



Summer started early this year with a record number of November days over 30°C. On a hot day, there is nothing better than being able to jump into the pool or take a dip in the ocean to cool off. To do this safely it is important that everyone, no matter what age, is comfortable in the water and knows how to swim.

This is one of the reasons why half a dozen or so groups from Bayley House attend the Brighton Swim School every Monday to participate in a swimming development program. The program is conducted by qualified and experienced instructors and facilitates the development of swimming skills as well as promoting water safety awareness; both very important life skills.

Swimming is a good all-round activity that builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness. Activities undertaken in the swimming program promote confidence in the water through games, use of flotation aids, duck diving competitions and other exercises. Survival skills, such as treading water, are also learnt, whilst other activities develop breathing techniques, enhance coordination and tone muscles.

In addition to these aspects of the program, swimming is a very social activity. Whenever you visit the pool during one of the sessions everyone is laughing, chatting and having a lot of fun.



## CEO's message

**As the year winds up for the Bayley House community, there is much to celebrate and acknowledge, particularly the fantastic achievements by clients, staff, volunteers and our Board.**

Over the past few weeks I have attended several functions to thank all those who contribute to Bayley House and it has been lovely meeting everyone who makes up our community. I thank you for the warm welcome I have received. I'd also like to acknowledge the generosity and support of our voluntary Board of Directors, most ably Chaired by Rhonda Whitfield.

Looking back over the year, several achievements stand out:

- Our commitment to preparing families for the NDIS saw more than 15 valuable information sessions being conducted by Janet Batey, Penny Scott and Lindal Liddle. On average, each was attended by more than 30 people.
- More than \$180,000 was raised in our online Charidy campaign
- The refreshment and revitalising of programs within Day Services commenced. This will enable us to keep one step ahead in what is now an expanded array of service providers and make sure the services we provide are the best possible offering.
- Key partnerships are in development to enable us to trial some innovative approaches to providing more accommodation options.

Since commencing in October, everyone has been telling me about the wonderful Bayley House Christmas Concert. I was not disappointed; it was a fantastic night.

My very best wishes to you and yours for a safe time over the holidays, and I look forward to everything that is ahead of us in 2018!

Fiona Lynch  
CEO

## Dates to remember

### December



Last day of activities & closure of the Bayley House Office

**We would like to wish everyone in the Bayley House community a safe and happy holiday over the festive season.**

The office will close on 22 Dec 2017 and reopen on 2 Jan 2018.

### January



Bayley House Office opens



Day Program Staff commence



Clients Return – Day activities commence



Australia Day Holiday

### March



Labour Day Holiday



Good Friday Holiday

## noticeboard

### CLIENT HANDBOOK UPDATE

Bayley House publishes a Client Handbook which contains a variety of important information that is useful to clients and their families. The handbook is revised and updated on a regular basis. You can download the most recent version from our website by visiting:

[www.bayleyhouse.org.au/index.php/news-and-media/handbooks-and-brochures/](http://www.bayleyhouse.org.au/index.php/news-and-media/handbooks-and-brochures/)

### CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Ms Janet Batey was recently appointed as the Chief Operations Officer. Janet will oversee operations relating to various aspects of our day programs, accommodation and transport as we continue our preparations for the NDIS.





# Festival of Footy

*Matt and Angela watch the festivities.*

Once again, the annual Football Day was a key focus towards the end of September. Everyone dressed in their team colours and had a fantastic time participating in the variety of footy activities on offer.

Pre-competition entertainment was provided by Mark Polonsky, Cassice Watson, Gavin Moore and Donni Cini who gave a heart wrenching rendition of the Australian anthem. They did a magnificent job and soon had everyone joining in the chorus.

Once MC, Matt Walsh, explained the different activities, it was on for young and old and the round robin footy course came alive. Drills and skills included handball, kicking, tackling and target practice. The goal kicking competition tested accuracy and distance whilst the obstacle course was testament to the agility and speed of participants. The action was fast and furious.

