

WELCOME TO OUR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

IN THIS NEWSLETTER, WE HAVE UPDATES AND NEWS ON MARILLAC HOUSE SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SOME FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING, DONATIONS AND SUPPORT.



This newsletter is for people who use Marillac services, families, friends and people working in the Marillac community. I hope you find it interesting and useful, and will get in touch if you would like to learn more about any of the stories.

This time we have news from across different services, for people we support, about staff and about the Board of Directors. So there should be something for everyone!

Apart from all our other news, you will see first an invitation to our Marillac Christmas party on 3 December. It is always a lovely chance to celebrate together and meet different people from the Marillac community, and I do hope you will be able to join us.

Johanna Snelleman
CEO, Marillac

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US AND CELEBRATE AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY. IT WILL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH UP WITH FOOD, DRINKS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED.

Marillac Christmas Party

MARILLAC WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH US AT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

When: Thursday 3rd December 2009, 5.30pm – 8pm

Where: 9 Mavis Ave, Brighton East

RSVP: Thursday 26th November on 9591 6400

FOOD, DRINKS AND ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE PROVIDED





COMPUTERS FOR ALL

A Victorian organisation called “Computers for All” has computers you can rent from \$5 a week – and then you own the computer after one year of paying rent.

- The computers are available to anyone who gets a Disability Support Pension, Aged Pension or Carers Allowance from Centrelink
- You don't pay any other money
- They will deliver the computer to you
- They include a warranty in case the computer has any problem.

Computers for All gets computers from businesses that don't need them any more, and if the computers are still good they can rent them to people who need one but would find it hard to pay full price.

To find out more you can look at their website computersforall.com.au or call 9012 8492.



“MY MARILLAC” – YOUR PART OF THE WEBSITE



ON MARILLAC'S WEBSITE WWW.MARILLAC.COM.AU WE HAVE A SECTION CALLED “MY MARILLAC”. IT IS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE ANY OF OUR SERVICES. YOU CAN GET CONTACT INFORMATION THERE ABOUT PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU WITH DIFFERENT THINGS. TO USE THIS SITE ASK YOUR SUPPORT WORKER FOR THE PASSWORD.

MARILLAC FORMS RIGHTS COMMITTEE

A Rights Committee has been formed at Marillac. The Committee will review all our policies and procedures, all complaints and any practice identified as potentially restricting the rights of anyone who uses a Marillac service.

Of course this is something all Marillac staff and volunteers will have at the top of their minds, but it is valuable to have a separate committee that can review everything we do and make suggestions about how we can improve.

The Rights Committee Chair is Julie King, who was a Marillac Director for some eleven years and has qualifications and substantial experience in nursing, midwifery and community and

child health. We have approached a psychologist and a person with a disability to be the other Committee members, and they would also both bring the Committee valuable experience and skills, knowledge of the Marillac community and a commitment to people's rights.



INVITATION TO PEOPLE WE SUPPORT – HELP US CHOOSE NEW STAFF

We want to get more people we support involved in making decisions about what we do in Marillac.

One very important task is interviewing people applying to work with Marillac. We have a small number of people we support who already sit on interview panels, and we would like more people to be part of this if they would like to.

We will give you training, and cash vouchers in thanks for your time. If you are interested, please contact Anne Bavington on 9591 6400.



VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUDIT ON QUALITY FRAMEWORKS

In the last newsletter I talked about how the Victorian Government is bringing in external auditors to check how well all service providers in the state are meeting the Quality Framework for Disability Services.

I said DHS had agreed to accept Marillac's CQL accreditation as suitable external measurement of our performance. Since then I have talked with DHS, and they asked me to say that, although they think the CQL process is a "pretty good match", they haven't yet completed a comparison with CQL or any other frameworks and, until they have, they won't accept any other frameworks as equivalent.

My main focus is to make sure Marillac meets the DHS Quality Framework, and we'll be working with DHS to make sure we are ready to be audited.

We are also still confident accreditation from CQL means we meet the highest international standards for services to people with a disability, so we will keep working hard at that process.

CQL VISIT NOVEMBER 2009 CQL will be visiting Marillac on 10-13 November to do their Quality measures 2005 accreditation process. Many people we support will be able to talk about their achievements during this visit, and so will staff providing support. If you would like to know more about this, please contact Johanna on 9591 6400.

OUR SKILLED STAFF

We aim to bring skilled, caring people to work with Marillac and to give them support and training to get extra skills. Training gives Marillac access to skills that improve the quality of our services, and gives staff greater job satisfaction and better career opportunities.

Recent training courses have included Makaton, to help staff increase communication between themselves and people they support and in turn help people they support communicate with others, and epilepsy information. We have asked staff to let us

know about training they are interested in doing – if you have ideas please talk to your supervisor or contact Anne Bavington on 9591 6400.



WELCOME SALLY MOORE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND THANKS TO JULIE KING

In September, Sally Moore joined the Marillac Board of Directors. Sally is a trained nurse who has held senior roles in a range of private and public hospitals, as well as specialist positions in allergy and immunology, and is currently assisting clinical trials at the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute. Sally has also completed specialised training in grief and loss. She brings new skills and experience to the Board and we welcome her very warmly.

At the same time, we farewelled Julie King from the Board. Julie has been a Director and a wonderful contributor to the Board since 1998, and we will miss her. However, Julie is not leaving Marillac altogether, as she has agreed to stay and Chair our new Rights Committee.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CONNECTIONS/KEYRING UPDATE

Neighbourhood Connections is continuing to grow, with new networks in the region and individuals now receiving funding to be supported in a network.

We have applied to the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust for funding to help establish KeyRing Australia, and discussed the idea with DHS. KeyRing Australia would bring together Marillac and Northern Support Services (NSS), which have both successfully offered networks on the KeyRing model, and give us a base from which to make the model much more widely available to people who would enjoy it.

The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has been a wonderful supporter of Neighbourhood Connections, providing funds to help us establish networks and also research the viability of the model for Australia, and we are very grateful for all their support.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be in May 2010, and will include more information about our services. If there’s anything you want to tell people about, or want to hear more about, please contact Johanna by email at johanna@marillac.com.au or phone on 9591 6400.

If you have questions about any of our services or working at Marillac please talk to us on 9591 6400 or by email on mail@marillac.com.au.

