



WARRAH
LIVING LEARNING GROWING

AUTUMN NEWS 2018

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

WHAT'S ON?

- CURATIVE SEMINAR - 16-18TH APRIL
- MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA - 12 MAY
- SCHOOL OPEN DAY - 17 MAY

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ABOUT WARRAH SOCIETY

Based in Sydney's North West, Warrah Society is an experienced provider of supports for adults and children with disability in a diverse range of settings and services. Guided by the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, we strive to know each unique individual, and to support them in the choices they have made for their life's journey.

Warrah:

- Is registered by the NSW Department of Education as a Special School K-12
- Is a registered provider of a broad range of supports under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Delivers Supported Independent Living, a range of Community Support Services, Community Courses & Workshops, Short Stay Accommodation, and In Home Support.
- Is approved to provide Support Coordination
- Is an approved Housing Provider for Specialist Disability Accommodation
- Holds Certification since 1993 for Warrah's Biodynamic Farm
- Is a registered charity

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Easter Celebration - Tuesday 3 April in School Hall
- * All Staff Day - Thursday 19 April @ 9am-2pm in School Hall (staff only)
- * Curative Seminar - Monday to Wednesday, 16-18 April in School Hall. Contact School to book.
- * Harvest Festival - Thursday 10 May in School Hall
- * Mother's Day High Tea - Saturday 12 May @ 2pm in School Hall for residents and families
- * School Open Day - Thursday 17 May @ 10am-12pm. Please RSVP to School.



Front Cover - 'Warrah Tree' by Matthew Owens, Lyndal Atkinson, Darren Perry, Adrian Lewis, Trudy Peek, Rebecca Molloy and Natasha Grace.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

School - Last day 13 April
Students return on 7 May

Farm Shop - Closed Friday 30 March
Reopens Tuesday 3 April
Closed on Wednesday 25 April (Anzac Day)

Office - Closed Friday 30 March
Reopens Tuesday 3 April
Closed on Wednesday 25 April (Anzac Day)

CONTACT US

Warrah Society

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From the CEO

We have reached the end of another long, hot Summer, new year wishes are finally fading and at last Autumn is at hand. The rhythm of the year's seasons, festivals and celebrations does such a wonderful job of carrying us forward through the cycle of our year at Warrah.

Our last celebration was Warrah's Carols Night. The loving care of a small group ensured this was a moving celebration. We had many visitors new and old join us, some generous musicians, Gospel readings and the rousing voices of 170 people singing the beautiful carols of Christmas. Thankyou to all who contributed to the preparation, with special thanks to Jan Fowler, Cindy Cunningham, and Richard Fekkes who gathered all the pieces together so beautifully.

Farewell to Patricia

I wrote to all our families in December to let you know that Patricia Abraham was leaving Warrah at the end of December. Patricia made an extraordinary contribution to Warrah over her 16 years with us through a variety of roles, which culminated in her position as Chief Residential Officer. Her commitment to the best possible outcomes for Warrah residents was a force to be reckoned with! We all wish her well as she now takes some new steps in her career.

Welcome to New Staff

We warmly welcome Matt Merrall, new teacher at Warrah School, who has moved to Sydney from Melbourne with his wife Kerry and family. Previously a teacher at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School with the Learning Support portfolio, Matt has a great interest in Curative Education, and brings equal parts skill and enthusiasm to his role.

We also welcome Michelle McKenna, new Senior Coordinator in the Supported Living team who works alongside Sandra Q. Michelle has a broad background across Community Services, and brings some great capabilities to the team.

Quality Framework: Third Party Verification (TPV)

You may be aware that under the now old State disability system, Warrah has been subject to an audit,

known as TPV, of our management system against the Disability Standards each 3 years. Our final audit under the old FaCS system was completed in December 2017, and we are very proud to have achieved an outstanding result, with numerous commendations for good practice, and no improvement notices.

Some Wonderful Fundraisers to End 2017

Warrah Director Sue Walker generously organised a second sensational *Dinner Under the Stars* fund-and-friend-raiser late in October. With 120 guests enjoying a beautiful meal prepared by Marty Boetz and his team, and featuring biodynamic produce from Warrah Farm, the event raised over \$30,000. Guests were treated to live music, an auction of some great items, and Warrah Farm on a clear and beautiful evening. There were so many generous contributors, donors and volunteers, with Sue as the driving force behind the event, and a wonderful result achieved.

The annual Property Person of the Year (PPOY) event was held in November at Doltone House, Hyde Park. This event runs annually, and is dedicated to raising funds for Warrah as well as the St Vincent's Prostate Cancer Research Foundation. It was sold out, with over 400 people attending. The evening saw some very generous corporate as well as individual donations, resulting in nearly \$100,000 being raised for Warrah.



