



SUMMER 2008

## Inside this issue

From the President	2
From the CEO	4
110 Year Birthday BBQ	5
Black Tie Quiz Night	7
Living in the Community	8
Savings & Loans and Envirocare Partnership	10



## South Australian Learning Centre Launches Opportunities

On Thursday 6 November, Minda's newly completed, state-of-the-art training facility, the South Australian Learning Centre (SALC), was officially opened by the South Australian Premier, Mike Rann.

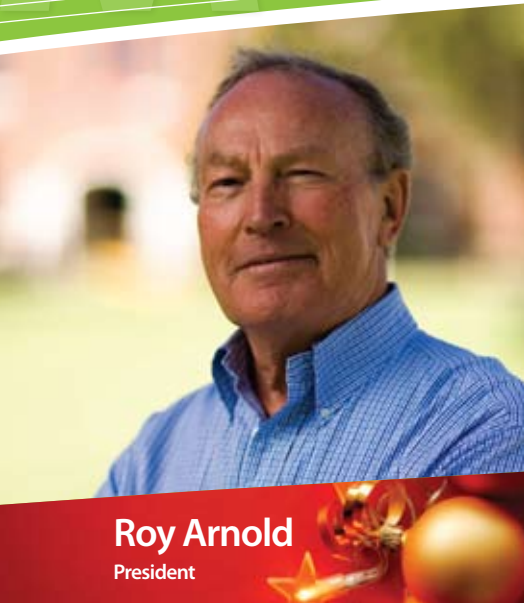
Mr Rann delivered an address to over 150 guests attending the launch and spoke of the positive benefit the centre will have on the state's economy and addressing the skills-shortage in the community services sector.

The launch was MC'd by Keith Conlon and Brian Cunningham, CEO of Department of Trade and Economic Development, gave an inspirational address as the key note speaker.

Attending on the day were Dr Duncan McFetridge, Member for Morphett, Ms Chloe Fox, Member for Bright, representatives from the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology and the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations and the Mayor and Mayoress of Holdfast Bay.

Minda President, Roy Arnold, said the new learning centre was a joint initiative of Minda and the former Australian National Training Authority.

*Continued page 3*



**Roy Arnold**  
President

**“Minda exists solely to provide care for the intellectually disabled. It has no other purpose.”**

## From the President

As we approach Christmas and the end of 2008, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on where Minda is now and where we are headed in the future.

I would like to begin with what I see as the role of Minda and similar organisations in these turbulent times. Minda exists solely to provide care for the intellectually disabled. It has no other purpose.

But what do we mean by care?

Over Minda's 110 years of service, 'care' at Minda has meant many things but has always contained the basic elements of providing food, shelter and nurturing, in whatever the standards of the time considered appropriate. Today we still embrace all these basics but look to do much more by helping, and indeed challenging, our clients to develop and grow to reach their full potential and to make their contribution, not only to society but also to their own wellbeing and self esteem.

What this means for us all at Minda is that we are not only carers but that we are also teachers, educators, coaches and mentors. We accommodate more than 500 clients in the home of their choice on campus or in the community; we support more than 300 clients in meaningful employment either in our own businesses or in open employment; we provide a wide range of day services to over 300 clients living either with us or with their families and we provide respite to help families caring for the intellectually disabled at home.

In the future, I would like to see Minda be a model to the world in the way it supports, challenges and helps clients to develop to their fullest; in the way it has made itself the employer of choice and the way it comports itself as a corporate citizen. In other words, a model of the social organisation which employs the best of business principles in order to meet its social objectives.

The next 12 months will be an exciting and challenging time for Minda as economic ills continue around the world.

In my last year as President of the Minda Board, there are some key things that I'd like to see us achieve, including:

- finalisation of the Brighton Campus Master Plan;
- completion of a review of Minda's Board composition and committee structures; and
- the new Executive Team reaching its enormous potential.

