



The I Wish I'd Asked story van which was launched at Keating's Transport featuring Shepparton Villages residents Cynthia Poole and Jack Thewlis.

I Wish I'd Asked

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE REFLECTED AND REGRETTED NOT ASKING OUR GRANDPARENTS OR PARENTS MORE ABOUT THEIR LIFE?

That was the cornerstone of an idea that was to become the I Wish I'd Asked project co-founded by Danny Finley and Eva Gruen. Before long, this dynamic pair had hatched a plan for a project that paired our elders with young people to help alleviate loneliness, assist young people in the disappearing art of conversation and record these conversations for posterity.

Shepparton Villages already had some programs running where young people from our community visit residents and enjoy a game of cards or a cup of tea and a chat. We had great success with our Berry Street School students visiting Acacia House, and so were only too happy to jump aboard the I Wish I'd Asked (IWIA) project

Assisted by Davie Earle and the Shepparton South Rotary Club, the

project has received some State Government funding, and will centre around conversation and activities between the elderly – or silver warriors – and young people from our region's schools.

The IWIA story van was launched at Keating's Transport recently, featuring Banksia Lodge's Cynthia Poole and Kialla Gardens resident Jack Thewlis in the artwork on the side of the van designed by the Wanganui Secondary College students. The van will be used to film and record conversations between the elderly and young over the next few months.

Two events happening soon will see Wanganui students and some of our residents choreograph and perform a dance activity, as well as a pop up café where the students will assist the residents with computer knowledge.



Jack Thewlis and Cynthia Poole at the launch.



Banksia Lodge Care Manager David Shipston and Shepparton Villages CEO Kerri Rivett point out Jack and Cynthia on the story van.

Message from the CEO

The hot weather has well and truly tested us all of late, but I'm pleased to say our heat policies have ensured our residents and staff have stayed cool during the blistering temperatures of January and February.

I was amazed to hear many of our residents reminisce about the hot weather "back in their day" with many suggesting it's really no big deal and "you just coped."

That's the beautiful thing about our residents – their humility in times of adversity. While many of us complain that our air-conditioners don't work, or it's too hot to go outside our residents have reminisced about sleeping on the veranda or walking to school in 40 degree heat. It certainly created a lot of robust discussion amongst residents, staff and visitors.

We were thrilled to be part of the I Wish I'd Asked story van launch recently. Banksia's Cynthia Poole and Kialla Gardens' Jack Thewlis featured in the artwork on the side of the van. The IWIA project, supported by a State Government grant, is

about connecting our elderly with our young, to engage young people in the art of conversation while eliminating loneliness amongst some of our elderly.

We've been involved since the get go, and thank David Earle from Shepparton South Rotary and program founders, Danny Finley and Eva Gruen for involving us so whole heartedly. There is still more to come with a dance project and computer lesson with the students at Wanganui Secondary College and we look forward to the genuine conversations that abound as a result.

Meanwhile we have held many discussions with the Shepparton Villages Board of Management about the redevelopment of Rodney Park. Due to begin at the start of this year, we have had to go look carefully at the budget and consider the way forward. I'm pleased to say we've been able to settle the budget and will begin construction in about June and it should be completed by the end of 2020 or early 2021 if all goes well.

Running in the background to all the activity at Shepparton Villages has been the Royal Commission in to Aged Care. Shepparton Villages provided a full submission as required and has been following the hearings closely. We believe strongly in the need for the Government to invest more in the industry from both a clinical funding perspective and from a training of staff perspective. We look forward to the findings improving the sector as a whole.

All our sites had an unannounced visit from the Aged Care Quality Commission and I am pleased to report they all passed, which in the shadow of the Royal Commission is a tense time. All the staff work hard at providing the best possible care for our residents, and our Board and staff are committed to an organisation that values the people we care for, their dignity and right to choose and foremost, their care. It is indeed a privilege to care for our most vulnerable and that is uppermost in our thoughts.

In closing, I would like to thank our supporters; those who give of their time as volunteers, those families who are actively involved in the care of their loved one and those who support us financially.

We are so very lucky and so very grateful.

Until next time,

Kerri Rivett
CEO – Shepparton Villages



Shepparton News journalist John Lewis (standing) had a chat to Maculata Place residents about how they coped with the heat in their younger days.



Connie Lasich and her family celebrate.

Double the celebrations

Hakea Lodge had double the celebrations recently with two residents – Edna Sorraghan and Connie Lasich – celebrating their 100th birthday.

