad skills in areas including work health and safety, quality assurance and lean manufacturing principles, Rodney completed the Certificate III at SALC in September last year.

"I spent time during my course doing work experience placements across four

areas of Minda and South Australian Group Enterprises (SAGE), including Accommodation and Packaging Solutions and loved every minute," he says.

"Packaging Solutions has to be one of the most positive and lovely work environments I've ever experienced in my entire life. There were plenty of unique incidents which made me smile, especially meeting Princess Bubble Gum.

"I was on the line with Marriott, whom I kept accidentally calling Matilda or Isabel or other names and one day she said, 'just call me Princess Bubble Gum!'

"I already have lots of fond memories and each week there is another unique incident which makes me smile."

Rodney started working full time as line supervisor at Electronics Recycling Australia (ERA) in October.

"There's some really wonderful people at ERA ... I love some of the responses I get and the facial expressions to circumstances and the fact people will just start singing.

"The other day I was working alongside Adam, who hadn't said much to me while I've been here, but on this day, I was struggling a

bit and he reached over and put his hand onto mine to assist me ... those things are relevant and important."

A person-centred approach is important to Rodney in his daily work at Minda:

"I enjoy supporting people to increase their self-determination and improve their own independence," he says.

"I'm also passionate about creating positive, friendly and loving relationships in family and working environments and never ever place limits on having fun.

"I'm not a stay-at-home person ... and I was transitioning to retirement and something terrible happened. I needed to be around people in a positive workplace and it's helped me a lot."

Rodney encourages others to consider a career in the disability sector, which he says is rewarding and has a positive impact on others.

"It's changed the way I look at things," he says.

"I would never have seen myself doing some of the things I do now, but you don't know you have these capabilities until you do them.

"My focus is always on respect, safety in the workplace, communication, rapport and trust."

Dale Represents Minda at International Summit

Self-advocate and supported employee Dale, represented Minda at the International Driverless Vehicle Summit held at the Adelaide Convention Centre late last year.

Dale participated in a panel discussion on improving transport accessibility for people with disability and older people, during day two of the summit held at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Dale, 21, took a driverless shuttle ride around the River Torrens on day one of the summit, and was photographed by The Advertiser for a story on transport and technology.

He also took a drive in Volvo and Tesla vehicles fitted with Level 2 driverless vehicle technologies. While not completely driverless, in Level 2 systems, the steering and speed of the vehicle are controlled by one or more driver assistance systems but a person is in control of the other elements of driving.

"I think me and this guy can do a deal," he joked, sitting next to David Pickett from Volvo on the panel. "I enjoyed the Volvo the best!"

Dale said he thought driverless vehicles would be great for the future of Adelaide and would be helpful to him personally in getting to work, getting to the footy and getting to various social commitments without having to rely on someone to drive him.

With a theme of 'Translating technology to real world deployment', the event shared the latest innovation developments, pioneering trials and deployment from across Australia and around the world.

Dale works full-time at Laundry and Linen Services at Lonsdale and chairs Minda's Self-Advocacy Program. He lives in a beautiful home in the community, not too far from his grandparents Greg and Kate, who attended the summit with Dale.

Well done Dale on all your great achievements and thank you for speaking up for people with disability at the summit!



Dale takes a ride in the driverless shuttle



Dale with his grandparents Kate and Greg at the summit

Alex is Getting the Job Done

Disability Support Worker Alex Walters (pictured) has helped to provide information about job opportunities in the disability sector, as part of a panel discussion at JOBEX in November 2017.

Held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Alex participated in a panel discussion about the 6,000 new jobs being created to support the National Disability Insurance Scheme in South Australia.

He was on the panel with Alex Reid, Deputy Chief Executive from the Department of State Development; Brian Peddle, Enterprise Development Adviser with National Disability Services;

and Nick Ashley, Executive Director, NDIS Reform.

Alex made a successful transition from working in the automotive industry for almost 25 years, to completing his Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) at the South Australian Learning Centre in 2013 and is now working at Minda.

He told the panel he enjoys the variety of tasks each day brings, the responsibility and the positive impact his career has on people's lives.



Alex Walters at JOBEX

Cruise N Groove

It's not every day you get to rub shoulders with Australian music icon Marcia Hines, but that's just what the residents of Appleberry house at Blackwood did when they embarked on Cruise N Groove 2017.

