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windgap
FOUNDATION LIMITED

Issue 1



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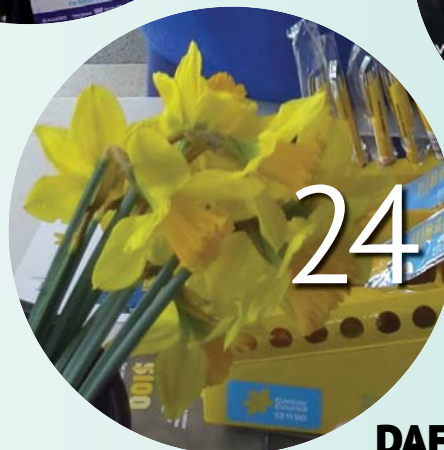
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CEO FORWARD

Welcome back to our Windgap Connect. You might have noticed that we have given the newsletter a bit of a facelift of sorts. The Windgap Connect will now be published quarterly, providing news on events, not only at Windgap, but also in the community at large and relevant external updates on the NDIS.

Windgap is currently participating in a very exciting and unprecedented time, brought about by the generational change of the NDIS. We have seen test cases and we have seen small rollouts. We are positive about the optimism in the community, the embracing of choice for our clients present and future, and we are very thankful for the incredible Windgap family we have around us.

In a time of a little turbulence, and a certain lack of clarity on future issues, we figured it important to let our family know about all the absolutely wonderful things that they, and their fellow Windgappers do for us each and every day. We wanted to bring visibility and connection with our community.

In the endeavour to put this publication together, it becomes clearly evident that not a week, and I dare say, not two days go by, where something special doesn't happen. It's not necessarily something jawdropping, but there is some evidence of talent, or flash of brilliance, that just makes you smile. It's not always very conspicuous or obvious of course, and in an organisation like Windgap which is so diverse and evolving, you sometimes forget to take a moment to step aback and go «wow». I guess what I'm saying here is that it is not possible to capture all of the wonderful things that our clients, staff and sponsors do, because they are amazing and they do so much. And well, for the sakes of this Connect, it'd most likely look more akin to a dictionary than a magazine. However, what we're

tried to do here is capture some of those very special moments.

As such, I hope you enjoy reading about these fine moments as much as we did taking part in celebrating them.





SENSORY GARDEN OPENING

A huge congratulations to Growability for completing a beautiful Sensory Garden Project at Eastlakes Public School. The project has come to fruition thanks to a generous grant from NAB.





The Sensory Garden is an inviting and imaginative space that functions as an interactive, education classroom for the youth of the Eastlakes community. For Growability, the Sensory Garden has been a tremendous testament to their abilities, a project that has lasted 6 months and truly displays resourcefulness, creativity and collaboration at its best. The garden is built from 80% recycled materials, with pavings, chairs and plants kindly donated by members of the community, including Rockdale Community Nursery, another Australian Disability Enterprise.

There are numerous highlights, with wind chimes to stimulate hearing, herbs and fruit trees such as passionfruit vines to stimulate tastebuds, and different textures of plants such as the hibiscus to stimulate touch. In particular, the garden features a unique set of pallet chairs which teachers use when delivering content to students. The chairs themselves were actually an invention of Windgap Supported Employees that identified an opportunity to recycle spare pallets at Windgap Enterprises and transform these into trendy new age chairs. By making tasteful cuts and carefully reassembling the pallets, the clients have made unique, beautiful pieces that will last for years and give tremendous character.

The project itself has been a wonderful partnership which has seen students get heavily involved in the design process with Windgap Supported Employees and then design and fashion the space with sense stimulating decorations. Local native fauna have also enjoyed the garden and made it home. Growability are overjoyed at the end product, and as observable through these photographs, it is clear why.