Georgina Michaelis and Board Members Steve Mitchell and David Ghannoum at PPOY event

Stakeholder Survey Results

Thankyou to all those who completed Warrah's Stakeholder Survey late last year. It is most important that we receive and respond to your feedback about services, and we appreciated your mostly very positive responses to a broad range of questions. As well as the survey for families, focus groups were held with client groups, and this also provided valuable feedback from those who use our services.

All Warrah families and carers will receive a report from the survey in the near future outlining the results, and including actions resolved where any ideas for improvement were put forward. A similar process will be carried out with clients where morning meetings will include information and discussion of topics raised from focus groups.

Jasper Road Houses Underway

At last construction of our two new houses in Jasper Road Baulkham Hills has begun. The large block of 1100sqm has been cleared, and the laying of foundations is now in process. With two very enthusiastic resident groups and their families – from Semler cottage in Thornleigh and Torrs cottage in Baulkham Hills – keen to move, there is no time to lose! The current trajectory for project completion is late September.

The Torrs Street house will become vacant, and a new group of young residents is eagerly waiting to be able to move into the house. We very much look forward to welcoming this mixed group of young men and women and their families to the Warrah community later this year and their families to the Warrah community later this year.

Warrah School Gets Some TLC

Thankyou to all who contributed to the Christmas Appeal which raised funds for a Sensory Garden Playground for Warrah School. The playground was built over the school holiday break, and looks very beautiful. Do go and have a look!

The school has also been given some long overdue improvements over the same period. With the advice of colour consultant, Guy Walker, the classrooms and administration buildings have all now been painted. Guy was the original colour consultant for the school when it was built in the 1980's! With some new floor coverings coming as well, the buildings will look transformed.

Lastly, FDC – a local building construction company – have pledged to replace the old school bathrooms with updated ones. This is FDC's second project for Warrah School, with the School kitchen being their first. We are enormously appreciative of their generosity once again.

Warrah Farm and Enterprises Moving Ahead 2017

Part of the mission of Warrah's Farm and Enterprises is to provide employment, volunteering and skill development for people with disabilities.

- The Farm Nursery has a small, regular group of clients and support staff and are responsible for generating seedlings for the Farm and for retail through the Farm Shop.
- Farm-based courses and workshops such as 'Field to Fork' are popular and currently run twice annually for groups of up to 10 clients.
- Packing boxes of produce for co-ops and Warrah's resident groups occurs weekly, and is fulfilled by a regular group of clients and staff.



Alexander, a Warrah client helping pick fresh produce

We aim to increase opportunities as the business grows, particularly employment opportunities. With new local Markets developing as well – currently Castle Hill and soon to open Seaforth Organic markets - this part of our work will grow. Exciting times at Warrah Farm!

Do enjoy the beauty of another Autumn in Sydney.

Yours,
Georgina Michaelis



Autumn

The leaves they fall so softly
Shadows fade away
Years they pass so quickly
And so it is this way

Vic Martin



Warrah Council

Autumn Harvest and the Transformation of Easter

Just as every field needs time to fallow and to thus replenish its forces, so too does the soul of a human being need its quiet time to nurture and to restore the spirit within. The 40 days leading to Easter can be a time to set aside, like the fallowing paddocks, for inner "space" and contemplation of the mystery of life, its truths and our own individual journey. This may bring a feeling of newness and a freshness of soul and spirit within. This can become our Autumn, our inner human harvest of the fruits of our maturing and growing.

It may lead us towards an understanding of the transforming Deed of Christ for humanity at Easter. Each true spiritual and religious path practised, leads the human soul onwards towards discoveries of so many high and noble truths.

*From Rosalind Pecover for Warrah Council
Excerpt reprinted from Autumn News 2014*

Sayonara

They all know it's time to go,
They can hear Lady Autumn's whisper,
Smell the wind blown off the snow.

Summer colours softly fade,
Breathing in with Autumn shades.
We can find new will to work,
When the chimneys smoke again.

Morning mist, silent and waiting,
Chill and grey, surrounding me.
Spiders' nets on every branchlet,
Hang in dewey geometry.

Plants asleep, the earth awakens
Light and dark, the balance held.
Sunset hues, red, gold and violet,
Lady Autumn's magic spell.

Alan Whitehead

Annual Curative Seminar

April 16th – 18th, 2018

“Promoting Positive Behaviour
Through Child Study”

At Warrah Special School

A collaborative workshop engaging specialists and educators to provide depth and insight to enhance our capacity to respond to the changing needs of our time.

