

**ISSUE 40 MARCH 2018** 

# From the CEO with John Gilpin



John Gilpin

Welcome to the March edition of our bimonthly newsletter, "The Independent". A lot has happened for the months of January and February that make up this edition.

We have seen a lot of new and interesting things happen here at St Michaels, while on the other end of the spectrum we are sad but happy; as we have seen some people leave us through retirement.

#### Good news:

We have a new chef – Natasha Werner started with us late February to assist our commercial kitchen that supports our participants here at STMA. Natasha's focus will be in four main areas:

- Assist support staff and participants with cooking programs;
- Assist houses with menu planning with

participants;

- Monitor and support food safe quality procedures;
- Deliver accredited training for our sector.

Continuing with the good news is the appointment of Amanda Turner to the inaugural role of Employee Engagement Manager. Amanda's role is to provide staff:

- Employee engagement -driving value systems;
- Human resource advice and support to staff;
- Learning and development for staff;
- Industrial relations support to the Association;
- Health and wellbeing programs.

Other important news: We wish the very best for two long serving people within St Michaels and the disability sector. Jill Cooper, a Board Member of St Michaels for over 30 years has retired and we will miss her input and guidance. Karen Watson, Manager of Independent Services and then Day Programs, has retired after over 20+ years working in the sector. Her partici-



pants that truly love Karen, gave her a wonderful retirement party.

It is with sad news that I let you know of the passing of a long-term tenant and participant of St Michaels – Louise Rowbottom. Louise's passing was sudden, after battling illness and was still a surprise to us all here. She was loved by all of us here and we will miss Louise's smile, humour and personality. Activities for participants have been wide and varied over the last couple of months, such as swimming, tennis, croquet, museum tours, rhythm and beat music programs, art, sewing and so much more! Wednesday night catering club for fellow inde-

pendent living unit ten-

ants has also taken off.

pendently are learning

People living inde-

to cook, cater for and socialise with their neighbours.

Thanks goes to Richard Nicholls for getting the walking group up and about in 2018. Walking training and practice is underway and any volunteers would be greatly appreciated; just call the office on 6331 7651 if you are interested.

Please note: Our Day Programs vary season to season at Newstead and at Independent Services and with your now flexible NDIS package you can choose to come and join us. We are happy to talk to you about our programs at any time as these programs have vacancies.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter.

Kind regards, John

Peter Gutwein MP
Treasurer and Member for Bass
To contact Peter phone 6777 1007 or email: peter.gutwein@dpac.tas.gov.au
Authorised by: Sam McQuestin 2/24 Murray Street Hober



# **Retirement - Jill Cooper**

Jill Cooper has recently retired from the St Michaels Association Board.

Jill has been an active member of the Board for over 30 years plus and has been directly involved in the development and growth of the Association.

Jill was a former career teacher having worked with many special education participants at St Michaels when it was a Special Education facility.

Please join me in wishing Jill all the very best on her retirement from the Board of St Michaels Association.



# **Employee Engagement Manager**

Please welcome Amanda Turner as Employee Engagement Manager.

Amanda's role has been introduced to the St Michaels management team to provide a focus on employment engagement activities including:

Provide staff with advice and support on employment related matters and to feedback on ways things can be improved

- Coordinate staff recruitment processes
- Provide induction for new staff
- Coordinate professional development and performance

management processes

 Ensure associated policies and processes are clear and easy to follow

With over 20 years of experience working in the education, employment and community services sectors, Amanda brings a broad range of management expertise to the Association.

Amanda is located in the main administration area at the Hoblers Bridge Road site and works three days per week Tuesday to Thursday. Please feel free to stop in and say hello or contact Amanda via email or phone to make



an appointment.

Welcome to St Michaels Amanda and congratula-

tions on your new role.



# Independent Services - Community Access

The excitement has continued for participants and staff alike upon their return in February to our new building in Chant Street. Everyone has settled back into the groove as they make the most of the abundance of space.

With a designated Programs room set up all participants have quickly adapted to using it to full capacity. Routines are becoming more settled and we are full steam ahead. Programs in this wonderful area include; Grooming, Relaxation, Craft, Literacy, Brainwaves, Board games, Budgeting, Art, and Sewing.

