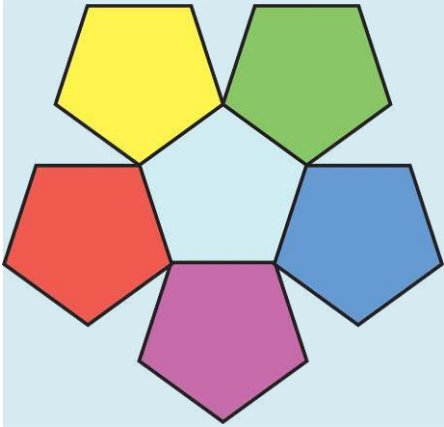


Dame Pattie Menzies Centre

Supporting adults
with a disability



April 2016 Newsletter

Barry Mackrell Memorial Fitness Track Opening

Late last month the Barry Mackrell Memorial Fitness Track was officially opened by Margaret Rae, Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor.

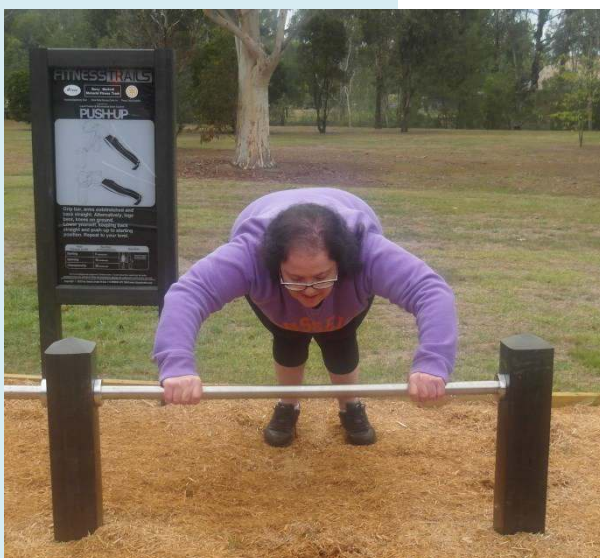
The original Barry Mackrell Memorial Fitness Track was installed on the grounds of Dame Pattie Menzies Centre. The equipment had become in need of repair and updating which provided an opportunity for the track to be rejuvenated and placed in an area where it could be accessed by more people.

With support from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), Dame Pattie Menzies Centre, the Rotary Club of Alexandra, Alexandra Opportunity Shop, Fitness Trails Australia and the Alexandra tradespeople who installed the equipment, a new fitness track was installed in Leckie Park.

The new track is accessible at all times and is an asset to the community of Alexandra.

Leckie park is a beautiful and relaxing setting for the fitness track. Cr Rae commented that the park was well used by the local community and she had seen the fitness stations being used already.

The clients stayed on after the opening and tried out the new fitness track.



Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc ABN 51 724 115 911
2456 Goulburn Valley Highway
PO Box 20 Alexandra 3714
Phone 5772 1888 Fax 5772 2582
Email admin@dpmc.org.au

Diary dates

Monday 11 April
Staff training day
Day Services Closed

Tuesday 12 April
First Day Term 2

Monday 25 April
Anzac Day
Day Services Closed

Friday 11:30am
27 May
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea

Monday 13 June
Queens Birthday
Day Services Closed

Friday 1 July
Last day of term 2

Farewell Rilla

After over 20 years of service Rilla is leaving Dame Pattie Menzies Centre to begin her new adventure in life—retirement.

Rilla will be taking some time off for a well earned rest but then we may see her back from time to time doing some casual work.



Rilla ran the wood work program with Peter Watts for over 10 years and has been "mum" to the various Centre pets over the years. Rilla's smiling face and energy will be missed .

We all wish Rilla the very best for the future.



Day Services will not operate on days declared Code Red in the North Central Fire District.



Our newest graduates.

Congratulations to Mark Warren-Smith and Steven Turner on completing their Certificate IV Disability.

From the desk of the CEO

We have had a busy month of recruiting to fill the positions being vacated by Melissa (for maternity leave) and Rilla (retiring after 20+ years). Melissa's position will be filled by Steven Turner who currently works in Day Services and Support and Choice. Steve will commence orientation for this role from 19 April to become familiar with the role whilst Melissa is still here to assist.



