

# Cheerio Newsletter



March - April 2021



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 CEO Report
- 3 Client Services
- 4 Peppertree Place
- 5 School Expos

- 6 GROW Community
- 7 Urban Agriculture Forum
- 8 Volunteering at KHG
- 9 KHG Information Evening





Sophie, Victor, Jacqueline and Julian sanding and painting the railings at KHG Doncaster

# CEO Report

Josh Fergeus,  
Chief Executive Officer

It's vaccination time! Normally the prospect of a visit to the doctor might not be very appealing, but it's great news for the KHG community that we are eligible to participate in phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. All KHG participants, volunteers and staff should visit the Government website to book their vaccination appointment as soon as practicable: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment>

In less exciting news, many of you will have seen the ongoing tussle around the future of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. KHG has been following developments closely, and contributing to advocacy through our peak bodies. We will continue

to keep participants and families informed of any proposed changes to service delivery but we do not expect any significant impacts to be felt until after the next Federal election.

We received 110 applications during our recent recruitment round for support workers and have made offers to some excellent candidates. A warm welcome to our new team members! KHG is also currently advertising for a part-time Speech Pathologist, so please put the word out.

Finally, it's been a pleasure working from Peppertree Place on Mondays and enjoying the tasty treats prepared by Alex and our hospitality participants! The KHG Leadership Team have transitioned to a roster which sees us cover both sites plus supervision for our community shifts, so if you haven't seen me around for a while don't worry – I'm still very much on board!

# Client Services

Anita Mitchell,  
Manager - Client Services

It is hard to believe that it is almost May, but the days are getting shorter and cooler, so winter must be approaching. I don't think we will ever be able to say that things are quiet at KHG, as we seem to be busier than ever.

Along with all the new participants who have started since the beginning of the year, we are delighted to be welcoming EIGHT new support workers to the team. So if you see someone in purple who you don't recognise, there is every chance that you haven't met them before. So please say hello to: Casper, Angharad, Ruben, Lisa, Lauren, Melissa, Tom and Jack... and we don't think that is the last of the newbies! Over the next few months or so, we will also be welcoming new

participants into the core program at both Peppertree Place and Doncaster.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind families that one of the services that we provide is detailed progress reports prior to NDIS Plan reviews. If you know that you have a plan review approaching (even if you haven't been given a date yet) please contact the friendly Client Services team so that we can start putting together a report and a quote for services for the year ahead. If your family member accesses clinical services through us, the reports are combined. It is important to give the clinicians and Client Services team some notice as reports can make a big difference when it comes to the level of supports received.

In the meantime, if you'd like to chat about participant progress or the different programs we offer, please get in touch. We love to catch up with our families on a regular basis. And don't forget with the cooler weather: layers of clothes and a rain jacket are essential! We look forward to seeing you all in the garden soon.



We are so thrilled with our sturdy new Kelso wheelbarrows, which were donated to us this week by our neighbours down the road, Ames Tools in Doncaster! We love our fantastic blue wheelbarrows and have already made good use of them in the nursery. Thank you!

# Peppertree Place

Samantha Dunn

Site Manager - Peppertree Place

We've been working hard at Peppertree Place with a number of projects on the go in the gardens and at the cafe.

We've been clearing the last of the summer and autumn veggie gardens to prepare them for winter plantings. The specialist garlic is already in and we look forward to more garlic harvest surprises in spring time.

We're also rejuvenating our Bee and Butterfly garden, getting our autumn pruning done too, now the weather is cooler it's a great



time of year to be doing all that maintenance work in the garden.

It's been wonderful to see the Moreland Men's Group underway at Peppertree, every week they undertake a range of practical activities which is so very much appreciated by all the team at Peppertree Place. It's terrific to be part of fostering the strong connection



The Peppertree Place team on Tuesdays

to nature and the outdoors whilst providing participants the opportunity to engage in meaningful, practical activities to improve skills and focus.

The Hospitality team have been busy too, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the State Government to expand our outdoor dining capacity at Peppertree Place Café.

We're putting the finishing touches to it and look forward to finalising our new al fresco dining area. It will be situated along the Urquhart Street frontage, will provide more places for customers to enjoy this little oasis and will open up more training options for our Hospitality team too.



# School Expos

Many of our local special development schools are currently holding expos for students who will complete their schooling

at the end of the year.

These provide a fantastic opportunity for the KHG Team to talk to prospective families about our programs at Doncaster and Coburg and answer all of their questions.