Lastly, I look forward to handing over the reins to my successor to continue taking Minda forward for the sake of present and future clients.

On behalf of the Board of Minda, I wish you a merry Christmas.



Above: The Premier addresses guests

Cover image: Kieth Conlon, Susan McInerney, Brian Cunningham, Mike Rann and Roy Arnold

Continued from cover

“The establishment of the vocational education training facility was an active measure to address learning barriers and enable workers in the disability sector to gain more skills,” he said.

“There are no other learning institutions in South Australia that enable people undertaking courses in the disability sector to receive on-site training and work experience, as well as classroom-based training.

“Combining theory and practical learning will help to open career pathways in an industry where hands-on experience is crucial. The students will be able to use the facilities at Minda for their work experience, while building relationships with staff and possible future employers,” Roy added.

This follows a \$1.8 million revamp of the heritage-listed Rogerson building at Minda’s Brighton campus, which has transformed the building into a first-class training facility. The development of such a facility demonstrates not only the Commonwealth’s confidence in Minda as a Registered Training Organisation, but also the Board’s dedication to continuing and advancing Minda as a high-quality training institution and providing the community services sector with highly qualified staff.

The program has been designed to help address the skills shortage in the community service and disability sectors by providing trainees with increased practical experience.

Minda CEO, Susan McInerney, said that with a sizable workforce, the provision of accredited training has been a long-standing commitment of Minda.

“The focus on education and training that was stressed at Minda’s inauguration still remains at the forefront of Minda’s objectives. The South Australian Learning Centre will further progress training and education opportunities for both staff and for South



Key note speaker, Brian Cunningham

Australians with an intellectual disability, with many courses for supported employees being offered from the centre.”

“The Rogerson building has always been an iconic building at Minda and indeed a very important one. The building was named after the late Mr Robert Rogerson, who was one of Minda’s greatest benefactors. The transformation of the Rogerson building into the state-of-the-art training facility is a fitting memorial to this great philanthropist, as I am sure it will continue to champion a cause close to his heart,” she said.

The SALC will include nine state-of-the-art training rooms, each with smart technology and interactive multi-media provisions. It also has two information technology suites for computer and e-learning as well as a conference centre and resource library, which can be used by all people within the community. Video conferencing is also available for companies who wish to hire out the venue.

Minda currently offers Certificate III and IV in Disability Work, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Certificate IV in Frontline Management and Diploma in Business Management.

The SALC will also be used by Minda’s supported employees for training in Certificate II in Business, life skills and first aid courses, whilst also providing training for senior management in the area of professional development.

For more information on the SALC or to make a booking, telephone 8422 6530.





## From the CEO

As 2008 draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people who have contributed to the success of Minda over the last 12 months.

In particular, I would like to thank the volunteers – who throughout the year have donated in excess of 7,000 hours of service – the staff of Minda, and the staff and the Client Reference Groups who have been instrumental in raising a number of issues relating to health and safety, staffing and continuous improvement.

I would also like to acknowledge Minda's generous corporate supporters, who continue to support Minda through events, sponsorships and donations. This support assists Minda to provide extra capital equipment for our clients and provide increased lifestyle options.

In this, our 110th year of providing service to South Australians with an intellectual disability, our priorities remain the same: to provide opportunities for our clients to have fulfilling lifestyles and the chance grow.

Our focus continues to be empowering individuals to exercise their rights and meet their social responsibility. Our intent today reflects and preserves the progressive vision that was established 110 years ago to deliver a rich and successful history.

This year also marks Minda's tenth year as a Registered Training Organisation. Over the last decade, the organisation has made a significant contribution to the output of trained staff in the disability sector, offering training that meets national benchmarks and delivers to employers graduates whose skills are current and who are well prepared for the workforce.

The opening of the South Australian Learning Centre (see cover story) is set to further expand development opportunities for Minda, its staff and its clients and the Board and management are excited to be able to increase its contribution to building the capacity, capability and sustainability of the community services sector and more importantly, to enhance opportunities for individuals.