The three cooking groups are now confidently finding their way around the larger kitchen whilst also using the adjoining lunch room to prepare and serve their meals.

The Main Hall has also been utilized on a regular basis as the Self Defence, Tennis and Fishing groups have made good use of the space modifying their activities to suit. This hall has also become a great alternative venue on wet and cold days for community programs.

The Monday Fishing program at Waverly Lake/St Leonard's Picnic Ground will end for the season on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Although to date, the group have yet to land the big one – all the more enticing for when the season recommences on October the 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Bike Centre pro-







gram will be replacing the Fishing program and will run for the winter months starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May and will run through until the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

The Wednesday Morning







Tennis program finishes at the end of April and the Flying Program at Royal park will replace this during the winter months starting in May.

We are all looking forward to a busy and ex-

citing year ahead at Chant Street.

Mandy Mallett, Team Leader.



# Merton House - Transitional Accommodation (S.I.L)

Things have definitely been on the move over the last 2 months here at Merton House and we can't believe that we are already a quarter of the way through the new year. We have been meeting with each participant to discuss what their hopes, dreams and ambitions are for this year. From all of these discussions, it feels like it's going to be a busy year for us all. A number of our participants want to plan holidays both here in Tasmania and on the mainland; everyone is very excited with these plans and the opportunity for new experiences. It was also very exciting to hear that many people were looking towards their futures and what they wanted to achieve in areas of their own personal growth. Each per-

son has been supported to write up their plan for the year and now the work begins to develop the steps to support each person to achieve their personal goals.

Ben Hadley celebrated his birthday and continuing his celebrations by taking a birthday cake to the Saturday Social Club for everyone to enjoy and help him celebrate his first birthday here at St Michaels.

We continue to make the most out of the warm autumn days and are having some great outings both around town and getting out to the countryside.

It has been great to reestablish our relationship with the Launceston Football Club as they welcomed back Ben, Luke, Brandon and



Ashley to their training night.

We wish to thank Richard Nichols for all his work and volunteering to take up the challenge of starting up the Monday Night Walking Group to get us ready for the Launceston and Burnie Ten Walking Challenges. It is great to see them so engaged, having fun and sharing in the identity of being part of St

Michaels Walking Group

Well that is just a bit of what's been happening at Merton and we look forward to share with you all as we go forward with all our achievements in the coming months.

Mitch Stoddart, Merton House Team Leader.

### **Retirement - Karen Watson**

Karen Watson recently retired from her position as Senior Team Leader of the Merrington Centre Community Access Program.

Karen, the former Independent Services Manager has worked extensively with Tasmanians living with a disability for over 20 years.

Independent Services merged with St Michaels approximately 4 years ago and continues to operate from Chant Street, East Launceston.

Thank you Karen for your dedication and commitment, we wish you all the very best in your retirement.





## **Welcome Natasha Werner**

Please welcome Natasha Werner to St Michaels team as the Chef and Food Safety Supervisor.

Natasha comes to St Michaels with over 25 years of experience within the food industry and has catered for all types of food and cooking styles. Natasha enjoys teaching, coaching and mentoring.

Natasha is based in the Merrington Centre and has made a positive start working with the participants and staff alike in preparing and creating culinary delights.

Please join with me in congratulating Natasha on her new role and in welcoming her to St Michaels.



# Como Crescent - Supported Accommodation (S.I.L.)

The residents made the most of the end of the summer season and the varied opportunities of many festivals, events and recreational outings possible at this time of year.

Residents enjoyed swimming at Cataract Gorge and Launceston Aquatic, various barbeques, visiting the dogs at RSPCA, a day trip to Devonport to watch the regatta and walk the bluff, Latrobe Market, taking tennis lessons, Launceston Museum, visiting the Deloraine Classic Car Show and Exeter Show equestrian competition, dinner at the Country Club Watergardens, attending Chilli Skyfire, and walking the Tamar Wetlands

boardwalk.

While these activities are first and foremost opportunities for fun and creating happy memories, any participation also improves quality of life through incidental physical activity, improving social and communication skills through meeting new people and increasing personal confidence and selfawareness by exploring new environments and pursuits. Breaking up the daily regimen can help to broaden our horizons and change our perspective on ourselves to become more outward looking, as we learn to look past our own concerns and become more connected,





compassionate and relatable with others.