This practical 3 day seminar aims to share and grow the body of knowledge, insight and practice in the field of special education from an anthroposophical perspective. Seminar presenters include:

Barbara Baldwin

Barbara Baldwin is a speech pathologist and special educator of international standing. Barbara is based in Adelaide but offers adult education particularly in China and delivers residential programs for children with disabilities and their families.

Dan Freeman

Dan is a highly qualified and experienced Bothmer Gym teacher and trainer having worked in Hohepa Curative Homes and as Bothmer Gym teacher at Taikura RSS for 24 years in NZ as well as internationally. Dan has trained in a range of Anthroposophical fields which also inform his work.

Jan Fowler

Jan is Warrah School's Principal, appointed in 2015. She has a broad background across teaching, educational administration, biographical counselling and community & social development in Anthroposophical & other organisations in Australia and internationally.

We welcome Steiner Teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Curative Educators, Therapists, & others who support children with special needs and/or learning difficulties.

For enquiries and registration:

Contact Erin Bateman
(02) 9651 2411 or ebateman@warrah.org
Warrah Society
20 Harris Road
Dural NSW 2158
www.warrah.org

Payment Details

Cost: \$400 + GST
Includes 3 full days fully catered
Or \$150 per day + GST
Registration & payment by April 1st
Visa & Mastercard accepted



Warrah School

We finished 2017 with a true celebration of the students' strengths and efforts. The school students had a wonderful end of year concert enjoyed by families and friends. Students sang songs learned in music therapy. William and Thomas played some piano pieces and surprised us all with their skill, speech work and drama. There was a Bothmer Gym demonstration and everyone was entertained with a school play 'The Christmas Rose'. It was a great joy and privilege to witness the courage, ability and delight with which the students participated.

Congratulations to Thomas Culling who graduated and all the students who received certificates for achievements and effort put in over the year.



Thomas Culling with Teacher Peter Rathjen

We also were glad to have participated in Warrah's Carol Concert in December and were particularly proud of the contribution made to it by Thomas and Zac.

Thomas Culling has since secured some work in a local library and participates in the Warrah Discovery program part time.

School Renewal

The summer holidays were a time of great activity and renewal at the school and the effect is truly wonderful. Newly painted classrooms and spaces feel fresh and welcoming as does the hall and office block. The Warrah maintenance team have shown their true colours with their tireless painting efforts as well as in assisting the

Edible Kids' Gardens Team to establish the new sensory garden and playground. We are thrilled with the results and the students are slowly but surely discovering the many elements of their new playground which will also change with time as things grow to create quiet spaces and shaded tunnels.



Students enjoying the new sensory playground

Sensory spaces are important for all children in today's world but especially for students with Autism and/or special sensitivities. It maintains a connection with self and thus supports the striving our education provides to enable the individual to find him/herself in the world. The natural world of plants and trees, animals and friends is the best 'playground' to work with the senses of smell, touch, taste, sound, life particularly. Amongst other things the playground offers a sandpit, water pump and "creek", plants and tunnels.

The school also has some new chickens and a splendid rooster!



Rafi playing with the water hand pump in new playground

New Staff and Students

School days are back and the transition has been smooth and easy for most students given the long break. We are very pleased to have welcomed a new teacher, Matt Merrall, a new administration assistant, Erin Bateman and Jenny Blundell has joined us as a classroom assistant. We also welcomed two new students – Kaspar and Dane.



New staff - Matt, Erin and Jenny

Term Program

Our program this term begins with Main lessons on 'Simple Machines', 'King Arthur' and 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf'. The students are fully engaged in the work and related activities.



Students during Main Lesson

This is taught through a range of means other than the usual content delivery including role play, story, examples, demonstration and activity which is then translated into written work in Main Lesson books.

We are also making good use of the pool and kitchen. Swimming takes place 2-3 times a week and the improvement the students make with regular instruction and practice is impressive.

Our German volunteers are with us again this year until the end of August. Theresa and Jana work in class full time and Ole and Linda part time and in other areas of Warrah the remaining days. This changes each term. The music they bring to the students has enriched their school life significantly and their enthusiasm, insight and care is valued in all they bring to the staff and students.

Day Outings

Outings in the warmer weather help the students cope with the heat and have new experiences which are then built on to enhance their learning. The plans for this term provide experiences walking in the bush, visiting local parks with special physical activities, and a visit to the sensory room at the Museum of Contemporary Art.



