



Bindi artist, Adrian Jangala Robertson, at his exhibition *Paint Country*.

Kids reunite with their siblings at Camp To Belong

Children and young people who have been separated through the Out Of Home Care process were recently reunited with their siblings at Camp To Belong. The Camp took place in July at Point Wolstoncroft Sport and Recreational Centre on the Central Coast of New South Wales, facilitated by Lifestyle Solutions.

There were 31 campers who attended the Camp from a wide range of Out Of Home Care providers across New South Wales. A number of volunteers travelled interstate to staff the camp and we were really pleased that Emily, who had attended

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Camp To Belong as a child, now joined as a positive mentor for campers.

Camp To Belong is an international organisation that has been running camps for 25 years. Lifestyle Solutions has been implementing the Camp To Belong program in Australia since 2012.

Campers spent a full week making up for lost time, taking part in a range of outdoor adventures, craft sessions and social activities.

“The Camp To Belong program is designed to help children strengthen their sibling relationships



Camp To Belong volunteers pose for a quick photo before the children arrive at camp.



Excited campers are geared up for the high adrenaline activities.

and pack fond memories into the signature Camp activities they share,” said Camp To Belong Australia Director, Heather Hutchison.

Signature Camp activities include the Sibling Pillow activity where each child creates a personalised pillow for their sibling with messages of love and support. The Birthday Party gives siblings the opportunity to thoughtfully choose a gift for their brother or sister and share a huge birthday party to celebrate the birthdays they have missed together. The Memory Book activity allows the children to scrapbook their photos from Camp and have a keepsake of their time spent together.

“Campers challenged themselves with high adrenaline activities such as high ropes, the giant swing and rock climbing as well as fishing and archery. The evenings were

filled with camp fires, board games, dancing and dress-ups.” “There was lots of laughter, tears and fond memories made. The campers had an amazing time, with several of them asking if the next camp could be two weeks instead of one,” said Heather.

Camp To Belong receives no government funding. Each camp is supported entirely by the generosity of donors.

There are over 40,000 children and young people in Out Of Home Care in Australia.

These children are placed in foster care, residential care, kinship and emergency care, often for the full duration of their childhood. According to

the CREATE Foundation, 71% of children are separated from their siblings with limited or zero contact with family members.

If you’re interested in making a donation toward a future camp (financial or goods), referring a sibling group to attend, or becoming a valued volunteer, please contact us at camptobelong@lifestylesolutions.org.au



Winding down after a busy day with some arts and crafts.

NDIS Updates

Northern Territory

As of 1 July 2018, Territorians living in the Darwin Urban and Central Australian regions have joined the National Disability Insurance Scheme. According to NDIA’s Market Position Statement for the Northern Territory, the number of people receiving disability support in the Darwin Urban and Central Australian regions is forecast to grow to 4,800 by 2020. We are looking forward to introducing our quality services to customers in the Northern Territory.

Victoria

We’ve had some great opportunities to engage with our customers and their communities at a range of events and expos in Victoria. Upcoming events include the Melbourne Disability Expo and the Shepperton NDIS Expo.

Tasmania

The roll-out of NDIA services across Tasmania is continuing, with children 0–3 years of age and adults 35–49 years of age able to access the scheme as of 1 July 2018. We’re looking forward to meeting new clients in Tasmania.

Queensland

The team in Queensland recently attended the Gold Coast Disability Expo in August, and the Source Kids Disability Expo in Ipswich, the Care Connect Expo in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast Disability Expo. We look forward to creating connections with participants transitioning to the scheme.

New South Wales

The new independent NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) has now been established with a focus on improving the quality and safety of NDIS supports and services for participants.

The NDIS Commission can help NDIS participants, and their families and carers, to resolve concerns or complaints about NDIS supports and services.

The NDIS Commission began on 1 July 2018 and will work with NDIS participants, service providers, workers and the community to introduce a nationally consistent approach so participants can access services and supports that promote choice, control and dignity.

A message from our CEO

I hope many of you have seen our new look and feel. I’m very excited about this and I hope you will be too. Our logo, the equals sign, represents our purpose that “everyone is equal” and reflects who we are and what we stand for as an organisation.

We are people who care, and we stand for everyone being equal. We believe everyone in society should be provided with equal respect and equal opportunity and we are organising ourselves in the best way possible to provide you with better service.

I really want to hear from you,

hear your voice about the things that you would like, so that you can say that you’ve received better service. I’ve asked my team to put together some questions for our customers to answer that will help me understand how you feel about our service and what you would like to see.

You will have received these questions by the time you get this message and I just want to let you know that I’m really looking forward to reading your responses and will be talking to you about this next time we meet.

As always, we appreciate your support.

Regards

Andrew Hyland



Vale Telka Williams

Joyce Bowden, a member of Lifestyle Solutions' Board of Directors, wrote a touching tribute to Telka Williams, founding member of Bindi Enterprises.

