



Term 1- 2024

# AUTUMN

Newsletter



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# Term Holiday Dates

Friday 29 March - Monday 1 April

Easter Weekend: Good Friday - Easter Monday

Friday 5 April

Quarter 1 ends

Monday 8 April

Quarter 2 starts

Thursday 25 April

Anzac Day Public Holiday

Monday 10 June

King's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 28 June

Quarter 2 ends

Monday 1 July - Friday 5 July

One week winter break

Monday 8 July

Quarter 3 starts





# Message from the CEO

Lisa Sawatzky

It has been a wonderful start to the new year with so much happening across the services and significant planning in place for 2024.

Our new Dandenong 2 site has opened for the commencement of programs. This site is located within walking distance to the station and is a bright and light filled space. Paulo has done a wonderful job in setting up the new site and participants are settling in well. We have 14 participants accessing this site.

We have received our dates for the Burke and Beyond reaccreditation audit. This will occur during May and July. The audit will focus on the NDIS practice standards and will require us to provide evidence of how we provide support to our participants. We know we provide a great service, and this audit process provides feedback on areas where we are demonstrating best practice and also on areas for improvement. As an organization with a focus on quality, we are always looking for better ways of doing things, efficiencies, and ways in which we can provide a higher quality of service to participants. If you have ideas for improving our service, please complete a suggestion and improvement form and forward it to your Manager or the Quality and Safeguards Manager for action or make a time to meet with me to discuss your ideas.

Please also make sure to provide any feedback, both positive and constructive, as this helps us know what to keep doing and what we need to change or start doing to ensure participants and their families continue to choose Burke and Beyond as their service provider. If there is a service you think Burke and Beyond should consider providing, please let me know.

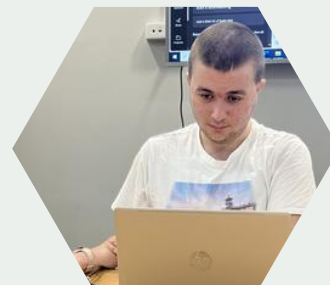
Our strategic plan is currently under review, so it is a great time for new ideas, new initiatives, and short; medium- and long-term planning. If you have an idea you wish to discuss, please contact me. I am always interested in innovation, service improvement and looking at ways we can become more efficient.

Our employees continue to be our organisation's biggest asset. Several of our staff who were in contracted roles have been successful in moving to permanent positions and we have attracted 11 new employees to our organisation. We are continuing to focus on being an employer of choice and have undertaken an employee engagement survey to better understand our employees' needs.

Our recent participant and carers' survey also provided valuable information about our services and has identified some areas which will be a focus in our upcoming operational plan for 2024. We are looking forward to a great 2024.

# DANDENONG (Lonsdale St)

## Journalism



Meet the amazing crew who put together an awesome newsletter for 'The Next Steps Dandenong' site. Meet Harry, Fartun, Dylan C, and Zach – the fantastic team making all the magic happen!

They have been busy interviewing friends and staff, grabbing pictures and brainstorming. Imagine having lots of laughs and lightbulb moments – that's how they created the newsletter.

So, get ready for a fun journey through our stories and adventures.

These guys turned ordinary into something extraordinary, and they can't wait for you to check it out. Cheers to the awesome team behind our own newsletter stories!

## Microsoft Office Skills - Rowville



Participants took their computer skills to the next level! Each week participants attended the Microsoft Essentials course at Rowville Community Learning Centre.

Lead by an experienced instructor, participants discovered essential tools such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint in a supportive environment and gained hands-on experience, which boosted their employability and increased their productivity.

## Springvale Toy Library



At the Springvale Toy Library, participants practice their cleaning and organisational skills by organising the toys, wiping them clean, and tidying the play area. They set up displays for the toys to improve their visual merchandising skills. Participants are also responsible for cataloguing the toys and board games

in the Library, and use attention to detail to note if there are any parts missing. Our helpful group also assist in admin work such as unpacking deliveries, putting together resources and organising, ensuring a positive shopping experience.