The great strength of any organisation is its ability to learn and grow. Minda is fortunate to have a history of individuals who have shown great vision, energy and commitment to Minda and the wider disability sector.

Whilst we are working in difficult and challenging times, we have had a very successful year and are well positioned to meet the challenges ahead.

On behalf of myself and the executive team, I wish you all a merry Christmas and a safe new year.

*Susan McInerney*

“*Our intent today reflects and preserves the progressive vision that was established 110 years ago to deliver a rich and successful history.*”



*Club Slick encourage BBQ - goers onto the dance floor*

# Minda 110 Year Birthday Barbeque Bash

On Sunday 9 November, following the Annual General Meeting of the Minda Association, the Board of Minda took great pleasure in holding a huge birthday barbeque on campus for clients, staff, volunteers and family members.

Fabulous weather accompanied an afternoon of food, fun and festivity - a fitting celebration for the organisation in its 110th year.

The barbeque offered something for everyone, with our very own DJ, Rolond Burghardt, spinning discs in the marquee and outside, carnival amusements, a bouncy castle, earth ball and rides on the Minda's bicycles.



*The 2008 AGM*

The crowds were treated to a variety of entertainment on stage including a swinging 50s and 60s rock 'n' roll routine by Club Slick, from the Down Syndrome Society of South Australia, and a star performance by client Jason Crowhurst who led the President, the CEO and everyone attending in the singing of 'Happy Birthday'.

Attended by over 850 people, the event provided an opportunity for clients, staff,

volunteers and families to come together and celebrate 110 years of Minda.

Minda would like to thank the Rotary Clubs of Adelaide West and Somerton Park, the GHD Young Professionals and Minda staff who assisted on the day. Their help enabled Minda's volunteers the chance to participate in the event as attendees rather than helpers.



*Roy Arnold and Susan McInerney blow out the candles*



# On the Board

In each edition of Vocal Point we will profile two of our Board Members and let you discover more about them and the skills they bring to Minda. In this edition we are profiling Mr Peter Krieg and Mr Tony Innes.

Peter Krieg



Over recent years, Peter Krieg has become increasingly involved with Minda, serving on the Minda Association Advocacy Group (MAAG), working as a volunteer, as a member of the Minda Telethon and serving on the Fundraising Committee and Finance and Investment Committee.

A Board Member since November, 2007, Peter has a vested interest in Minda and its operations with sister, Pam, living on campus. Pam works in Sturt Cottage Craft and prior to moving onto campus based accommodation, was living in the community.

Peter's business career includes many years working at his family's business in the electronics industry. Originally starting as a technical sales representative with the family business in Adelaide, Peter moved on to establish operations nationally and in New Zealand, and was appointed joint CEO in 1994.

More recently Peter was involved in establishing a company in the medical services field that is involved in telemedicine across five countries and now works as a new homes building consultant.

In speaking in terms of his contribution to the board, Peter said, "I bring to the Board and the Minda Association experience in business, industry associations and work with volunteer organisations. With this experience, I hope to continue making a contribution to the future of Minda."

Peter and wife, Jo, have two daughters, Samantha and Sasha, with Samantha actively involved as a volunteer with Minda for the past two years.

Tony Innes



Tony Innes' association with Minda extends back to 2004, when President Roy Arnold approached him to join Minda's Finance & Audit Committee. After a year and a half serving on the committee, Tony was invited to the full board as an external, specialist director.

A community minded individual, Tony believes in the importance of giving back to the community and Minda's cause is one particularly close to his heart, with his sister living with an intellectual disability.

"Minda is a great organisation and I thought I might be able to lend my skills and add strength at Board level, so I was delighted at the invitation to join the Board as an expert director," Tony said.

Holding a degree in economics, Tony's vast experience in accounting and finance, combined with his contacts in the business world and passion for corporate social responsibility, offer the Minda Board an excellent additional set of skills.

