

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2018! It's been a great year for Directions with the opening of our Therapy Centre across the road from the main office in Maddington, the opening of a small office in Mandurah, our groups programs taking off in new suburbs, all of this whilst navigating our way through the changes that the new NDIS funding scheme brings. Thank you for all your support throughout the year, it has been a privilege to walk alongside you.

Merry Christmas and a peaceful new year to everyone!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CEO



"Directions was established over 20 years ago with the purpose of providing high quality, personalised services to people who require support as they strive towards their goals and aspirations. This purpose remains embedded in the present day vision as Directions provides opportunities for people to participate in activities of their choice that encourage lifelong learning, lead to increased independence; promote friendships and enable people to actively contribute to their community.

In November 2018, I was delighted to be given the opportunity to work with Directions in the capacity of CEO, to support and steer the organisation to continue to deliver the high quality, person-centred services that Directions is known for. I am an Occupational Therapist with over 30 years of involvement with the health, disability and community sector in local, national and international settings. This has occurred in a variety of contexts, including clinical care, management, service provision, leadership, research and education, which has enabled me to develop a solid understanding of translating policy and contextual factors into meaningful care and practice.

Of key importance is the provision of empathetic, responsive care and I value the relationships with the people we support, their families, our staff and the wider community in order to embrace change, innovation and new ways of thinking.

Directions and I look forward to strengthening these relationships as we all work together to empower, equip and enable a truly inclusive community."

Alison Kelly

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL REPORT

This year we held our AGM in the carpark of our Maddington office! Our carpark was transformed into a wonderful space with a professional stage, lighting, audience chairs and gazebos. And with the help of our Therapy students and volunteers we had some delicious food and drinks served for all to enjoy!!



On stage, our Board of Executives began with conducting the official AGM.

At the meeting, we were very proud to award two of our long standing board members **Mark Pescud** and **Jenny Wylie**, with **Life Memberships**.

Our 2017/18 Annual Report was published and shared with all members at the meeting.



It is available to read on our website <https://www.directions.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-Annual-Report-FINAL.pdf> If anyone would like a printed copy, please call the office to request one.



The meeting was followed by a wonderful performance of a short play called "The Accident", performed by some amazing people we support. The atmosphere was fantastic and so inclusive of our whole community, with special guests Dr Tony Buti MLA (our Patron) and City of Gosnells Mayor, Glenn Dewhurst, holding up audience participation voting cards, along with the rest of us!

Our Support Worker, Emily Caruso was the Director and put in an incredible amount of work, thinking innovatively to accommodate different needs, ensuring every person felt valued and able to participate. The actors and actresses had a wonderful time both in the lead up and on the night of the performance. It was great to see them support each other and form new friendships.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS – FUNDRAISING

Directions raised \$196 from selling 2018/19 books ☺ 2019/20 books will be available April next year!!

END OF YEAR FESTIVITIES!

Our **Christmas Disco and Sausage Sizzle** on 14 December at the Maddington Community Centre was a fun filled night of music, dancing and eating with some lucky winners of raffle prizes too!



One of Directions Support Workers' Anthony Pyle, has set up a Social group. They have had a number of events over the past 2 years, with the latest being a Christmas Social on 15 December at the Varsity Bar. They had a good turnout, with drinks and food flowing, and are looking forward to another year of great times with friends.



Some of the regular visitors of our **Hummingbird House** activity centre had a Christmas Lunch together. This photo beautifully captures some of the natural friendships formed over support and common interests.

The **Thursday Cooking Group** finished the year with a Christmas lunch at the Therapy Centre, where group members chose and made their own share plate which was great success.



And in the **office** we enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch with a Secret Santa ☺

JOY MARTIN STORIES

Joy Martin was a long standing board member with Directions who was person-centred, creative, and always approached problems with a positive attitude and innovative ideas. Joy passed away in 2009 and we commemorate her connection with Directions by sharing stories about staff who demonstrate these qualities.

Over the past 3 months we have had the pleasure of acknowledging the following Support Workers:

Emily Caruso worked for 6 months with a group of people we support to create the amazing short play performed at the AGM. Emily put in an incredible amount of work, thinking innovatively to accommodate different needs, ensuring every person felt valued and able to participate and everyone had a great time.

Brooke Geary, for going over and above in showing a very warm, friendly, welcoming and supportive approach to one of our OT students that was on placement with her on support with Sarah.

And **Louise Commandeur**, who has been commended as Tammy's best support worker ever, the way that Louise has picked up on all the little things, taken on all of Tammy's needs and always is prepared for whatever Tammy may need or want. Tammy has always come home happy with Louise, and Ron said he has never been happier with a support worker.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE