



HOMEPLACE NEWSLETTER



SUMMER EDITION February 2022



Welcome to 2022 from Julie!

What a start to 2022! The challenges of COVID-19 came to life all too strongly just before Christmas. In just a few months, South Australia went from being a state that has enjoyed minimal – *although difficult at the time* – restrictions, to feeling the full force of what our lives will be like living in a ‘COVID-is-here’ world.

Participants, participant family members, advocates, staff, and staff family members, have all been touched in some way by either experiencing COVID first-hand, or by being a close contact or having to isolate while waiting for test results and clearances. We’ve had to learn about ‘RATs’ –

(continued next page)

Rapid Antigen tests, 'higher-level' 'PPE' such as N95 masks and face shields, and the important role of booster vaccinations – all in the space of just a few weeks.

We thank everyone for their patience and understanding while we have had to adjust some of the times we provide support and keep community access supports to a minimum to keep everyone as safe as possible.

So far, our summer hasn't had too many really hot days. It's interesting to see that leaves on some trees are starting to change their colour with autumn being just around the corner. Autumn always signals a time of change, which brings me to highlight a few important milestones and activities that have been enjoyed by members of the HomePlace community. A selection of them are illustrated throughout this edition of the HomePlace newsletter.



Looking forward to what is ahead

We welcome new participants Meryl, Bronwyn and Nicole, and their families and advocates to the HomePlace community and congratulate Kane for settling into his new home from December. We wait and watch and see what the next phase of 'living with COVID' will bring for participants and their staff teams, and how we can keep partnering together to empower participants to live engaged and meaningful lives of their choosing within their community.



Julie Bowman
Chief Executive

Highlights



Debbie and Pete's 30th anniversary

Members of Mr Peter Woods and Mrs Debbie Woods' HomePlace staff team surprised them with a lunch, on the lawn just outside their home on a date of huge significance in their lives. Heartiest congratulations from HomePlace in reaching your 30th wedding anniversary!



Roger starts a new chapter

Roger is preparing to transition to retirement after many years of working at Coles. He has also recently been welcomed by the Speedway crew, and now has access to the pits, helps the drivers and also goes in the safety car at the beginning of each race. You may also remember the scrumptious White Christmas that was part of HomePlace's Christmas gifts to everyone – Roger was the lead Chef in making enough White Christmas gifts for everyone to enjoy!



Tina cooks with HomeFresh Cooking

Tina is also a budding chef, having recently started a new cooking class at HomeFresh Cooking. Tina was given this opportunity as a result of her recently reviewed and updated NDIS plan and increased funding.



Emily visits the zoo

Despite the COVID restrictions, Emily and her support team found a way to make a COVID-safe visit to the Adelaide Zoo, being a role model in mask-wearing and making sure that physical distancing rules apply!

