

FUN PUZZLE SOLUTION



Home Assist

Connecting Consumers *by Consumers for Consumers*

Edition 24 – Spring 2020



Quickest Warmth Project

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health. Visit the Department of Health website (www.health.gov.au) for more information.

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Gawler Home Assist

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Welcome to the latest edition

What a different year this has been for us all. This year has already seen many changes to how we deliver our services, with a number of additional safety precautions put in place. We appreciate your patience as we continue to monitor what is continuing to happen in the Eastern states and want to assure everyone, that our focus remains on ensuring we maintain quality whilst ensuring the ongoing safety for all. This includes the cancellation of any scheduled services where the consumer or the contractor may not be feeling well, even if it they are only experiencing mild symptoms. In these unusual times, we have seen an increase in the need to cancel some services at short notice, so we appreciate your understanding that we are not in a position to arrange fill-ins for all these occasions.

At the height of the pandemic, we also suspended the need for consumers to sign to confirm that services have been delivered. We will be reintroducing this feature but want to ensure that consumers retain the right to refuse to sign the service hours record forms if they do not feel safe (sharing a pen) or if they dispute the time or cost that has been listed.

Whilst many of the suspended services have now resumed, it is quite exciting to welcome back the Lunch Club and the Coffee Club, both of which will be recommencing in September. Whilst this program had previously been operating under a partnership we had with the Gawler Health Service, this ceased from 30 June. The program is now being fully delivered by the Gawler Home Assist Program and we are excited to say that we have

been able to retain many of the same hostesses, who have now signed up as volunteers with the Town of Gawler.

If you would like any more information on these services, please call the Home Assist office on 8522 1177.



Sarah, Sandy and Sanna

Kerrie Draper-Rose has worked with Home Assist for 17 years. She resigned last month to join her husband in Western Australia, where they lived before moving to Gawler. Her colleagues describe what it was like working with her.

Kerrie - good for a laugh

How does one begin to describe what it was like to work with Kerrie? Kerrie always took the bull by the horns and she never backed away from hard work or a challenge. She was passionate about the program and the people she worked with. But perhaps more than anything, she did make you laugh – sometimes it was with her and sometimes it was at her. The office certainly wasn't dull (or quiet) when he she was around.

Sanna

Kerrie - people person

Kerrie came a part of the program firstly having completed her Certificate III in Community Services at TAFE. Then wanting to have some practical experience with her new learnt skills became a volunteer providing social support to our clients.

When one of our team made the decision to retire Kerrie then applied and was offered the position and joined the team. Kerrie was not only fun to work with she was also a people-person, willing to listen, provide great advice and a person you knew would be there for you and her clients.

Our team is very much a family, we had the pleasure in joining Kerrie watching her children grow into the adults they are today.

Sandy

Kerrie - often asked Why?

I have worked with Kerrie for the past 14 years in our roles as Program Officers for the Home Assist Program and before that I was a contractor and Kerrie was one of my bosses.

I have always enjoyed working with Kerrie who loved to tackle challenges and never backed away from having an opinion, with WHY being one of her favourite words. She was passionate with her role and enjoyed working with the older members of our community.

Not only was Kerrie good at her job, she was great confidant and we all shared so many laughs together over the years. Our office will definitely be a lot quieter and I will personally miss working alongside my friend.

Sarah





My first job was...

Working at the Roseworthy Roadhouse.

Other jobs were...

Working as a waitress in the Barossa at various places, Grape picking in the Clare Valley, working for Viterra at the Silos at Roseworthy, working for a caterer in the Barossa Valley, working in child care/preschools and schools as a Child Care Worker/SSO.

I was born in...

Angaston, South Australia on the 3rd of January.

My favourite childhood memory...

Staying home from school because it snowed. Playing in the snow all day was heaps of fun.

As a child I wanted to be...

Wonder Woman because she was amazing.

My most interesting job ...

Working at preschools, schools with children who have Autism and Complex Behaviour Issues and helping to make their school life as easy as possible.

The best family holidays ...

Going to Goolwa and staying in holiday houses with my family and staying at the beach all day and having fish and chips for tea.

My favourite pastimes...

Going for drives to small towns and exploring the shops and history of the town.

In my spare time I...

Love to buy plants and design my front garden, renovate furniture, knitting, going for walks, hanging out with my kids.

Working with Home Assist...

I enjoy meeting the clients and spend time chatting to them about their life and what they achieved and what they are interested in now. They have great advice to give you about daily life.



I was born in...

Kapunda in 1946. I spent my first 9 years in Nuriootpa after my father left the army. I then moved back to Kapunda where I lived until I was 17.

Family holidays were at...

Christies Beach. We hired a shack and stayed for up to 2 weeks.

My first job was...

Working in a clothing factory, Timers Fashions in Gawler — on and off for 5 years, where I trained to be a sewing machinist then I worked at Corfu Jeans for 25 years.

My life changed when...

I met my late husband, Joseph. We were married in Gawler at St. Peter and St. Paul's Catholic Church. We were married for 53 years and we raised 3 daughters. All our married life was spent in Gawler.

My proudest achievement...

Has been raising 3 beautiful daughters, 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandsons (and 2 more on the way).

Socialising for me means...

Going out for coffee and having dinner with good friends because I am not a TV addict.

My pastimes are...

Bingo, jigsaw puzzles on my iPad and listening to Elvis music.

