

INCLUSION

NEWS FROM NEW HAVEN FARM HOME



AUTUMN 2018

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of New Haven Farm Home's 'Inclusion' Newsletter.

The past few months have been a busy and exciting time for both New Haven Farm Home clients and the organisation as a whole. I am pleased to share just some of these updates with you in this newsletter.

On page 2, you will read about Michael. Michael has been a client at New Haven Farm Home for many years, now calling one of our villas at our Freemans Reach semi-rural property home. I look forward to introducing you to Michael, and sharing with you his interests, activities and some of his achievements.

After obtaining a fourth property in the Hawkesbury, New Haven Farm Home has been busy preparing the first of 3 new homes ready to welcome 4 new clients.

We are pleased to be able to take another active step towards addressing the need for increased service availability for people living with a disability.

In preparing this first home, New Haven Farm Home was thrilled to partner with Harvey Norman McGraths Hill. The bedding, furniture and living and electrical teams at Harvey Norman McGraths Hill generously donated over \$18,500 worth of products to help us in furnishing this home ready for the arrival of clients.

On behalf of New Haven Farm Home I would like to thank Skye, Luke and Brenton from Harvey Norman McGraths Hill for your support. It is wonderful to partner with you to enhance the lives of people in our community.

In this newsletter I will also provide you with an update on how the NDIS has impacted both clients and our organisation over the past few months.

Like many organisations, New Haven Farm Home and our clients have experienced funding issues as a result in changes and delays in client NDIS plans. Thanks to the support of the NDS we are now in a position of resolving many of these challenges.

Thank you for taking the time to read our latest update. I would appreciate your support in sharing our newsletter with your family, friends, workplace and social groups to help us tell more people about our services and the achievements of New Haven Farm Home clients.



Jacques Stap
Chief Executive Officer

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CLIENT PROFILE: MICHAEL

Michael lives at New Haven Farm Home's semi-rural property at Freemans Reach.

He has a real interest in attending and being involved in meetings about our community. He is particularly interested in learning more about the Mayor of Hawkesbury.

Michael recently attended the AGM for Nepean Community College, where he is completing his reading and writing course. Michael had the opportunity to speak at this meeting and did a fantastic job!

Every Friday, Michael goes to Zumba at the Active8 Gym in Richmond. He loves going to zumba, dancing and exercising to some of his favourite music; having fun and looking after his health and fitness at the same time.

Michael loves being out in the community; socialising; going to clubs; out for a cappuccino and participating in every day activities such as doing the grocery shopping; going to his reading and writing class; going out and chatting with his friends.

Michael is currently working towards his goal of participating in more activities that build his social skills and enable him to be included in mainstream society.



SECTOR NEWS

Over the last year the NDIA made a number of changes to participants' NDIS plans. The most significant change was the need to include a Supported Independent Living (SIL) price quotation in each NDIS participants' package, impacting their budgets. In addition to this, the NDIA decided to allocate a budget for community inclusion activities.

The implementation of these changes took 6-8 months, which affected all clients supported by an NDIS plan as they did not have a full plan for more than half a year.

In September the NDIA made a determination that these participants would receive an interim plan. However, this would only be for 13 weeks. Many of our clients did not have an approved plan until late February or early March, causing significant cash flow issues.

Nevertheless, as many disability support providers were in the same predicament, our industry representative body, NDS, took up the baton and worked with the NDIA and individual organisations, to resolve this financial impediment. There are some clients still without a NDIS plan and we are working hard with the NDIA to resolve this backlog.

In spite of this situation we have been able to maintain support levels to our clients at the required standards. I would like to thank the Board for their prudence and excellent financial stewardship.

As New Haven Farm Home is a Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) provider we would like to have our SDA status acknowledged in each individual NDIS plan. This is not currently the case, and we are still working with the NDIA to resolve a number of outstanding matters regarding SDA payments. We believe that those clients with physical and/or sensory disabilities would require SDA and as a result of this it should be a line item in their NDIS plan. Although we have not been provided with a rationale for the NDIA's decisions in these matters, we are waiting for an outcome in the next few months.

Those clients who are 65 years old and over are funded by the Continuity of Services by the Commonwealth Department of Health. Currently all clients are fully funded, and services have not been affected. This funding will be reviewed next year.

**- Jacques Stap
New Haven Farm Home CEO**



Colin has been doing a great job at looking after his vegetable garden - have a look at his fantastic cucumber harvest!



John has been practicing his skills in travelling on public transport and using his opal card. Well done John!



Tony baked some delicious Anzac biscuits to share with his housemates on ANZAC Day. Good job Tony!

THANK YOU TO HARVEY NORMAN McGRATHS HILL!

Over the past few months, we have been busy preparing the first of 3 new houses at our new site in Richmond, ready for the clients who will call it home.

When learning about our expanding services, the Harvey Norman McGraths Hill teams couldn't wait to get involved and play a role in providing additional support for people in our community living with a disability.

Together, the bedding, living and furniture and electrical teams from Harvey Norman McGraths Hill donated over \$18,500 worth of brand new products, helping us to furnish the first of the 3 homes. On top of this donation, the teams organised delivery and helped us prepare the home ready for our recent 'family and friends' open home morning.

We are so appreciative of the bedding, living and furniture and electrical teams at Harvey Norman McGraths Hill for their generosity and support in partnering with New Haven Farm Home, and their help in turning this house into a home.

Over the coming months, 4 clients will be moving into this newly furnished home, receiving the support they need to live as independently as possible and achieve their goals.

New Haven Farm Home is continuing to prepare the second house ready for service delivery.

Once fully operational, this site of three new villas, will provide support for an additional 12 individuals from our community – **a great step towards addressing the service shortage impacting people in our local area.**





Shaun did a great job performing at the Royal Easter Show with his regular drumming group - Western Sydney Samba!



Doug has started taking art classes. He is enjoying learning new skills in painting and being part of a group that shares his interests in art.



Joe took to the kitchen learning how to make spaghetti bolognaise and garlic bread for dinner. His housemates all agreed it was delicious!

UPCOMING EVENTS



SYDNEY
DISABILITY
EXPO
Official Exhibitor

Come visit us
Fri 25th & Sat 26th
MAY 2018
sydneydisabilityexpo.com.au

SYDNEY DISABILITY EXPO

FRIDAY 25 MAY & SATURDAY 26 MAY 2018

FREE ENTRY

THE SOUTHEE COMPLEX (HALL 5), 1 SHOWGROUND ROAD, SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK

NEW HAVEN FARM HOME CAN BE FOUND AT BOOTHS 38 & 38. Come and say Hi!

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

We would love to hear your feedback! Share with us your favourite articles, the topics you are interested in reading in our future newsletter editions or the ways you, your organisation, workplace or social group would like to get involved by contacting our Relationship and Support Manager, Nicole.

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