Max on flying fox at Fagan Park

Staff Development

In the weeks ahead we have staff furthering their professional learning by attending a conference for educators working with Downs Syndrome, visiting Hohepa School in NZ to network and learn more about their approach to Outdoor Classrooms and addressing sensory needs, attending the Annual Warrah Curative Seminar and travelling to Beaver Run Curative School and home in Pennsylvania, USA.

Jan Fowler
Principal



Supported Independent Living

As most of you know, Warrah farewelled Patricia Abraham at the end of 2017 and I commenced as Acting Chief Residential Officer at that time. It is an opportunity and a great privilege to be in this role and I am very pleased to report the great commitment to the residents of Warrah that I have observed in the staff.

The year has commenced with the usual bustle as residents returned to work, day programs and the various other activities in which they are involved. Staff commenced the year with annual fire training and manual handling training.

Welcome to New Staff

I would like to welcome our new Senior Coordinator, Michelle McKenna, who joined us in mid-December. Michelle brings a diverse background in community services with skills in staff management, service development and growth. Michelle has taken on Emily and Greenway group homes, as well as coordinating our In-home support, Short Stay Accommodation, After School Program and Saturday activity group.

I would like to congratulate Claude Ouahia, who has been appointed to the role of Coordinator at Semler Cottage, after a period acting in the role. Claude brings a calmness to the role, but is a strong advocate and leader.



Rebecca with support worker

Short Stay Accommodation

This program is growing rapidly and we now have several people who are regularly accessing it. In the coming months we are aiming to develop a calendar of

weekends with particular themes and activities, with the aim of appealing to a variety of people. The various weekends should appeal to those with similar interests and we hope to see a few people coming together to enjoy the weekends that we have packaged. If you or someone you know is interested in our short stay accommodation, please feel free to get in touch with Michelle McKenna via our main office number.



Enjoying an afternoon cup of tea

After School Program and Saturday Activities

This program has continued to grow and we continue to see numerous enquiries. Activities in this program include recreation such as sports, cooking programs and life skills development. We are currently working with Warrah School to develop a bespoke program for interested students and hope to get this underway in the coming months. Michelle is also working with various schools to develop referral pathways into the programs. Again, if you or anyone you know is interested in the program, please get in touch with Michelle McKenna via our main office number.

NDIS—Plan Reviews

We have been involved in many plan reviews for residents and we are now into our second year of NDIS. Annie Zheng and our committed Coordinator group continue to work tirelessly to help prepare for reviews and implement the plans. I encourage you to contact Annie if you have any queries or require support with your NDIS plan.

Mother's Day High Tea

Planning is underway for our Mother's Day celebration at Warrah on Saturday 12 May from 2pm (see page 15 for details). We look forward to seeing you!

David Forfar
Acting Chief Residential Officer



Community Support Services

Calendar 2018

Warrah Community Support services now operates 50 weeks per year with a two week Holiday Program in July. We are in the planning stages of the Holiday Program and will bring you more information as it becomes available. It is looking like there will be plenty of recreational and social opportunities as well as some one-off activities for those interested in trying something new.

It would be helpful for our planning to get an indication of who is interested in participating in the Holiday Program and who will be maintaining a traditional term break. Please let your Coordinators know if you are planning on taking any time off.

All participants and staff should have received a 2018 operations calendar late last year. If you did not receive a calendar please contact us to provide you with one.

New Participants 2018

We have had a considerable amount of people inquiring about Warrah Services at the start of 2018 and are happy to welcome new Participants to our Discovery, Waaia, Banksia North and Banksia South Programs.

Including our recent intake, Warrah Community Support Services now supports over 80 participants. Much of this support happens in a small group setting. However, we are seeing an increase in requests for 1:1 support.

We would like to welcome our new participants, their families and friends to the Warrah community.

Community Education Courses and Workshops

A fantastic range of courses will be delivered in 2018 and Term 1 courses have commenced with Sculpture Work, Potted Gardens, Just Desserts, Aqua Aerobics and Social Music.

What makes our Community Courses and Workshops unique and different is our facilitators who have qualifications and special talents in the Course or Workshop they are delivering.

For example, Lisa Benedixen, who has completed a Stone carving apprenticeship, is now sharing her skills and passion with the Sculpture Work group. Ani Demirian is a florist with a passion for sharing her art with others and is assisting the Potted Gardens participants to create some stunning displays. Rachel Lee, a qualified Chef is teaching the Just Desserts group how to make a variety of delicious sweet treats.



Natasha enjoying potted gardens course

We are also excited to welcome Flinders Stokes, a local Musician, to facilitate our Social Music program. Flinders has a BA in Music, is a Rapper in the band Shnand and can play a range of instruments including guitar, piano and percussion. During the music sessions, supported by some musically talented support staff, he is encouraging participants to explore their own musicality through the use of different instruments and genres.