Additionally, participants learned about customer

service by assisting shoppers with enquiries, locating products, and providing assistance when needed. Through these interactions they developed valuable communication and interpersonal skills, gaining confidence in engaging with customers in a retail setting. Overall, the Springvale Toy Library volunteering program provided participants with hands-on experience, contributing to their personal and professional development.



## Myuna Farm



Myuna Farm program provides participants the opportunity to learn some farm work skills and get close to, and learn more about animals and their care.

Participants interact with the other staff onsite, learn to follow instructions and take initiative and communicate with staff and the other participants in a volunteer work setting. During work breaks and at times when working, the participants are able to pat the animals and observe their behaviour while working outdoors.

Participants do tasks such as cleaning public areas of the farm and paddocks, learning about and preparing the animals' food allocations.

## Coles - Volunteering



At Coles, the participants in the volunteering program undertook various roles to support store operations. They engaged in facing items on the shelves, ensuring products were neatly arranged for easy access by customers. This helped uphold the store's appearance and ensured a positive shopping experience.

Additionally, participants learned about customer service by assisting shoppers with enquiries, locating products, and providing assistance when needed. Through these interactions, they developed valuable communication and interpersonal skills, gaining confidence in engaging with customers in a retail setting.

Overall, the Coles volunteering program provided the participants with hands-on experience, contributing to their personal and professional development.

## Carwash - Control Tech Solutions



Welcome to Control Tech. This term the participants have been working really hard at training new comers to the program, as well as their own staff member Katelyn who's also learnt a thing or two about car detailing!! The participants have a great system going where we work in

pairs when it comes to either the interior or the exterior of the cars. The group are working on their communication skills and being involved in a group setting, which is exactly the skills we need to move forward for employment. The Control Tech participants are hard working and enjoy a coffee or energy drink at the end of their busy Friday. Fridays at Control Tech have been a lot of fun! Lots of learning has taken place, lots of pizza has been eaten and many laughs have been had by all! Thanks for a great Term 1, it's been great learning new skills and being in the team.

## Chisholm- Transition Education



Participants in this program have been engaging in personal development activities aimed at enhancing their life and social skills. During this term, the focus has been on honing employment skills, financial literacy, budgeting, and fostering creativity and problem solving skills.

## Chisholm - Work Preparation



Chisholm TAFE has been very busy this term. From learning all things employment skills, to life saving days and learning all things water safety, our group of Work Ed 2 participants have been upskilling in so many different ways! This term we've also built a relationship with Myuna Farm and have been completing work experience every Wednesday. It's been fantastic being in the fresh air and working amongst the animals. The group have been working on team work whilst doing their work experience and have already been kicking goals!!

The participants have also organised a stall to raise money for the Caroline Chisholm Fund, a way to give back and say thank you for all of the scholarships that we've attained since being partnered with Chisholm.

Chisholm is learning all things work-ready as well and building friendships in a safe and supportive environment.

What a great term that we've all shared together.

## Westall Tennis Club



Meet the Westall Tennis Club crew; Anthony, Kevin, Justin, Alex (pictured) & Saigal. This term the guys have been learning to use a wide range of tools safely whilst also conducting general tennis court maintenance, club house cleaning, gardening and equipment repairs. The participants have also been involved in the planning and building of a

veggie patch that will be built at the tennis club, planting vegetables and herbs that the participants have selected and are responsible for maintaining. The group have also been helping out a member of the community by volunteering to maintain their front nature strip and front lawn.



## Coffee



Our Coffee group has been busy learning all about how to run a café. They've been practicing many skills to serve customers. The group have mastered making different types of hot and cold drinks such as Cappuccinos and Frappés. They've also been practicing how to serve customers with kindness and patience.

Handling money and using the cash register has been another important skill they've been practicing. They've also been learning how to keep track of inventory, making sure everything is stocked up for busy days.



