

news

The Karinya Schools Spectacular

Over the past 21 years Karinya House has been supported by many of our Canberra and Region Schools. We thought it would be nice to acknowledge their place in our Village! And to thank the young women and men of our community who tirelessly raise funds as part of their sense of citizenship. With the support of their school community, their educators and their families, they enact their recognition of the value of service to one another. There are many school communities who have helped us in past years, and in the current year. We are not going to list them all... there are too many! However, we have been fortunate to receive a few contributions to this newsletter from some of the schools who have supported us this year, and in past years either continuously or on the odd occasion as the purpose fits.

All funds raised have invested in the lives of women in our community, at a time of crisis, impacted by family violence or trauma, often founded in their time of childhood, or strewn along their path in adulthood.

Schools often rotate their charities of choice and with so many fabulous community service organisations in the Region, we are certain every charity values the support of our school communities in a special way. Thank you again to all the schools who have supported us during 2018. Only a few could fit within. But we do thank you all!



Save the Date!

Karinya House Annual Mother's Day Gala Dinner.

3 May 2019

Tickets will be on sale early in 2019. Check the website and book online. Last year, we were sold out by March.

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From Our Commmittee President

Dear Friends of Karinya House

As we scream towards the end of the year, I have to say it has been a most exciting, chaotic and rewarding few months for Karinya House. Thank you sincerely to you, our wonderful Karinya community that have supported us physically and financially in the last calendar year. As always, we are humbled by your generosity but also appreciate the fact that you realise you are contributing to vulnerable lives and having a real impact. As you know, it does take a village and we are that village supporting pregnant and parenting women in need. Part of our village are many of the school communities across Canberra. This newsletter is our own Karinya House Schools Spectacular!

Having my own children at the respective schools of St Edmunds and St Clare's, gives me such pride when I see the students of both schools committed to raising awareness and funds for Karinya House. The schools give testament to a spirituality and social conscience that they are fostering in their students as well as giving funding support investing in the lives of others. These values will carry on for these students later in life and we cannot dismiss the importance of this message and example. The shared values of community engagement across all our schools is so evident in all we partner with, and it is always a joy to welcome students across the Region to share in our purpose. We thank all our school partners over the decades!

If I am writing this it means I have enjoyed another fantastic Mercy Walk for Women. This regional event encourages the awareness of the many issues faced by women and young girls locally and globally in regards to domestic violence, gender inequality, education, poverty, homelessness and displacement and it promotes respect for women in this way, by walking together as one. We had over 100 women venture into the country through the breathtaking canola fields chatting as we walked. The event raised over \$10,000! Our heartfelt gratitude for the energy and inspiration displayed Teena McGrath and the wonderful group of women and men of the Boorowa based organising committee and the local businesses who support this event. We remain humbled by your support. And I'm training now in readiness for 2019!

And with this Newsletter, Christmas is upon us. On behalf of our Committee, I ask you to help us and contribute to our Christmas Appeal – we are aiming to raise \$50,000 this year. Karinya provides life changing support to women, children and families throughout our region each and every day of

the year, including the very special Christmas Day! Keep an eye out for the Christmas Appeal in your mail box soon or alternatively, we have a page on our website detailing this initiative and giving you the opportunity to contribute. 2019 will indeed be another year of growth for Karinya.

May you relish these beautiful summer days ahead and I thank you and remind you of the new lives that you are helping in our very own village. Our Committee continues to change and thrive and I welcome Maureen Sheehan to the Committee, bringing valued expertise from extensive leadership roles within the ACT Public Service and beyond. We sadly farewell Matt Casey and Rod Fraser – two long-standing and vital members that we have shared a long Karinya history with.

“Vulnerability is our most accurate measure of courage.”

– Brené Brown

My warmest regards



Sarah Kelly

President



stories from some of our School Partners

Canberra Montessori School proudly partners Karinya House

Karinya House values our long-time partnership with the Canberra Montessori School. The recognition provided by the ongoing offer of two places in the Parent Toddler Program for Karinya House families is tangible, and the benefits of the experiences as part of the Canberra Montessori School community for every participating family are enduring, lifelong. We thank the Executive and Staff of The Canberra Montessori School. Just amazing support!

