

WELCOME TO OUR LATEST MARILLAC NEWSLETTER



THIS NEWSLETTER IS ONE WAY TO LET PEOPLE WHO USE MARILLAC SERVICES, FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND PEOPLE WORKING AT MARILLAC MEET AND KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND OUR COMMUNITY. IT'S ALSO A CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT OUTSIDE ISSUES THAT MIGHT AFFECT US AND TO SHARE IDEAS FOR GETTING MORE MONEY AND RESOURCES FOR OUR SERVICES.

I hope you find it interesting and useful. Most of the stories have a contact person if you want to talk to them, and you can always call Marillac's office on 9591 6400 if you'd like to know more about anything you read here.

We put all our newsletters on our website (www.marillac.com.au) and we will also be sharing some of these stories and others on our intranet.

If you have ideas about what we can include in the next newsletter, please let me know by emailing johanna@marillac.com.au or calling 9591 6400.

Johanna Snelleman
CEO, Marillac

CHECKING ON YOUR RIGHTS

EVERY PERSON WHO USES A MARILLAC SERVICE SHOULD HAVE A RIGHTS CHECKLIST. IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE YOURS YET, PLEASE ASK SOMEONE WHO SUPPORTS WHO TO GET IT.

Our aim is to remove or stop anything that restricts the rights of people we support. Sometimes temporary restrictions are needed to protect people's safety, but we need to know what they are, why they have been started and how we can work to remove the restrictions.

Everyone uses the same checklist, which asks a series of questions to alert us to any restrictions. It is filled out by someone who is objective, not the person who provides support. When it is completed, each checklist is reviewed by the relevant Marillac manager and the Marillac Human Rights Committee.

If it finds a person's rights are being restricted in any way, we decide when and how the restriction will be removed and put these actions in the "My Life Plan".

It should be completed at least once a year, and sooner if it shows any rights restriction. The form is on our intranet. To find out more, talk to Anne Bavington by emailing anne@marillac.com.au or phoning 9591 6400.





NATIONAL INSURANCE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Australian Government is thinking about creating a national insurance scheme so people with disabilities and those who care for them can get financial help to pay the costs of health care. They have asked the Productivity Commission to set up an inquiry to gather ideas on the best way a scheme like this could work.

Marillac is very supportive of the idea. Health care is critically important, and it can be a huge cost burden for people and families, so we believe a scheme to help meet the costs and get each person the care and treatment they need is necessary.

We are working with other organisations to put a strong joint submission to the inquiry through Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV). Check the Productivity Commission's website <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/disability-support> if you want to find out more about the inquiry, or to make your own submission. You can also contact Johanna Snelleman if you want to know more about what Marillac and CSSV are saying to the inquiry.



TAKING CARE OF YOUR HEALTH

IT'S HARD TO HAVE A GOOD LIFE IF YOUR HEALTH IS POOR. GETTING AN ANNUAL CHECK BY A DOCTOR IS VERY IMPORTANT TO FIND ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS, GET TREATMENT AND MAKE SURE MEDICATION AND TREATMENT ARE APPROPRIATE AND UP TO DATE.

We've created new forms to make it easier for everyone we support,

and those who care for people we support, to communicate with doctors and other health professionals and get a thorough annual health check.

These forms have just been posted on our intranet so please make sure you use the new versions.

We have also written letters to families and health professionals explaining why these checks

are important. Please remember that all the information gathered through the annual health reviews is confidential. It will only be shared with medical professionals who need it to provide health care, and only with consent.

For more information please talk to Anne Bavington, by emailing anne@marillac.com.au or calling 9591 6400.

RAISING MONEY BY SCRAPBOOKING

On 18 September, between 10 am and 4 pm, a Scrapbooking/Cardmaking Day was held at Brentwood Community Centre, 21A Bemersyde Dve, Berwick to raise money for Marillac Casey Kidz Klub.

This was the second Scrapbooking Day organised to support Marillac Casey Kidz Klub, and it included classes, raffles, competitions and auctions, with free hot drinks and also cold drinks and food available for sale.

The whole event was again organised by local Denise van der Veer. Denise had no connection with our community until last year, when she read about the after school and holiday activities at CKK and decided to help. This year, the day raised over \$1300 for Marillac Casey Kidz Klub to get extra resources, which was outstanding.

We are so grateful to Denise for her wonderful efforts. It makes such a difference to get these extra funds and be able to buy more equipment for the children and young people using the service to enjoy. If you want to know more you can contact Denise by email on denise_1980@gmail.com, or contact Sam Liston (sam@marillac.com.au or 9591 6400).





DIRECT PAYMENTS OF MONEY FOR PEOPLE WITH ISPs

Just a reminder that, since February this year, any person who receives an ISP can have funding put directly into their bank accounts.

People can then use this money to pay for supports in line with an agreed funding plan. You can also nominate someone to receive direct payments on your behalf.

If you are eligible, direct payments can give you benefits including more control over supports you want.

For example, you would pay Marillac directly for the supports we provide. We would give you invoices explaining what support

we've provided and how much it costs, and would talk to you regularly about the supports you get.

If you want to know more, you can get information from DHS online at http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds/direct_payments or you can talk to any Marillac staff.

MARILLAC SENSORY PARK

WE HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS ON THE IDEA OF CREATING A SPECIAL PARK THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNED WITH ELEMENTS THAT CAN BE ENJOYED BY PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY, INCLUDING PEOPLE IN WHEELCHAIRS, AND WHERE THEY CAN SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

The Daughters of Charity have provided the park, in Mavis Avenue Brighton. We have a beautiful design, and details about how much it will all cost. Now we are talking to a range of people and organisations about helping us with support to get the park built. It will take a lot of help, because it will cost about \$100,000, but

when it is finished it will be a wonderful place for about 100 people to enjoy special times.

