



TULGEEN  
group  
together growing

# The Grapevine

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## MIRIAM AND JEFFERY IN SELLOUT ART GALLERY IN SYDNEY

Peter Fay is a Sydney based respected art collector and curator who opened the Beyond the Garage exhibition in 2012 at the Bega Valley Shire Regional Gallery. Peter requested 12 artworks by Miriam Kydd and 6 artworks by Jeffery Young to be sent to Sydney. These were included in the 'EXIT PURSUED BY BEAR' exhibition, running from May 1st June 1st at Sheffer Gallery, 29 Lander street, Darlington. All the artworks by Miriam and Jeffery were sold on the opening night.

Matthew Perry  
*Art in the Garage Project  
Coordinator*



### Welcome to July Grapevine!

Enquiries, comments and contributions are welcome and can be sent to: [monika.ryan@tulgeen.com.au](mailto:monika.ryan@tulgeen.com.au).

Thank you and enjoy the read!

Monika Ryan - Tulgeen Support Worker and Editor

# TES - Bay 4 Mystery is being revealed

Things are well-advanced in the exciting refurbishment of 'Bay 4' at TES. Hoylands are working toward finalisation during July. This new area will virtually double the amount of space available for activities which currently take place in the music and activities area, as well as some dedicated office space for the TES management team, and other facilities.

Plumbing and electrical wiring have been fitted. The framing up of walls for the bathrooms and programs rooms/office area are in place, and have been dry-walled. The suspended ceiling is about to be fitted. (Insulation has been ordered for both this ceiling and the existing ceilings in the existing TES areas.) There will be several new windows cut into the wall facing Gowings St. Carpets and vinyls have been measured

and chosen, kitchen cabinets measured and ordered. A new aluminium framed, glass sliding door has been fitted (and two more will be fitted at the front and back of the existing TES facility). We have also started replanting the adjoining gardens and arranged new signage for TES and its parking area.

As soon as we have a final completion date from Hoylands, we expect to send out invitations to a 'grand opening', and we hope that many of our friends and supporters will be able to join us. Stay tuned, as they say

**Pete Gorton**  
CEO - Interim, Tulgeen Disability Services



## Funding from the Cassandra Gantner Foundation

Art in the Garage has just received \$20,000 from the Cassandra Gantner Foundation to fund a pilot project to research and provide supported visual arts options for children with a disability aged from 8 -18 years. The foundation approached Art in the Garage through Heather O'Connor who started the Mumbulla Foundation and has been a long time champion of the project. Heather conveyed the Foundation's request that Art in the Garage contact the foundation as they had were greatly impressed with the projects achievements and wanted to fund the development of supported children's art making. The foundation encouraged a funding application based on a

proposal for developing a dynamic children's arts project and the funding submission was successful. This funding is significant on two levels, firstly that it is recurring funding and secondly it is the foundations first funding outside of Victoria.

The funding includes a budget for a community consultation to determine the best ways to provide for supported art making for children in the Bega Valley Shire. Sustainable and innovative programs will be developed to fit with the diverse needs of the different community stakeholders and existing studio timetables.

Matthew Perry  
*Art in the Garage Project Coordinator*

## Moving forward with Education



Lynden Ferris has completed a Diploma in Community Services Co-Ordination, through Anglicare.

When congratulated by Rose Hulst (Client Services Manager), Rachel Choy (HR Manager), and Interim CEO Pete Gorton, Lynden said:

"Education is an important ingredient for success not only for individuals but clients and the organisation. I personally

welcome any educational opportunities that I am able to

undertake." Pete added "These sorts of qualification achievements are essential to us moving forward with an even better offering for the future at '1Tulgeen'. I'd be pleased to see more of our staff adding to their already impressive skills and experience by undertaking further studies and immersing themselves in the opportunities presented by a 'Personalised' world of disability support."

Lynden currently works in one of our client In Home Support residences.

Pete Gorton  
CEO - Interim, Tulgeen Disability Services



On Friday June 14<sup>th</sup>, local Member, Dr Mike Kelly AM attended a 'sod-turning' ceremony to inaugurate the construction of a new residential facility in Kangaroo Run, off Pacific Way in Tura Beach. Four new accommodation units are being built, along with support worker facilities, a small gym, outdoor recreation area and so on.

Dr Kelly, and Leony Power from Workability, were joined by a number of the ADHC managers, including Lynne Koerbin and Project Officer, Jo Hancock, down from Queanbeyan, as well as Katrina Ewing, whose son Ross attends Tulgeen. Unfortunately the weather intervened and the planned concrete pour was postponed, but the builder was very enthusiastic about construction continuing for completion before year end.