Late last year, Shannon, Gail, Ian, Barry and Michele flew to Sydney before boarding the Radiance of the Seas cruise ship, to enjoy nine days and eight nights of 'Cruise N Groove' music and fun. They sailed from Sydney to Isle of Pines, to Vanuatu and Noumea.

Onboard the ship there was a fantastic lineup of live music from various artists including The Tina Turner Show, Songs in the Key of Motown, Marcia Hines, Go West, Boney M, KC and The Sunshine Band, Aaron Mansfield, a Roy Orbison impersonator, Paul Fenech the Elvis impersonator, and many more.

Group favourites were Marcia Hines, and the Roy Orbison and Elvis impersonators!

Michele said her favourite performer was definitely Marcia Hines, but she also had a good laugh with Roy Orbison impersonator Aaron Mansfield: "Marcia Hines is a great singer and we had a great time," she said.

As well as the music and personalities onboard the cruise, the booked activities on the islands were another highlight.

Shannon, Gail, Ian, Barry and Michele toured the Isle of Pines, including Turtle Bay, a Brush Island boating adventure and Island discovery; a modern village tour in Vanuatu; and Noumea city sights, aquarium and beach.

The holiday was a resounding success and the group say they've made memories to last a lifetime – they added there was never a dull moment with so many things to do onboard!

Food was a highlight on the ship and people onboard were fantastic, as were the staff and crew.



Shannon and Gail with Paul Fenech aka Elvis



Michele with Aaron Mansfield
aka Roy Orbison



Michele with Marcia Hines



Ian with Marcia Hines



Gail with her favourite,
Paul Fenech the Elvis impersonator

Logan's Leaps & Bounds

Logan is a beautiful six-year-old boy, with a heart-melting smile and like other kids, he loves playing on his iPad and watching videos, but his favourite toys are his cars.

He has had some incredible achievements over the last few months, but there is still some way to go. When we first spoke with Logan's mum, Rebecca, their family was exhausted.

Logan has autism, a lifelong developmental disorder, which affects how his brain processes information.

"Seeing him struggle is the hardest, especially when he has a meltdown. I know that his brain works differently and he can't understand what he is feeling or why something is happening, which must be horrible," Rebecca says.

"I wish I could just get into his head and take that feeling away, but I can't. I can only watch him go through it and wait."

When Logan was diagnosed at two years old, Rebecca says she knew it was coming; it was made clearer because Logan is a twin and at an early age he was developing differently than his brother, Samuel.

"I noticed that he didn't like playing with his brothers and sisters. He didn't respond to his name or look people in the eye. I'd also find him lining up cars. If I moved one out of place he would put it back in order," Rebecca says.

As Logan has grown, the differences have become greater. Logan needs help getting dressed, bathing, eating and, as he is still in nappies, he needs someone to change him. Logan is also very sensitive to sound and touch.

Rebecca and Daniel, Logan's parents, worry about him not having the same opportunities as his siblings if he doesn't

get the support he needs now.

"I met with Jo from Minda's Disability Choices and we talked about what Logan needs help with and goals for his future. She also helped me to access funding from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), which she didn't have to do, but I am so grateful because there were so many things to take care of," Rebecca says.

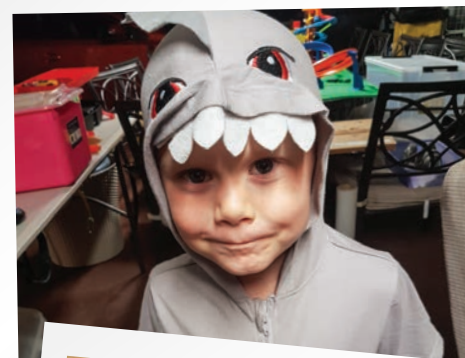
"When I received a plan, I called Jo and she booked me in for therapies straight away. It's been non-stop since then."

Logan accesses services via Minda's northern office and attends weekly exercise physiology, occupational therapy and psychology. It is only early days, but he is making amazing progress.

Rebecca and Daniel are relieved now that they have strategies to put in place at home. They say Logan is having fewer meltdowns, he is also daytime toilet trained, and the whole family is benefiting.

"If we didn't have support from Minda, we wouldn't have made any progress. Now, I feel comforted knowing that my little boy is in good hands. He is getting the help he needs," Rebecca says.

"I know that my other children are going to be ok. They're not going to be discriminated against getting what they want from life. I'm worried that people will limit Logan because he has autism – he can do anything, it's just going to take a little more work," Rebecca says.



THANK YOU



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