Sculpture Work

Aqua aerobics is again being delivered by Active Mobility and is very popular, making full use of our recently updated pool facility.

In Term 2 we will be offering an Italian Cooking course facilitated by Rachel Lee, Landscape Painting with

Julie Scott, Growing Together with Rob Greatholder and Zumba with Nina De La Cruz. In addition to this our Social music course will be offered each Term throughout the year.

If any of these courses are of interest to you, please get in touch.

Staff Changes

With the recent changes to roles, and a move towards more global programming, Coordinators Liesel Wakely, Manjit Kaur and Jacqui Taylor have some changes in their responsibilities.

Each one coordinates programming for a group of clients with Liesel focusing on Discovery, and Yandina, Manjit on all of Banksia and Jacqui on Waaia, Kinta and Diramu.

In response to our growing service and more participants requiring 1:1 support to facilitate NDIS goals we ran a successful recruitment campaign late in 2017 to increase our casual staffing pool at Community Support Services. We are happy to welcome 7 new casual staff to the team.



New Discovery Participant - Terry on day trip

Professional Development

In January all Community Support Services Staff attended two full days of training. The training was delivered by the Community Support Services Leadership staff in addition to external facilitators. With presentations and practical activities staff learned more about NDIS, Standards and Legislation, Report writing and Communication and how to best assist people to achieve their Goals.

Danielle from Baulkham Hills Physio ran a workshop on Manual Handling for changing needs which was an excellent opportunity to ask questions and gain some practical advice on the changing needs of our ageing Participants.

Alida Pruys
Acting Operations Manager

Easter Morning Sun

You, Sun,
Are reaching out to me
With brittle rays
Through clouds and dew,
This Easter morning.

You, Easter Sun,
Symbol of life-giving
Warmth of Love,
Of colour
Springing from the moon-fed green,
You try
With utmost care,
Connecting with my troubled heart.

You, my heart
Fount of compromise
Of this, my earthly being;
Struggling to hold in balance
My existential contradictions.

You, Sun of Christ,
You, Easter heart,
As yet untouchable,
Warm thoroughly
This day
The work of Blessing
In each of us,
Unrecognised,
In this split world of ours.

René de Monchy

Reprinted from Autumn Newsletter

Christophorus House - Retirement Community
2015

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES & WORKSHOPS TERM 2 GUIDE 2018

Community Courses and Workshops provide high quality learning opportunities for people with disabilities. Courses change each term, and include offerings from the Arts, Health & Wellbeing and Food & Horticulture. At Warrah we aim to develop tailored support options that will best meet your requirements.

Course fees include the course fee and support costs such as materials/ingredients. The course fee is billed directly to you for the term and includes all course materials.

Support costs can be billed by Warrah through your NDIS plan. This will be agreed with you before you commence the course. The Warrah Society is registered to provide supports for the NDIS participants.

Our client management system **iplanit** is a unique access portal that allows our clients to see their individual and person-centred plans, keep track of upcoming events in their calendar and monitor progress towards reaching their goals.

Italian Cooking

Rachel Lee
8 Weeks - Tuesdays
10/04/18 - 29/05/18
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
Banksia Community Centre
Kitchen
Course Fee: \$152



Would you like to try your hand at making some fresh pasta dishes? How about some delicious pizzas? Join this social and interactive course designed to take your Italian cooking skills to the next level! This course has something to offer everyone who enjoys cooking, but especially those who enjoy a good Italian meal.

Growing Together - Warrah Farm

Rob Greatholder
8 weeks - Wednesdays
11/04/18 - 06/06/18 (T1)*
24/10/18 - 12/12/18 (T4)
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
Warrah Farm Kitchen
Course Fee: \$138



*Excludes public holiday of 25/04/18

This course incorporates a variety of learning areas across Warrah's Farm, including the seedlings nursery, cooking, planting and harvesting. Participants will make a take home product, which could be a food item or a hand cream made from Warrah's farm produce.

Social Music

Various musicians
8 Weeks - Tuesdays
30/01/18 - 20/03/18
1.30 pm - 2.30pm
Banksia Music Room
Course Fee: \$64



Social music is coming together and creating some music. This group is about giving time and space to do just that! A variety of musicians, as well as the musically minded will support the group to develop, enjoy and appreciate a variety of musical instruments, genres and techniques. If you have an instrument please bring it along. This course is open to all, regardless of ability.