Our Tulgeen Interim CEO, Pete Gorton, was there to take pictures, and later commented "This is a great initiative, and we welcome the support of the federal and state governments in making this happen. Tulgeen is also interested in working with local partners to increase the supply of residential housing available in Bega and the local area. We look forward to this building being completed, and welcome ideas for future developments."

Pete Gorton  
CEO - Interim, Tulgeen Disability Services

## Special Olympics Fundraiser

... in Monster Raffle at the Bermagui Country Club, Sunday 21st July!

This is a special event to raise some money for 3 young men from the Bega Valley who have been selected to compete in the Asia Pacific Regional Games in Sydney in December this year.

**Tickets will be on sale from 1pm, the draw starts at 3 pm.. We will also have live Live entertainment from 1pm.**

Courtesy bus will be available on the day. Please phone the Club on 6493 4340 to book the bus.

Joe Steward, TES Support Worker

Bermagui Country Club, [www.bermaguicountryclub.co](http://www.bermaguicountryclub.co)

## Help to maintain quality service



TULGEEN Disability Services business manager Nick Machan has told Member for Bega Andrew Constance that without NSW Government funding of Riverside Nursery, it would be unable to maintain its high level of service enabling its clients to have meaningful work.

Mr Constance, who is the Minister for Ageing and Disability Services, announced Riverside Nursery had recently been granted \$10,000 through the Community Building Partnership Program.

This was the third grant the nursery had received through this program. The others were for \$58,988 and \$16,000 and greenhouses and concrete paths were built with that funding. Mr Machan said the \$10,000 would be to create a specific retail outlet.

Riverside Nursery specialises in the propagation of plant species indigenous to the Bega Valley for both wholesale and retail markets and also for farm and revegetation projects.

Mr Constance said he was pleased the government could support such a worthwhile service which gave people with disabilities a different type of employment in an outdoor healthy environment.

Mr Machan said the nursery had 10 employees and the workcrew another 10.

Sue Hartemink, acting chairwoman of the board of directors of Tulgeen Disability Services, said planning was advanced for the retail outlet, but

Tulgeen was waiting until the land was rezoned so trading hours could be extended from the present 8am until 4pm Monday to Friday.

She said it was hoped the Bega Valley Shire Council would rezone the area soon as the nursery wanted to open on the weekend.

Claire Lupton  
Bega News, 7th June 2013

Picture:

•Member for Bega Andrew Constance (right) meets grateful Tulgeen Disability Services representatives Nick Machan and Sue Hartemink at Riverside Nursery on Wednesday.

## CEO Message Board

By Pete Gorton  
CEO - Interim, Tulgeen Disability Services

Many positive changes are taking place at Tulgeen at the moment. These are all part of the Strategic Plan framed by the Board of directors over the past year or two, and should result in Tulgeen offering better services and support of our clients, enabling a wider range of activities and services, and building a more sustainable Tulgeen. This last goal is very important, as we must position ourselves to be able to competitively offer a wide range of attractive services to our

current - and future - clients, in the Bega Valley, and beyond.

The following lists just some of the activities that our staff and management are undertaking. We are very pleased with the progress that we are making, and we believe we are already seeing the future potential of Tulgeen taking shape.

### CIMSability Upgrade

Tulgeen adopted the CIMSability computerised client information management system during 2012, principally for administration and support of clients working as supported employees in our Australian Disability Enterprise' (ADE) business units. It has been decided to expand the use of the system to cover all Tulgeen clients, and data entry is currently being undertaken to ensure that as much information as possible is loaded to the system. CIMSability is provided by Newcastle-based 'LiveWare', and has an extensive security structure in place, ensuring that staff at each level of engagement with clients only access information

pertinent to ensure that each client receives the best possible support.

By moving toward having all client data in 'one place', it is hoped that all activities, medical requirements, contact details and so on will be readily available to the right people, as and when required. By removing the need to enquire of each Tulgeen department before interactions with a client, we anticipate that the daily engagement of each client with Tulgeen will become a more satisfying and fulfilling experience. Please bear with us while we clean up the data we hold, and rationalise it into the one place.

## Energy Efficiency Projects at Tulgeen - improving cash flow

We have been working with a local electrical firm, Fred Wood Electrical, to identify ways that we can improve the energy efficiency of some of our buildings and services. Fred estimates that we may be able to reduce our overall electricity bills (which exceed \$100,000 per year), by over \$5,000. This will involve a range of measures, including the replacement of existing lights with modern, LED-based lighting, and in some cases, more efficient light fittings, in our major buildings and at Maple Court. This of course contributes to us spending less money on running Tulgeen, and thus having better resources available to put toward improving our clients' experiences.

This follows on from a number of other actions that we have taken, for example, to reduce the number of phone

lines in use around Tulgeen, review incidental expenditures on equipment and supplies, implement a comprehensive management programme for all of our equipment and building assets, and to introduce technology-based solutions to reduce manual handling and reprocessing of routine business administration and rostering activities. We still have more to do in these and other areas, but we believe that we are on track to improve the amount that we can expend on client activities and services, while reducing overheads and waste.

Once we have carried out these improvements, we will continue to investigate ways to provide better outcomes. For example, reduce client electricity bills in some of our other residences, making sure that their Concession Cards are applied to utility bills, and ensuring that everyone gets the best benefit from their financial resources.

## Reviews of all Tulgeen Clients

The senior management team recently invested three half days in conducting full reviews of all of Tulgeen's current clients. This was a considerable effort, and was assisted significantly with input from Shane Ardern (ODC), Paul Spiteri (WHS), Mitch van Reesch and Kate Smith (Client Services) and other administrative staff.

Pete Gorton, CEO-Interim, anticipates that this will be the first of a rolling programme of reviews of all clients, with the next quarterly review (in August) focussing on how each client's funding can be stretched as far as possible to pro-

vide better outcomes for them. The underlying reason for this activity was to build on the knowledge that each Tulgeen department has of our clients, and to share a common understanding. Introducing the review team on day 1, Pete stated: "Only by the whole Tulgeen management team being completely familiar with all of our clients, as well as their circumstances, desires and aspirations, can Tulgeen position itself to offer a wide range of services, activities and products to ensure that our clients have the most satisfactory outcomes."

## Riverside Nursery

We have engaged a local plant nursery specialist, Derek Povell, to assist us in improving the offerings from our Taronga Crescent-based 'Riverside Nursery'. Derek has a broad experience of working in these sorts of enterprises (as well as with people with disabilities), and he has a good record of building and extending the operations of plant nursery facilities, both locally and in the ACT. Riverside Nursery offers supported employment for about 10 of our clients, and we'd really like to be able to offer more places, wider activities, and to improve the returns that we realise from plant sales, and from the activities of the Bega Valley Workcrew (which is co-located).

This of course will build on the significant improvements in facilities and structures at the Nursery, which we officially opened in December last year. We have taken delivery of a large new machinery shed to house some of the Workcrew equipment, and this will be erected on site, while allowing us to improve the retail and public areas of the Nursery. We remain indebted to the Bega Valley Shire Council, which provides the land to us for a minimum rental, and we anticipate that following rezoning being completed by the government, we should be able to start opening the Nursery for sales to the public on Saturdays (something we have been wanting to do for a very long time!)

## Interim CEO meets Dr Mike Kelly

Tulgeen Interim CEO, Pete Gorton, met recently with Dr Mike Kelly, AM, MP, the local member for Eden-Monaro. Dr Kelly was extremely supportive of the efforts outlined by Pete regarding Tulgeen's current undertakings in readiness for the Disability Care Australia (formally NDIS) rollout.

In fact, Dr Kelly was very proud to say that he was involved in the original conception of what is now Disability Care Australia (formally NDIS), and he looks forward to Tulgeen - as well as the thousands of other disability sector organisations being able to provide improved levels of services

and products to a wider range of people with disabilities.

Having had a long association with us, Dr Kelly is extremely interested in Tulgeen's progress as we move toward the NSW government's 'Person Centred Approaches' and widespread adoption of the 'Self Managed Model'. He hopes to be able to attend the Tulgeen 30th Anniversary gala event on November 22nd, providing his calendar permits.

**Pete Gorton, CEO - Interim, Tulgeen Disability Services**

## Tulgeen Success Story

In response to management and staff concern about a client's complex behaviour, Tulgeen applied for ADHC's Southern Integrated Services Program (SISP). SISP is a 12 month experimental programme providing expert support for clients with extreme behaviour.

Our application was successful and we have gained one of the four sought after places on the program.

This success demonstrates once again:

- We **\*can\*** win these unique opportunities.
- We are going the extra mile for our clients.
- We do listen to our staff when they raise concerns,
- and we are trying to assist them to deliver great outcomes with our clients.
- We recognise additional support for the most

deserving clients is available, and we're thankful for that, regardless of where it comes from.

This is a unique opportunity to experience the outcomes of an innovative new program, and you'll be kept updated through the 'Grapevine'.

If you have any questions about this initiative talk to Rose or Mitch.

Mitch van Reesch  
*Individual Support Coordinator*

Ph: 02 6499 0831

Email: [mitch.van.reesch@tulgeen.com.au](mailto:mitch.van.reesch@tulgeen.com.au)

### Art in the Garage gift cards

We have beautiful cards available with exquisite printed Art in the Garage artworks.

The cards are \$1.50 each, or can be purchased as a packaged set of four for \$6 or eight for \$12. The cards are blank inside so can be used for any occasion.

**Cards are available from Tulgeen Administration and TES office.**



## Bega Valley Information and News

### Bega Valley Disability Community Forum

The Bega Valley Disability Community Forum is looking at ways we can make the Bega Valley more inclusive and supportive for people with a disability, supporting equal rights and opportunities.

The forum provides members and visitors with a platform for information on disability specific issues, events, workshops, support groups and more.

This forum is very much down-to-earth, informal and welcomes everyone from the community - whether you have a disability, are a family member or friend, or are passionate about creating positive change in the lives of people with a disability, you can join in the meetings or go on the group's mailing list to receive updates.

We are very pleased to have some fantastic guest speakers lined up for upcoming meetings. (Please refer to the 'Events-Calendar' in this issue.)

Some of our future guest speakers are:

- **Mark Pattison**, Executive Director of the National Council on Intellectual Disability and member of 'In Control'
- **Katrina Ewing** and **Mary Guthrey**, 'self managing' mothers

- **June Waites**, Author of '*Smiling at Shadows*' (the story of June and Rod Waites and their son Dane, living with autism) and Ambassador for the 2013 Living Life my Way, NSW Government Initiative.

Our meetings take place at the:

'June Waites' Room, Workability, 156 Newtown St. Bega

The next 5 meetings will be held from 1-3pm on:

- July 23rd
- August 27th
- September 24th
- October 29th
- November 26th

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

- **Stephen Reed**: [Stephen.Reed@fac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Stephen.Reed@fac.nsw.gov.au) or 0428 251 511
- **Michaela Pascolutti**: [dial-a-carer@bigpond.com](mailto:dial-a-carer@bigpond.com) or 0413 136 006
- **Monika Ryan**: [y-yoga@bigpond.com](mailto:y-yoga@bigpond.com) or 0404 798 368

We look forward to sharing our journey with you.

Monika Ryan

Month of July—JulEYE Eye Health Awareness Month

- 14 July—MDS (myelodysplastic syndrome) day
- 14-20 July—National Diabetes Week (Diabetes Australia)
- **21 July—Bermagui Country Club Monster Raffle (See info on page 3)**
- 14-20 July—Wee Week (Kidney Health Australia)
- 22-28 July—National Pain Week
- **23 July—Mark Pattison, Guest Speaker at the Bega Valley Disability Community Forum in Bega (for further info refer to article on previous page)**
- 28 July—World Hepatitis Day (Hepatitis Australia)
- 2 August—Jeans for Genes Day
- 5 August—Bank Holiday (ACT, NSW)

- 25– 31 August—Speech Pathology Week (Speech Pathology Australia)
- 25-31 August—Hearing Awareness Week (Department of Health and Ageing)
- 26 August—Daffodil Day (Cancer Council Australia)
- **27 August—Katrina Ewing and Mary Guthrey (for further information refer to article on previous page)**

Sources:

- [www.and.org.au/pages/disability-related-events-calendar-2012.html](http://www.and.org.au/pages/disability-related-events-calendar-2012.html)
- Bega Valley Disability Community Forum

## SUPPORTED LIVING FUND ROUND 3 IS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS 24 JUNE TO 30 AUGUST

Round 3 of the Supported Living Fund (SLF) will be open for applications between Monday 24 June and Friday 30 August 2013.

**Closing date – Friday 30 August 2013**

### Application process

As with all previous rounds, the SLF Proposal (*My Proposal*) is the only official application form for Round 3. Regional SLF Assessment Panels will use the information contained in Proposal Forms to assess and prioritise all SLF applicants. No other correspondence or supporting documentation will be taken into account and should not be submitted.

ADHC will be accepting applications from new applicants and people who were unsuccessful in their application for the Supported Living Fund in Round 1 and 2.

Electronic and printed versions of the *My Proposal* form can be accessed from the ADHC website at [http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/somewhere\\_to\\_live/individualised\\_accommodation\\_support](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/somewhere_to_live/individualised_accommodation_support)

Applicants are encouraged to read all the SLF information which is available on the ADHC website at the link above. This will help them decide if the SLF is right for them and if they are interested in applying for SLF funding.

Should applicants have questions about completing the Proposal Form, they can contact Carers NSW on **1800**

**242 636** during the application period.

### Carers NSW SLF information sessions – July/August 2013

The roll out of Supported Living Fund packages will again be complemented by information sessions for people with disability, their families and carers, as well as interested service providers, between July and August 2013.

Carers NSW will deliver the information sessions and a flyer will be distributed via the service provider portal and will also be available on the ADHC website at

[http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/somewhere\\_to\\_live/individualised\\_accommodation\\_support](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/individuals/support/somewhere_to_live/individualised_accommodation_support)

While these workshops are not compulsory, we encourage people with disability, their families and carers to attend where possible to learn more about the fund and how to apply.



**Service Portal News Bulletin**

Quote of the Month: 'Change your thoughts and you change your world.' ~Norman Vincent Peale