When Telka Williams made the decision in 1962 (against medical and the church's advice) to take her newborn baby daughter, Bronwyn, home she immediately began to look to the future to enable Bronwyn to live normally in the Alice Springs community. At that time, it was usual for babies born with a disability to be sent away from their families to live in large interstate institutions. If they remained with their parents, they were hidden away from the rest of society.

Telka said she was horrified by the thought of losing her daughter, and of hiding her away.

So, through sheer determination, by the time Bronwyn was three Telka had encouraged the parents of six other children with special needs to allow their children to attend school and persuaded the education department to establish a special school in Alice Springs.

Later, with sixteen being the school leaving age, Telka set about to establish a place where young people could continue to grow, learn and be a contributing part of the local community after they left school. An amazing service to be called 'Bindi' commenced in 1978 with Bronwyn and just two other 'trainees' as they were known, supported by incredibly talented and creative voluntary staff.

Through the foresight and persistence of Telka and those who followed, government and community attitudes towards people with a disability were dramatically changed and services were created to enable them to take their rightful places as valued members of the Central Australian community.

Sadly, in May 2018 – seven years after Bronwyn's death – Telka Williams passed away, aged 97.

Telka was a truly inspirational pioneering Territorian whose legacy has enriched the lives of many people.

Bindi exhibits at Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair

For the first time, Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists were invited to exhibit at this year's Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair.

In its 12th year, the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (affectionately known as DAAF), was held on 10-12 August 2018 on Larrakia Country, at the Darwin Convention Centre in Northern Territory.

The fair showcased the contemporary fine art of over sixty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Centres at its annual event.

Emerging and established artists are featured at the fair, and a space is provided for visitors to meet the artists and learn from the variety of cultural groups across Australia. The works are inspired by Australia's rich diversity of remote desert and coastal regions, and rural and urban communities.

Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artist, Jane Mervin, a Pitjanjatjara woman from Amata, South Australia, who moved to Alice Springs in the early 2000s, was a featured artist at the fair. Jane's beautiful works feature predominantly birds (tjulpu) which she executes with a playful use of texture, colour and story.

Bindi launched its new product line of lamp shades at the fair, developed in pendant, floor lamp and table lamp styles and printed with the vibrant works of Jane Mervin, Kukula McDonald, Adrian Jangala Robertson and Billy Tjampijinpa Kenda.



Sandra Brown and Liesl Rockchild launched Bindi's exciting new product line – a range of lamp shades printed with vibrant works of the Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists.

Liesl Rockchild, Bindi Enterprises Operation Manager, says "Bindi's inaugural participation in the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair has given us an opportunity to test the market as we launched our new range of domestic lighting, presenting designs from four of the accomplished Mwerre Anthurre Artists."

"The Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair is supporting a 'Culture First' approach and is one of the most important Aboriginal art events in the country."

DAAF was originally designed to complement the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA) and also celebrates the National Indigenous Music Awards and the Garma Festival which are also held over the same week.

Together, these prestigious events mark the most significant national festival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts in the world.

The Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists also recently exhibited at McCulloch & McCulloch, a dynamic Australian art company based on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula.

Bindi Enterprises is a unique community service provider offering a range of supported employment opportunities and training for local people with disability. Today, Bindi provides employment for 23 people, seven of whom work in the Art Centre.

Adrian Jangala Robertson and Artists Services Coordinator, Sandra Brown, at Adrian's exhibition *Paint Country*.



Bindi artist, Adrian Jangala Robertson, is a master in his field

This year has brought about many successes for Warlpiri landscape artist, Adrian, one of the talented Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists in Alice Springs.

Adrian was chosen as a finalist for Alice Springs' national contemporary art award, the Alice Prize. In its 40th year, the Alice Prize is a highlight on Alice Springs' social calendar and a significant event on the national art scene. Adrian, alongside fellow Bindi artist, Billy Tjampijinpa Kenda, were among 560 entries and one of 53 successful applicants who exhibited alongside the likes of Fiona Foley, Vincent Namatjira and Del Cathryn Barton.

Sandra Brown, Artists Services Coordinator at Bindi Enterprises said "Adrian's piece used sweeping

brush strokes loaded with paint and movement to convey his mother's country, Yalpirakinu. He paints this piece again and again from memory to reinforce his connection to country."

This year, Adrian was also named a finalist in Telstra's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Art Awards (NATSIAA). NATSIAA is Australia's longest running and most prestigious Indigenous art award, providing a platform for the very best Australian Indigenous Artists to showcase their pieces from around the country.

Liesl said "Adrian is going from strength to strength and making exciting developments in his career. We are incredibly proud of his recent achievements which are a testament to his intensive commitment to practice."