Participants have been paying attention to special dietary needs and making sure orders are ready quickly. Plus, they always follow strict rules to keep everything clean and safe.

Overall, our Coffee group has been doing a fantastic job serving the community.

## Vinnies



Meet the Vinnies crew; Noah, Alice (pictured), Sue Lah, Dylan & Justin. At the Vinnies volunteering program, participants are honing their work skills through various activities such as sorting items and effective communication. Additionally, they are learning skills in organisation, time management, customer service, teamwork, and problem-solving. These experiences are invaluable as they provide hands-on practice in a real-world setting, preparing participants for future employment opportunities. By mastering these skills, participants are enhancing their employability, building confidence, and gaining a better understanding of workplace dynamics, which will undoubtedly benefit them in achieving their future career goals.

## Kelvin Tran's Swimming achievement



Meet Kelvin, who attends The Next Step Dandenong site. Kelvin is a dedicated swimmer whose journey in the pool began at the age of 19. With his determination and a genuine passion for the sport, Kelvin trains rigorously, pushing his limits with each stroke. Kelvin excels in various swimming styles, and does not stick to just one favourite. Kelvin's hard work and commitment have led him to numerous competitions, where he came in an impressive third-place finish at the recent nationals. Join us in celebrating Kelvin's achievements and his inspiring dedication to the sport of swimming. Kelvin recently won 7 medals at the Open Nationals. He won one gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

## Special Event: Harmony Day (combined with Bryants Road)



Harmony Day was an absolute blast at Burke and Beyond! We threw a party to honour the melting pot of cultures we get to enjoy in Dandenong. Picture this: a day jam-packed with games, brain-teasing trivia, story telling, salsa dancing, mouth-watering dishes, and a jaw-dropping talent show! Thank you to our staff and participants for making it an awesome day!!!



# DANDENONG (Bryants Road)

## Gardening - Pakenham Library



Participants have been involved in a new and exciting gardening program at Pakenham Library, learning everything they need to know about growing edible plants at home or out in the community.

## Car Wash - Kingston



Participants have been involved in a new and exciting car wash program at Kingston College, learning everything they need to know about how to clean and wash cars of members of the community.

## Chisholm Courses - Cert 1 Transition and Work & Education



Participants have been involved in a new and exciting Cert 1 Transition. Work & Education at Chisholm Tafe, learning everything they need to know about preparing themselves to go in to the workforce.

# BOX HILL

## Floristry



In the Floristry program, the skills to build beautiful bouquets, understand the colour theory behind an arrangement, and plan and organise an event are nurtured to introduce participants to the florist industry. The business side of floristry is also explored as participants build the skills to take and fulfill orders and time management to meet deadlines and prepare for this pathway to employment.

## Volunteering - Salvos



The volunteer programs focus on building work-ready skills with opportunities at real-world organisations in preparation for gaining employment. At Salvos, participants are given tasks by the manager and take the initiative to select areas to face and organise independently where needed.

Participants work on assisting customers, appropriate workplace behaviour, and teamwork. Participants have also been hard at work finding new opportunities to increase their volunteering efforts, with groups going to various organisations in the local community to build industry connections and foster paths to employment.



## Trade



At the Trade program participants are introduced to basic trade skills, such as using hand and power tools, working to complete common goals, and individual projects. In recent weeks participants have been working on a cabinet, and have over several weeks taken the doors off, re-designed the cabinet, reconstructed the doors, and painted the cabinet.

# Cert II in Work Education and Hospitality



The course at Box Hill Institute facilitates the building of skills to prepare for employment; this includes participating in class discussions and completing worksheets centred around independent travel skills, job expectations, and professionalism. The class also employs a hands-on practical element, as the group learns the theory behind food safety and then gets into an industry-equivalent kitchen and applies their skills to prepare food.

## Participants' Perspectives

My name is Ewan and I enjoy going to Burke and Beyond with my friends Sam and Hong Wan, and going to Box Hill Tafe and learning about road safety.


