

NOT-TO-BE-MISSED EVENTS

THE 2010 MAI-WEL CELEBRITY COMEDY DEBATE

The annual Celebrity Comedy Debate has secured its place as one of the highlights on Maitland's social event calendar and reaffirms the support of The Mai-Wel Group by the Maitland and Hunter community.

While the Debate is all in the name of fun, the serious side of the event is the fund raising element. More than \$16,000.00 was raised from the event held in July this year with proceeds assisting the construction of the long-awaited Community Programs Centre.

Plans are already underway for the Debate in 2010 when Mai-Wel will celebrate 50 years of providing service and support to people with a disability in the community. The date is set for Saturday 17th July, and while the topic is still under wraps, guests can be assured of a continued level of quality entertainment from high profile local and national identities for this "fantastic" event.



Debaters in action: Arguing for Sport to get the chop, Ian Gollan, Olivia Gollan and Wayne Pearce realise they have been pipped at the post



Jean Kittson reigned supreme leading Culture to take the crown at the 2009 Debate of Sport vs Culture (which should get the chop in the GFC)

3RD ANNUAL VALENTINE MASQUERADE BALL

Grab your glad rags and dust of your dancing shoes... Mai-Wel is hosting the 3rd Valentine Masquerade Ball on Saturday 13th February 2010 at Maitland City Bowls, Sport & Recreation Club and in true masquerade fashion, mystery will surround the night as masks will be worn to conceal the identity of the ball goers.

The night will commence with a selection of appetizers followed by a sumptuous three course meal. A live band will have your toes tapping with music ranging from the 50's through to the latest hits.

Masks are available for sale at Mai-Wel head office and at Achieve Employment and Training Centre, Unit 4, 555 High Street Maitland, from early January. Prices start at \$10 and all proceeds will go to Mai-Wel Ltd.

Ball tickets are \$60 per person and are available from Mai-Wel head office and Achieve Employment and Training Centre. There are a limited number of tickets available so get in early to avoid disappointment.

NEWS

RYLA PARTICIPANT REAPS REWARDS

Bronwyn Bell made some friends for life, met some personal and professional challenges and set some life and work goals . . .

And she did it all in six days.

Mai-Wel's Manager of Communications and Corporate Identity and 19 others attended a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) course at Tocal Agricultural College in early October.

RYLA, one of Australia's leading youth leadership development programs, is a six day seminar for 18 to 25 year olds to develop their skills in areas such as leadership, planning, public speaking, goal setting, values, problem solving, team building and human relations in a structured, hands-on program.

Ms Bell, 24, praised the holistic approach of the course, developing people physically, intellectually and emotionally while building strong, life-long friendships with others on the course.

Most rewarding was her realisation that she had few goals in aspects of her life and career, and that has now changed.

"I found new aspects to myself, including some I didn't realise were there. The holistic approach to the program is fantastic and I have already shared some of the knowledge, tips and techniques I have learnt with work colleagues and friends. RYLA really has been life affecting for me. I know that the skills that I have learnt (and the people) will stay with me for life" she said.

New personal and professional goals will be easier to achieve because many on the course stay in regular contact, socially and through the local Hunteract and Rotaract groups.

A session on coaching and another on emotional intelligence were among the most rewarding.

She was sponsored on the course by the Rotary Club of Adamstown-New Lambton.

Ms Bell has been employed at Mai-Wel since September 2007, initially as the Communications Coordinator and personal assistant to CEO Pennie Kearney, a function she retains in her new role as Manager.



Bronwyn Bell (centre), Mai-Wel's Manager of Communications and Corporate Identity with Mai-Wel Group CEO Pennie Kearney (Left) and Mai-Wel's Business Administration Manager Rosemary Keegan at the RYLA Graduation Dinner.

RSPCA CUPCAKE DAY

On Monday 17th August, Alex Roth, a trainee with Mai-Wel Munch, a Hospitality and Training project of Hunter LabourForce Solutions, participated in the Cup Cake Day for the RSPCA - a nationwide event designed to raise funds for the RSPCA.

Alex and the Mai-Wel Munch team sold a variety of cupcakes including triple chocolate, white chocolate and musk or plain butter muffins decorated with one of three farmyard themes – sheep, cows or pigs.

To ensure people's pets were not left out, Alex also baked Pupcakes using a recipe provided by the RSPCA especially designed for animals. They consisted of dried fruit, apple sauce, eggs and wholemeal flour. The Pupcakes were such a hit with Alex's dogs that she had to offer them to staff and clients at Mai-Wel so their four legged friends at home could also enjoy the treats.

