



2009

Yr 12 Merit for Art Student at St Joseph's High School (Louise Place)

Special points of interest:

- * New partnerships reaching the homeless
- * Taking the *Next Step*. A St Johns Youth Service initiative
- * Art and Community mental health at UCWPA
- * Homeless but not voteless
- * Return of the Black Duck
- * Homelessness SA involvement in NYCH Campaign: Get involved!!



St Joseph's High School and the Louise Place community are thrilled for 2008 Year 12 student Alison Riddell and congratulate her in receiving a merit award.

Louise Place is a service for young women who are homeless, pregnant or parenting, and their children. St Joseph's High School is a part of Louise Place and caters for young women who wish to continue or resume their education.

Alison studied 'Art in the Community' throughout 2008 and used Louise Place as the community venue. She worked tirelessly on a theme based around the classic novel *Alice in Wonderland*. Using only coloured chalk and a very large chalk board Alison created a

masterpiece. Her creation was housed in the onsite Day Centre which provides child minding for students and access to peer support and other group programs.

Visitors to the Day Centre delighted in witnessing Alison's masterpiece evolve throughout the year. Her work is admired by children and adults alike.

Alison returned to St Joseph's High School recently to speak to current students about her project and the process she utilised.

Louise Place has a volunteer program for members of the community to participate in, supporting the activities of the service. Our volunteers are an

integral part of Louise Place and provide a very valuable service to the young women and children who we work with.

Numerous opportunities exist for people willing to volunteer some of their time to Louise Place. These include helping in the Day Centre with child minding, administration support and gardening to name a few.

Donations of women's and children's clothing are much appreciated as are donations of household and personal items and general baby goods such as nappies and children's books.

Contact: Megan Welsh on 8210 8200 if you would like to help support this valuable program.



New partnerships reaching the homeless

Bill Manallack: Founder and Coordinator, Housing Legal Clinic

The need for legal assistance has been identified as the second most important issue for people experiencing homelessness

In 2006 a group of us from welfare organisations in Adelaide met to determine the most urgent needs of homeless clients. Next to housing, which was no surprise at number one, was the need for legal assistance. According to the group the most practical way to meet the legal needs of clients was to have the lawyers come to the community centres and for their services to be free. Neither the organisations nor their clients could afford to pay. So we had the homeless centres keen to act as host organisations and we had the clients at these centres but we didn't have the lawyers. What we needed was a service model which would encourage Adelaide's law firms to provide teams of pro bono lawyers working in partnership with the host organisations.

Thanks to a grant from the state government's Department of

Housing we established the model, called the Housing Legal Clinic, as a partnership between community welfare organisations, law firms and the state government. The law firms jumped at this opportunity to involve their lawyers in pro bono work reaching out to the most marginalised people in our community.

Now in its third year the Housing Legal Clinic, managed by the Welfare Rights Centre, is demonstrating just how valuable partnerships can be in providing services to the homeless and those at risk of being homeless. Since it began in 2006 the Clinic's 140 volunteer lawyers have provided pro bono legal advice and assistance to more than 900 homeless people. This outstanding achievement has been made possible through the Clinic's partnership with five host organisations – the Magdalene Centre, Hutt Street Centre, Byron Place

Community Centre, Catherine House and the Port Adelaide UnitingCare Wesley Family Centre - and the following law firms: Minter Ellison, Thomson Playford, Kain C+C, Fisher Jeffries, Andersons Solicitors, with assistance from Johnston Withers, Michael Dadds and Associates, George Mancini Solicitors and Ben Sale. The success of the Housing Legal Clinic was recognised last year when it received a prestigious award as Australia's Best Community Project.

With the backing and support of these major partnerships the clinic has developed effective working relationships with many other community sector professionals and services. As a result it is not uncommon for a homeless person to have access to a lawyer, a housing worker, a social worker and a financial counsellor, all at the one visit.

On one occasion John, not his real name, was in a high

New partnerships reaching the homeless (Continued)

state of anxiety when he presented at a legal clinic at one of our host organisations. He said he just needed to sit and talk to someone to calm himself down. A social work student at the centre sat with him for 15 minutes. He was feeling physically unwell so before his session with the lawyers he was able to be seen by the visiting doctor at the centre. He had a court appearance at the end of the week. The lawyers advised him on this and arranged for support to be provided on the day of the hearing. He needed a bus ticket to travel to court, plus clean clothes to look presentable. These were provided by the Centre and John was able to attend court as required. Had any one of these assists not been provided John's visit to the Legal Clinic could well have come to nothing.

This innovative team approach finds solutions to complex issues. We are able to collaborate by supplying joined-up,

integrated services to individual clients.

