

Christmas Newsletter 2018

Vol. 24 ISSUE 6



WINDAMERE

All the staff at Windamere Park would like to thank all parents, carers and organizations for their support and cooperation throughout the year.

We also wish everyone happy holidays and a safe New Year!

We have had an amazing year with both enormous challenges as well as terrific progress for Windamere.

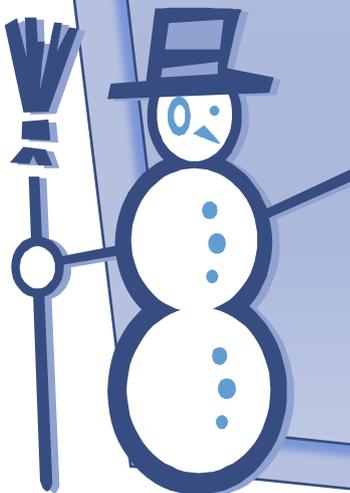
Participants having fun during Arts and Crafts



We have welcomed new participants and staff members. 3 new areas have been added, enhancing our program offerings, such as the woodwork centre, the bike club and our developing library/literacy area. The overnight stays have grown and moved into the main homestead.

The transition to the NDIS has been an interesting and rewarding challenge that we hope will mean a positive change for all.

Participants having fun during Bush Camping



Increased Skills Learning

The new introduced programmes have allowed our participants increased skills learning on so many levels.

Particularly the Indoor Library and the Woodwork centre are creating opportunities for additional pre-vocational skills learning.



New additions to our current program offerings are: Xmas Exhibitions, Holiday Craft, Computer Literacy and Media Watch, Fishing, Crabbing and Aquatics.

Community Access is an important offering and enjoyed by the participants.

A program highlights have been Swimming, Thursday's Cooking Group, Building program and Chalk board drawing. The music walls have been a great addition to the areas and enjoyed by all participants. There is always something to do, watch, and have a go at.

Start back date for year 2019:

Windamere Park will commence Day Options on **21st January 2019**

Upcoming Special Events for year 2019:

To continue to introduce new, exciting and challenging activities for 2019.

*Participants learning new skills doing woodwork
Farm work is never done and always enjoyable.
Participants taking part in the shearing.*



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The Windamere Woodwork centre has now been operational for 6 months. We began with a group of participants that we thought would be most suited to this particular program and we talked about the sort of projects that we thought the participants would be most interested in, we then threw the floor open to them and received some pretty ambitious ideas: acoustic guitars, pool tables and chess boards..... So we picked the middle ground and slightly more conservative approach of making a tic tac toe game first!

By doing this small project we thought we could have a look at the skills and confidence the participants have with timber and using some basic tools. What has quickly become evident is the vast array of varying skills, background knowledge and enthusiasm they have.

We have worked through and practiced concepts of safety, confidence with basic and more complex tools, consideration of others in a work environment and quality of effort and concentration on tasks.

I am very proud of the progress the participants and staff have made at the wood work centre. Craig, Sachin and Rocco have all contributed greatly to making this idea work. It is ok to say try this idea or that idea but the reality is it can be very hard to keep the participants focused and engaged at all times. Some of their work has exceeded all our expectations. Well done guys! A thank you must also go to all the other staff who have always come up with an array of ideas for new projects.

We have now tried many more participants through the wood work centre and we have progressed through an array of skills and then corresponding projects such as pizza boards, wooden dice and some great outdoor furniture pieces as well as some maintenance work such as oiling a deck and some firewood collection for the other areas at the farm. We have now begun some recycled pallet Christmas trees, personalised decorations made from recycled pallets and some amazing log reindeers for Christmas.

Next year we aim to continue skill development for newcomers and old hands alike. It would be great to start on some individual projects as some of them have now developed the skills and confidence to do so. Next year we will aim to try a wider variety of participants through the wood work centre at varying levels of understanding and confidence with timber. It will also be great to explore a more artistic side with the timber as well.

All the best

Michael Allester-Briggs



Participants enjoying Melbourne Cup Day.
Love the Hats gentlemen!



Overnight Stays

The original homestead has been converted into the new home available for participants for overnight stays. The front of the old homestead is now the new front office. The overnight stays focus on independent living skills and attention to centre based individual learning. We are seeing an increase in the popularity not surprising considering the unique environment. A focus on Living skills, recreational and leisure activities, as well as community access and many other programs are undertaken during their stay.

Getting into costumes and decorating the 'church' for Halloween



Decorating the Christmas Tree

"Overnight Stays" participants enjoying a weekend picnic on the beach.



EGGS

Our chickens are happily laying eggs in our free range coop and paddocks. If you would like to purchase any eggs please let the Office know. They are \$4 for a dozen. All proceeds will go to The Friends of Windamere.

CAMP Windamere Ltd.

ABN 67 617 774 571

Is registered as a charity and not for profit with the ACNC.

It is a registered public benevolent institution. Our organization's endorsement as a Tax deductible, gifts recipient may be helpful for anyone wanting to donate to Camp Windamere Ltd.

FRIENDS OF WINDAMERE INC CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who supported our successful mid-year Raffle

The "Friends" will be again having a Christmas Raffle, and we are asking for donations to be included in it.

We already have a number of smaller items in readiness for the Raffle, but are keen to get some larger items. If you know of any business that would be willing to assist us, please let us know.

Tickets will be sent out in late November for purchase and it will be drawn in the week prior to breaking up for the Christmas Holidays.

Keep a look-out for the tickets and please return them promptly with your money. Tickets will be \$2-00 each and we expect to have 4-5 baskets of assorted items as prizes.