The following segment was written and provided by Canberra Montessori School.

Since 2010, Canberra Montessori School has reserved two free places in its Parent Toddler Program for Karinya House families and provided free education in our main school for a Karinya House child.



We believe a great education, one that fosters a love of learning and grows independence, is the best start any child can have and that it will make a significant difference for that child's future.

Canberra Montessori provides a specially prepared environment that is designed to entice the child. Through the child's engagement with their work and freedom to work independently within this structured environment, the child develops concentration, self-discipline and a love of exploring new areas of learning. It is a wonderful way to demonstrate to the mothers in our Parent Toddler Program just how much a small child is capable of if they are given the opportunity.

We are proud to be able to offer this experience to Karinya House and have seen more than 30 families gain benefits from our Montessori environment so far. Our hope is that this partnership continues well into the future.



stories from some of our School Partners

St Clare's College Canberra

St Clare's College Canberra, A Spirited Learning Community, *Seek Wisdom.*

Karinya House values our long association with the women of St Clare's College Canberra, supported by the School Staff and their families. Primarily associated with Wibalu and Wareen Houses in the current school year, we have also had support from other Houses, such as Japara and Wirana. Houses select a charity to support each year as part of their community engagement. We value the synergy of support from the women of St Clare's for the women of Karinya House. From speaking with the St Clare's Ladies at various charity days and events, it is evident they too value the partnership we have and the recognition of the value of caring for one another and the value of community.

Karinya House has been pleased to welcome a table of Seniors to the Annual Karinya House Mother's Day Gala Dinner, and we thank Mrs Marie Manning (Mission and Ministry Coordinator) who has facilitated this connection over recent years, and contributed toward this article.



For the 2018 Charity Day was held in Week 9 of Term 3. The Wareen and Wibalu House Leaders organised a cake and lolly stall at recess, Good berries, Costco pizza and soft drinks at lunchtime as well as the Teachers Edition of Minute to Win it. All funds raised on the day went to Karinya House.

Images here are from the Charity Day and the Charity Assembly held on 31 October. Karinya Committee President Sarah Kelly is always honoured to attend the St Clare's Charity Day and Assembly and is pictured here with some of the women of St Clare's.



stories from some of our School Partners

St Edmund's College Canberra

The Karinya House – St Edmund's College partnership goes back a long way also. We have been supported by all levels at the school, however our most active and long standing relationship is with the Junior School. One of the highlights was a few years ago when the boys were visited by a few of the women of Karinya (and their babies!) What an experience for all concerned. As well as fundraising, various classes have assisted with the folding of our newsletters!

The following segment with images was written and provided by St Edmund's College Canberra.



St Edmund's College is guided by four touchstones: Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community, Liberating Education and Justice and Solidarity. The students are challenged through the curriculum and their daily interactions to live the values of these touchstones each day. The long and authentic relationship that the Junior School has established with Karinya House has enabled the boys to be actively engaged in meaningful ways to make the world a better

place for the clients that Karinya supports. The challenge that the boys face is coming up with creative ways to raise money to ensure we are able to assist Karinya House to continue their vital work. This year the students have supported raffles, contributed to hampers and taken part in the first "Eddies Sleep out". However, the most profitable and sort after tickets this year were for the draw for "Your dream job in the Junior School for a day". The students were very keen to experience what it was like to run a class or an entire Junior School for one day. Mr Kelly, Mr Johnson and Mr Mason all did a very fine job.

The connection between Karinya House and the Junior School of St Edmund's College is a relationship that the boys, staff and wider Eddies community value and look forward to continuing into the future.



St Francis Xavier College Canberra

The school community of St Francis Xavier Canberra have been a long time supporter of Karinya House. In the past year we have been fortunate to have more touch points. Students from Year 9 have been folding

The following segment was written and provided by St Francis Xavier College.

