



# NOWEYUNG PAPER

**September  
October 2011**

**By the  
Newsletter Group**

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## BIRTHDAYS

- Happy Birthday to you!!*
- Priscilla Pike—11 Sept**
  - Michelle Sowa—12 Sept**
  - Debbie Heystraten—18 Sept**
  - Alison Cormack-22 Sep**
  - Coral Stone-14 Sept**
  - Jenny Boucher-21 Sept**
  - Ron Ellis—20 Oct**
  - Lawrence Liccione24 Oct**
  - Felicity Street-24 Oct**
  - Brett Johnson-26 Oct**
  - Peter Palmer- 23 Oct**
  - Tarrant Ray-30 Oct**



Noweyung’s third annual Garden Show was a resounding success. The sun was shining and the East Gippsland’s Gardeners were all out and about. This year we had well over 400 people come through the gates to see the wonderful displays at the Noweyung garden show.

The 5 + 2 Catering group plus their many helpers were kept busy all day making Devonshire teas and other delicious food. There were lots of fantastic entries in both the ‘Garden in a box” and “Cupcake decorating” competitions— thanks to everyone who participated.

Congratulations to the Garden Design winners:  
**Open**

- 1st—Dalhsens Bairnsdale,
- 2nd—Ace Total Garden Maintenance,
- 3rd—Potted Pear Nursery.

**Amateur**

- 1st—Michelle Armstrong,
- 2nd— Lakes Entrance Garden Club,
- 3rd—Community College

Noweyung would like to thank everyone who supported our Garden Show and helped to make it such a success. See you next year on 20th October 2012!



## Dates to Remember

**Last Day Term 4**—Wed 21st December

**Staff Training Day**—Wed 12th January

**Noweyung Back**—Thursday 13th January

## Communication Accessibility

A group from Noweyung attended the Communication Accessibility information session. The session explained about the new Communication accessibility sign that will be launched later in the year.

The sign will be given to businesses and organisation that are communication accessible, similar to the wheelchair accessibility signs. Hank Wyllie spoke about how people in the community need to be aware of communication issues and respond appropriately. Eg. Talking to the person with the disability not the carer, taking time to listen to their reply, encouraging people to use communication visuals and aids.

They are looking for people with communication difficulties to assist with completing communication accessibility surveys. If you are interested please contact Glenda at Noweyung.

## Nungurner School Visit

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, Lauren, Priscilla, Andrew and Jan went to Nungurner Primary School to present the vouchers to the winners of the Noweyung Garden in a Box Competition.

Nungurner only has eight students. When we arrived the Principal, Mr Fyfe welcomed us to the school. Some parents also came to the presentation. We presented the winning students with their vouchers. After the presentations the students showed us around their school.

In making their special Garden in a Box entries, the students enlisted help from community members via their newsletter who donated garden plants.

They showed us their above ground garden beds which were rectangular, not like our round ones at Hankinson Park. They had some animals. They have chooks and ducks. The ducks were just visiting for the day. They have a glass display case with stick insects. Lauren and Priscilla were counting how many insects they could find.

We had a go on their old play equipment and slide. Andrew thought the slide had plenty of detergent on it to make it go fast. He hit the ground with a big 'thump'.

Lyn B. a teacher at the school was an old friend of Priscilla's. They had a chat about horse riding.

Before we returned to Noweyung we had a delicious afternoon tea of scones, jam and cream. We liked meeting the students and learning about their school. The students are already planning for next year's Garden Show, it will be good to see their entries.



Pictured above are some of the students from Nungurner Primary School with Andrew, Lauren and Priscilla.

## Relationship Forum



A group of Noweyung Staff and Participants attended the "Family - Service Provider Relationship" at Traralgon. 50 people from all over Gippsland attended. Darcy Elks, a disability consultant and mother of children with Disabilities. Darcy supports her daughter to live the life she wants involving university study employment and a busy social life. The forum discussed the important of family relationships, experiences, issues between staff and families, guidelines and suggestions to foster good relationships between staff and family.

Noweyung Staff, Service Users and their families found the seminar to be most informative and look forward to attending more seminars in the future.