Landscape Painting

Julie Scott
8 weeks - Thursdays
12/04/18 - 31/05/18
10.00 am - 12.00 pm
Banksia Art Studio
Course Fee: \$148



Passion for painting? Want to create some great landscapes? This course will teach you how. Drawing on Warrah's landscape and where possible, other outdoor locations, our Art Facilitator will guide participants through several pieces. The course will include an exhibition of works in Warrah's Gallery for family and friends.

Zumba

Nina De La Cruz
8 Weeks - Fridays
13/04/18 - 01/06/18
11.30 am - 12.30 pm
Warrah School Hall
Course Fee: \$180



Zumba is exercise in disguise! Each Zumba class is designed to bring people together to get moving the fun way. It is a dance fitness program that combines the elements of fitness, all to invigorating music to get everyone moving to the beat.

Bring a bottle of water to stay hydrated....and your sense of FUN!

ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

Contact the Warrah Office to enrol on 9651 2411 or email Harini - hsuresh@warrah.org

For further enrolment information and details on other courses throughout the year visit www.warrah.org/for-adults/courses-and-workshops All courses held on campus at Dural and may be subject to change and availability.



Community Development

Community Service Day for Redfield College

Twelve students from Redfield College visited Warrah Special School in early December as part of their Community Service Day. They did a wonderful job and completed a range of tasks. They moved raised garden beds, tidied up the school grounds, did general gardening, cleaned windows, cleaned the chook pen and even made a tepee! They did a great job in preparation for the Carols at Warrah evening.



Redfield College student tidying school gardens

The School Choir from Redfield College also made a guest appearance the same day, performing a number of well-known carols in the School Hall for our students and staff. Some of the Warrah students helped the Choir Master conducting the group.

Christmas Carols Event

In December Warrah hosted a 'food for the soul' Carols event in the grounds of the Warrah Special school. The marquee was packed to the rafters, with around 170 people in attendance on the balmy evening.

The music group 'Spices of Harmony' led the carols singing, with our German volunteers playing beautiful music on the arrival of guests.

Light refreshments finished the evening including delicious homemade Christmas cake lovingly cooked by our Principal, Jan Fowler. It was a special time for friends and families of Warrah to connect.

Carols at Warrah 2017



Warrah families and friends at the Carols



'Spices of Harmony' leading the Carols singing



School student Zac doing a Gospel reading



Refreshments after the Carols

Board, Staff & Volunteers Christmas Party

Over 110 staff, volunteers and Board members attended Warrah's Christmas party at The Madison Function Centre. It was a nice evening for all parts of the organisation to get together and enjoy a lovely three course meal with dancing afterwards. Awards were also presented for service and recognition (see Page 14).



Staff from Community Support Services enjoying the Christmas party

Annual Christmas Appeal

Our annual Christmas Appeal for a new nature-based sensory playground in the grounds of the Warrah Special School raised \$24,000. Thank you!

The idea for the playground was put forward by a school family, who had their backyard transformed by Edible Kids' Gardens for their autistic son, who has been attending Warrah's Special School since he was 6 years old. Seeing the benefits for their son and his brothers led them to generously donate a significant sum to the project, which has been supplemented by funds raised through our Christmas Appeal.

We are looking forward to seeing the garden flourish and enhancing the playground with more sensory elements over time.

Cindy Cunningham
Community Development Manager

Spring Fair 2018 Committee Volunteers

Members of the Warrah community are invited to join our 2018 Spring Fair Committee to develop and organise the event OR assist with other tasks leading up to the big day.

Please contact Cindy Cunningham on 9651 2411 or ccunningham@warrah.org

WARRAH

SPECIAL SCHOOL

OPEN DAY
THURSDAY 17 MAY
10am - 12pm

Warrah Special School offers *Education with a Difference*. Come and visit us on Open Day to find out what we can offer your child.

Join us for an information session presented by the Principal, tours of the school and farm, followed by light refreshments.