Ben Anderson, Como Crescent Team Leader.



### Day Program - Community Access

There has been a lot happening over the last couple of months in the Merrington Centre which has included a number of staff changes. Karen Watson, Senior Team Leader retired. All the best Karen! We also welcomed Natasha Werner into the kitchen as Chef and Food Safety Supervisor. Natasha is already a hit with our participants and has doubled the size of the cooking program. Good work Natasha.

The Centre has purchased their own drums and staff have taken on the role of assisting our participants learning rhythm and beat. Again this has increased attendance and everyone appears to be enjoying

the class.

With the season changing to Autumn we have now returned to our Croquet program and hung up our tennis rackets. Although the weather hasn't been kind the last couple of weeks and it has been cancelled, the one trip we have had to St Leonards croquet has proven to be popular.

Our Easter raffle has been drawn and our lucky winners are

1<sup>St</sup> prize Mandy Mallett 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Bev Wallace 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Lyn Tanner Patricia Wrigley, Acting

Team Leader.



# **Desmond Wood** - Respite Transitional Accommodation

Now that March is drawing to a close, we have everyone back into their normal routines.

Tim has had a great start to his final year at Newstead College. He completed an art project on Leonardo Da Vinci and the Mona Lisa, he sought out information he needed using the computer and then completed all tasks required with a assistance from staff when he needed it. Great start to the year Tim, keep up the great work and you will succeed in reaching your education goals.

Alex has started year 9 and he has settled well and is starting to reap the rewards. He has homework that he is working on and staff are

always on hand to help when he needs it.

Amelia has settled into Desmond Wood really well and staff enjoying watching her gain new skills every week and for her to come out of her shell more. We all look forward to seeing what Amelia will do next!

Alex and Tim have been planning activities they can enjoy together and the first one for the year will be a trip to the movies to see Peter Rabbit.

We look forward to sharing more of our year with you in future newsletters.

Megan Thomas, Desmond Wood Team Leader.







# Penquite Rd - Supported Accommodation (S.I.L.)

Penquite participants have some great news to share as they have all transitioned over to the NDIS. They have all been very busy working on the goals that they would like to achieve.

Robyn brought a new phone to start working on developing her technology skills with help from staff. Kathy and Paul are researching new house activities and interesting day programs, while Gary is continuing to work on his car detailing skills.

All of the participants have been enjoying the summer weather by going out on BBQ lunches to the Tail Race, attending Community Fairs and Events and enjoyed time at home with their families some

weekends.

Staff and participants are currently planning extra activities such as swimming at the Aquatic Centre for a weekly evening activity or joining in with the walking group on Mondays to keep active over the coming colder months. Penguite participants and staff would also like to express their condolences to Jenny, Alan (and extended family) with the passing of your beautiful daughter Louise. Louise will be remembered as a valued housemate and wonderful person.

Ade Doyle, Penquite Road Team Leader.







### In Home Tenancy - Personal Support

All participants have been taking advantage of the glorious weather these past few months accessing a variety of community activities. For example, visiting Franklin House, a walk in the gardens at Glebe, swimming at the Gorge and Windmill Hill, Richardson Harley Davidson's Museum and the Inveresk Museum.

Participants have also been enjoying the new Wednesday night dinners specially catering for everyone in the units, many participants are learning new cooking skills by involving themselves in the preparation of the meal, setting the tables and cleaning up. The In Home Tenancy staff and

Participants also send a warm welcome to our new Chef Natasha and look forward to her input with meal planning and preparation.

Jo and Lyn have recently returned from a once in a life time trip to Vietnam, they cooked and sampled the local cuisine, participated in local craft activities and returned with many souvenir's and photos.

We have had many birthdays celebrated in the last few months; we wish you all the best on your special day.

The Cross Roads camp at Devonport is coming up and Participants are already looking forward to attending.





Best wishes to all over the Easter break.

Marcia Lade, IHTS Team Leader.



# Youth Break - Respite, Life Skills & Community Access

The participants have been enjoying the last of the warmer days and recently went to the tractor show at Carrick. The show which included remote control car racing, train rides which was a hit with Sarah and Brody. Great food stalls and of course a lot of "very cool big trucks," as Brody put it.