WINDGAP OPEN DAY

ART WORKSHOP

PROGRAMS

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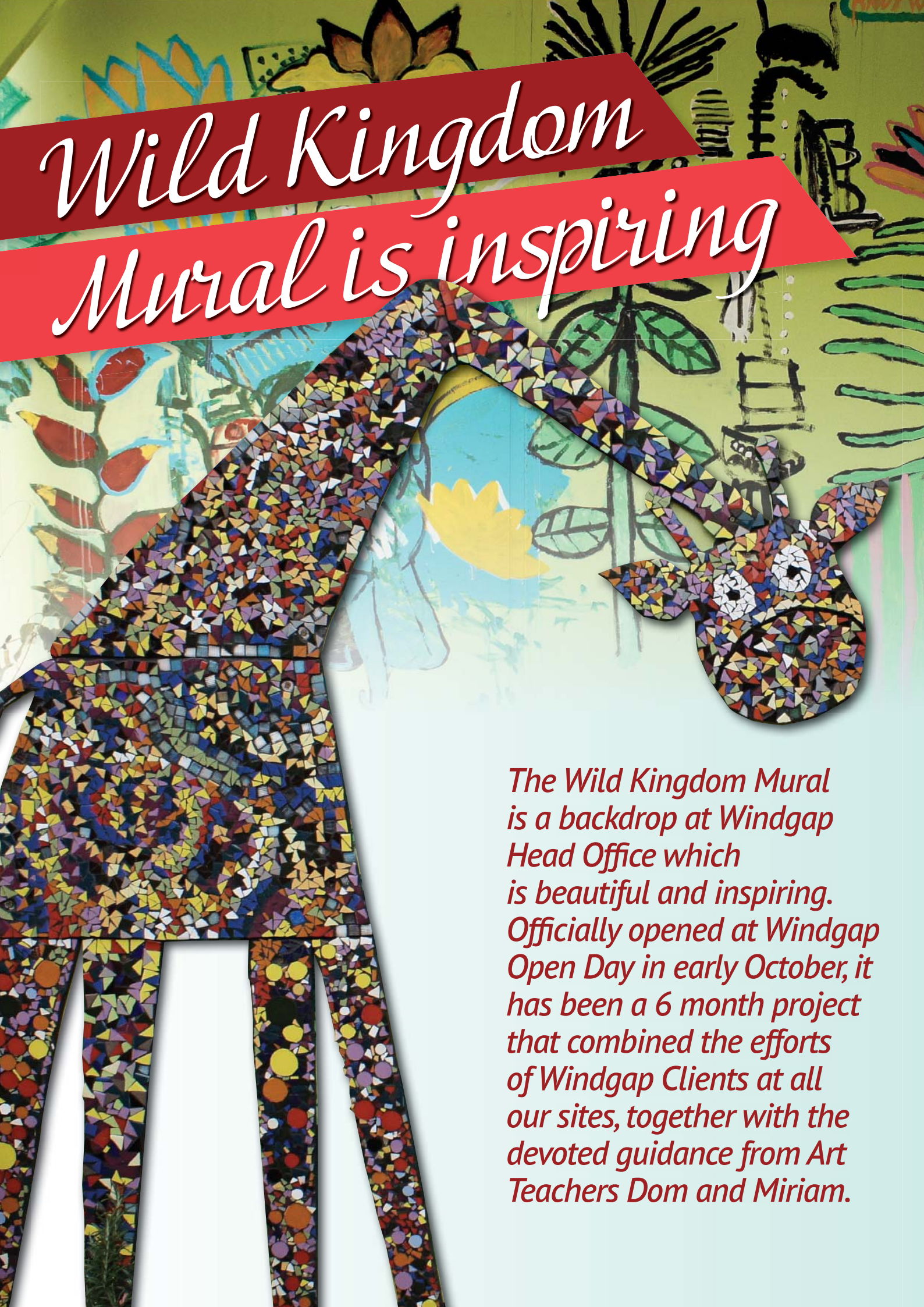


Windgap opened its doors and welcomed the general public with its Annual Open Day on 13th October 2015. Whilst the elements were none too kind, the wet conditions did not dampen the spirit or excitement of the day.

We officially opened our Wild Kingdom Mural, the Diamonds choir serenaded us with a splendid performance including Elvis Presley classics, and an educational NDIS chat was delivered. We also held a beautiful Art Exhibition throughout Head Office displaying the sublime talents of our clients, and had numerous information stalls displaying the great things Windgap does everyday.

Special thanks to Councillor George Glinatsis, and Jim Longley, Chief Executive of ADHC for touring on the day and taking part in the ceremonial ribbon cutting to commemorate the opening of the Wild Kingdom Mural.





Wild Kingdom Mural is inspiring

The Wild Kingdom Mural is a backdrop at Windgap Head Office which is beautiful and inspiring. Officially opened at Windgap Open Day in early October, it has been a 6 month project that combined the efforts of Windgap Clients at all our sites, together with the devoted guidance from Art Teachers Dom and Miriam.