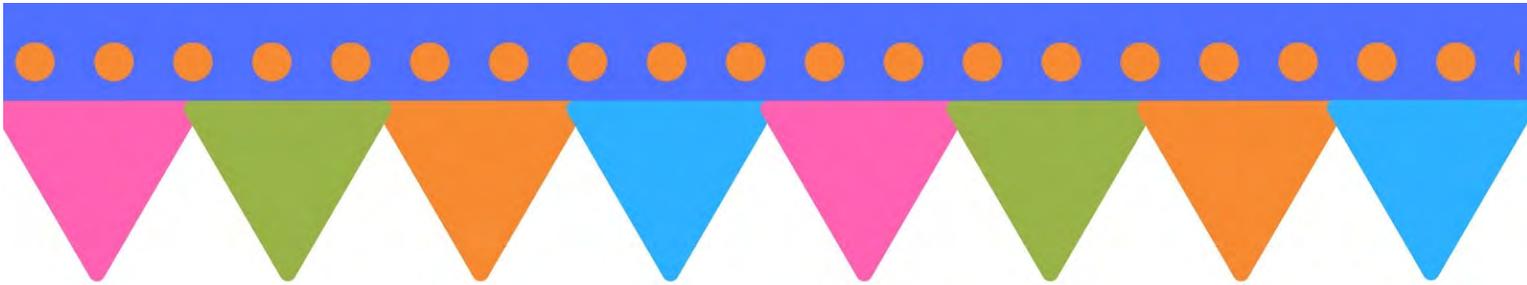
Warrah Special School offers:

- The richness of the Steiner curriculum adapted to meet individual needs, while meeting the NSW Board of Studies requirements
- A beautiful natural environment and providing life skills development through farming, gardening, arts & crafts and cooking programs
- A range of individual and group therapies
- Small classes (4-6 students) with experienced teachers
- A *strengths based* approach, valuing the capacity of each individual to develop his or her potential
- Transition program for young adults.

Kindergarten - Year 12
20 Harris Road, Dural

To RSVP contact Erin Bateman on
(02) 9651 2411 or ebateman@warrah.org





WARRAH
LIVING LEARNING GROWING



SPRING FAIR

SAVE THE DATE!



Saturday
8 September 2018
10am - 3pm
20 Harris Road Dural



WARRAH'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR!

**THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED, CONTRIBUTE
OR VOLUNTEER IN THE LEAD UP OR ON THE DAY.
PLEASE CONTACT CINDY CUNNINGHAM ON 9651 2411 OR
CCUNNINGHAM@WARRAH.ORG**

www.warrah.org





Staff and Volunteers

Volunteers

We continue to get a steady flow of local and international enquiries from people wanting to volunteer at Warrah and learn more about the Steiner philosophy. This is a very positive reflection on the reputation that we have been building and an endorsement of the Rudolf Steiner practices. Our German volunteers - Ole, Theresa, Jana and Linda, from Freunde Der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiner will be here until August, and then we will welcome a new intake from September. We will continue to see volunteers helping out around Warrah, and really appreciate their vital work.



Our German volunteers doing landscaping

New Staff

Below is the list of New Starters who became part of the Warrah staff group:

Donna Sherman	Casual Support Worker
Flinders Stokes	Farm Shop Sales Assistant
Ben Uche Okanme	Casual Support Worker
Michelle McKenna	Senior Coordinator
Kym Lamshed	Casual Support Worker
Celine Olamide	Casual Support Worker
Victor Morales Ariano	Casual Support Worker
Lilia Tan	Casual Support Worker
Sonny Phoiwi	Casual Support Worker
Michael Yoon	Casual Support Worker
Erin Bateman	School Administrator
Matt Merrall	Teacher
Jenny Blundell	Casual Teaching Assistant
Jamel Spencer-Blatter	Casual Support Worker
Mei Qin Chen	Cleaner & Maintenance Officer

Staff Survey

We are continually striving to improve performance and job satisfaction for our employees, so to gauge opinions we conducted a Warrah Employee Engagement survey last month. We were amazed at the response rate, with over 80% of staff contributing. Participants were also entered in to a draw to receive an iPhone SE 32GB, and the winner, chosen at random, was Ingrid Diewald, who works in Waaia.

The survey is now closed, and the responses will now be analysed for trends and comments to be reported back to staff and management. This information will be used to help formulate future plans to make Warrah an employer of choice and optimise the Warrah employment proposition.

Staff Awards

These employees were recognised with the following awards at the Christmas dinner, well done and thank you to all of them!

Service Awards

Christine Kruger	20 years
Leanne Burton	10 years
Brewer Fayne	10 years

Recognition Awards

Patrick Lamin	Ambassador Award
Frances Prior	Can-Do Award
Peter Myers	Can-Do Award
Claudette Moit	Can-Do Award
Helen Macaskill	Can-Do Award
Mark Ma	Creative Award
Connie Richards	Determination Award
Marissa Madigan	Determination Award
Thanuja Siriwardena	Determination Award
Richard Thompson	Extra Mile Award
Debbie Tschepen	Extra Mile Award
Sandra Quisumbing	Extra Mile Award
Claude Ouahia	Extra Mile Award
Ani Demirian	Extra Curricular Award
Alf Jurisson	Good Nature Award
Linda Kadiri	Staff Volunteer Award
Jana Pauli	Staff Volunteer Award
Ole Lehmkuhler	Staff Volunteer Award
Theresa Gasser	Staff Volunteer Award
Sarah Hu	Quiet Achiever Award