More than 350 cupcakes and Pupcakes were ordered which made for a very busy kitchen. However, when more than \$320 was raised, there were no complaints. All proceeds raised will go to the RSPCA. Alex, along with Desley and the Mai-Wel Munch team wish to thank all of the staff, clients and families who supported this worthwhile cause. Thank you to Alex for initiating such a fantastic fundraising event.

CEO RE-ELECTED TO NDS STATE COMMITTEE

The Mai-Wel Group is pleased to announce that Chief Executive Officer, Pennie Kearney, has been re-elected for her third term on the State Committee of the peak body for Disability Service Providers, National Disability Services (NDS).

"I feel privileged to represent Service Providers and to work with the CEO and staff of NDS to bring positive change within the Sector which can only result in improved services and life opportunities for people with a disability and their families" said Mrs Kearney on her re-election.

The NDS State Committee is made up of 12 elected representatives from disability service providers across NSW.

NDS is an industry peak body representing the specific interests of non government organisations in disability service provision in Australia.

FASTEST GROWING AWARD NOMINATION

In other exciting news, The Mai-Wel Group was nominated for The Fastest Growing Business Awards, one of the biggest accolades awarded to private enterprise in the region.

Mai-Wel was a finalist in the Health Care and Social Assistance, Not For Profit and Employment Growth categories.

The Awards, which are now in their 11th year, recognise growth in sales, employment or exports, and over the years have attracted close to 1100 finalists – significantly more than any other Hunter business event.

The winners were announced at an Awards Presentation Ceremony and dinner on Monday 21st September 2009 in Newcastle with special guest speaker, ex Wallaby, Mr Peter Fitzsimons.



Mai-Wel Munch Trainee Alex Roth cooks up a storm for RSPCA Cupcake Day

NEW STAFF

Mai-Wel welcomes the following new permanent and casual staff:

- Julie Apthorpe - Enterprise Supported Employee
- Luke Brunckhorst - Information & Communications Services Officer
- Leanne Gregory - TimeSavers Supported Employee
- Peter Groppler - Enterprise Supported Employee
- Greg Bofinger - COMETS & TimeSavers Support Worker
- Justine Bridges - CP Support Worker
- Jennifer Dreverman - CP & COMETS Support Worker
- Helen Hodges - CP & COMETS Support Worker
- Adam Stout - ACOP Support Worker
- Jessica Wakeman - CP Receptionist
- Joanne Webb - Enterprise Supported Employee
- James Brown - E Recycling Supported Employee
- Alison Phelps - ACOP Support Worker
- Kirriily Crawford - Enterprise Support Worker
- Mark Wilmott - Enterprise Support Worker
- John Cramer - Enterprise Support Worker
- Daniel Sneddon - PACE Support Worker
- Jamie Bartlett - PACE Support Worker
- Keziah McDonald - FLO Support Worker
- Beverly Kembrey - FLO Support Worker
- Jeannette Fielding - Leisure Links Support Worker
- Christine Donaldson - FLO Support Worker
- Valerie Maude - RTO Training & Development Officer
- Lyall Burgoyne - COMETS Lead Support Worker

Employment Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following people who recently reached a milestone anniversary at Mai-Wel. We thank you for your continued service.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| David McGrath, Supported Employee | 25 Years |
| Dale Hughes, Supported Employee | 20 Years |
| Bill Arbuckle, PACE Setters Manager | 15 Years |
| Stephen Frogley, Supported Employee | 5 Years |
| Eddie Meehan, IT & Infrastructure Manager | 5 Years |
| Sharon Stace, Admin Assistant | 5 Years |
| Tracy Forbes, HLFs Marketing Team Leader | 5 Years |

THE Mai-Wel GROUP

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David Allen



Frank Higgs



Graham Burns



Jan Whyte



Jennifer Leslie



Kevin Gordon



Margaret Sivyver



Paul Callinan



Paul Hughes



Todd Williams



Changing of the Guard THE MAI-WEL GROUP ELECTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Mai-Wel Group announced at their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17th November 2009, the appointment of their Board of Directors for the coming year under the leadership of the new President, Graham Burns.

Each elected Director brings a range of complementary skills, knowledge and experience which will provide a balanced and well equipped group of people to oversee the organisation as it celebrates 50 years of service in 2010.

President Mr Burns, Chief Executive Officer of Hunter Land, has more than 25 years experience in industrial and commercial real estate and will be joined by Vice Presidents Jan Whyte, former Hunter/Central Coast School Education Director and Kevin Gordon, retired Financial Advisor.

Mr Burns commented that "the elected Board of Directors has the skills to support the CEO and her team in growing the services offered to clients. The Mai-Wel Group is going through a phase of infrastructure upgrade aimed to bring more accessible programs to our 800 plus clients".