Off the field was just as competitive. After much deliberation, the 'Best Dressed' award went to Anne Marie Broccio, a dedicated Richmond supporter. Collingwood fan, John Walker, thought he had it 'in the bag' after going all out to acquire his complete outfit from the op shop, but alas, he couldn't outdo Anne Maree and another converted September award headed the Tigers way.

The day would not have been so successful without the wonderful support of our volunteers and staff. All the clients had a blast thanks to your efforts. Special thanks to Matt for organising all the equipment and Kylie and Maria for cooking up a storm and serving a traditional footy feast of hot dogs and party pies. Volunteer Brett Agg did wonders helping oversee some of the activities and former St Kilda player, Stephen Milne, made a guest appearance on the day. It was a real team effort.

## Event Winners:

### Jim Thompson Gift:

Finn Connolly

### Sally Ball Gift:

Teresa MacLeod

### Anne Harris Electric Chair Gift:

Jodi Webster

### Vanessa Urban Wheelchair Gift:

Amelia Cruickshanks

### Andy Tanojevic Super Boot Kick:

John Davis



*James lines up for handball practice.*



*Go Tigers!*





# A Whimsical life

Thanks to the wonderful artists at Bayley House, the walls of the Bayside City Council offices in Sandringham featured lots of colourful artwork during December as part of our wonderful exhibition, *'A Whimsical Life'*.

In its fifth year, the exhibition by Bayley House artists is now a regular feature on the calendar of the Council's ARtrium Exhibition Space. And, by all accounts, it is one of the most popular amongst staff and visitors alike. Viewers love the colour, the variety of the content and the range in styles.

For the past few years the exhibition has coincided with International Day for People with a Disability (Dec 3), forming part of the Council's celebrations of the contribution people with a disability make to the Bayside area. Bayley House feels that it is a wonderful way to celebrate the achievements of our artists, and highlight the fantastic work they do.

Featuring 101 pieces of artwork created by 93 artists, this year's exhibition was officially opened by Mayor Laurie Evans on December 6. It was a great night attended by around 100 guests. Laurie

was very generous in his praise of the artwork. He has a long association with Bayley House and took a personal interest in each piece of work, even discussing some of the paintings in his speech.

One of our artists, Bronwyn Phillips was interviewed as part of the formalities. She was very excited about her work being on display and loved seeing everyone's reaction to her self-portrait, titled 'Amazing Me'. The piece took about six months to create and involved making a collage of small pieces of coloured paper, each containing a word describing something she loves doing. A hand drawn picture of Bronwyn was superimposed over the collage.

The exhibition at the ARtrium was the culmination of many months of hard work. Artists worked individually, or in a group, often collaborating with volunteers or instructors to explore the theme of

*'A Whimsical Life'*. And explore it they did! With imagination and fantasy as the key drivers, paintings included mystical creatures, weird and wonderful scenery, interesting personal reflections and fanciful ideas. The sky was the limit!

The exhibition ran from November 29 until to December 20. Many pieces were sold, with 36% of the paintings being purchased on the night of the opening. Items made in our retail art program, 'Art 4 Market' were also sold at the opening with nearly \$1000 of goods being purchased. These funds go back into the program to buy materials needed to make more products.

A big thank you to everyone who attended the opening, the Mayor, the Art Instructors, our singer Matt Walsh and all the volunteers who assisted on the night. Your involvement was crucial in the success of the event and was greatly appreciated.





Georgina helps Mayor Laurie Evans cut the ribbon.



Bronwyn discusses her painting.



Anne-Marie dances to Matt's tunes.



Poppers were released to celebrate the opening.

## Other Exhibitions

Bayside City Council is very supportive of the Bayley artists and in the few months leading up to the ARTrium exhibition, Hampton and Beaumaris libraries hosted exhibitions as part of the Council's Roaming Studios Program. Over 30 pieces of work were exhibited at each library.

