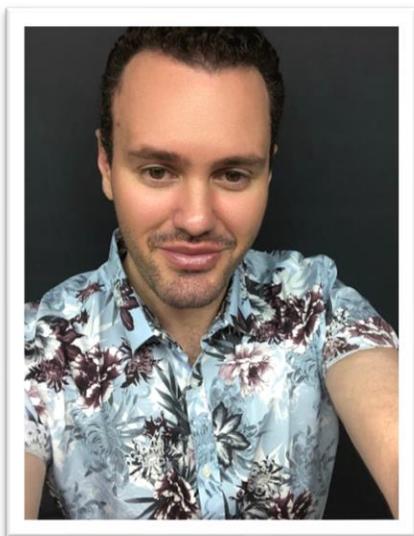


Disability Services Newsletter

General Manager Update *Wendy Pettifer*

APRIL 2020



So here we are at the end of April, and after a worrying March, I think things are looking more positive for everyone. Except for the constant cleaning, hand sanitizing and temperature taking, it's been business as usual for Woodville Alliance and our clients, so here's all the latest from April...

FAREWELL TO MIKE

You should all have received a letter from me about Mike's departure from Woodville. It's always sad to see a colleague leave the organization, and Mike's professionalism, experience and genuine passion for his work will be missed, especially by clients. We are putting together a book of artworks, photos and messages from clients and families for him, so if you would like to contribute, please send a note to Toby on tpitt@woodville.org.au – especially if you are not currently attending the centre. For those clients who are attending, we will be running activities with them to create some lovely

pictures and messages which I'm sure Mike will really treasure. Additionally, you can add to Woodville Alliance's gift by making a donation through clicking on this link and using the access code Mike12:

<https://portal.groupprezzie.com.au/index.php/groupPrezzie/getAccess/4171?code=mike12>

WOODVILLE ALLIANCE AND COVID 19

There are definitely encouraging signs that things will soon start to gradually get back to normal for us all. However, the measures we have taken day to day to minimize risks within our services will continue. We are fortunate that we have large spaces which allow us to observe social distancing even when we are operating at capacity and we remain vigilant with cleaning, hand sanitizing and temperature recording. We are gradually starting to see clients return to services, which is fantastic, and our digital activities are keeping others who are still at home connected with their friends. We are missing everyone! If you are thinking of returning to services, please contact us to discuss and give us sufficient notice to organize staffing and transport runs. Some of our clients would also benefit from a gradual transition back into services, and we can work with you to accommodate that. I'm expecting it to take some time before we are seeing everyone back in the centres, but we want to ensure that everyone transitions as smoothly as possible.



COMMUNICATING WITH WOODVILLE

I've received a couple of calls from families asking who they should contact in the absence of Mike. For the time being, anything that you would normally have called Mike about can be addressed to either Jenna (0415 883061) or to Toby (0490 048284). I'd ask that you only call after 5.30pm and before 8.30am for anything genuinely urgent. You can also contact your allocated mentor during working hours. If you are unsure of your allocated mentor please give Jenna or Toby a call.

We've done a lot of work over the last 6 months to improve communication both from us to you and from you to us, however I'm conscious that there are still areas where we could do better. Over the coming weeks we will be reviewing all of the arrangements we currently have in place and producing a quick reference sheet for everyone. We will be looking closely at how you let us know about very urgent matters during the day, when we are often all

busy with clients, families and other professionals, and not always available to take a call. This will be particularly important whilst Jenna is on maternity leave, so it is a timely piece of work.



EASTER AT WOODVILLE

Easter this year will have been a bit different to normal for everyone, but we hope that you still managed to eat your own weight in chocolate and celebrate in your own ways. After we were reassured by leaders all over the world that the current COVID 19 restrictions were not going to affect the activities of the Easter Bunny, we felt safe to continue with our Easter Hat Parade plans! Clients created gorgeous Easter (and other!) themed hats and showed them off around the centre. The GeekAbility clients even came up with an ingenious way to make sure everyone kept the required 1.5m apart by making paper chains of that length which everyone held as they did their parade. This meant that the weeks leading up to Easter were busy

with both activities and you can see from the photos that the results were spectacular!

ANZAC DAY

It's important every year to honour the sacrifices of those who came before us, and this year was no different. Clients spent time making and painting poppies and created the beautiful installation you can see here.

WOODVILLE DIGITAL

We've been really pleased with the response to our online program, and clients both at home and in the centres have been enjoying the opportunity to get together do things like exercise and dance. At one of our dance classes, we were even joined by two clients who were in India! If you haven't



got involved yet and would like to, give Toby a call on 0490 048284. It's a good alternative to coming into the centres if you don't feel confident about returning just yet, and keeps everyone connected. You can see videos of some of the online fun on the Woodville Alliance Facebook page – why not go over and take a look?



GROW WITH WOODVILLE

We are starting a new activity with clients for them to take part in either at home or in the centre – or both! We've got enough easy to grow seeds for everyone, and we'd like as many clients and families as possible to join in. We can share photos of our efforts on Facebook, or you can send photos in via email or text and we can share them for you. If you'd like to be involved, please text (0490 048284) or email (tpitt@woodville.org.au) Toby. I'm going to have a go – but I've got to be honest and say that most plants I am involved with die!

RAMADAN MUBARAK!

We are lucky to have such a diverse community, and it's important to acknowledge important festivals throughout the year. This is a special time of year for many of our clients and families, and although this year Ramadan will no doubt be a little different due to the COVID 19 restrictions, we hope that you are able to enjoy this Holy Month. During May, we will be basing some learning and activities in our centres on the festival, and we hope to be able to mark Eid in some way at the end of the month - depending on restrictions in place by then.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day this year is on Sunday 10th May, and in our centres there is already plenty going on to ensure that all our Mum's get the acknowledgement they deserve on their special day. We know that all mum's (and dads of course, but they get their own special day!) do a tremendous job every day caring for their families, but we also know that being the parent of a child with a disability brings with it special challenges – and of course rewards! So we also want to say thank you to all of you for everything you do to ensure our clients are able to live their best possible lives. The mums I meet through work are passionate and determined and have often fought many battles on behalf of their children and we salute you.

Best wishes

Wendy

Email: wpettifer@woodville.org.au

Phone: 0448 976 271