The Mural itself combines strong brush strokes depicting jungle animals in beautiful colours at its centre, with two prominent mosaic pieces at its side of a tree and a giraffe. The concept of the Wild Mural actually emanated from Windgap client, Victor.

By taking the concept of the jungle, inspiration was found from looking at the works of French Post-Impressionist painter Henri Rousseau. The clients have combined elements of Rousseau's art with their own unique spin to create something truly unique and uplifting, and captures the character of Windgap - strong, proud, diverse and fun.

The Mural is a wonderful piece that brings great joy to staff members and clients alike everyday. We welcome everyone in the public to come by and see this wonderful project and appreciate the efforts of everyone involved.





A huge thank you to Bonnie Doon Golf Club and Infiniti for hosting the Infiniti Charity Golf Day. Proceeds from the event were donated to Windgap.

WINDGAP GOLF DAY

Our clients had a blast meeting the golfers and sharing a little about Windgap during the golf and then coming together for a delicious celebratory fundraising dinner in the evening. Mr. Espresso were serving delicious beverages, whilst Growability and Windgap Enterprises gifted goodie bags and shared words about Windgap.

We were honoured to welcome Rabbitohs superstar Adam Reynolds, as a celebrity member of Windgap Team 2. Whilst our teams varied in their performance on the day, a word of mention for Day Program Manager, Glen for hitting a closest to the pin on one of the holes. A huge thank you to all the attendees and members for their generosity and making it such a memorable day for our clients.







Succulents GALORE

Check out these absolutely beautiful succulents that Windgap Enterprises and Growability have been producing. From end to end, the team grows these gorgeous plants and have mastered the process of creating these wonderful display pots. The team has a diverse assortment from small to large and everything in between, to fit all sizes and budgets. The team is also able to do customised or large scale orders. No doubt, a perfect low maintenance addition to the household or office.



ART AT



As can be observed throughout this issue of Windgap Connect, Art is an incredibly important part of our clients lives. It enables them to tap into their artistic spirit and express their feelings, desires and dreams vividly and beautifully, be it on canvas, on tile or through their voice on the airwaves. Our Wild Kingdom Mural, Making Airwaves, and our Exhibition Series at Bowen Library have been incredible successes that inspire us everyday. However, whilst recognising these fine achievements, it's great to recognise that Art is all around us at Windgap. It's in our dynamic and uplifting programs, and it's a force of positive energy. Here is to all our clients who produce beautiful artworks that captivate us.



WINDGAP



Rainy Days with
Greg + Dave



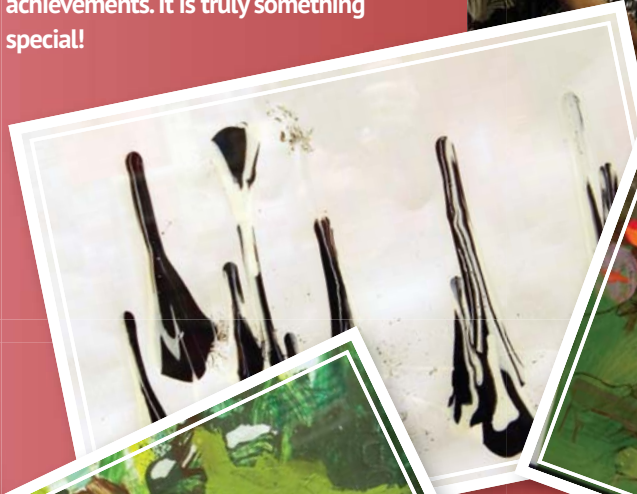
WINDGAP SOLO ART EXHIBITIONS

It has been a very special few weeks recently at Windgap, as our Art Programs have partnered with Bowen Library to showcase three great artists in exhibitions over September and October in the Bowen Library Auditorium. The artists; Damien, Krissy and Nick have built their bodies of work over three years, and display great diversity, uniqueness and talent in their technique and final products. The length of their endeavours, to create their own solo expos reflects the determination and drive of each artist to build a portfolio worthy of great adoration and celebration within a high traffic community hub.

Each artist has been inspired and challenged in different ways, working with Artistic Mentor Dom and staff at Windgap sites to let their artistic voices come through and breathe life into their canvases. Subjects over

the breadth of the exhibition series include family, friends, nature and animals, all displayed in vivid colour and styles. Each artist has taken inspiration from different sources, such as Van Gogh and Munch. The artworks on display demonstrate beautiful, energetic gestures and reveal a sensitivity and love of colour. Techniques incorporated include cutouts, hand-over-hand tracing and taping to provide more figurative and detail oriented elements in work.