We also adventured up the Mt Barrow trail, this saw us enjoying pancakes on an open fire and the great natural surrounds of the area. A game of cricket up the top was a hit for a few while the pancakes were cooking.

Beaconsfield Gold Mine saw some of our young ladies go back in time and try and write their name in ink and to sit behind the old style desks. We panned for gold but we weren't successful.

Now that the colder months are upon us we are talking every week to see what new adventures and experiences we can have, the groups have come up with some great ideas and I am hoping with planning, we can soon be enjoying these experiences together, including a trip to Salamanca Market and Zoo Doo at Richmond. We look forward to sharing more of our experiences in the next newsletter.

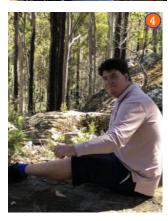
Happy Easter from the Youth Break team.

Megan Thomas, Desmond Wood Team Leader.









# Kenneth Court - Supported Accommodation (S.I.L.)

Kenneth Court participants have been getting back to their day services after the Christmas period.

Stephen celebrated his birthday with Kenneth Court residents. Stephen enjoyed himself and really liked his presents he received. Robyn Bye celebrated her birthday at the Casino in the Water Garden.

Nick went on a church camp where he had loads of fun, he liked socializing with different people and Nick spent a recent weekend home helping celebrating his Mum's birthday.

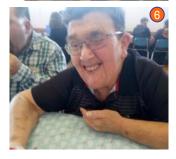
Val, Nick, Stephen and Andrew have been working on cooking more in the kitchen to improve on their cutting, slicing, meal prep and cooking skills. Nick likes cooking and seeing his housemates enjoy what he has cooked.

All 4 participants have attended both Speakout and Crossroads and are looking forward to Crossroads Camp in April when they will be traveling to Devonport and spending the weekend doing different activities.

Nick and Val are looking forward to going home over the Easter Period and spending time with their families.

Stephen and Andrew will enjoy some quiet time relaxing and doing exciting things with staff at Kenneth over Easter.





Kenneth court are working on improving their skills and working towards being more independent.

I look forward to seeing





how they improve and develop their skills. Nathan Avery, Kenneth Court Team Leader.



# Hawthorn St - Supported Semi-Independent Living (S.I.L.)

The last few months have seen a lot of decorative changes around their home. It has been fantastic to see all the guys having an input into how they want their home to look including a wall of photos in the lounge room. Each participant have included photos of their different interests and activities they enjoy.

Sarah joined the other participants at Hawthorn street in early February and has settled in quickly.

The spare room has been converted into an art room which has had plenty of use. Sarah and Hannah have been designing and colouring large designs together. Sarah has joined Hannah and Heath at the various markets on the weekends. The three of them have also started watching live music over hot chocolate at

the Seaport on a Sunday.

George has been focused on his goal of watching live wrestling in Melbourne later this

George and Heath have continued to take pride in mowing the lawns consistently. All of the guys have done an excellent job working together to keep the house looking great inside and out.

Everyone has been making the most of the clear weather with trips to the House of Anvers and Ashgrove farms among others.

It has been a brilliant start to 2018 and we are all very excited to see what the rest of this year has in-store for everyone at Hawthorn Street.

Abigail Theobald, Hawthorn Street Team Leader.







# St Michaels - At a glance

St Michaels Association Inc. is a not-for-profit non-government organisation providing accommodation and support to people with intellectual and physical disabilities for over 50 years.

The vision of St Michaels is to develop independence through maximising the individual

qualities of Tasmanians living with a disability.

Our Mission is to support the physical and emotional needs of our clients and their families through the provision of personalised care programs, training and a variety of accommodation services.

St Michaels relies heavily on grants, local

community support, donations and fund raising to meet our clients needs.

All proceeds received are redistributed back into the St Michaels Association Inc. community.

If you feel you would like to make a donation, please contact Rod Campbell on 6331 7651

or complete the form see page 15 and forward to 22 Hoblers Bridge Road, Newstead. Thanking you for your consideration.