As well as participating on Minda committees, Tony also sits on the Board of the Credit Union Foundation, helping poorer communities in Asia. A keen environmentalist, Tony has also received training by Al Gore to deliver "Inconvenient Truth" presentations and frequently delivers these presentations.

Away from his involvement with the community and work, Tony is a music enthusiast and an eager sports man, participating in Masters Athletics.

In closing, Tony said: "I have a strong passion in making sure we do the right thing by the clients and am proud to be an ambassador for Minda within the business community."



*Fundraising Committee Chair, Lyn Magee (left) and Minda President, Roy Arnold (right) present Kelly and Co. Lawyers CEO, David Abfelter, and Kelly and Co. Partner Jacqui Ion with a painting by Minda artist, Maria Colagiavanni*

# Minda's Black Tie Quiz Night

It was a measure of glamour, intellect and wit on Friday 24 October at the Sebel Playford, as Kelly & Co. Lawyers presented the second, much anticipated, Minda Black Tie Quiz Night.

Three-hundred guests arrived at the Sebel for the final major fundraising event for Minda in its very special 110th birthday year.

The spirited competition was accompanied by fine food, wine, company and entertainment, providing for a most enjoyable evening.

Aimee Crathern, from Tutti, performed a lively rendition of 'King Herod', from Jesus Christ Superstar, before guests were treated to a short feature film about Minda's community accommodation, providing some insight into exactly where proceeds from the night were to go.

Minda was fortunate enough to have Emma Rebellato, of the ABC, return as MC

and Brenton Ragless, of Channel 9, as Quiz Master for this year's Quiz Night. Auctioneer, Brett Williams, of Brock's, did an excellent job auctioning off an exciting line up of auction items, with the most highly contested the position of a 'clown' in the 2009 Christmas Pageant, donated by Savings and Loans.

Congratulations must go to the Mutual Community team, who had all the right answers on the night, taking home the winner's trophy.

The night was a great success, with guests competing for a great cause. As was the case last year, the proceeds raised will go towards the furnishing of Minda's community accommodation homes.

Recognition must go to Kelly & Co. Lawyers for the firm's support and particularly that of Jacqui Ion, a Partner at the firm.

Without this support, the Minda Black Tie Quiz Night would simply not have been possible. Thanks must also be extended to Minda's Fundraising Committee for their tireless work on the event, to the many volunteers who assisted, and of course, to the attendees on the night.

Minda is most appreciative for the support of Gold Sponsor, Hindmarsh, and also to Silver Sponsors: Brock Urban Projects, Hahn Barossa Vineyards and Savings & Loans; and Bronze Sponsors: Adelaide Development Company (ADC), Bank SA Crimestoppers, Locher Human Resources, Macquarie Private Wealth and Santos.





Residents at Hillier Road, Reynella

# Community living proves a success

**In March 2008, two new community houses were opened at Hillier Road, Reynella. Nine months on, Vocal Point catches up with two families to see how community accommodation is going.**

Jason Crowhurst had been waiting for 12 years to be placed into community accommodation and was actually placed on the state's Urgent Accommodation Waiting List 10 years ago due to his father's health concerns.

Jason's parents, Roma and Graham, say that whilst it was a hard decision to move Jason from the family home into community accommodation, it was the best outcome for them all. "Jason's disabilities mean that he is unable to live alone without a lot of support and this simply doesn't happen unless it's with an organisation such as Minda. We felt that supported accommodation

within Minda offered the best opportunities to meet Jason's needs both now and in the future," said the Crowhurst's.

The Crowhurst's went on to say that moving into community accommodation was a prospect that Jason was quite excited about - and the benefits "have been remarkable".

"Jason wanted some independence from us, just the same as any young man would. Now that he has moved into Hillier Road, he's made new friends of his own age, he spends more time with people his own age and he gets to make decisions about his life. The result has been a more independent and confident person," they said.