## Special Olympics

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> Thomas Harris and Nathan Peake went to a Special Olympics Regional swimming meet in Melbourne. Nathan said "We arrived at the Bulleen Aquatic Centre and were placed into the Gippsland Region and were told to wait for our name to be called for our events.

First Tom and I did 25m Freestyle and Thomas came 1st and I came 2nd, then in the 25m Backstroke Tom and I came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> again. We also went in the 50 Backstroke and 50m Freestyle as well.

This was my first Special Olympics swim meet but Thomas has been to meets when he lived in Melbourne. We both had a great time and it was very exciting to represent our Region— Gippsland.

Tom and I are looking forward to going to Ballarat on 12th November to attend another Special Olympics meet and represent Gippsland."

By  
Nathan Peake



## Mini Golf Champ!

Theo Harrison is a Mini Golf gun! He shows extraordinary skills on the course improving each week.



This week Theo set the Lakes Entrance Mini Golf record.

Well done Theo keep up the good work!

## Noweyung's Loud Shirt Day

Noweyung staff and participants all got behind a great cause—" Loud Shirt Day" Everyone wore their loudest shirt to raise money to help give the gift of sound and speech to deaf children. Prizes were awarded to Christine Cottee and Adam Steward for Noweyung's best " Loudest Shirt".



# Study Tour of USA

CEO, Ernie Metcalf, has returned from a successful study tour to the USA. Part of the study included a visit to Onondaga Community Living, a disability support service located in Syracuse, New York State, USA. Onondaga is an internationally respected disability service for its innovative approach to individualised supports. They have transformed their support services so that Onondaga no longer provides any traditional day programs. Ernie spent time with Onondaga's management and staff, as well as a number of people who were supported by Onondaga in the community and in employment. This was to gain a full understanding of the supports provided, their successes or their failures. Onondaga's Executive Director, Patricia Fratangelo, visited Noweyung in August 2011 to view our support services.

Onondaga has a very good concept of individualised support services. Within the restrictions of how USA services are funded and other operational limitations, a lot can be learnt from Onondaga. This is more from a concept point of view rather than a practical application. Onondaga is a similar sized support service to Noweyung through the number of people it supports and through its total revenue. Significant differences between funding service delivery, wages and the use of unpaid workers makes a direct comparison hard to make, but Ernie believes Noweyung already has much to be proud of.

The second stage of the study tour involved attending the International Initiative for Disability Leadership conference held in San Francisco, USA. Ernie attended with

approximately 380 people from the disability sector across seven different countries. The theme of the conference was "A different kind of leadership", or as one guest speaker noted it should have been "Transformation in difficult economic times".

The conference provided an excellent forum to hear what is happening in disability support services across Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, England, Scotland and Ireland. It provided a rare opportunity to actively compare best practices in Australia with what's happening in other western countries. In many respects, some parts of Australia are leading the way, whilst there are a number of innovative support options across the other countries which are well worth exploring. The conference was an invaluable forum for Ernie to discuss issues with other leaders and family members. It also allowed an opportunity to forge organisational bonds with like-minded services wishing to explore models of best practice. There was considerable interest from many overseas services in our innovative *Yackety Yak* radio show.

Ernie stated that in comparison to other disability support services at the conference, Noweyung is well placed compared to what is happening overseas or in other services. This is not to say that we can't continue to improve and refine our supports. On the contrary, we have taken significant steps through the evolution of our support services to people who we support and this is an ongoing process. We cannot be complacent in evolving our services to best meet the needs of people as this is part of our competitive advantage. Noweyung is well on track to provide the best services, not just to be a service provider.

**By the  
Newsletter Group**

*Any enquires about this newsletter  
Please contact: Samantha Bartlett, Hailey  
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## Email Newsletter

Do you know someone who would like to receive the Noweyung News— We can email it to friends and family anywhere in Australia, or around the world if you give us an email address. Simply contact Noweyung Reception. Ph 51530111 or email [enquires@noweyung.org.au](mailto:enquires@noweyung.org.au).