St Michaels is supported by the Crown through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Audit + Assurance Self-Managed Superannuation Funds

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Registered Company Auditor

Luke Salmon M: 0407 131 686 Registered SMSF Auditor | E: luke@salmonaccounting.com.au



## Wellington St - Supported Semi-Independent Living (S.I.L.)

The efforts of the residents and staff to transform the backyard into raised vegetable garden beds has been commendable, with significant time and energy directed into clearing heavily overgrown weeds and ivy, deconstructing old rock walls and shoveling and sifting many cubic meters of soil. We now have two small garden beds producing spring onions, oregano, lettuce, strawberries and rosemary, which are being used in cooking most nights.

The work that remains is to continue sifting the remaining soil to

remove weeds, seeds and rocks, placing weed matting and constructing the final rock walls which will form three additional raised beds in which the residents would like to grow tomatoes and pumpkin.

Aside from the physical work involved, what's been most impressive is the dedication and teamwork required of a project spanning many months. While it's expected that motivation and energy will vary from day to day, maintaining focus on the end result has kept the team on track, dedicated and ahead of schedule. The learning outcomes will go on to be applied suc-





cessfully in many other areas of their lives.



Ben Anderson, Wellington St Team Leader.

# St Michaels - Call for memberships

St Michaels Association Inc. has been serving the Tasmanian Community for over 50 years through the provision of care and accommodation services to those living with an intellectual and or physical disability.

St Michaels is calling for new members to join this innovative and trusted organisation.

There are two types of Memberships that are available:

Member - full voting rights, cost \$25 pa.

Associate - non voting rights, cost \$10 pa.

Other benefits of being a St Michaels Association Member include invitations to St Michaels AGM and functions, personalised calendars and being on the mailing list of the bi-



monthly newsletter, The Independent.

If you would like to become a Member of St Michaels Association or to discuss membership options please contact John Gilpin for a membership form on 6331 7651.

Contact John Gilpin today on 6331 7651 to discuss your membership



# **Our Assets - Paul Westgarth**

The change of season has seen many introduced weeds taking hold around the facility. The Asset team are putting in an extra effort to combat this problem and keep the grounds looking great.

The general maintenance of our assets including our properties and resources are on track and being effectively managed.

The new Chant Street property has a few small issues due to its age and are being addressed. The renovation of the property has come a long way in a short time and requires

a little elbow grease to finalise the project.

Our group homes including Kenneth Court and Como Crescent have recently had safety inspections with only a few small maintenance issues required to be fixed.

Our vehicles continue to be well maintained and are generally in good order. The Ford Transit has recently been inspected & passed for its 6 month public vehicle check. The D47PD Hyundai I20 has undergone panel repairs after being involved in an incident.

Paul Westgarth, Asset Supervisor.











Time is almost up get your personal tax return done now with us and we will donate \$10 as part of our fee back to St Michaels Association.





MDH Accounting - 03 6334 4496 Level 3, 63-65 Cameron Street Launceston TAS 7250 Australia



# Things we do...

















Would you like a copy of a photo? **See P15** for details



# Things we do...

















Would you like a copy of a photo? See P15 for details



# **Healthy Lifestyle Recipes**





# Mapo Szechuan - style pork and tofu

Serves: 4 Time to make: 20 mins **Ingredients** 

- cooking oil spray
- 400g lean pork mince
- 1 large green capsicum, cut into thin strips
- 3 cups snow peas, trimmed
- 3 tablespoons Chilli, ginger and garlic paste
- 200g firm tofu, cubed
- 2 tablespoons oyster sauce
- 3 cups steamed brown rice, to serve
- 3 spring onions, thinly sliced

#### Instructions

#### Step 1

Spray a large, non-stick frying pan lightly with oil and place over high heat. Add pork mince and cook, breaking up with a wooden spoon, for 4–5 minutes or until just cooked through.

Remove pork from pan and transfer to a large bowl then set aside.

#### Step 2

In the same pan, fry capsicum and snow peas for one minute. Stir through Chilli, ginger and garlic paste. Add tofu and oyster sauce, then stir briefly before adding pork mince back to pan. Carefully stir mince into tofu mixture, trying not to break up the tofu too much.

#### Step 3

Divide rice between bowls, top with pork and tofu mixture and garnish with spring onions.

#### Coconut slice

Serves: 20

Time to make: 30 mins

#### **Ingredients**

- 2 cups gluten-free marshmallows
- 2 tablespoons reduced-fat table spread
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup desiccated coconut
- 5 cups gluten-free puffed rice cereal

#### **Instructions**

#### Step 1

Line a 20.5cm-square, 4.5cm-deep cake tin with a large sheet of non-stick baking paper.