A huge congratulations to each of these artists for their incredible achievements. It is truly something special!







EAST
SIDE 89.1
FM



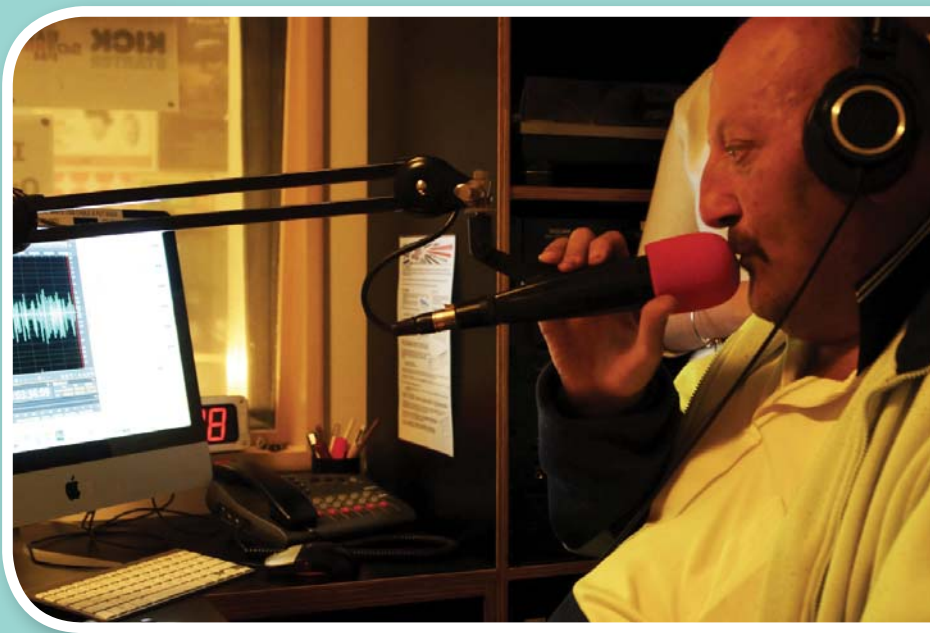
GIVING A VOICE

Making Airwaves is back in session and this season it's the Soul Beat Zombies who've entered town.

The team have been visiting Eastside Radio weekly, growing their confidence and nurturing their creative spirit, all in a bid to deliver an absolutely amazing half hour of power full of laughs and good times. It has also been great to see participants from previous iterations of Making Airwaves make visits to give guidance to the team in a mentor role.

Their production has been an absolute blast to create, and they have been present at the Accessibility Arts Expo and held a Listening Party. Their new production has plenty of jokes, emotive stories and is a great look into the eyes of our clients as they express themselves so beautifully and confidently on the airwaves. Visit makingairwaves.org to listen in.

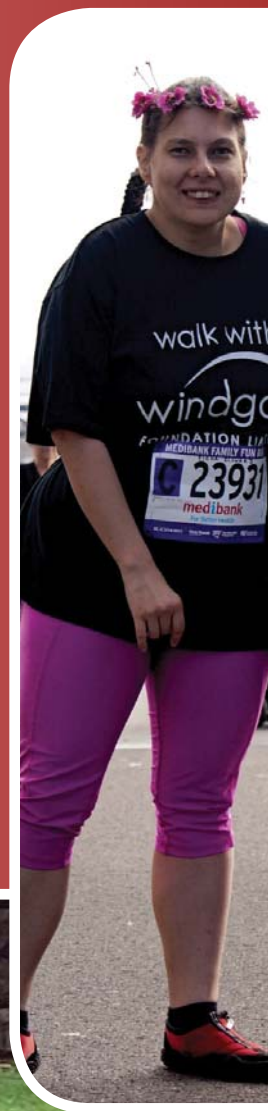




WALK WITH WINDGAP

Glorious view. Lovely crisp air. A refreshing stroll across one of Sydney's amazing landmarks amongst a sea of smiles and happy family vibes. Another year, and another day at Walk With Windgap; a day of great celebration for our clients, staff and family, representing at the Blackmore's Family Fun Run.

Congratulations to Kym and Dale who finished first in the walk!