- Ewan H

My name is Tom I like hospitality. I like making salad and scones with apricot jam. I feel proud and excited when I cook.

- Tom E

Hi my name is Chloe and I like doing Travel Training with Jayden and I like doing volunteering in Salvos with Orion and I feel proud and happy and brave of myself, and I never give up on myself, and I like making new friends because I feel happy and safe, and I always listen to staff.

- Chloe M



Hi my name is Sam, my favourite program is Box Hill TAFE with Orion and Aliyah and we use the laptop and learn how to go places and we learned about the PTV app.

- Sam P

## Good News Stories

My name is Josh, I am 21 years old and my passions are film, comics, comic book characters and music. We do a lot of activities in the community for traveling training which helps me stay active and fit. So far, we have been to Box Hill Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens, Shrine of Remembrance and to my favourite comic book store All-Star Comics in the city. We discussed what time we needed to catch the train and the time we should be back and used the PTV app to plan it all. I took the initiative to lead the group to all-star comics and back to Burke and Beyond.

I felt very proud of myself and responsible. I am excited to learn new skills at Burke and Beyond and apply them in my life.

We also do Learners Permit on Wednesdays and we take virtual driving tests and learn about road rules and safety.

# RINGWOOD

## CAE - Box Hill Institute



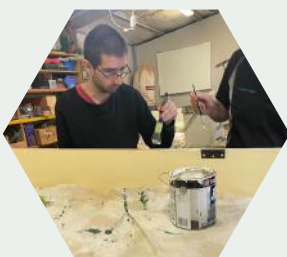
The CAE group is completing the 'Building and Construction' course at Box Hill Institute this quarter. This course works on a range of skills including numeracy, literacy and communication skills. Participants have completed a range of activities such as a paper plane competition, where participants are focused on understanding how to read and use a tape measure efficiently to record distance. The group also had the opportunity to create their own house floor plan design. This allowed them to creatively identify the number of rooms, housing layout and identify where windows and door would be appropriately placed. They also have worked on their numeracy skills, learning about the formula to measure area and perimeter of rooms.

Will- I think the facilitator Luisa is really nice. I really enjoyed learning about floor plans and designing my future mansion.

Ash- I really like the course and I think the facilitator Luisa is awesome. I enjoy talking about the different construction workers. I liked it when we did the paper plane competition and the quizzes about Australian Landmarks.

Angus - I enjoy going to Box Hill and using the rulers to measure items.

## Trade - KNLC



Trade has supported our Ringwood participants to experience a range of different hands-on trade-based skills, including wood work. Participants have learned about safety while using tools and problem solving as a team on projects.

Currently the Trade team are working on fixing cupboard doors at Kew and re-fitting them to slide into a cupboard, adding hinges and learning about the importance of measurements.



## Travel Training



This term the Travel Training crew have ventured out to a mix of different locations. Primarily focusing on accessing Public Transport, the group has gained new skills and confidence while accessing the community. This term the group has visited some bigger locations such as Melbourne Museum, Chadstone and Melbourne Central, while also having a mix of more local locations such as, Lilydale, Box Hill and Blackburn. We look forward to exploring more places as the year goes on!

## I.T. - KNLC



Throughout Term 1, the Work Skills group have started a new program at Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KNLC) focused around I.T., computer skills and office skills. The group have done a fantastic job working on their touch-typing skills, using the mouse and practicing office skills such as paper shredding and filing. We can't wait to continue to grow our skills and continue learning in this course!

## Floristry - KNLC



Over the past month participants have been engaging in the Floristry program at the Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KNLC). The program has been teaching and educating participants about the different types of flowers that can be found around Melbourne.

The program is also teaching the names of different types of flowers along with locations and environments these flowers can generally be found in.



The group has also been engaging in several flower craft activities.

These activities include how and where to correctly cut a flower stem and prepare flowers to last as long as possible, and making flower bouquets for display at the local café.