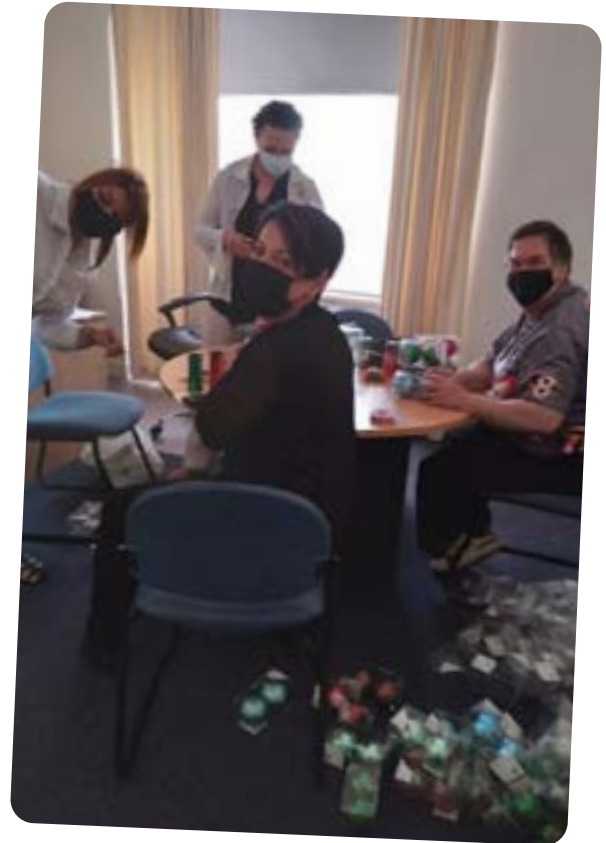


Christmas with a difference!



Many participants proudly showed off their Christmas decorations when members of the Leadership team visited participants in the days before the 25th December. A few highlights from pre-Christmas activities are shared below:

- Mieke and her partner showing Julie their extensive indoor and garden Christmas decorations.
- Di showing off all of the red and white decorations on her Christmas tree.
- Carolyn and her pride in not only her Christmas tree, but all of the items in her display cabinets.
- Pam's thoughtful gift-giving to all at the HomePlace office.
- Participants and staff coming together to wrap and sort Christmas gifts.
- Emily and Julie describing what they were going to be doing with their families, workmates,



neighbours and their HomePlace team during Christmas.

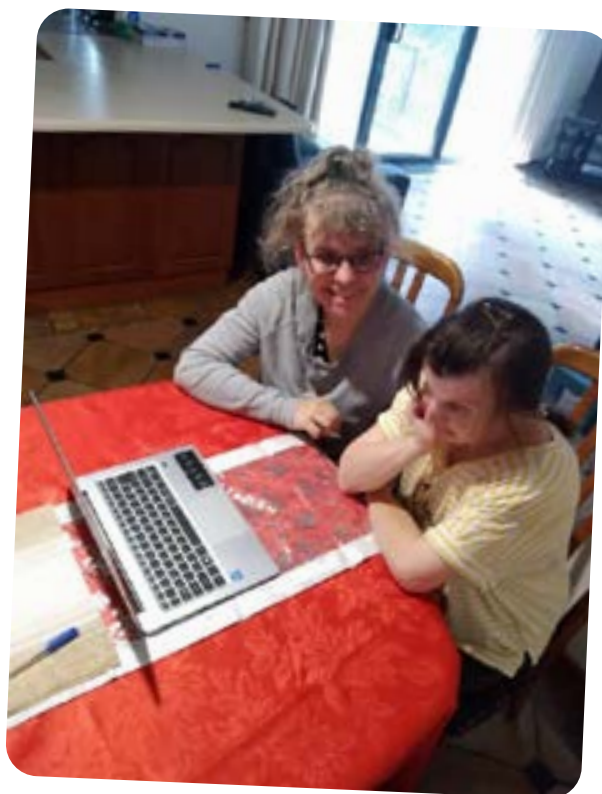
- The coming together of the HomePlace 'Our Voice' group at the pub for Christmas lunch, which followed on from the successful 'Our Voice – Be Your Own Boss' conference, which a number of participants and staff attended.

The first-ever HomePlace Virtual Christmas Party



We celebrated Christmas differently in December 2021. The opening of the SA borders, brought COVID into SA and as a result, with very short notice, our best-laid plans of HomePlace's Christmas Party at the Lakes Resort had to be transformed overnight into an on-line event. Our thanks to the Lakes Resort staff, in working with our HomePlace 'Christmas elves' in packaging up individual meals for most of the participants we support and their staff. Linda McCarthy managed to keep us all glued to our computer screens, with singing and dancing into the night. A few standout memories come to mind:

- Oliver and Gaby's enjoyment, along with their whole staff team, in the Christmas food and music.
- Craig and Josh seemingly dancing all the way through the virtual Christmas party.
- How technology enabled us to still come together, to connect and celebrate in a fun and different way.
- Jackie and Kobi's last minute change of heart from going out for dinner to staying in and being totally engrossed in the online activities.
- How the HomePlace office and support staff united together so that if we couldn't have the Christmas party we planned, we would 'take the Christmas party to the participants'...the HomePlace Way was really on display.