The devastating consequences of homelessness for those who experience it, and the broader social implications for Australian society, are well known. Through partnership the Housing Legal Clinic is making significant inroads into reducing and preventing homelessness so that all may experience the benefits and opportunities afforded by stable, active and inclusive community living. This is access to justice at its best. But there is more to do.

We have recently replicated this outreach service model for the provision of free financial advice. Taking legal, financial, housing and other professional services into regional towns across South Australia is the next big challenge. There is no way we can have teams of volunteer professionals travelling long distances to run weekly clinics at host

organisations as far away as Port Augusta, Whyalla, Ceduna and Mount Gambier. It is just not physically or financially viable. What we can do though is connect our legal clinic lawyers and other professionals based in Adelaide with clients at country host organisations via the latest video, Internet and computer technology.

We often hear that country people get second best when it comes to community services. With new partnerships and new technology we can extend our exciting new outreach service delivery model to offer needy people across South Australia first best services. As we establish new partnerships we work on perfecting them. We know that perfect partnerships empower the powerless. Right now we are looking for more perfect partners to reach out to more powerless people.

Contact bill-
m@wrcsa.org.au

**The Housing
Legal Clinic, now
in its third year,
has provided pro
bono legal advice
and assistance to
over 900
homeless people**

Taking the *Next Step*: An initiative of St John's Youth Service

By Wendy Malycha

St John's Youth Services is currently working toward establishing a capacity to support young people after they leave the emergency accommodation services. Since the implementation of the integrated youth accommodation system in 1993/4, St John's Youth Services has maintained extensive internal data collection systems to monitor the needs of young people accessing the services, and the outcomes achieved for them.

From that time there have been consistent indicators that many of the young people who access these services are unable to access any other supported accommodation. Over the past decade access to the longer-term supported accommodation services has slowly decreased from 18% to below 5%. Today less young people are able to access these services than came from them.

At the same time the numbers of young people who present with a range of complex needs has risen, in particular the number with diagnosed mental health problems has risen from less than one in ten, to more than a third. Most leave to insecure and unsafe options, with the result that half of all young people accommodated are forced to return to return to the services. For those who have the most complex needs, access to any services reduces as they grow older, and by their late teens they are at risk of progressing to chronic adult homelessness.

Because the emergency services operated by St John's Youth Services are often the only accommodation services they can access, many of these young people look to our workers for ongoing support. However our emergency services are only available to each of

these young people for a very few weeks on any one occasion because of SAAP funding constraints, and they are not resourced by Government with the capacity to provide post placement support, either from the service itself or in an outreach capacity.



On the other hand, the intensive Case Management and support provided in the services provides a detailed assessment of the young person's

needs and circumstances, and they have established trust and developed a case plan with the workers in the services to build on.

Next Step is an innovative program designed to take advantage of this unique relationship and to provide ongoing assistance to young people as they leave the current emergency services. At its core is a contract between *Next Step* and the young person which established the services that *Next Step* will provide, and the tailored obligations to participate in the intensive living skills program agreed by the young person.

St John's Youth Services has established an MOU with **Strata Data** to streamline access to private rental accommodation in order to establish a housing and accommodation portfolio for young people where *Next Step* will provide a rental guarantee and manage services and support to the tenants living in the accommodation for the first six months of their lease. Complete furniture packages, intensive support and incentives through rewards for achieving goals will be provided to all young people who engage in the program.

Next Step is a response to the unmet needs of homeless young people who use

the emergency accommodation services that are essential to them achieving personal development and future independence, and aims to prevent imminent breakdown of their next accommodation and return to the emergency services system. *Next Step* is an initiative that can give them a genuine opportunity to break the cycle of homelessness through targeted support and training, and assistance in securing sustainable life opportunities.

Next Step is available only to young people leaving the emergency accommodation services operated by St John's Youth Services. The project receives no Government funding and has been made possible through a combination of grants and donations from our supporters, including the Morialta Trust, Coopers Foundation and St Peter's College toward the cost of employing a program co-ordinator, and two part time Youth Transitions Workers. For further information contact Emily Petersen, Next Step Project Manager at St John's Youth Services.



Art and Community mental health program at UCWPA

The images to the right are just some of the examples of the beautiful art work created by the participants at UnitingCare Wesley's Community mental health programs.

Art work from this annual and ongoing project is then developed and published as Christmas cards by consumers of our programs.

Cards are sold in packs of ten for \$10.00 and within each pack is a mix of cards. They are blank inside with a poem by a consumer on the back (see Peter May's poem opposite). As you can see they can be used for all occasions.