In the past, our artists have also exhibited at kiosks, town halls and small council galleries. Our work has even been displayed in the electoral offices of several local politicians. Bayley House is always seeking to promote our artwork. If you have a space that would be suitable for an exhibition, do not hesitate to contact the office on 03 9982 1500.

## Art@Bayley

The Art Program, known as Art@Bayley, has grown significantly over the past five years and is extremely popular. Demand has seen the number of weekly art sessions double and the range of art activities offered has expanded to include Art 4 Market, Art Therapy and Sensory Art.

The Bayley House Art Group is self-directed and all skill levels are supported with art activities promoting community inclusion, building artist self-esteem and confidence and celebrating the creativity and talent of our artists. Our exhibitions embrace these factors and provide the community with great insight into the wonderful work our artists produce. Art@Bayley exhibitions demonstrate that art has no boundaries.

art@  
Bayley



Admiring the artwork.



Hampton library exhibition.



## FAREWELL TO STAFF

Managers, Anneke Jurgens, Caroline Stanley and Hans van de Graaff are leaving Bayley House at Christmas. We wish them all the best for the future. Thank you for your commitment and hard work.

## BAYLEY BUZZ

Watch out for our fantastic new client newsletter - the Bayley Buzz. The newsletter will be produced four times a year and is written by clients, for clients! The first edition was recently distributed and includes details about events, new activities and other things of interest to clients.

## B-FACTOR

The 2017 B-Factor was a great success. The atmosphere was amazing and 34 acts performed songs and dances from The Spice Girls, Elton John, Ricky Martin, ACDC, Bee Gees, Blues Brothers, Delta Goodrem, Human Nature, Justin Bieber and lots more. John Farnham made a comeback... four times!

Well done everyone!

### Winning Act:

The Blues Brothers - Luke, Tony, Sam B, & Robbie

### Best Singer:

John Davis singing John Farnham's 'Take the Pressure down'

### Best Costume:

Angela Littlelydyke and her disco outfit

### Best Group:

The Spice Girls - Bronwyn, Jessie O, Georgina, Bri & Sarah

### Special Mention:

Michael Andrews for an extraordinary effort with costume and rehearsal times



*The Lifestyle Group.*



*John Cox receives his 40 year award from Fiona Lynch (L) and Rhonda Whitfield (R).*

# Client Recognition Awards

Many of our clients have been attending Bayley House for a significant number of years. In recognition of this, and in acknowledgement of the contribution they make to Bayley House, we present Client Recognition Awards each year to celebrate key milestones of attendance.

There was an air of excitement around Bayley House on Friday 18 December as 23 people received awards to celebrate the length of time they have been attending our organisation. The Award program has been in place since 2010 and presentation of the awards has become a permanent fixture in the Bayley House calendar. Clients look forward to it each year and are always eager to find out if they will be amongst the recipients.

The presentation ceremony was attended by more than 45 family and friends and it was with great delight that each person accepted their award from CEO Fiona Lynch, and a rose from Board Chair, Rhonda Whitfield. Needless to say, there was a lot of clapping, cheering and taking of photographs as the audience proudly watched the presentations. As a first-time attendee at the event, Fiona was thrilled to see how proud everyone was to receive their award and was pleased that so many people could attend to support their family member. It certainly added to the atmosphere and gave the day a very special feel.

Five people received 40 year awards; a fantastic achievement. Others received

awards for attending Bayley House for 10, 15 and 20 years. The presentation was followed by morning tea and talking about the fun times and great experiences everyone has enjoyed at Bayley House.