Adrian has painted with Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists since 2002. His paintings consistently refer to the desert mountains, ridges and trees and he recently held a solo exhibition at Raft Artspace in Alice Springs called *Paint Country*.

Bindi provides a wonderful opportunity for artists to develop their skills and tell their stories in a way that is culturally significant and holds a connection to Country.



Our customer, Glenn, with Natalie Vipiana, Enterprise Data and Analytics Lead at our Nambour Support Centre.

Celebrating our dynamic rebrand

The team at Lifestyle Solutions love our vibrant new look and feel and we hope you do too! You'll see it's not just our logo that's changed. We've changed our website, our social media platforms and our Purpose

and Values. We are on a journey to provide better service for our customers.

Here's a snapshot of how some of our amazing staff and customers have celebrated the launch of our new brand across the nation.



Pilbara, Western Australia

The team in the Pilbara, Western Australia, held a community event to showcase the new rebrand. The event was held outside the South Hedland Shopping Centre, attracting community members, customers and their families.

A professional DJ performed at the event, who is also a customer of Lifestyle Solutions, and a barbeque, drinks, giveaways and karaoke contributed to the day's festivities.

"The day was a huge success. The hundreds of sausages and drinks we handed out gave us an indication of how many people turned up to support this event in a town that is relatively small," said Senior Manager, Luke Paine.

"I was incredibly proud of how our team rallied together to make the day possible, all pitching in and ensuring the day was successful."



Eliza Somerfield, Facilitator, setting up for the sausage sizzle.

Woy Woy, New South Wales

Our staff and customers celebrated the launch with a morning tea at one of our group homes in Woy Woy, joined by fellow disability provider, Coastlink.



The Woy Woy team having fun with the equal hand signal.

Sydney, New South Wales

Our Burwood office got creative for their rebrand launch event with the team playing 'Brand Bingo.'

"On behalf of Andrew and the Executive Leadership Team, we're excited and thrilled to be telling the world about who we are and what we do, in a fresh, engaging and powerful way," said Executive General Manager – Customer Service Delivery, Jonathan Marin.

Our Bella Vista office, sporting our new internal signage, celebrated with a morning tea.



The Burwood team played 'Brand Bingo'.

Newcastle, New South Wales

Our Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Hyland, proudly launched Lifestyle Solutions' new identity at our National Support Centre in Newcastle. Andrew was joined by some of our amazing customers and staff to celebrate this exciting occasion.



Lots of enthusiastic faces at our National Support Centre.

Sunshine Coast and Beenleigh, Queensland

It was all green in Queensland when the team showed off their new merchandise and everyone is equal T-shirts — they even had green cake for morning tea!



The team on the Sunshine Coast proudly sporting their new Lifestyle Solutions T-shirts.



The Bella Vista team enjoyed their morning tea.

Dean's campaign for diversity

Diversity is important in all facets of life, particularly in the workplace. Not only does embracing diversity foster a great company culture, it ensures staff are able to better service the people we support.

"Lifestyle Solutions is committed to having a diverse workforce and we recognise the importance of diversity and inclusion initiatives across our organisation," said National Diversity Manager, Dean Duncan.

"Creating a harmonious workspace and appreciating each person's individuality gives a sense of connectiveness to our staff and to the work they do."

"A diverse workforce creates a sense of belonging and when staff feel respected in the workplace they're happy to contribute to the best of their ability," said Dean.

Lifestyle Solutions has incorporated a 'whole of workspace' diversity strategy which aligns with our employment strategy and encourages the recruitment of diverse individuals.

Dean is currently travelling around Australia, meeting with our staff and conducting training on cross-cultural awareness and the importance of diversity and inclusion.

"I'm really proud of the diversity program I've implemented at Lifestyle Solutions which will enable us to better support women in leadership, our LGBTQI staff, people with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people."

With a background in teaching, Dean taught in schools in Japan and Brooklyn, as well as a prison school in Philadelphia, prior to his career in diversity. He believes these experiences are what attracted him to his diversity role.

"I was taught from a young age to treat people with respect and equality and I can empathise with those who have been discriminated against. I have a real appreciation of people's individuality and it's these

qualities that attracted me to a career in diversity," said Dean.

Dean recently spent a week volunteering as a mentor at Camp To Belong.

"Mentoring at Camp To Belong was a great experience which enabled me to teach the children to accept their differences and embrace their individuality. I was also proud to pass on some of my Aboriginal culture."

According to Dean, what sets Lifestyle Solutions apart is that we recognise and embrace the individuality of our staff.

"This is what ensures we're a leader in the sector for diversity and what attracts a like-minded workforce because we're a great place to work," said Dean.



Dean Duncan (left) at the recent NAIDOC Week celebrations in Albany, Western Australia.

Lifestyle Solutions
everyone is equal

For more information on how we can help you, or someone in your care, contact us.

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