The program basically pays for itself; every card sold allows UCWPA to give a card to our clients for Christmas and cover the costs of producing the card series.

Card packs are available for purchase at the UCWPA office at 64 Dale St Port Adelaide (upstairs). If you are unable to visit the office just give Kerry Anderson a call on 8440 2220.

If you would like to link into the Art Project or learn more about community mental health with UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide, contact Kerry on 8440 2220



Teardrop

I was born inside a teardrop
That fell from an eye of God
Onto a tree high in the mountains
Until I froze until Spring
When the sun beamed a warm smile onto me
I thawed and no longer
Could I hold onto the leaf
And I fell and melted into another drop
And another and another and another
Until I was in a small stream
And I travelled faster and faster
Down the mountains
And a pathway was formed
I increased in speed
And I found my way
To the rapids and the waterfalls
I slowed as I entered into flat land
Which was parched and soaked
Up many teardrops into its heart
And grass began to grow
And people, birds and animals
Drank and ate and became healthy
I was destined to reach the end
To provide life for what lives in the sea
I am once again a salty teardrop
Until I evaporate back into the eye of
God

Homeless not voteless

Dear Editor

Since the last state election the Housing Legal Clinic and Homelessness SA have been campaigning, with the help of pro bono lawyers from Minter Ellison, to have the electoral law in South Australia changed to enable homeless people to enrol to vote as itinerant electors. Hence we are delighted with the recent announcement from the Attorney General the Hon Michael Atkinson that these changes have been made, bringing South Australia into line with all

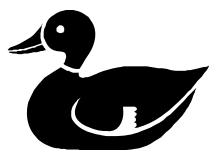
other Australian states. We congratulate the South Australian Government for recognising the rights of homeless people in this way.

The importance of homeless people having a say is also recognised by homeless people themselves.

Research shows that at least 54 per cent of homeless people would like to enrol to vote at elections.

Since 2006, the Housing Legal Clinic with 120 volunteer lawyers has given more than 900 homeless people the right to access to justice. These and other homeless people now have the right to vote. Our community will be the better for this.

Jo Wickes – Chair, Homelessness SA
Bill Manallack – Coordinator, Housing Legal Clinic
Josh Simons – Partner, Minter Ellison
Torrens Building 220 Victoria Square
Adelaide 5000



The Black Duck Returns

Hello to all my fellow waterfowl, all well and good I hope, for you see pets I have been on a Centrelink adventure or some white ducks may say orienteering without a map. Oh the joy! the pain! the endless torrent of verbal diarrhoea, I tell you all, I am covered from beak to tale in dribble.

No more, Stop! I quack, defiantly out loud to no-one in particular for I am alone anyway. So my young hatchlings I shall bring you up to speed, well it was that time of the fortnight, that's right form lodgement day. By the way this was when Centrelink had a city office before moving out to the back water ponds they call suburbs.

I stood in line with all the other Centrelink benefit recipients waiting, forever waiting (5 minutes in line bloody feels like 8.9 plus minutes).

'Ok Mr Duck' the Centrelink bloke says, 'it seems you have been on the PSP waiting list for quite some time'. 'Really?' I sarcastically reply, '18 month's isn't really that long'. 'Well yes and no Blackie you see we here at (but not me) Centrelink are going to send you to be re-assessed and from this we can determine what to do with you - could be a PSP (Personal support Program) provider or we may put you on a work diary, which is where you must prove to us here at Centrelink with written proof by providing 12 Names and

address, phone number of the places and people, businesses and jobs you have applied for in the last 2 weeks to gain employment .

Failure to do this simple thing will result in termination of your New Start payments for 8 weeks subject to a review at end of that time period'.

'Your too kind', I hiss. So off I waddle to be assessed again.

One week later I receive a letter Mr B. Duck you have appointment with a PSP provider on such a date at such a time at such a place failure to keep this appointment will result in your benefits being suspended for a period of 8 weeks (Oh the joy).

After 30 minutes of questioning about past and present health and attitude issues the man says, 'How about that Ducky, you can go now to Helen and wait, we will send you a letter explaining to you whether you get a PSP provider or start looking for x amount of jobs per fortnight'.

7 days later I received a letter which instructed me (mighty Duck) to be at such a place at such a time on such a day. I am asked into office, have a seat, Ok he says, well then what can I do for you on this fine day? 'Say what?' I reply rather bewildered, how the bloody hell do I know! I was sent here remember! Yeah that's right sorry, I was thinking it would be

nice to be somewhere else he replied, 'but really how can I help you?' 'Calm down Ducky', I say to myself 'and try to remember what I was taught at the anger management class, breathe slowly...that's it... good Duck'.