Both ladies had celebrations with family and friends, and of course the very special 100th birthday cake! Edna made it on to the television news, and Connie was surrounded by a large contingent of her family.



Edna Sorraghan with her children from left John, Ken, Marg Gehring and Maree Sorraghan.

Soroptimists donation to Maculata Place



From left, treasurer Dot Jaap, secretary Denise Meehan and president Anne Graesser called in to present the cheque to residents Peg Edwards and Godfrey Medland.

Soroptimist International of Shepparton recently donated \$1000 to go towards outdoor furniture at Maculata Place.

Donations such as this allow us to fit out our buildings with furniture that entices outdoor living, an appreciation of our gorgeous gardens and all the benefits of the

great outdoors when our weather allows! Our elders are entitled to, and expect, the comforts of home in their ageing years.

The beautiful outdoor furniture under the verandah at Maculata Place gets plenty of use and is a favorite spot to enjoy a cup of tea, or sit and admire the rapidly growing gardens.

Workmates visit to reminisce

Maculata Place's Betty Pleming had a special afternoon when three friends visited in January, reuniting the four who worked together for Prestige Hosiery.

Prestige Hosiery was the earliest and most successful knitter of women's fully fashioned hosiery in the country. As Victoria's first fully vertical silk and rayon knitter, Prestige dominated the better-end hosiery market for forty years, consistently outperforming imported brands.

The company was notable for its role as a training ground for a number of prominent businessmen, and for its role as a model employer.



Betty Pleming (middle) with her workmates who visited her at Maculata Place recently.

Happy Easter!

The Tarcoola Administration office will be closed over Easter, from Good Friday April 19, until Monday April 29.

Happy snaps from the Villages

There's always something happening around our three sites at Shepparton Villages. Here are a few photos from our events and social outings these last few months.



Gloria Threlfall enjoys an ice-cream on a recent outing.



John Williams (volunteer), Peter Davis (volunteer) and Denis Adams at the Men's Shed.



Noela Douglass with a visitor from Echuca Rd Kindergarten at Hakea Lodge.



The wonderful Love to Sew Ladies handed out their gorgeous hand made quilts to residents at Maculata Place. Residents chose quilts to suit their rooms.



Maria Molisak is very happy with her lovely quilt from the Love to Sew Ladies.



The First Kialla Scout Group helped decorate the tree at Banksia Lodge prior to Christmas.



John Harris gets a haircut from wife Debbie at the Maculata Place hairdressers.



Maculata Place Care Manager Wayde Vidler and Board member Merushe Asim presented Shepparton South students with gifts after the art opening.



Banksia Lodge's David Shipston got in to the spirit of Christmas wearing a tie presented to him by a staff member.



Pat Wong of Hakea Lodge chats with a little visitor from Echuca Rd Kindergarten.



Shirley Garner gives a pony a pat on a recent outing.



Doris Stone selects her quilt with Di McAuliffe from the Love to Sew Ladies.



Banksia Lodge's Edna Harling enjoyed the Balaclava Road Childcare visit recently. Photo by Shepparton News.



Bill Webster (volunteer) pours a beer for John Treves at a Men's Shed outing.



Banksia Lodge resident Eileen Torney helps a little visitor from the Balaclava Road Childcare Centre read a book. Photo by Shepparton News.



Banksia Lodge's Donna McLean supported Berry Street student Seth Watson as he collected an excellence award from the GM LLEN. Seth has completed work placement at Banksia Lodge and been visiting Acacia House for two years. Go Seth!



Ethel Jackson with visiting pet therapy dog Pebbles.

Community art exhibit opened

The first of a rotating art exhibition was officially opened at Maculata Place in December.

The rotating exhibit will feature artwork from local schools on an annual rotation, with Shepparton High School the first to unveil their work just after Maculata Place was officially opened.

Students from years 7 to 10 produced 40 pieces of art that have been professionally framed and hung on the corridors leading

in to Woodhouse Lane and Turnour Terrace.

Adding color and depth to the building, the students began working on their pieces at the start of last year's school year.

Art teacher Louise McDade-cartey said the project had been a great focus for the students and teachers, and that everyone was really excited about being involved in Maculata Place.

"I've never done anything like this before with our students but for them to be able to have their work professionally curated in a building like this is just amazing. The building is absolutely beautiful and we are so proud to be the first community art exhibitors. The students were thrilled to attend the opening and see their works hung on the walls," she said.