We presented at the Concord Special Development School expo last month and this month we'll be talking to families from Burwood East SDS, Heatherwood and Bulleen.



# GROW Community

*Social gardening for refugees and people seeking asylum*

Kevin Heinze Grow, with the support of Moreland City Council and VicHealth, is providing free weekly gardening sessions for refugees and asylum seekers at the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre's gardens located in Brunswick in 2021:

- Connect with and support other people
- Learn about growing and caring for plants
- Grow vegetables and herbs
- Make connections through gardening and food
- No gardening experience required
- Lunch provided before each session
- Public transport credit provided
- Free to attend

**Who:** Refugees and asylum seekers

**Where:** Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre, 212 Sydney Rd, Brunswick 3056

**When:** Wednesdays 1pm - 3:30pm (weekly) commencing 2nd June 2021

**Cost:** Free!

If you or someone you know is interested in attending these sessions, please contact us to find out more:

✉ [isabella@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:isabella@kevinheinzegrow.org.au) ☎ (03) 9848 3695 🖱 [www.kevinheinzegrow.org.au](http://www.kevinheinzegrow.org.au)



**This Project is supported and funded by the Moreland City Council Community Grants Program.**



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# Sustain Australia's

# Urban Agriculture

## Forum

KHG is delighted to support Sustain Australia's Urban Agriculture Forum 2021. Sustain is a "think and do" network, specialising in designing and building sustainable and healthy food systems.

Their work focuses on transitioning to a food system that supports flourishing communities, individuals and ecosystems. The focus for the Urban Agriculture Forum 2021 taking place in April was "Care Farming and Gardening in the Climate Emergency".

During March, Georgia Tracy talked with our

good friend Costa Georgiadis on his "Costa's World" Facebook program all about our work at KHG delivering therapeutic horticulture programs. This was part of the promotion for the forthcoming urban agriculture forum.

Then in April, our CEO Josh Fergeus gave a presentation on therapeutic horticulture and care farming. KHG supports the promotion of urban agriculture initiatives in Australia and beyond which will have positive health and wellbeing impacts for our whole community.



# Volunteering at KHG

Amy Piesse,  
Community Liaison Officer

As many of you know, volunteers at Kevin Heinze Grow have been an integral part of the program for many years, offering their expertise in garden maintenance, participant support roles, our biannual fundraisers and everything in between.

Needless to say, we have been very excited about the return of some of our long-standing volunteers in 2021. We have also recently welcomed some fabulous new volunteers – Heather, Brendan and Varnia!

This edition, we are featuring Heather, who recently started at Doncaster as a volunteer in a participant support role. On any given day, you may find Heather supporting an individual participant to engage in the program, or she may be providing more generalised assistance to our trainers to deliver the core gardening program.

Heather has a background in Agricultural Science, has just completed a Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance and is hoping to embark on a Masters of Occupational Therapy.

The KHG team are very grateful for all the talented and friendly volunteers that so generously offer their time.



*Heather, one of our volunteers in the participant support role at KHG Doncaster*

*"I have felt so warmly welcomed by everyone at KHG, and I'm excited to be involved in an organisation that incorporates my two passions of helping people to achieve their goals and working outside in the natural environment."*

- Heather

## Xavier College Social Awareness Week

In March, KHG received a helping hand from two year 11 Xavier College students, Jimmy and Joachim. They attended KHG for four days as part of their Social Awareness Week program. Joachim and Jimmy fitted right in

with the participants and staff at KHG, while helping in the core garden program. We were impressed by their fun and proactive attitude with all the activities they were involved in. Thanks Jimmy and Joachim!





Andy and Dwij working in the gardens at KHG Doncaster

# KHG Information Evening

KHG will be presenting the first of our two Information Evening sessions for 2021 at 7pm on Wednesday 19th May via Zoom.

This one hour online presentation will feature senior staff providing in-depth information for anyone who is interested in finding out more about our programs and our participant intake procedure. Later in the year we will repeat the presentation online on Monday

11th October 2021.

If you know anyone who would like to join the zoom, please contact Georgia Brown on [georgiab@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:georgiab@kevinheinzegrow.org.au)

## **KHG Information Session**

Wednesday 19 March 2021

Online via Zoom

To register, please contact Georgia Brown at [georgiab@kevinheinzegrow.org.au](mailto:georgiab@kevinheinzegrow.org.au)