Rilla's role will be filled by Julie Elliott who has recently moved to Eildon after working in Aged and Disability services in Melbourne. Julie will work Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week. Friday's activities will be covered by existing staff. Julie will commence on 11 April.

After advertising for an Acting CEO and interviewing three applicants the Committee of Management has appointed Jenny Branton to fill my role as Acting CEO whilst I am on leave from 1 May to the end of August.

Staff held an end of term dinner and farewell to Rilla on 31 March. An afternoon tea was held on 1 April following the parents meeting so that the clients, families and committee of management members could say farewell and make presentations to Rilla.

Fundraising opportunities to be held in the coming months include a raffle of a trailer load of wood which has been donated. A roster for ticket sales and books of tickets will be distributed once the details are confirmed. A food stall at the Truck Show is being investigated and if successful will need assistance from volunteers.

In preparation for the next financial year's budget we are reviewing the day service attendance fees which have not been altered since October 2014. Once the percentage increase has been determined all day service clients/carers will be notified. Remember these are personal costs and not covered by DHHS funding.

The report from the DHHS Review has not been finalised so is not yet available for discussion.

After I return from leave in September, I will organise an information session with Carers Victoria around preparing for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Carers Vic are running a series of sessions to assist families to prepare for planning meetings which will determine funding entitlements through the NDIS. We will have the initial information session and then determine the interest in holding the planning training over several days in the new year.

Leah Ross
CEO

A Visit to Alexandra District Health

Clients from Dame Pattie Menzies Centre travelled to Alexandra District Health (Alexandra Hospital) for a guided tour of the hospital facilities. This is the first time an organised group of clients from Dame Pattie Menzies Centre has visited the new hospital facilities.

CEACA IT trainer Chris Barry organised the trip and said the main objective of this trip was to allow the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre clients to see the inside 'workings' of a modern hospital. Additionally Chris wanted to ensure that all of the clients would be comfortable with the hospital if they ever visited again.

The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre bus driven by Rilla arrived on time at the hospital at 9:45am. The clients from Dame Pattie Menzies Centre included Jamie, Evan, Anne-Marie, Dayana, Nicole, Shirley, Ethan and Tennille.

Jane Judd, the Community Health Manager, greeted the visitors on their arrival, and assumed the role of 'official guide' of the hospital for this visit. Kerrie, the receptionist signed the entire group in with amazing precision, and managed to produce name tags for all.

Jane assembled to group in the hospital waiting room. Even with this group of 10 visitors, the waiting room was still relatively empty.



Jane gave a brief explanation of the services available at the hospital. Most of the clients had some experience with the hospital as patients or just visiting patients.

The tour started at the X-ray/Ultrasound/Pathology and 'Urgent Care' section of the hospital. Robyn, the Health Scope Laboratory manager showed the students around the pathology laboratory. Liam, the radiographer, demonstrated the X-ray machine. One client remarked that the machine looked very expensive. Liam informed us that the particular machine was indeed moved from the old hospital, as it was so expensive.

Haley, Tash and Michelle showed the clients the patient rooms and the training room.

The clients were given sterile hats and shoe covers and shown the Operating Theatre by Marg and Claire. The clients were very impressed by the number of medical procedures carried out in the operating theatre.

Jane Judd informed us that there were 20 operations scheduled for the next day at the hospital.

A visit to the kitchen was next, where we were informed that the kitchen not only caters for the hospitals needs but also prepares 150 meals for 'Meals on Wheels Alexandra' a week. Melissa, Thea and Barb, the wonderful kitchen staff team members, had a special treat prepared for the clients for their morning tea.

In the Administration wing we met the CEO, Ali, and additionally we met Sally and Fiona.

We walked around to the Community Health-consulting rooms where we met

Michelle, one of the physiotherapist on the hospital staff.

Jane made the gymnasium room available for morning tea.

The entire group were absolutely amazed at the size of the hospital and the scope of health procedures available right here in Alexandra.





Above: Mark, Jamie and Ethan enjoying lunch in Mansfield for the end of term function.



Left: Rodney using the new interactive screen. The screen has proven to be very popular with both clients and staff as it allows everyone to participate.

Below: Rupert, Bernie and Naomi presenting the radio program on UGFM. You can catch DPMC on the airwaves on Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon.



Around Dame Pattie Menzies Centre