Spotlight on a staff member – Rizalita Lopez

Earlier this month we announced to staff that Riza has been appointed to the role of Senior Support Worker (SSW) for participants Tricia and Julie and their staff teams. Riza is 'stepping into the dedicated shoes' of Tricia and Julie's current SSW, Julie Cronin. Julie has decided to reduce her workload, spend more time with her family and focus on providing quality support to Julie and Tricia. As a Senior, Julie has mentored new workers across SIL homes and throughout her career has worked alongside many independent participants as well.

Riza has been with HomePlace since 2015. Riza hails from the Philippines and has previously worked as a school-teacher, a nurse, as well having worked and volunteered in the disability sector. She is well prepared to take on the challenges of this senior role, from having 'stepped up' into the role when Julie Cronin has taken well-earned breaks, as well as her own personal commitment to providing professional, compassionate care and support for people with disability and complex needs.



Rizalita Lopez

We are excited that Riza will continue to provide the high level of support that Julie Cronin has shown over a long period of time.

Congratulations Riza and massive thanks to Julie Cronin for consistently leading and providing support in the HomePlace Way in the role of SSW over many years.



Julie Cronin

Congratulations Julie!

February marked 12 months since Julie Bowman joined us as the Chief Executive of HomePlace.

The past year and the Covid-19 pandemic have continued to be challenging for HomePlace, our community and the people we support, as have the ongoing changes and uncertainty of the NDIS.

Despite these external challenges, the quality of care for participants has remained paramount and the organisation has delivered several significant initiatives, including launching of the 'HomePlace Way', developing a new Strategic Plan, continuing the system and process improvement journey, and continuing the development of our people.

The Board of Management is very thankful of the leadership Julie has provided over the last year. She has showed herself as a steadfast champion of the



HomePlace culture of participant-first care and support, continuing the legacy left by Shirley Paterson and Denice Wharldall.

We wish Julie all the best in her next big swim in April, the 26 km Palm Beach-Shelly Beach ultramarathon and again thank her for what she has done for HomePlace and the people we support, over the past year.

Braden Naylor – Chairman
of the HomePlace Board





Join Homeplace for a

Picnic in the Park!