LIFE AFTER WORK CREATES GARDEN MARVEL

In early 2014, Life After Work was operating under its former moniker of Transition to Retirement, and out of its former home in a small shop-front unit on Gardeners Rd, Eastlakes. It soon became all too obvious that the site on Gardeners Rd wasn't going to meet the needs of L.A.W's growing retiree contingent for much longer. As more and more retirees began accessing the program, the search began for a new, more spacious site to call home. In May of that year, the program moved its headquarters to a recently vacated Day Program site on Daniel St in Botany. The larger site, complete with front and back gardens, provided a great opportunity to expand the program's offerings in lots of new directions, one of which the group seized on immediately – to develop a community garden!

Initially, a horticulturist was invited to talk with the retirees about what kind of garden they would like to create. With her help, the group explored lots of ideas, designs and concepts. Using these ideas, the group worked together to design their ideal front garden, incorporating raised garden planters, flower beds, hanging baskets and unique works of art. Once

the plan was made, the gardening began extremely enthusiastically! While everyone at L.A.W was very keen to get started, we found that some of the elements involved with such an ambitious project, were a little beyond what we were capable of doing on our own. Luckily for us, no one at Windgap has to do anything on their own! We drafted in help and support from the amazing team at Growability who worked tirelessly for weeks to clear, clean and prepare our garden ahead of planting! Once the 'ground work' was done, we were ready to plant. In another fine stroke of luck, around the same time a wonderful local group got in touch with Windgap looking for a gardening project to volunteer on. These green fingered ladies were from Soroptimists International, a Women's Service organisation committed to supporting local community initiatives and organisations like Windgap.

With the help of the lovely ladies from S.I. and a number of willing and energetic volunteers from other Windgap services, we set about filling our raised planters with a multitude of herbs, veggies and edible flowers. Our flower beds were stuffed to the brim with beautiful plants,

blooms and natives. It took a few weeks of hard work and lots of TLC, but as Winter 2015 was coming to a close, we had a thriving garden full of sumptuous organic veggies and home to countless butterflies, bees and insects! To complement the colourful flora, our retirees worked for many months designing and creating unique mosaic artworks that were hung on the garden walls to add an additional layer of fun and vibrancy to the garden. We love it when passers-by have a peep and look over our wall to admire the garden inside, and when neighbours pop in to ask about the eye-catching planters or take samples of the fresh goodies we're cultivating. We've started a conversation





about gardening, sustainability and inclusion in our local community that we are very excited about.

In September 2015, the hard work of our retirees and staff was put under the microscope by Botany City Council when we entered our garden in their annual Garden Competition. The jury is still out, but whatever the result, everyone here at Life After Work is exceedingly proud of what has been achieved in the last year. We have had so much fun developing the beautiful front garden and learnt so much along the way that we can't wait to get cracking on the back garden next!





WINDGAP WARRIORS

Glory road is not far away for our Windgap Warriors as they enjoyed an energetic and positive preseason. The Warriors recruited two new sub-coaches, Ken and Brian to join Head Coach Roy, in preparing the team for the season ahead. The Warriors will also be coming out in a fresh new strip next season, kindly donated to Windgap by Pagewood Soccer Club.





They roadtested their jerseys in a great Warriors versus Staff Game. Of course, with their roster brimming with talent and skill, the Warriors won comfortably 6-4, though the scoreline is complimentary to the Staff Team. Rumour has it that coaches distributed a message for players to tone their Tikka-Takka style not to demoralise and embarrass the staff too much.

A great Awards evening was held for all the players with Golden Boots handed to all team members.





**WINDGAP
SUPPORTS
DAFFODIL DAY**



Who can go past beautiful, bright yellow daffodils lining the busy Botany Road strip? On Friday 28th August 2015, affectionately known as Daffodil Day, a group of clients supported by Windgap staff showed their commitment to beating cancer by volunteering their time to sell fresh daffodil flowers. For many of the clients, it was a personal goal to volunteer and and participate in local community events. It was decided by the group to hold a stall outside Christopher's Cake Shop located on Mascot's busiest Botany road. With Botany Council approval gained, resources organised and the excitement and commitment well and truly engaged from clients and staff, the day was a roaring success. The group went on and had a successful day engaging with members of their local community and raising not only their target amount, but exceeding it by 50%. Money raised was sent to the Cancer Council and a certificate of appreciation received. Well done everyone!



NEWS

NEWS NEWS



↑ Windgap Enterprises has been mightily busily, and doing some exceptional work as always. The team have just packed and delivered 17000 packets, containing 12 items, within 7 working days with 100% compliance. They have also recently supplied and Laser engraved in excess of 2000 trophies of various sizes and varieties to a local sports club and school. Outstanding work from the ADE.