'Well for a start, can this place you work for, pay for me to continue on studying and get my certificate 4 in Community Services Work?' 'No!', he says, 'we have NO funding for that sort of thing'. 'Well what about helping me get my car license back?' 'No! we have NO funding for that sort of thing'.

'What about sending me to a place so I can get some sort of training or qualification to get me back onto the work force?' 'No, sorry we have NO funding for that sort of thing. We have NO funding at all to help you or anyone like you'.

'AHHH!', I hiss, 'what the *#@**# hell do you bloody do then? I hiss, (totally forgetting everything I was taught at the self control classes). 'Well' he replied 'I am here to help you with your depression and anxiety problems which may be stopping you from getting a job'.

'AHHH! #*\$%' I cry out. 'Look mate, I see a Drug and Alcohol counsellor every 6 weeks who teaches me how to use meditation, how to recognize trigger situations, how to calm myself by using distraction thinking and other

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The Black Duck Returns (Continued)

techniques. Plus I see my GP ever two weeks, I have seen a psychologist regularly for 3 months, at TAFE I gave a 20 minute presentation on anxiety and associated disorders which took me 3 months to investigate and prepare — so how the hell are you going to help me then?’ ‘Well Mr Black Duck if you don’t sign this contract which says you are prepared to



see your PSP provider on a regular basis, failure to comply to this agreed agreement you will be automatically suspended for a period of 8 weeks from receiving any benefits or assistance from Centrelink’. ‘Well, now you put it like that I am starting to feel rather like I may be having a anxiety attack,



maybe we should talk about this feeling of anxiety I am experiencing and what may have caused it’.

Well my little water fowl do you think the Black Duck might be stuck between a rock and a hard place? You all will have to wait for the next HSA news letter.

Bye for now
“The Black Duck”



Youth Homelessness Matters: It’s no joke

It is estimated that 7, 962 people are homeless in South Australia with 43% of this number under the age of 24 (4,323). The decrease in full time employment and increase in part time employment, lack of affordable accommodation, family breakdown and declining rates of governmental supports have all impacted upon the ability of young people to transition smoothly to independence.

There is also a lack of available supports to assist young people: for example emergency accommodation services have the capacity to support 15% of these young people (513). Most young people couch surf for extended periods of time and are often unable to continue their schooling.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day is a national annual initiative of the National Youth Coalition for Homelessness (NYCH) that aims to raise public awareness of youth homelessness.

This year, Homelessness SA has initiated a campaign to raise much needed funds to purchase

swags: practical, portable and waterproof bedding. All funds raised by Homelessness SA will go to purchasing swags that will be distributed free of charge to people experiencing homelessness over the winter months.

Donations are accepted at three locations: Unity Housing Company 1130 South Rd Clovelly Park, Centacare 34 Yorketown Rd, Elizabeth and at the Shelter SA offices 220 Victoria Square in the city.

To launch the campaign, Homelessness SA is holding a barbeque at Victoria Square on April 1st. So if you are in the city between 11 am and 2pm, why not drop by and purchase a home made hamburger or falafel from the wonderful women from the South Australian Lebanese Women’s Association! The money raised will go directly to providing some protection against the winter weather and ill health it causes for homeless young people.

‘There are now some positive signs coming from the State and Federal governments in

their recognition and approach to homelessness – but we have a long way to go’ said Jo Wickes (Spokesperson for Homelessness SA).

‘Community services have been under funded for many years and we continue to sell off many our remaining public housing options. While we are now seeing an increasing amount of Commonwealth Government funding being injected into housing, many of these projects are some years away. Staff and services working at the coal face are distressed daily at having no shelter or housing options to offer people in crisis. Street Swags are not the solution to our housing crisis but we hope will help provide some protection against the winter weather and ill health it causes for homeless young people. As a nation, as a community and as individuals we need to make sure that young people know that their homelessness matters and that they matter to all us.’

For further details on the NYCH Campaign go to www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net

There are 4,323 South Australian young people without a place to call home.

Emergency accommodation has the capacity to support 513.