Evelyn Bush
Payroll & HR Coordinator



Invitation to Warrah's

Mother's Day High Tea

Saturday 12 May at 2pm
Warrah Special School Hall
RSVP by 7th May
Contact Frances on 9651 2411 or
warrah@warrah.org





Warrah Farm

This has most definitely been the year of the cucumber! With the dry weather and consistent warmth we have had, the plants have continued to thrive and produce more than ever. We are planting out our last outdoor cucumber and zucchini crops just now and will squeeze a final planting in the poly tunnel near the end of February. We are also nearing the end of the optimal time to plant beans, with another 2 successions to go in before we switch over to peas in March.

We plant zucchini and cucumber every 4 weeks for a consistent supply throughout spring and summer. Beans are spaced two weeks apart, along with salads and lettuce with most other crops falling around the four to six week mark. This time of the year also sees us planting out the first batch of cabbages, leeks and rainbow carrots so as to have them ready as the cooler weather hits.



A recent volunteer working on the farm

In February we also planted both red and golden beetroot, rainbow chard, silverbeet, basil, parsley, pak choi, kale, salad greens and lettuce. The latter is a delicious Asian vegetable that is becoming increasingly popular.

Rob Greatholder
Farm Manager

NEW FARM BABY

Congratulations to Rob and Nagissa on the arrival of their baby boy on Thursday 15 February 2018

Farm Inspired Collage Art

Warrah's trees and farm cows have inspired recent collage artworks produced by a group of clients at the Banksia Community Centre. The collage art has been facilitated by Warrah's Art Facilitator, Julie Scott.



Warrah's popular farm cows, Elka and Frangipani



Client using crayons to make patterns

Clients use crayons and oil pastels to rub over textured surfaces to create patterns. These are then cut into small shapes and laid like mosaics on a template. The background is created by painting and blotting with fabric such as a lace doily to get the desired effect.



Cow collage by Matthew Owens, Lyndal Atkinson, Darren Perry, Adrian Lewis, Trudy Peek, Rebecca Molloy, Natasha Grace and Joanne Stephens.

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Warrah Farm Enterprises

Keeping Cool

We are pleased at how well our Farm Shop has physically handled some of Sydney's hottest Summer days known. And we are more than welcoming towards the new, cooler season of Autumn! The front-of-shop outside shade structure has protected the glass doorway from penetrating heat rays very well, for which we are thankful. Also our new, large capacity cool room was a wonderful asset over the Christmas break, allowing us to store and protect many goods and items sensitive to those crazy hot days. Our customers thankfully comment on the comfort of shop air conditioning and ceiling fans.

Fruits of the Season

Autumn is a cross-over season when the last of Summer's delicious stone fruits remain to be enjoyed along with exceptional Robinvale Biodynamic Crimson & White Grapes...oh how superbly sweet they have been! Our shop is worth a visit just to bag some of them! Apples are getting crisper and oranges should start to improve although they really love winter to pop their navels. Our organic Hass Avocados are truly a taste sensation.



Our reusable shopping bags are popular with customers

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter
Farm E News
please email farmshop@warrah.org

Biodynamic Onions Second to None

One of our regular customers who is Italian and a very good cook keeps raving to us about how good our Brown Onions are! Brown Onions are one of those staple foods used in just about everything and every culture but who thinks of onions as "something to rave about"? Well our onions should be good, if not the best because they are certified Biodynamic. Thanks to our customer for being so gorgeously passionate about cooking and what she serves to her family, we at Warrah Farm Shop now have a much more respectful view of our delicious brown onions too.

Farmers' Markets

Warrah Farm Enterprises is always promoting our Farm, and markets as an important showcase. We are now taking a break from attending Fox Studio Markets in the City. Instead, we are concentrating on the more local fortnightly Castle Hill Market and also trialing a new weekly Friday market at Seaforth which starts in March. If you are in these locales, come and say hi, and maybe walk away eating your idea of something delicious.

Happy Autumn Harvest
From The Farm Shop Team

Autumn Fruit in Store

Granny Smith apples
Pink Lady apples
Royal Gala apples
Hass avacados
Cavendish bananas
Ladyfinger bananas
Blueberries
Ruby grapefruit
Yellow grapefruit
Honeydew melon
Lemons
Limes
Mangoes
Navel oranges
Nectarines
Papaya
Peaches
Passionfruit
Pineapples
Strawberries
Watermelon

WARRAH

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