

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



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CEOs Message

By Penni Michael

Late October of this year I attended the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) National Conference held in Shepparton. It was the most well attended conference in the history of FECCA which spans over 30 years.

The presentations were thought provoking and many speakers retold personal stories of migration. The current theme for all migrants seems to be that they leave their country of origin because of the difficult economic, religious or social problems they face. Nearly all of the speakers talked about their dream to go home.

At times it was difficult to listen to the persecution they faced, the risks they took and their anguish over the safety of their children. There were also a number of stories of success and achievement, of celebration, joy and hope.

Christmas time presents different things in our multicultural country. It is a time of giving and receiving and a wonderful reason to bring family and friends together.

This year has marked many achievements, the successful accreditation of all the facilities in Victoria, the completion of construction of our Mayfield, Newcastle facility and the expansion of our Community Services program in the Northern region.

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Calendar Events –2009/10

DATES TO REMEMBER

Christmas Day	25 December 2009
Boxing Day	26 December 2009
New Year Date	1 January 2010
Australia Day	26 January
Trivia Night	5 February
Froniditha Care Radiothon	6 March
Labour Day	9 March
Next Issue	April 2010

After the FECCA conference, I walked away affirmed that our work at Froniditha Care is important, valued and necessary. People, especially the elderly, need to have a level of comfort in the place they live. Staff play a critical role in providing this comfort. **Thank you to all staff for their ongoing support and commitment to service.**

I wish you and your families

A Joyous Festive Season and

Every Success in the New Year 2010.

ST ALBANS – 2009 CELEBRATIONS



Neovi Anastasiou's 100th birthday



28th October celebrations



Panayiotis Tsokas's 100th birthday



Martha Karatsioris, Public Relations & Fundraising Coordinator

When did you start at Fronditha Care?

In June 2009.

What did you do on your first day?

Jim Scantsonihas and I went on a road trip to all the facilities on my first 2 days to meet everyone; the Moonwalk occurred a few days after that.

Where did you work before?

I worked for a mental health organization in Communications. I even managed to negotiate working 6 months remotely from Athens for my Australian employer.

What's your favourite TV show?

I consider myself a Sopranos Buff. I've seen every episode of each series more than once. Lawrence Leung's *Choose Your Own Adventure* series on the ABC was my happy surprise find this year.

Do you have any pets?

Puss. He was our neighbour's chocolate Burmese that became ours and has since been officially adopted. He's special because he meows like a human would say 'meow'. This is a picture of Puss.



What's a funny thing that happened in the last little while?

A few days ago I let Puss into the house to stop him from meowing, only to find he wanted to give me a

gift of a live mouse...which then ran under the dishwasher.

What did your mother always tell you?

To never feel guilt if I ever need to place her in Aged Care...she's been telling me this since she was 40.

Martha got married in October





**INTRODUCING HAYLEY COLLETT -
Admin at Lwr Templestowe**

When did you start at Fronditha Care?

March 18th, 2009

What did you do on your first day?

Spent the day with Vickie showing me the ropes

Where did you work before?

Australian Homecare - very similar position

What's your favorite movie?

Titanic

What's a funny thing that happened in the last little while?

I was having a foot spa bath at home, and the phone rang, so I jumped up out of the foot spa, forgetting I

had soap on my feet and went straight onto the tiles; then I slipped all the way down the hallway, banging into walls; it was so funny, it hurt so much though, so I was laughing and crying at the same time - my brother thought it was hilarious!!!!

What did your mother always tell you?

Not to leave dishes on the sink!!! - but I still do when I am there....

Do you have pets?

I have the most cutest 7 month old now black Napoleton Bull Mastiff - he is my partner and son and he is so spoilt; he even gets scotch fillet cooked for him for dinner. He is the love of our lives.

Where did you last visit?

Tasmania this year. Before that, I travelled to 24 countries including Greece and a cruise to the Greek islands.

It takes more than one kind of staff to create a dynamic work environment. Diversity can encompass anything from race to ethnicity to culture to religion.

Clayton's Diversity



Keep Meeting our Diverse Team...expanding across Australia

Lea Gregg – RCM Mayfield Newcastle, NSW



When did you start at Fronditha Care?

1st Sept 2009. No sorry 21st Sept 2009.

What did you do on your first day?

Can you tell the boss I was working really hard?

Where did you work before?

Community Aged Care

What's your favorite movie?

So many – Anything with comedy or adventure.

What's a funny thing that happened in the last little while?

I have had some delightful moments since joining Fronditha Care, but you know sometimes you just can't put it to paper or the agency may 'spot' it...

What did your mother always tell you?

Treat people well, or they will come back and bite you. Of course she phrased it as Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Do you have pets?

Pets I have had – cats, ferret, mice, dogs, one snake (dead– as it was safer that way). Owl, sheep, and I once had what I thought was a pet lizard, but it ran away the first time I turned my back on it.

Pets I have now – Siamese cats.



Where did you last visit?

Fronditha Care, Newcastle facility. I call it home now. ☺



INTRODUCING OUR NEW HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER**– Mira Pekar Robinson****When did you start at Fronditha Care?**

Officially on 12 October 2010 (but I came in for one day on the 7 October for hand-over)

What did you do on your first day?

Met with many engaging Fronditha staff that were more than willing to share “the secrets of their trade with me”. I was shown around the facilities and met with managers and other key operational staff who make Fronditha the place that it is.

Where did you work before?

Immediately before joining Fronditha I worked for Jobs Australia as an Industrial Relations Adviser for 3.5 years. Jobs Australia is the national peak body for not-for-profit organizations that assist unemployed people to get and keep jobs.

What’s your favorite movie?

The original “Godfather”, followed closely by “Scarface”.

What’s a funny thing that happened in the last little while?

It was more embarrassing than funny; I took quite some time in parking in a clearly marked “No Parking” zone at Fronditha in Clayton.

What did your mother always tell you?

“It is better to go hungry than to eat no matter what, and it’s better to be alone than with anybody” – this is definitely lost in translation!!

Do you have pets?

No.

Where did you last visit?

Hamilton Island, where it poured relentlessly for a week! It felt like we were stranded on Noah’s Ark.

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Motto

Fronditha –a team of
dedicated professionals
where aged care is
more than just a job!
Website: www.fronditha.org