Barbeque proudly brought to you by the South Australian Lebanese Women’s Association (SALWA)





POET'S CORNER

Still here Pt 1

I'm writin a letter j ust tryin to do
 better
 I feel the crude weather
 Ahead born from the town full of lead
 Full of dead beats dead streets
 No one around but crack head creeps
 They say it's the place to put a smile
 back on ur face
 The place to be not for me
 Grew up ruff now homeless in burdy
 months coneless cant hurt me
 See how it goes how it shows
 Wat can happen wen givin a chance to
 do rite
 Do you hide or will you fite
 Wen told to stand cant go to my home
 town
 Because I'm banned cant comprehend
 My mentality hardcore reality
 Have a hole in your head like a tooth
 cavity
 Try to steer away from that keep
 away from crap
 Have a good home pack
 Full of my own things no chrome rings
 Maybe gold maybe not to old
 All bout style get my teeth fixed I
 wanna smile
 I ts been a while come walk a mile
 Wit my feet its hard on the street
 I'm large on a beat so its success i seek
 I t be my plan cant understand watch
 out if you can
 I'll be makin money like any other
 homeless man

By the Best Poet ever
 Michael Leske

Poem by Patricia Rosea Gorman

If a secret is all you have, keep it!
 If love is all you want, find it!
 If a parent is all you need, try and make the most of it!

For as I have a secret, it's locked away!
 For as I have love it's shown to the world!
 For as I have parents but they just dont get it!

Many life's are different, I get that!
 But why does it have to be so hard

If I get kicked out at a young age it's not so good!
 I know it hurts to find things out the hard way!

But to find happiness in between everything that has
 happened is good
 To find love in a world of hate and conflict is incredible

To be happy the way you are is a good thing!
 Dont let things get you down when the world around
 you is shit!

Push that shit away and be happy that your still alive
 today!
 Your still going to make it!

I believe that anyone can make it throw this world as
 long as you look at it the right way!

Smile about it! I know I am!

Are you a writer? A poet? An artist?

You are invited to contribute to the Homelessness
 SA newsletter — we publish four times a year.
 Send your articles, artwork or poems to us by:

8 June

27 July

9 November

margo.johnson@sheltersa.asn.au or call 8221 6488



Tasty recipes for you to try!

Pumpkin and Potato Soup

750g Pumpkin (Butternut is best)
 2 Large Onions
 250g Potatoes
 1 Lt Chicken Stock
 1 Cup Cream
 Salt and Pepper

Method

Peel and dice pumpkin, onions and potatoes and place in large saucepan. Add stock. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer uncovered 25 minutes or until vegetables are very soft. Puree or blend soup until all the lumps have disappeared. Return to saucepan, add cream, salt and pepper. Reheat and serve

Beetroot Salad

6 Beetroot, boiled until tender, peeled and cut into julienne strips.
 1 teaspoon Sea Salt
 1 Tablespoon Horseradish Cream
 1 Small Clove Garlic, crushed
 Juice of 1 Lemon
 Zest of 1 Orange
 ½ cup Light Sour Cream
 2 Tablespoons finely chopped chives

Method

Combine beetroot with all other ingredients, and place in fridge.
 This salad is delicious with grilled poultry or BBQ meats

Zucchini Slice

1 Carrot, grated
 375g Zucchini, grated (2)
 1 Large Onion, peeled and chopped
 1 cup grated cheese
 1 cup SR flour
 ½ cup oil
 5 eggs, lightly beaten
 Pepper for taste

Method

Combine all ingredients together in a large bowl and mix well. Pour into a greased tin, 16cm x 26cm and bake in moderate oven 180 degrees Celsius for 30-40 minutes until brown.

Boston Bun

1/3 Small cup Mashed Potato
 ½ Cup Milk
 1 Cup SR Flour
 ½ Cup Sugar
 1 Cup Mixed Fruit
 Pinch of Salt

Method

Mix all ingredients
 Put in 7inch sponge tin
 Bake on moderate oven for 30mins
 When cold ice and sprinkle with coconut
 Use Butter Icing.





Homelessness SA

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Homelessness SA aims to eliminate homelessness by:

- Advocating for the rights of people who are homeless
- Identifying and striving to address the conditions that create homelessness and inequality
- Encouraging active participation, co-operation and innovation
- Promoting a society where all people are valued and included

You can help eliminate homelessness by joining us, and get informed about the issues surrounding homelessness. Ask for a membership brochure today!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Organisation: Annual Budget of \$100,001 or more	\$100
Organisation: Annual Budget of \$100,000 or less	\$30
Individual: waged	\$15
Individual: unwaged	\$2

To be a member of Homelessness SA, you must be:

- An individual or,
- A non-government organisation or,
- A Government agency whose purpose is direct service delivery, and:
- Pay the applicable membership fee.
- Agree to the objects of Homelessness SA .
- Have your membership approved by the
Board of Homelessness SA.

2009 Activities and Events

April 1st Youth Homelessness Matters: It's No Joke

19th June Memorial Service for those who have died while homeless

5th August Free public forum

17th November AGM and free public forum