# BALWYN

## Meals on Wheels



This term a group has been giving back to the community by offering local meal deliveries. The group head off and pick up meals at 11:00 and distribute them all before 12pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for our participants to help and give back.

## Independent Living Skills - KNLC



This term the group has been working on some of their favourite recipes to cook. The finished recipes are put into a book for the participants to then take home and make the perfect recipe at home.

## Digital Futures



This is one of our new exciting programs we offer. We take a group to Ringwood Next Step every Thursday. The group gets the opportunity to mingle with another site, as well as learn some new fun techniques. This program offers the chance to learn how to film from different angles, sound, lighting and then how to put it all together with editing.

## Travel Training



This term the group has been enjoying the hot weather and getting into the city. They have visited Docklands, Lego World, Victoria Markets and ACMI.

## Welcome James to Central Community Centre

At the beginning of 2024 James decided to move from Burke and Beyond Balwyn day centre to Burke and Beyond's community-based program located at

Central Ringwood Community Centre in Ringwood.

James has adjusted to the move well. He enjoys being with his friends at the Community Centre and has settled in very well.

James enjoys meeting and talking to some of the teachers and students that attend classes each week at the Community Centre.

He enjoys all his activities on his timetable

Two days a week he attends Classes, and three days he is out and about in the community traveling on public transport which he loves.

I enjoy going to Ringwood Community Centre.

I love going out on the train.

I love going on the train and the bus to play Ten-pin bowling at Forest Hills.

I love visiting the beach, city and garden world.

I have made new friends and I am having fun.

Statement by: James

# OUTREACH SUPPORT

## Becky Chan



I am a big sports fan and I have been going through a lot of athletes' appearances over the past few months. So far I went to Melbourne Stars (Cricket) Family Day in December 2023, then I met a Tennis player Thanasi Kokkinakis at Melbourne Central in January, Melbourne Storm (Rugby League) Family Day

in early February, then Hawthorn (AFL and AFLW marquee) Family Day in mid-February. I am due to have Melbourne Vixens (Netball) Family Day early in April. On normal weekends, I also enjoy my outing with a support worker to a little bit of games in every sport, and enjoy teaching them about how the game works to



whatever sport we are watching. The pictures are with some favourite players, as to athletes meet and greet are more important memories for me than just watching them play while sitting in the crowd or on screen at home.

## Jacobus Korte



Jacobus and mum say that he really enjoys the group experience through the Outreach program. His favourite activities include going to Flip Out, visiting Wattle Park, and enjoying using the water pump.

Jacobus also likes riding on the bus with his friends and going to various parks around the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne.



# Message from Elyce

## Coordinator of Outreach and Social Programs


Term 1 has gotten off to a flying start for Outreach and Social. Ringwood has seen a large increase of Friday night social attendance with many participants transitioning over from Box Hill. The Box Hill participants have shown a good interest in the Term 1 timetable as numbers have increased for attendance. Dandenong continues to show a steady stream of participants attending and enjoying the arranged programs.

The staffing team continue to show up and provide excellent support to the Outreach participants, encouraging them to work toward achieving their goals and creating new ones.


I look forward to seeing what the remainder of the year brings to Outreach and the organisation.



SUPPORTIVE | PROGRESSIVE | ACCOUNTABLE



“Burke and Beyond strives  
to improve lives through  
social interaction, personal  
development and  
community participation”



*Inclusion that counts*

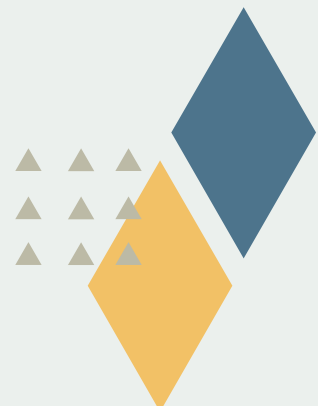


# Social Media Links



Remember to keep up to date with all the latest good news stories over on our website.

<https://www.burkeandbeyond.org.au/>



Edited by: Becky Chan