

Stories from the Ridge



Quarterly Newsletter
Autumn 2022 | Vol 3



Inside this month

A message from our new GM
A bedroom transformed
Staff Member Profile
Participant Interview

2
4
4
5

Belinda's Babes
What's New

6
7

Events & Excursions

8

Events & Excursions

Easter

Over Easter we celebrated together creating colourful Easter egg designs on cookies and baskets. Participants Sandy, Emma, Georgia and Mark loved hunting for chocolate eggs in the backyard.

Earth Day

On Earth Day, April 22nd, Participants spent time outside taking extra special care of the garden, and their plants.

Morning Tea at Eagleton

On the 19th of May we participated in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea fundraising event to support people impacted by cancer.

It was great morning to come together as a community, for not only a delicious spread but most importantly to raise money for the Cancer Council.



Above: Emma attending to a potted succulent plant. Below left: Participants Georgia, Mark and Sandy with their Easter baskets. Below right: Raelene and Clay at morning tea at the farm.



Health & safety is our priority

We will continue to put the health and safety of our Participants, staff and families first. As we prepare for the winter flu season, we remind everyone to be extra vigilant and continue to take

precautionary actions such as wearing masks and using hand sanitiser. Please note, there will still be mandatory rapid antigen tests for all visitors to gain access to the Eagleton Ridge premises.

A message Joshua Rufo our Managing Director

To all Eagleton Ridge Participants, families, and stakeholders, I have now been working at Eagleton Ridge for 1+ years in a number of roles and I have been lucky enough to work alongside all of our fantastic Participants, their families, significant others and service providers.

I'm very excited to be given the opportunity to start my next chapter with Eagleton Ridge as the General Manager and look forward to continuing to build on these relationships whilst working collaboratively with all Participants, their families and stakeholders to create the best quality organisation possible.

Eagleton Ridge has gone through significant organisational restructure recently with the aim to create best practice NDIS services, Participant centred approaches and the highest care standards possible. As part of this continuous improvement piece Alex El-Shamy will be moving into the Business Manager role and this will enable Eagleton Ridge to have a wealth of skills and knowledge across both the business side and Participant services at Eagleton Ridge.

As part of Eagleton Ridge's NDIS registration we recently underwent a NDIS Mid-term Audit and I'm happy to announce that Eagleton Ridge successfully passed the Audit and is fully compliant as per the NDIS practice standards. It is important to acknowledge all the hard work and professionalism shown by the Senior Leadership Team at Eagleton Ridge during the NDIS Audit to achieve this positive outcome.



Above: Our new General Manager Joshua Rufo.

"There are exciting times ahead for Eagleton Ridge in 2022 with new SIL houses opening and new Participants looking to be a part the Eagleton Ridge family across all of our services including Supported Independent Living (SIL), Activity based Programs (Day Program, Community Participation) and Respite. "

I would also like to say a big thank you to all of our Eagleton Ridge staff for continuing to strive for excellence in service delivery especially given some of the ongoing challenges with COVID19 and staffing.

During these challenging times there have been many examples of our staff actively demonstrating the core values at Eagleton Ridge of CARE, PURPOSE, INTEGRITY & COMMUNITY to ensure that the continuity of care and support is not compromised.

I have included my contact details below and I encourage Participants, their families, significant others, and service providers to reach out to provide feedback, suggestions on how we can improve Eagleton Ridge services for your loved ones.

Talk soon.

Joshua Rufo, General Manager
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Quick Read

- Joshua Rufo is our new general manager. Alex El-Shamy remains with us as Business Manager.
- We have been through significant restructure as part of our continuous improvement.
- We successfully passed our NDIS mid-term audit. We thank our Senior Leadership Team for their hard work.
- We are excited to see new SIL houses opening and new Participants joining our community.
- Thank you to all our staff for striving for excellent and practicing our values: Care, Purpose, Integrity & Community despite COVID-related challenges.

Below: Participants Jason, Monica, Ben, Dianne, Hope, Sarah & Clay attend the Hunter Valley Christmas Lights.





A bedroom transformed

Above left: Ben with Coordinator Whitney. Above middle: Coordinator Whitney, DSW Johann and participant Sandy. Above right: Ben in his newly painted room.

Recently Participant Ben decided he'd like to freshen up his bedroom by painting his walls his favourite colour, blue!