Scott Mitton and Ashley Masters relax in the living room

And the benefits of community living go two-way: although the Crowhurst's are still heavily involved with support and transport to and from Tutti (which Jason is heavily involved in), they now have more freedom and equally, Jason has independence without having his "Mum and Dad looking over his shoulder".

"It is a huge weight off of our shoulders to know that Jason will always be looked after in a safe and happy environment by people who care about him and understand his needs. We do struggle with guilt when things aren't going perfectly, but we still know that this is the best outcome for all of us.

Vocal Point also spoke to Josephine Mitton, whose son Scott, also lives at community accommodation on Hillier Road. Josie shared with us a similar story.



*Community accommodation at Hillier Road*

"I had always wanted Scott to go into community accommodation from the beginning, however there were no vacancies. He lived at home until he was 22 years old, when he moved to Minda's Brighton campus for eight years, before moving this year to Hillier Road," Ms Mitton said.

"I decided that community accommodation was the best option for Scott. He is quite capable and skilled and he has, for a great

part of his life, lived in the community, so that's what I've wanted to follow up.

"Scott was wrapped from the word 'go' about the prospect of moving into community accommodation. Since moving back into the community, Scott has been able to regain day to day skills after years of having everything done for him on campus. He used to do a lot of chores at home and he's capable of doing them so it has been good for him to be able to recover his skills and put them to use," she added.

And it seems that Scott is happy with the set up too. "Scott loves that he has a home of his own, even though it's shared. He feels so important and proud and it's wonderful to see him so happy."

In closing, Josie said, "I couldn't wish for any better. The benefits and opportunities

presented by community accommodation are above and beyond my expectations. It has just been a blessing and I am overjoyed at the results. I couldn't cope with him at home now, but it is wonderful to know that Scott is being looked after."

Minda will be building up to 12 new community group homes over the next two years. Further information on these developments will be provided in 2009.

## Brighton Master Plan Update

The response to the Brighton Master Plan consultation phase was considerable and Minda is grateful to all those who provided input. Connor Holmes has many creative and worthwhile suggestions for consideration, and the information gathered from this initial consultation will be summarised and used by the consultants to prepare options for development of various elements of Minda's site at Brighton.

As we head into December, the consultation phase for the development of the Master Plan has come to a close and we move into the next phase: investigating opportunities and constraints.

The next phase, in January, will be the financial assessment of opportunities before moving to the exciting stage - preliminary Master Plan options.

This stage will involve the consultants preparing the draft Blueprint for consideration by all Minda stakeholders. Feedback on the documented Master Plan will be gathered from all those with an interest in the future of Minda during mid 2009.

For more information on the Master Plan, contact Nicole Anderson on 8422 6514.



# Savings & Loans and Envirocare Partnership



*Savings & Loans staff meet the Envirocare crew*

Investing in the community is an important part of who Savings and Loans are. Their partnerships focus on giving community organisations the tools they need to make a real difference, and this is exactly what they are doing for Minda's Envirocare team.

For the second year in a row, Savings & Loans have selected Envirocare as one of its

community partnerships. This partnership has been valuable to the crew, enabling the purchase of equipment and products such as hats, collection bags and signage to help supported employees with their role in the Envirocare team.

The Envirocare team was thrilled for the opportunity to give their personal thanks to Savings and Loans on Monday 10 November,

when its staff, including Board Member Tony Innes, visited Minda for a meet and greet with the Envirocare crew.

"Minda has provided services to South Australians with intellectual disability for 110 years, but would be unable to do so without the support of benevolent individuals, government agencies and companies such as Savings and Loans," said Susan McInerney, Minda CEO.

Envirocare is a growing group of employees with an intellectual disability who provide a vital service in looking at ways to clean up, fix up and conserve our local environment.

Currently the Envirocare crew is made up of 20 supported employees from Minda who form two mobile patrols. The first patrol is contracted to the City of Holdfast Bay to keep the beaches and coastal parts of the City rubbish free for the many locals and tourists who visit these beautiful spots. This is a long term approach taken to effectively tackle environmental problems along the coastline.