Residents gathered with the students to officially open the exhibit and then joined together for afternoon tea and a good chat!



Board member Merushe Asim, Shepp High art teacher Louise McDade-cartey and CEO Kerri Rivett at the art launch.



Shepparton High School art students gathered to see their artwork on display.



The Haven girls pay a visit

We were fortunate to have an offer of help from the young people from The Haven recently, and eagerly took up the offer with great appreciation.

Our residents love having young people visit, and some of the girls came to Maculata Place to assist with the evening meals and talk with the residents.

Although admitting to being a bit nervous to start with, the girls were soon in to the swing of it chatting with our residents who enjoyed

having some visitors at the evening meal, and helping the evening Diversional Therapists and staff with the evening meal and activities.

We will work with The Haven to have some of the young people visit Banksia Lodge over the next few weeks. Well done girls and thanks!



Some of the young women from The Haven helped served dinner and interact with residents during an evening meal at Maculata Place.

Rotary continues tradition

For more than 25 years, the Rotary Club of Mooroopna has been cooking and serving Christmas lunch for our Mooroopna residents.

This Christmas, they had a bigger hurdle to overcome as residents from Rodney Park have moved across to Hakea Lodge while preparations take place for the refurbishment in Mooroopna.

Not to be deterred, 15 Rotarians and their partners turned up at Hakea Lodge in Shepparton, and dished up a delicious meal for the residents and staff.

Gifts and a visit from Santa were a highlight of the afternoon for 50 residents who enjoyed the special Christmas treat.

Original organiser Santo Varapodio and Club president Bill Porter said it was an important part of the Rotary Club's community service and they would continue the tradition in to the future.



Hakea Lodge residents – formerly of Rodney Park – enjoy the Rotary Club's Christmas lunch. Photo by Shepparton News.



The Mooroopna Rotary Club members and partners who dished up Christmas lunch to residents. Photo by Shepparton News.



Bob is top with Mooroopna Bowls Club

Pretty special day for Maculata Place resident Bob Patterson who was recently presented with his 80 year super veteran badge and certificate from the Mooroopna Bowls Club. President Stuart Florence (left) and secretary Graham Young popped in to Maculata Place to make the presentation to a beaming Bob. Congratulations Bob, a super honor for a top bloke!!



Stuart Florence, Bob Patterson and Graham Young.

Riding the gift of exercise

The William Angliss Charitable Fund has been a long time supporter of Shepparton Villages and late last year awarded a \$2000 grant to assist with an exercise bike for Maculata Place.

The bike is located in the gym on Level One and is utilised by residents for leisure, but mostly in conjunction with physiotherapists as a rehabilitation and preventative health measure.

Our gym features overhead tracking for assistance with lifting residents, as well as hearing loop technology.

A huge window provides a wonderful view from the gym, overlooking the beautiful lawns and gardens to the north of Maculata Place.

We offer a huge thank you to the William Angliss Charitable Fund for their ongoing support, we are extremely grateful.



John Maguire gives the new exercise bike a test run.

THE WILLIAM ANGLISS CHARITABLE FUND

Christmas Appeal results in new mower

Thanks to our very generous community, our gardening team has a new ride on Kubota mower to help with all the lawns at Shepparton Villages!!

Our Christmas Appeal raised the funds needed to buy the ride on mower to assist with all the new lawns at Maculata Place at Tarcoola.

With the opening of the building late last year, came the

landscaping and sewing of new lawn around the building. Wide open spaces are beautiful to look at, lush and green – but of course they do need mowing!

A HUGE thank you to our wonderful supporters who give so generously when we ask – we truly appreciate every cent donated and our gardening team says THANK YOU!



Allan Phillips gives the new mower the thumbs up!

Swedish Rotary visits Maculata Place

The Rotary Club of Shepparton played host to some visitors from Sweden recently.

The Rotary International trip involved Rotarians from Sweden and their partners taking in the Shepparton region with visits to the new court house, out to Dookie to tour the region and to have a close look at the new Maculata Place building at Shepparton Villages.

Shepparton Villages Board President Frank Dawson addressed the

group and gave a run down on the new building, the concept behind the design and the model of care employed.

The visitors were very interested in the Australian approach to aged care and asked many questions on their tour.



The visiting Rotarians along with our local Rotarians after their Maculata Place tour.