So he and Coordinator Whitney ventured to Bunnings to choose the perfect shade

of blue paint. Having extra help painting from Participant Sandy and Support Worker Johann they were able to transform his room.

Ben loves the look of his new room and the blue colour helps to make him feel calm.



Staff member profile Meet Tania

My name is Tania (sometimes I'm called Tan). I've worked at Eagleton Ridge for three years as a Disability Support worker, but over my time I've taken on numerous roles including project manager and team leader.

I love helping other people to give them every opportunity to explore new tasks and talents and goals but most of all I love seeing their beautiful faces light up when they are enjoying something or someone.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband, my family and grandchildren. We go on outings to watch my grandchildren play sport and achieve milestones in their life.

"I also enjoy cooking, sewing and dancing around to music looking silly."

For some quiet time, I love to sit outside and listen to all the different sounds around me, along with going to the beach to sit and watch the waves.

Participant Interview

Georgia

Who is your hero?

Lisa my Eagleton carer is because she is my friend and she helps me when I have a problem or get upset. And she talks to me when I am sad.

"I love playing games, especially Uno at day program. I also love to go to the shops and travel agent to get books about the world."

What is your favourite activity?

Going to the end of the runway to watch the jets in Williamstown. I love going to Fighter World.

What are your life goals?

To go out on a ferry. I would love to go whale watching.



Above: Georgia riverside.

What goals do you have for the next few years?

I would like to go on a plane to visit my brother.

Below left: Hope enjoying her birthday. Middle: Georgia and support coordinator Emily. Below right top: Hope, Georgia and David celebrating their birthdays with their delicious cakes. Below right: Mark at the celebration.



Belinda's Babes

As many of you will be aware, our darling Charlotte passed away suddenly. We were totally devastated by her sudden passing but take comfort in the love and joy she brought to so many people in her short life.

Since our last newsletter, we have had many new creatures come to stay and some have moved on already.

Our baby wombats, Fred and Brooke, have now moved on to their next placement to prepare for their life in the wild. They have adapted well to romping around their enclosure and running through their new burrows. They have both been with us for 10 months so it was a bit of a bittersweet day.

"Little Levi the joey has also moved onto his next placement and now has two working legs!"

Little Flynn our tiny possum is growing fast and is nearly eating solids. He is a very sweet little fellow.

We have had some great releases as well.

We have a couple of tawny frogmouths, one from near Emma O'Brien's house on Six Mile Road and one from Braidwood. They both had head injuries and broken wings after some weeks of care both were released back to their original areas. Both have been seen again flying freely. Great news.

At the moment we are "empty nesters" as I need to recover from my foot surgery but once I am at it again, more babies will come.

They are such a joy to all who come in contact with them.

Belinda Furlonger, Director



Above top: Charlotte the wombat. Above middle: Baby wombats, Fred and Brooke. Above bottom: Belinda and Aaron with baby joey, Levi.



What's New? Uniforms

As you may have seen, our staff have a new uniform. The new blue scrubs include our updated branding, are more comfy and breathable!

Above: Our staff. Standing left to right: Angela, Lisa, Laraine, Adam, Tania, Gillie. Front row - Tali, Zabeen, Whitney.

Thank- you Gail

After many years of dedicated service and massive loyalty to myself & Vince, our Participants old and new and to ERDS and its vision, a great big thank you to Gail and best wishes to her on her retirement.

Gail started working with our Participants back in 2002 at the local Raymond Terrace Dog Obedience classes when I came up with the idea that our Participants should learn more about dogs and how to deal with dogs.

Gail led some of our Participants through to doing an exhibition of their achievements at Hillsborough Dog show and then onto competing in Rally O competitions of which one of our Participants came 3rd in a mainstream competition.

Gail then came to work on a casual basis but at the time ERDS was unable to provide permanent work but a few years down the track, Gail came onboard as one of our staff

members. She has been known and loved by many staff, clients and families.

Gail has worked in many of the different areas of ERDS with her later role as our Tour coordinator. Many of our clients and some of our staff (including me) have been away on trips with or organised by Gail. Great fun and many experiences have been had by all.

Again, I am sure, we all wish her the best, count on still seeing her around at all the ERDS functions and will remember her in our hearts and minds for a long time to come.

Hugs to you Gail,
Love Belinda