Friday 1st April, 2022

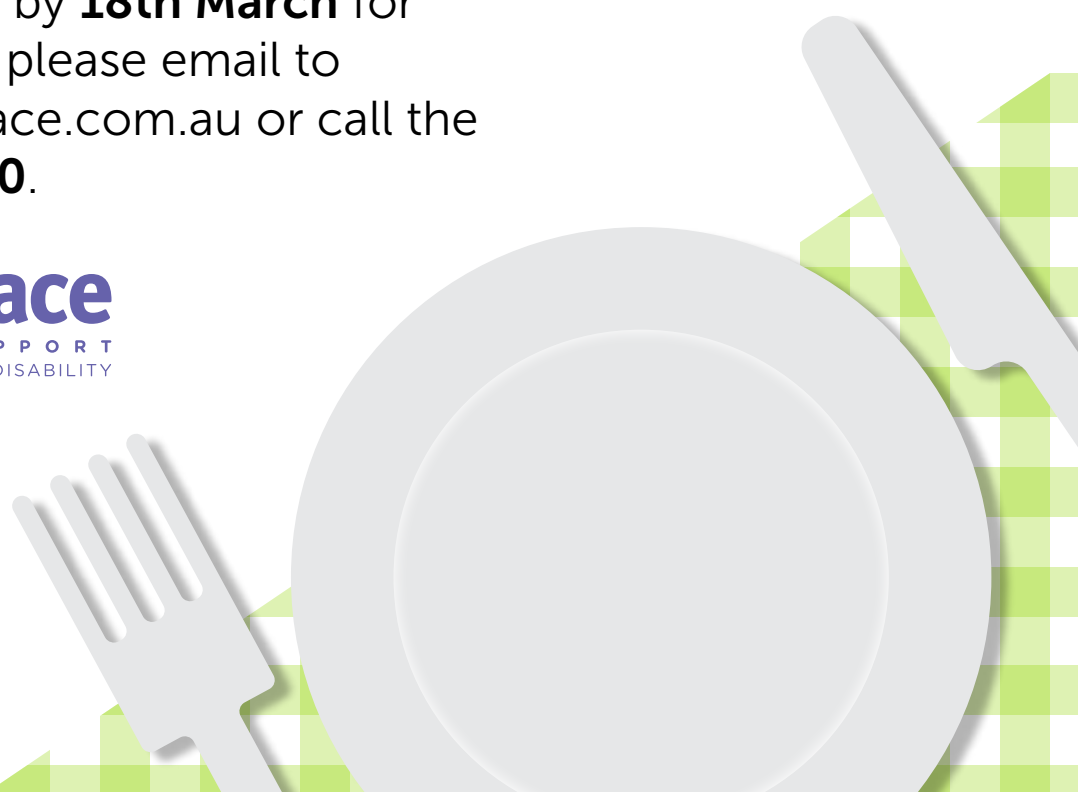
5pm – 7pm

Semaphore Foreshore

BYO chair or picnic rug to sit on.
Picnic food and refreshments will be provided, and there will be an Easter-themed hat competition!



RSVP is ESSENTIAL by **18th March** for catering purposes, please email to cmethot@homeplace.com.au or call the office at **8445 9900**.



Your support

Are we getting it right?

At HomePlace we aim to provide the best care and support with people who live with disability.

Do you think we provide the care and support in the way that you want?

Do we sometimes not provide the support in the 'right way' for you?

For us to get better at providing support, we need to hear from you.

If you're not happy with HomePlace or one of your workers, you need to let us know by making a complaint.



You can make a complaint by



Talking to your **staff member** or **Coordinator**



Or you can call HomePlace on **8445 9900**



Or write us a **letter** to PO Box 16, Ferryden Park SA 5010 or **email** us at **admin@homeplace.com.au**



Or through our **website**

You can ask a friend, family member or advocate to help you make your complaint to HomePlace



Your complaint will be passed to a Senior member of staff who will look into your complaint

The Senior member of staff will write your complaint down and look at how we can make it better



The Senior staff member will see if we need to make changes

The Senior member of staff will keep you up to date with what's happening with your complaint.



They will tell you the outcome of the complaint and will be given to you in writing.



If you are not happy with the outcome

You can contact

Public Advocate	8342 8200
NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission	1800 035 544
Complaints commission	8226 8666

If you are not happy with anything to do with your NDIS funding, you can speak to your support worker or Coordinator or NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission on **1800 035 544**.

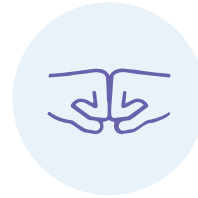


Reach out to the HomePlace Board

If you have a serious concern and would like to contact the Board, please write to the Chairman of HomePlace at naylorbraden@gmail.com



The Place I Call Home



Respect



Trust



Safety



Partnership

WHO WE ARE

Established in 1989, **HomePlace** was formed by a group of parents who were seeking to secure an independent future for their adult children with intellectual disabilities.

Three decades later, the HomePlace service is just as personable, where **we support people with disabilities** to live well by participating in their own home and community.



HomePlace

LIFESTYLE SUPPORT
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A DISABILITY

19-21 Belmore Terrace,
Woodville SA 5011
9am-5pm Monday - Friday

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admin@homeplace.com.au
8445 9900

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