If you know anyone who would like to help, or you are interested in knowing more about the plans, please talk to Johanna Snelleman by email at johanna@marillac.com.au or phone on 9591 6400.





PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

MARILLAC'S BOARD RECENTLY MET TO AGREE ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

The priorities for Marillac will be:

- Growth, so we can keep improving our services and make sure we are sustainable and always there to support people
- Managing risk, so we understand the risks we might face as an organisation, eliminate risks where we can and are ready to respond
- Viability and sustainability, so we manage costs and use resources effectively
- People, so we keep attracting good people, building their skills and creating an environment where people communicate and work to their best ability

- Knowledge management, so we improve the ways we capture, share, report on and use information.

Our plan also contains our vision, a summary of our role, and some points about the environment we'll all face in the years ahead.

When the Strategic Plan has been completed it will be posted on our intranet. If you have any questions or comments please contact Johanna Snelleman by emailing johanna@marillac.com.au or calling 9591 6400.

BLESSING OF MARILLAC'S NEW OFFICES

On 15 March this year we held an official opening and Blessing of our new offices at 790 Glen Huntly Road. The Blessing was by Fr Joe Caddy, the Chair of Catholic Welfare Australia and CEO of Centacare, and our Chair, Gerard Dempsey, also spoke.

This was a special event for us, especially as it was held on the Feast Day of St Louise de Marillac and the 350th anniversary of St Louise's death.

Thanks to everyone who came to celebrate with us. We will post some photos on the intranet from the day.





WE WELCOME SALLY MOORE TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sally Moore joined our Board of Directors in September 2009. She has recently retired from a 32-year career in nursing, working in acute clinical settings and in research and education about allergies and immune disorders. Sally already has a strong connection to Marillac, as her husband Francis was our Chair for 15 years until he retired in 2007. They have five children between 14 and 22, all living at home.

“I was excited and humbled to be invited onto the Marillac Board and I will attempt to serve Marillac and the people we support with the respect, dedication and commitment that both Louise and Vincent displayed so openly in their work”, Sally says. “In the near future I hope to have the opportunity to visit some of the houses and meet with people we support and staff. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.”

Sally’s other interests include relaxing with family and friends, bike riding, listening to music and dancing.

MEET KRISTIAN DAUNCEY

Marillac recently welcomed our new Business Manager, Kristian Dauncey. Kristian is an experienced CPA who gained commercial experience both within Australia and overseas prior to moving into the challenging and rewarding disability sector seven years ago.



As Marillac transitions to individualised funding for people we support, Kristian will play a pivotal role, making sure Marillac manages the financial implications of the new funding model so services keep improving and Marillac operates sustainably.

Kristian is a passionate supporter of the Australian Wallabies and is excited at the prospect of Melbourne having its own Super 15 rugby union team, the Melbourne Rebels from 2011.

Kristian is happy to talk about anything to do with his work with Marillac, or rugby! You can email him on kristian@marillac.com.au or phone 9591 6400.

POEM FROM GREG GRANT

Greg joined Marillac’s Board in 2009. He wrote this poem a few years ago and it has been published. With his permission we decided to include it in our newsletter.

THE NEW LIFE

The new life has begun.

We must get rid of the old one.

Forget about the bad news and
keep the good news.

For the past is the past.

The tragic circumstance of
your old life is no more.

You have been given a chance to improve
your life and you took it.

We are proud of you.

You have left your enemies behind you.

Starting your new life wasn’t easy for you.

You look better for it.

Welcome to your new life.



ANNE LEONARD HITS THE ROAD FOR MARILLAC AGAIN

From 27 November to 5 December this year, Marillac's Anne Leonard will cycle 590 kms on her second Great Victorian Bike Ride. Anne says she's 'not much of a cyclist', but with 70 kms a day average in the saddle over a week, she's doing pretty well! The ride will be a family affair again this year, with Anne's husband, daughter and brother joining her on the trek from the Murray River through the Goulburn Valley to Marysville, along with thousands of other keen cyclists.

This is Anne's second Great Victorian Bike Ride, but she's also completed other marathon rides that have raised money for Marillac as well as giving her great exercise and enjoyment. This time Anne will be raising money to contribute to the Marillac Sensory Garden, which is fantastic. If you want to help, contact Anne on annel@marillac.com.au or 9591 6400.

MORE FUNDRAISING IDEAS

EVERY EXTRA DOLLAR WE FIND CAN HELP MAKE OUR SERVICES BETTER FOR THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT. HERE ARE A COUPLE OF EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO BE PART OF HELPING:

- If you have a Ritchie's supermarket near you, you can use a Community Benefit Card while you shop that automatically gets a Ritchie's donation sent to Marillac. Just contact Ritchie's and ask for a card that has Marillac as your nominated community charity.
- We have entertainment books available for you to buy. They contain vouchers for discounts and free entry to all kinds of activities, events, cafes and stores across Melbourne, so you can get back the cost in no time if you use them. Marillac gets a percentage of the cost so it's good for us too. Contact Maya to get a book (email maya@marillac.com.au or phone 9591 6400).

If you have other ideas for fundraising – for a particular service or for Marillac generally, please get in touch with Johanna Snelleman by emailing johanna@marillac.com.au or phoning 9591 6400.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be in late 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.