My favourite movie...

Notebook.

My favourite holiday spot...

Wherever. I went on my first cruise in January and I am hooked and can't wait for my next adventure.

My greatest support...

Are my daughters and their families.

My favourite saying...

"If dishes are done, your bed is made, your house is tidy".

The person who inspires me...

Margaret Hague (Muffy)

She has always been there for me since Joe passed away. We have a lot in common and we have the same wacky sense of humour.

I am a member of S.A Pensioners and the Kiwanis Club of Gawler where I am Membership Director which involves recognising special events of members and sending birthday cards and get well cards to members and their partners.



I volunteer at

the Animal Welfare League Op. Shop in Gawler. I am also a volunteer working with the Gawler Home Assist Consumer Reference Group.

THANK YOU MARGARET HUNT

When the Gawler Home Assist Consumer Reference Group began about 10 years ago a suggestion was made that we should issue a regular Newsletter to our clients. A sub-committee of 3 members of the group was formed to produce the newsletter which was to be “by consumers for consumers.”

The three members were Margaret Hunt, Maria Cavallaro and Leigh Wilson, who have regularly produced the newsletter since November 2011, the current issue is number 24. At the end of 2019, Margaret Hunt announced that she would be stepping down from the committee.

We wish to thank Margaret for the excellent contribution she has made over years in which she has been involved. Her background as a librarian, her love for words and her interest in people has enabled her to make a rich contribution to the newsletter. She has interviewed contractors and consumers, summarised newspaper articles and written articles on many subjects.

We say “Thank you Margaret” for all that you have contributed so ably and willingly. Margaret will continue as a valued member of the Consumer Reference Group. Margaret Hague has now joined the editorial team to continue preparing the newsletter.



Welcome on board Margaret.

FUN PUZZLE



Used by permission of artist Eric Jeckert
Solution on back cover

THE QUICKEST WARMTH PROJECT

The Quickest Warmth project began with the donation of seven quilts to Families SA (now Department of Child Protection) for children going into Foster Care.

Four years later the project has 200 contributors who make, access or purchase items for individuals and families experiencing difficult times and situations. It has now been going for 5 1/2 years.

This wonderful program is run by Prue O'Donovan, Chaplain at Anglicare Elizabeth involved in Home Care and Pastoral Care. Prue and her friend Gail, used to sew at Kadina and Wallaroo and made 7 quilts. She asked Tony Piccolo who might need assistance and Tony gave the names of 40 Care agencies. She has regular contact with Gawler Health Service, Soroptimists and DCP.

Prue has 300 plus volunteers and they work from the Anglicare Mission at Elizabeth and Prue's home where she has 3 rooms dedicated to supplies of goods delivered by dedicated volunteers who also help her sort through everything. Volunteers and supporters come from as far as - Port Pirie, Port Lincoln and Gladstone.

In May-June they made 100 bedding packs consisting of a quilt, blanket, sheet set, toy and pillow. They also do Teddy Bear packs, containing a teddy bear, beanie, book and a small blanket.

THE QUICKEST WARMTH PROJECT (cont.)

Other bags they make up are: -

- Kitchen/Laundry/Cleaning Packs
- Pamper Pack items
- School Packs
- Buckets of Toys for girls and boys
- Quilt Packs
- Pillow bed Bundles
- Toiletries for male/female/child
- Educational encouragement packs
- Baby bundles



Prue and her volunteers are now working on The Happy Birthday Project. 60% of residents in Nursing Homes don't have visitors so they are now doing Birthday Cards for them and hope to do Christmas Cards as well.

If you would like more information of the Quickest Warmth project, or receive the monthly newsletter, become a QW Supporter, learn more about the bags, bundles and items to donate, please contact:

Prue O'Donovan Phone: 0412387641

Email: prudy@internode.on.net

Gail Hardy Phone: 0407726997

Email: gailchardy@icloud.com

BY HELPING OTHERS, WE HELP OURSELVES.

ODE TO A WALKING STICK

A 93 year old says “I don’t like it!”

When I first got my walking stick, my friendly bootmaker engraved my mobile number into it. It has been a “godsend,” as I have left it behind many times, including at three of the four Supermarkets in Gawler. Each time the finder has phoned me to say that they have it.

I’m delighted with the fact that motorists give me right away at pedestrian crossings most of the time- I can’t presume on it, but I do appreciate it when it happens. *Leigh Wilson*

Many years ago I fell over on a rock fracturing my left ankle. As a result I had my foot in a moon boot for about 4-5 weeks and I was advised to use a walking stick. Because I am short, (just under 5’) Dom Care at Gawler Hospital had trouble finding me a short enough stick - They found an old wooden one in their shed with a rubber stopper on the bottom and a curved handle. It served its purpose very well. When I went to return it they told me to keep it just in case I ever needed it again. I still have it as a memento and I hope I never have to bring it out. *Margaret Hague*



THE BEAUTY OF THE ELDERLY HANDS

By Kelly Roper

Although the hands of the elderly may not be
Smooth, supple, and unblemished,
They have a beauty all their own.
Each line, each spot, each scar
Has its own tale to tell.
Some are tales of tragedy, others are tales of triumph,
But they all combine to tell the unique story
Of that treasured person’s life.
So the next time you’re with an elder,
Gently take that person’s hands within your own,
And look with wonder at a life truly lived.