The second crew services all of Minda's community homes, undertaking maintenance duties such as rubbish removal and moving furniture, as well as providing garden upkeep on the Brighton Campus.

For more information on Envirocare, contact Toni on 8422 6324.



*Envirocare, keeping the coastline clean*



*David Wildy, FiveAA, hands Julia Hodge, Minda, a cheque*

## FiveAA and TAB Sports Bet Backs Minda

The odds were in Minda's favour on Friday 17 October, when FiveAA donated \$1,000 to the organisation. The ever popular FiveAA Sports Show, with KG and Cornesy, features David Wildy's TAB Sports Bets on Fridays.

Profits from the TAB Sports Bet are distributed to charity, and Minda is most appreciative

that they decided to donate the proceeds of their weekly TAB Sports Bet to Minda.

Minda thanks FiveAA for this generous donation and for its wonderful support in promoting the organisation.

If your organisation would like to donate to Minda, contact Val Jones on 8422 6270.

## IBM Australia support Minda

Minda is delighted to again receive support from IBM Australia, with Mr John Harvey, Corporate Affairs Executive of IBM Australia, donating IBM Lotus Domino software licenses to Minda, valued at over \$33,000.

Susan McInerney, Minda CEO, said that the provision of this software will allow Minda staff to easily communicate and share information quickly across its many locations and will be of benefit to the clients.

"The funds saved as a result of this donation will be redirected to further assisting our clients and relieving some of the pressure placed upon us by increasing need," she said.

Minda is most grateful for this in-kind support from IBM Australia.

# It is time again for our Christmas Appeal



Creating opportunities for people with an intellectual disability to lead valued and fulfilling lives has been the foundation of Minda's activities throughout its 110 years of operation.

In pursuing this vision, we assist over 1,100 South Australians with an intellectual disability to develop a wide range of skills necessary for the achievement of individual goals.

All fundraising efforts this year have been aiming to raise money to purchase specialised equipment to enable clients to live as independently as they wish and as comfortably as possible.

As we head quickly towards the end of 2008 and into the festive season, Minda invites you to please support this year's Christmas Appeal by making a tax-deductible donation today.

All of these donations ensure that Minda is able to provide choice and inclusion for people with intellectual disability to achieve their aspirations.

**Yes, I would like to make a donation to Minda's 2008 Christmas Appeal.**



**Vocal Point is the official  
newsletter of Minda Incorporated**

King George Avenue  
Brighton, SA 5048  
PO Box 5, Brighton, SA 5048

**Phone:** 8422 6200  
**Fax:** 8422 6330  
**www.mindainc.com.au**

#### Board of Minda Association

**Mr Roy Arnold**  
President/Chairman  
**Mr Wes Ashman**  
Vice President/Deputy Chairman  
**Mr Roy Bradburn**  
**Mr Tony Harrison**  
**Mr Kym Hancock**  
**Dr Bronwyn Halliday**  
**Mr Tony Innes**  
**Mr Peter Kreig**  
**Mrs Lyn Magee**

#### Chief Executive Officer

Ms Susan McInerney

#### Patron

His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce  
- AC CSC RANR Governor of South Australia

Name .....

Address .....

State Postcode

Phone Email

Payment 1) My Cheque/Money Order is enclosed and made payable to Minda Incorporated.

2) Please debit my  Visa  Mastercard

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Cardholder's name Expiry Date /

Signature .....

[www.mindainc.com.au](http://www.mindainc.com.au)

\$40  \$60  \$100  \$250  \$500

\$ Other .....

Please return completed coupon with your donation  
in the supplied reply paid envelope; OR

Post: PO Box 5, Brighton SA 5048

Email: [fundraising@minda.asn.au](mailto:fundraising@minda.asn.au)

Fax: 08 8422 6330



**Thank you for your support!**

*We Can Do It*