↑ Thank you to Rode who have kindly donated Audio Gear to Windgap. We are super excited to use the new technology to aid in programs such as Making Airwaves, and bring the Windgap Voice to Life!



↑ Windgap was generously visited by Jenny Macklin MP and Matt Thistlewaite MP on their way to giving a speech about the NDIS. Jenny and Matt toured Windgap HQ, had a coffee at Tukka Box and couldn't resist the wonderful Succulents our ADE have been producing. We hear that Matt is keeping Jenny's in good condition until she finds time to drive to and from Sydney. It was great to share a word, a drink and have them recognise all the wonderful achievements at Windgap.



↑ Windgap held its Annual Winter BBQ on September 9 and what a day it was. Members of the Windgap Family from all areas, and community visitors came together in a barbeque feast of epic proportions. Many a delicious sausage and chicken wing was had, with great salad, great conversation and great festivity!



↑ Thank you to Community Sector Banking for generous funding to run Making Airwaves. It is due to their generous donation that our clients have been able to have a voice.



↑ Mr Espresso by Windgap in Matraville has just done a revamp of its menu and there are some absolutely delicious additions. The new Windgap Burger combines almatter of yummy things (sorry, we don't want to ruin the surprise so you'll need to come on by, but it has chicken and a toasty brioche as a hint) and is complimented by Freshly Squeezed Juices. Of course, old favourites are still present, and best of all, our Baristas are still making the finest Coffees this part of the Eastern Suburbs ... or all of Sydney rather. Give them a visit, have a finger licking good feed and say hello.





Transition To Work horticulturalists have been busy weeding and cultivating their vegetable and native gardens around Head Office. Potatoes, celery and a range of herbs have been grown and are used in the Tukka Box Cafe on a daily basis to supply fresh grown produce for preparing delicious lunchtime meals. The TTW retail assistants are out and about at Woolworths Eastlakes on a Wednesday and Coles Eastgardens on a Friday helping the staff to ensure the products on the shelves are tidy and presentable for customers. The TTW warehousing team are being kept busy assembling and packaging a range of products which will eventually hit the shelves in local businesses throughout Sydney.



Thank you to Boland Funderals for donating Blankets and necessities to Windgap to be distributed to Salvation Army. A huge expression of gratitude for the continued support of Windgap.



Garden St. has been running a volunteer program with Mr Espresso and Salvation Army named the "Emergency Relief Centre". The program is approaching its one year anniversary and has been a huge success, rapidly expanding. Clients pick up unsold food from 3 Mr Espresso cafes and deliver the packages to Maroubra Salvation Emergency Relief Centre Monday to Thursday. This food is then given to the community whom need food relief assistance. It is a great effort by all our clients to assist those in need and to do so while participating so positively in the community. Well done Garden St.



A lovely surprise at Windgap Head Office as Ambassador Matt King and friend of Windgap, Elle Ferguson gave a visitation and grabbed a sneak preview of our "Wild Kingdom" Mural. The team at the ADE were absolutely chuffed to have Kingy give a visit and gave Matt and Elle a grand tour of what's been happening at Windgap Enterprises. Huge thanks to both Matt and Elle for spending such a generous time on site and saying hello to each and every Supported Employee.



Thank you to Nudie Juice for providing delicious beverages for Windgap Open Day. Not a thirsty soul was present at the event!



Get your dance shoes ready as Windgap Social Club presents Funky Disco on Saturday 14th between 7pm and 10pm. The event is held at Yarra Bay Sailing Club, 67-69 Yarra Rd Phillip Bay. Entry \$5, must be accompanied with a carer.



Windgap has been successful in securing funding in the second round of the 2015 Orica Botany Community Investment Program. Orica is investing \$6,900 toward the purchase of iPads and learning Apps for an ongoing literacy, learning and numeracy training program. Orica representatives visited Windgap on 13 October and were delighted to meet staff and clients and tour the Windgap facilities.



Windgap's Very Special Merry Christmas Party is coming this Friday, 4th of December 2015. Arrival is 6pm for a 7pm commencement at 72-76 Gardeners Rd, Kingsford (under St Spyridon's). We look forward to seeing everyone bring their very merry spirit!



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Windgap would like to thank all of our amazing family for their generosity and warmth. It is because of your generous donations that we are able to do what we do.

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