Recipients of this year's awards are:

### 10 Year Certificate

Emma Bonte, Kathy Cherry, Anne Marie Fisher, Rebecca Gemelli, David Long, Angus Macmillan, Simone Mahl, Hugh McNab, Ashleigh Moore, Sarah Swallow, Louise Taffs and Iain Walker

### 15 Year Certificate

Melanie Caruana, Karen Dennis, Johnathon Pook, Frank Tencic and Sam Weir

### 20 Year Certificate

Timothy Dalton

### 40 Year Award

John Cox, Peter Doolan, Michelle Grover, Kim Sullivan and Trudi Sheehan

For more information and photos of the event, visit our Facebook page at: [facebook.com/BayleyHouse](https://facebook.com/BayleyHouse) or the latest news section of our website.



**Board of Directors: Front L to R: Paul Hede, Lucy Whelan and John Lawrenson  
Back L to R: Jude Mulcahy, Richard Zylan, Richard Dalton and Rhonda Whitfield.**

## Board & AGM Update

The Bayley House AGM, held on 14 November, was attended by over 50 members. Guests enjoyed pre-meeting refreshments before Chair, Rhonda Whitfield introduced new CEO, Fiona Lynch and each of the Board members.

Rhonda and Fiona spoke about the achievements of the past 12 months and plans for the next 12 months respectively. Board elections were conducted with John Lawrenson being re-elected for three year another term.

Guest speakers Penny Hart and Janet Batey, presented an update on the NDIS preparations Bayley House has been undertaking, whilst Deputy Board Chair and Treasurer, John Lawrenson, outlined the financial challenges of the scheme.

The election of office bearers, conducted at the December Board meeting, saw Lucy Whelan elected as Deputy Chair replacing Jude Mulcahy who stepped down from the role. Rhonda will continue as Chair and John Lawrenson as Deputy Chair. John will also continue in the role of Treasurer.

A copy of the Annual Report launched at the AGM can be downloaded from the Bayley House website.



**Norm, Bri and Gillian Peatling enjoy the function on the Tenacious.**

# Keeping our Vision Alive

**The Bayley House Foundation was established nearly two decades ago and now contributes to special projects for the benefit of people with an intellectual disability. In particular, it focuses on contributing towards the longer term financial security of Bayley House.**

The Foundation has been reinvigorated in the last three years and recently held an event onboard the tall ship Tenacious in Williamstown to promote the Foundation to potential supporters. Richard Dalton, Chair of the Foundation Directors, addressed attendees and spoke about the critical need for Bayley House to continue to provide physiotherapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy to clients; collectively these services cost \$150,000 annually.

Many of the people who attend Bayley House have complex needs as their intellectual disability is accompanied by a physical condition that may impact on their mobility, communication skills or other attributes. Allied health support services are fundamental to the quality of life of these individuals. Bayley House has a long-term commitment to providing these services and is committed to improving their delivery in the future under the NDIS.

Sincere thanks to all those who attended, and to DMP Asset Management and the Jubilee Sailing Trust for sponsoring the event. We hope that the Foundation will inspire generous donations and bequest gifts, and donors will share in our vision to make a contribution to Bayley House that will endure.

For more information about the Foundation, please contact Ruth Lew, Fundraising Manager T: 9982 1537 or email fundraising@bayleyhouse.org.au

### Recent projects supported by the Foundation include:

- Refurbishment of the Glassborow building.
- Active Support training for staff across the service.
- The NDIS Family Support project.

## Supporter Thank You

More than 75 people attended a function at Bayley House in early December to thank and acknowledged key individuals and businesses who have supported us over the past 12 months.

Several individuals received a Bayley House award in recognition of the voluntary contribution they have made over the years. In addition, 11 long-standing staff members were acknowledged for staff service with Bayley House for more than 15 years. Lecturer, Lisa Grainger accepted the 2017 Community Partnership Award on behalf of Holmesglen TAFE who has been delivering modified units in key Certificate 1 courses to our clients since 2011.

A BIG thank you to all our volunteers and supporters; we would not be the organisation we are today without your support.



**Annabel Kay (L) and Ann Peters (R) received the Silver Emblem with Wreath.**