Jennifer Leslie, Director of Financial Services at Farrow Wyatt, and Frank Higgs, retired land surveyor, were re-elected to executive positions on the Board along with Paul Callinan - Managing Director of Alliance People Solutions, Paul Hughes - Director of Newcastle Timber Trading, David Allen - Partner of Hills Solicitors, Margaret Sivyver

- retired Regional Art Gallery Director and Todd Williams - Director of Operations at The Forum, University of Newcastle.

The Mai-Wel Board of Directors are a dedicated group of volunteers who play a key role in ensuring the organisation continues to be responsive to the current and future of people with a disability.

The Mai-Wel Group is one of the larger Disability Service Providers in the Lower Hunter Region, providing services and programs to more than 800 clients across seven Local Government Areas.

The Mai-Wel Group employs more than 170 local support and administrative staff in addition to 110 local supported employees.

The Mai-Wel Group is focused on developing opportunities that advance the lives of people with a disability, allow the individual to realise their goals for life and provide access, integration and opportunity for all.

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From the CEO's Desk

I felt the wonderful feeling of exhilaration, excitement and a great sense of achievement on October 13th 2009, the day the first sod was turned on the site at John Street, Telarah. Mai-Wel's long awaited and desperately needed \$2.5 million purpose built Community Programs Centre was underway.

Stage One of this state-of-the-art facility, which is being constructed on Mai-Wel owned land, will provide two separate areas with specific internal layouts and equipment to create appropriate space for our clients with high support needs who attend Mai-Wel's Day Programs each week day. The project has been a dream in the making and when completed in the first quarter of 2010 will address the support needs of clients, assist the support staff who support them and provide more clients and families with the assistance they require.

In 2010 Mai-Wel turns 50 and will celebrate the many achievements and opportunities which have advanced the lives of people with a disability for half a century.

We are proud of our past; however we must continue to focus on the future. We must maintain and increase services to meet the demands each year of new school leavers and those who are ageing.

One of our major challenges, like that of the general population, is to respond to the impact of an ageing population which has already, and will continue to create a greater demand for services for those people with a disability who have ageing carers or who are ageing themselves.

The provision of accessible and purpose built premises is essential if we are to respond appropriately to the many and varied needs. A highlight of my day is looking across to the site and witnessing the progress of the project.

My thanks must go to the Mai-Wel Board of Directors, the Building Sub Committee, Mai-Wel's Executive Management Team, the Architect Peter McFadyen and Contractor GWH who have supported this project from its inception. The time, skills and expertise given so generously is very much appreciated. I look forward to sharing with you the excitement of the clients and staff who will occupy the building when completed in the New Year.

As 2009 draws rapidly to a close may I also thank all of those people who have supported Mai-Wel over the past 12 months including the Directors, staff, clients and their families, volunteers, donors and the wider Hunter community.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas, a prosperous New Year and I look forward to sharing the opportunity to advance the lives of people with a disability in 2010 and beyond.

Best Wishes

Penny Kearney

Penny Kearney

CEO

MAI-WEL COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Mai-Wel Group is fortunate and thankful for the ongoing support of the following Community Partners who continue to assist Mai-Wel to advance the lives of people with a disability.



Setting the PACE in Manufacturing

PACE Setters, the timber and light engineering division of Mai-Wel, has experienced substantial growth in the 2008 – 2009 financial year, resulting in a 16% increase in turnover and a 7.4% increase in gross profit, despite the Global Financial Crisis.

This is an outstanding achievement, resulting in PACE Setters reaching the highest sales and profits of any Mai-Wel business in Mai-Wel's history.

PACE Setters is an Australian Disability Enterprise (Australian Disability Enterprises or ADE's are commercial businesses that provide employment opportunities for people with a disability) which employs eight support staff and production assistants and 32 supported employees (people with a disability) to supply a range of products including, but not limited to; pallets, crates, garden furniture and customised timber products and folded and punched sheet metal products.

Situated in Maitland, PACE Setters are uniquely positioned at the geographic centre of the Hunter Valley's mining and engineering industries and can easily supply customers anywhere from Newcastle and Lake Macquarie to the Upper Hunter.

With over 40 years experience making pallets and crates for local industry, PACE Setters is a leader in the heavy packaging field, being one of only a handful of manufacturers in the region accredited by AQIS to manufacture and supply heat-treated, export quality crates and pallets. Due to this accreditation, PACE Setters has become a one-stop-shop for heavy packaging needs supplying standard and custom-made products to heavy industry, mining engineering firms, electrical engineering firms,

particle board manufacturers, plastics manufacturers, food manufacturers and general businesses.

