

Branching Out



A Word From

Issue 1, January 2013

Julie Hillier, Branch & Community Development Manager

Welcome to the new look Branching Out! This first issue reports on the last three months of activity, November, December and January.

I started working with Can Assist as the Branch and Community Development Manager in August last year and have really enjoyed getting to know the branches.

The highlight of my time so far was the branch consultation on 24th November. It was lovely to meet representatives from many of our branches and a great opportunity for different branch representatives to meet each other.

I have re launched Branching Out as a newsletter to provide you with useful information, relevant updates and developments and as a forum for ideas and experiences.

It should be meaningful and useful to you and help you with running your branch.

Branching Out will be quarterly and each issue will have a similar format so that you will know where to find particular information.

I'd also love to hear from you. Your feedback, ideas and photographs are very welcome. This newsletter is for branches and we would like to include your words, ideas and reports so please feel free to email any material that you would like to share with all Can Assist branches.

It could include photos of events or written reports so please drop me a line soon.

With best wishes,

Julie

Keeping Safe

Can Assist is committed to the safety of our members. We want to ensure that all our volunteers are working in environments that preserve their health, safety and well being.

There is a new *Work Health & Safety Act*. Under the act volunteers are now considered a 'worker' for Can Assist and have the same responsibilities as paid staff. This means that Can Assist has to provide the same standards of duty and care to volunteers as they do to workers or employees.

A survey of branches, conducted in November 2012, indicated that 70% of the respondents felt that the branches need clear guidelines to help them ensure volunteers work in a safe environment.

During the first quarter of 2013 Can Assist will be launching its **Keeping Safe** guidelines. The guidelines have been developed based on what is reasonable for volunteers who have limited time. Your feedback is important. Please contact the Branch & Community Development Manager if you wish to discuss the Keeping safe guidelines.

Keeping Safe hint - Remember to report accidents or incidents to the Sydney office as soon as possible.

Keeping Safe tip - Stay Sun Safe

When attending outdoor fundraising events please ensure that you and other volunteers are wearing hats, sunscreen and protective clothes and make sure that cool drinks are available. Try to set up the fundraising stall in the shade.

Focus On

Branch Consultation

On the 24th November 2012 representatives from 29 branches came to Sydney to discuss Can Assist's future direction.

Some of the important issues discussed were the establishment of the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission and how it will impact on Can Assist; volunteers' health and safety; financial reporting and reviewing and finally, the branch guidelines.

Representatives were given a copy of the new financial assistance guidelines to take back to their branches.

Can Assist faces an exciting yet challenging future with the establishment of its accommodation service in an interim venue, Quest Bondi junction.

The consultation was a wonderful day and it was great to see branches developing networks across the state. Delegates stayed at Quest Bondi Junction and were able to experience the quality of accommodation that we are now able to offer country people with cancer. The catch up and conversation continued into the evening with most delegates joining us for dinner in Bondi Junction.

Profile

Can Assist fund raising committees – welcome to Nyngan and

Can Assist is pleased to introduce a new way of supporting country cancer patients. We welcome two new fundraising committees.

The committees were formed by groups of interested community members in northern NSW from the towns of Nyngan and Glen Innes. The committees are up and running with fundraising activities, enthusiasm and a growing membership base.

At this stage they are not branches, they are fundraising committees which raise funds exclusively for Can Assist. This allows the

committee membership to focus on fundraising for their local government area while building their membership. The aim is for them to become branches down the track but the outcome is that people with cancer in the fundraising committees' local government area will have access to Can Assist support and funds.

Can Assist will be working with other community members in early 2013 to form more fundraising committees across the state.

Resources

Sydney Accommodation Service

Discussion about the Sydney Accommodation Service was a major part of November's branch consultation. We are delighted with the success of the transfer of accommodation from JCCC to Quest Bondi Junction.

Alison Bray, Services Manager, reports that the new service has been full from January with bookings for all rooms until mid March: "It has been an exciting time," says Alison, "Guests have come from all over NSW and are being treated at RPA, St Vincents and Prince of Wales hospitals and we have happy clients enjoying their ensuites, the accessible rooms and laundry. We have a waiting list for rooms that demonstrates that there is a need for accommodation for cancer patients as we work towards a new Can Assist facility in the future. It gives us important information about what people need and like.

Please send Alison any feedback you may hear from clients as they return to their home towns: alison@canassist.com.au To make a booking call 1300 226 277.



Your View

Please help us fill this space. Send your stories, images or letters to khalley@canassist.com.au Remember to caption your photos, telling us who the people are and what the event was.

Below: Christmas at Lilier Lodge



In the News



Can Assist wins NSW Premier's Award

Some of you might have noticed a new logo appearing on Can Assist documents and emails. It is the Premier's Award logo. Can Assist was delighted to receive a NSW Premier's Award for Excellence in Public Service delivery in November last year. The win is your win, testament to your hard work in raising funds to support people with cancer in your local regions.

Premier Barry O'Farrell presented Richard and Julie with a trophy and certificate at a public awards ceremony. The award recognised Can Assist's ability to consistently "attract, motivate and retain highly committed volunteers for nearly six decades. Can Assist is deserving of special recognition."

Our members and volunteers who go out and fundraise for people with cancer in their community are the heart and soul of Can Assist and this award recognises your fundamental contribution.

We warmly thank Premier Barry O'Farrell for his strong ongoing support and thank the Cancer Institute NSW for nominating us. Their support and recognition helps our members and volunteers.

Congratulations to you all on this exciting win!

Below left: Premier Barry O'Farrell and Anne Irvin watch Julie Hillier speak with MC Adam Spencer at the Awards ceremony.

Below right: Finance Manager Anne Irvin, Services Manager Alison Bray, CEO Richard Appleby, Branch Manager Julie Hillier and Board member Russell Evans with the Premier's Award.



Gallery



Can Assist branch representatives at the Branch consultation



Neta Close, Jean and Joe Rose



Board member James Strong greets branch members



Anne Henry, Margaret Baulch, Wendy Drummond and Peter Van Bracht



Fiona Kelly, Leigh McPherson and Pauline Allen



Dennis Robertson with Olga Forner, Maureen Field and Sue Hardy



Facilitator Isabelle Meyer and Bob Ayliffe