#### Step 2

Place marshmallows in a large bowl. Set bowl over a saucepan of simmering water and stir until melted mixture is smooth.

#### Step 3

Add remaining ingredients to bowl; stir quickly. Press mixture into tin and refrigerate until set.

#### Step 4

Cut slice into squares; store in an airtight container for up to five days or serve immediately.

#### **Contact Details**

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PO Box 306 Newstead Tas 7250
Phone (03) 6331 7651 Fax (03) 6334 2132
admin@stmichaels.asn.au
www.stmichaels.asn.au
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# **Photos**

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# **Services offered at St Michaels**- All NDIA Registered Supports

Co-ordination of Supports - assistance in coordination of support requirements through the NDIS. Support coordination is designed to minimise the complexity of negotiating with service providers, government agencies and accommodation providers.

#### Community Access participate in community, social and civic activities

The program incorporates support to enable a participant to independently engage in community, social and recreational activities during the week and operates from 9 to 3 pm Monday to Friday from our City and Hoblers Bridge Road, Newstead Campuses.

#### Merton House -(transitional housing) assistance with daily life tasks in a group or shared living arrangement

Support incorporates assistance with and /or supervising tasks of daily life in a shared living environment, which is either temporary or ongoing, with a focus on developing the skills of each individual to live as autonomously as possible. The support is based on the needs and goals of the individual. This program operates from our transitional accommodation facility from 3 pm to 9 am Monday to Friday and 24 hours Saturday and Sunday.

#### In Home Tenancy Support - assistance with self-care activities.

Supports provide assistance with and/or supervising, personal tasks of daily life to develop skills of the par-

ticipant to live as autonomously as possible. This program operations seven days a week.

# Group Homes - shared accommodation Services

Currently there are three group homes located in the broader community. Services provided incorporate assisting with and or supervising tasks of daily life to develop the skills of an individual with either low standard support or high needs to live autonomously as possible. This program operates seven days a week.

#### Desmond Wood short term respite accommodation

Services include integrated support for self-care, accommodation, food and activities for short periods. This program operates 5 nights per week. This is a short term respite program which provides 24 hour support.

### Youthbreak - (respite accommodation)

This program is a respite program provided to young people from the ages of 15-25 and operates out of the Desmond Wood Complex from 4 pm Friday to 4 pm Sunday. Conditions apply for eligibility.

### Individual Support - 1 on 1 support

This type of support is specific to the needs of the individual, and may include enabling a participant to independently engage in community, social and recreational activities, personal care, educational assistance, living and life skills. Support can be provided 24/7 365 days a year and can be delivered in home or at St

Michaels.

# Our Home - shared accommodation Services

Currently there are two Our Home facilities located in the broader community. Services provided incorporate minimal assistance in meeting daily life requirements and to develop the skills of an individual with standard support needs to live autonomously as possible. This program operates 7 days a week.

#### **Social Club**

Social Club is held in the hall at St Michaels every Saturday Night from 6 pm to 9.30 pm. This is a time for clients to get together for a meal, socialise and engage in leisure activities of their choice such as card or board games, singing, dancing or enjoying a footy match on TV with a friend.

#### Independent Living Units

The 44 Independent Living Units are currently fully occupied with a tenant/landlord agreement in place. The units provide independent living in a safe, supported environment. The units are more suited to clients with higher skills, requiring minimal assistance and can incorporate assistance with self-care activities (see In Home Tenancy Support).

Please note there is a

specific criteria that is required to be eligible for this service.

### Registered Training Organisation (60067)

St Michaels is a Skills Tasmania Endorsed RTO providing accredited training for Tasmanians with a disability.

On-the job traineeships, workplace based skills sets and classroom based training in Certificate I Warehousing Operations, Certificate II Process Manufacturing, Certificate II in Horticulture, Short courses in Kitchen Operations, Forklift, Computing, and five Day HSR are delivered across the state in various locations

#### Details

The Independent is distributed electronically on a bi-monthly basis. Hardcopies can be found on our website and or can be posted.

General Display and Classified Display Advertising space is available if you would like to advertise your business.

Please contact Rod Campbell on 6331 7651

#### **Contact Details**

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