During 2009, PACE Setters focused on expanding the export and non export pallets and crates facet of the business which has yielded excellent results. Pallets and crates have been sent to places around the world including the USA, Indonesia, Poland, China, Dubai, South Africa, Brazil, Germany and Canada. PACE Setters also introduced the flexibility of assembling crates and pallets at the customers' place of business when items are too large to easily transport.

In the last 18 months, the PACE Setters team have had the opportunity to build a number of unique items and products including;

- Crates to hold up to 11 ½ tonnes
- Crates up to 14 metres long
- Crates built in-situ around large pieces of machinery on the customer's premises
- Crates fitted with internal cradles to support large shafts, tanks and odd-shaped pieces of machinery
- Display crates that fold open on three sides, designed to show off equipment at mining expos
- Heavily padded cases to hold geological instruments for shipping overseas
- High-sided pallets to hold large steel balls

HLFS Employer of the Month

REBEL SPORT

In 2004, Hunter LabourForce Solutions, The Mai-Wel Group's Specialist Employment Network, developed a Business Partnership Program with a number of local businesses to assist job seekers with significant barriers to employment obtain workplace specific training and work experience. Employers who participated in the program agreed to take on a number of clients and provide training and support in specific job areas.

Rebel Sport at Greenhills was one of the businesses that participated in the program and Donald Bulbert is one of its success stories.

Donald has been employed at Rebel Sport since 2004 after gaining a casual position as a result of his participation in the Business Partnership Program. During the past five years he has developed his skills in the workplace and has been offered opportunities to grow and expand in his role. He is now a permanent employee.

Manager, Tracey Russell reports that Rebel Sport have not looked back since participating in the program and that Donald has become their number one processor.

Kylie Tegg, Hunter LabourForce Solutions Manager commented that Rebel Sport is a local employer that is really making a difference in the community. "Rebel Sport have one of the longest standing partnerships with our Agency and this long term commitment to employing people with a disability is not only great business practice, it is enriching the lives of people within our area. The team at Rebel Sport have supported Donald in his career and treated him with the same respect and compassion as any other employee. There is an untapped pool of talent in our local area seeking employment that can add so much value to your business and Rebel Sport is one local employer who is reaping the rewards from this decision" Ms Tegg said.

Rebel Sport Greenhills has been nominated for the Hunter LabourForce Solutions Employer of the Year Award. These awards were established in 2008 to highlight great business practice in disability employment and to recognise outstanding achievements of local employers who have demonstrated commitment to employing people with a disability.



Donald Bulbert at Rebel Sport, Greenhills



Some of PACE Setters Supported Employees



The PACE Setters team with a truck load of crates they produced for a large mining company

Walter Street Units

Tuesday 11th August was the first official viewing of the completed Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) funded units at Walter Street, Rutherford.

Several excited residents and staff visited the three brand new units with landscaped gardens that have been under construction since the beginning of 2009. Patrons were also lucky enough to oversee the ballot process for unit allocations - which resulted in five very happy residents!

The celebration was marked by afternoon tea and a range of discussions about where the lounge, TV and other home appliances might go!

It was a joy to see and feel the enthusiasm, excitement and anticipation of each resident as they talked about their future, living in their new home.

"At the end of June 2007, The Mai-Wel Group received a \$1 million grant from DADHC to build the units. The initial funding allowed for the construction of three units, but thanks to the efforts and wise investment of the Executive Manager of Finance, the interest received has provided the necessary funds to build a fourth unit on the same site. Construction will begin in late 2009" CEO Penny Kearney explained to the assembled group.

The Mai-Wel Group would like to acknowledge the expertise and support of McDonald Jones Homes, who constructed the units. Many thanks to the team at McDonald Jones Homes who offered fantastic assistance, guidance, expertise and customer service which was second to none prior to, during and at the completion of construction.



Support The Mai-Wel Group

YES! I would like to make a donation to The Mai-Wel Group

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Dr (Please circle) First Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Phone No. (____) _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ EVERY Week Month Quarter Half Year Year

Donation commencing from: _____ (insert date)

I would like to make a 'once off' donation of \$ _____

Enclosed is a Cheque/Money order payable to The Mai-Wel Group

Please debit my Credit Card Visa / MasterCard (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible)

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ CCV Number _____

Exp Date ____/____/____ Signature _____

I would like to receive Mai-Wel's free quarterly newsletter

I would like to receive more information on The Mai-Wel Group and its services.

I do not wish to receive further information about The Mai-Wel Group's marketing or fundraising activities

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DONATION SLIP