During Term 3, the Year 8 SRC decided that that they wanted to support a local based organisation that cared for members of the community that they lived in. After a very quick discussion, it was unanimously decided that for Term 3, it

would be Karinya House. The students wrote a letter to the Year 8 parents to gain their support and inform them of what items that Karinya House required. Baskets were set up as collection points and the students went around to all the Year 8 pastorals reminding students to bring items in.

Sarah Kirkpatrick, from Karinya House visited the Year 8's at a Year Assembly and spoke to them about what Karinya House does. The students learnt about young mothers who for various reasons are no longer able to stay at home or require temporary accommodation with their babies. *(Continued on next page...)*

stories from some of our School Partners

(...Continued from previous page) That they often don't have the necessary items to best care for their new babies, and Karinya House provides, support, accommodation and clothing/ food and other baby items that new mothers need. Sarah's presentation to the Year 8's made the whole scenario real, and they were able to gain a more in-depth understanding as to why supporting this organisation was so important.

At the end of the term, the Year 8 students had managed to collect more than 2 tubs of items for Karinya House. They had donations of clothes, nappies, baby wipes, bottles, dummies, wraps and more. They were very proud of their efforts and were very happy to present them to Sarah when she returned at the end of the term. St Francis Xavier College hopes that the young women who are supported by Karinya House, like the item that they donated, and look forward to working with Karinya House again in 2019.



Scorpius House chooses Karinya House as charity.

This Article written and provided by Gungahlin College.

In 2018, the Gungahlin College Pastoral care team incorporated volunteer work and charity as a key focus of the program, with each house selecting a local charity to support in 2018. With students having personal experience and connection to Karinya House, it was an obvious choice for Scorpius house and students were excited to assist the local community.

Brainstorming began early in the year to decide how best to support Karinya. It was decided that students would aim to collect donations of goods for Semester 1 and would contribute a monetary donation for Semester 2. Students donated a selection of new baby goods worth over \$200 and supported by staff, some students utilised their crocheting talents to create baby toys and other goods. Student leaders gathered to categorise and create two large baby hampers which would be presented to staff at Karinya House.

In June, Karinya house staff members, Sarah Kirkpatrick and Catherine O'Halloran, came to Gungahlin College to speak to the students in Scorpius house about their work at Karinya and student leaders presented the baby hampers.

Currently students have been working on fundraising ideas

for Semester Two. In regular house meetings, students have been donating their loose change and this will continue for the rest of the semester. In term 4, Gungahlin College is running their annual Fun Run, where each house will utilise the day to raise funds for their chosen charities.

Both students and staff look forward to continuing to support Karinya House.



stories from some of our School Partners

Merici College – Bridge Benefit

On Saturday 15 September, Merici College hosted a Bridge Benefit Fundraising Dinner. In its fourth year of running, this student-led initiative brings the community together to support a selected organisation while showcasing the wonderful hospitality talents of the students. This year, the students have decided that all proceeds from the Dinner will be donated to Karinya House.

In attendance on the night was Committee Treasurer, Kathleen with her husband, Brendon, Property Manager and Senior Caseworker, Luisa and also Committee Member, Amanda and husband, James. Amanda spoke at the dinner about the work of Karinya House in the community. The Karinya House – 20 Years of Service video was also shown.

Kathleen and Brendon's reflection of the event captures the success of the night. "We were so impressed by the dinner put on at Merici, it wasn't just good food, it was excellent restaurant quality food. Everyone had a fantastic night and it was lovely to see such wonderful community support for Karinya."

The donation came in to Karinya at over \$5,000. This is simply amazing support. A sincere thank you to all those who organised and attended the event. We are so grateful to have the wonderful support of Merici College as a community partner.

Images courtesy of the Merici College Facebook Page.



What can you do to help Karinya House?

- Become a Friend of Karinya
- Encourage your Friends and Family to become Friends of Karinya
- Share this newsletter with your Friends
- Contact us and buy a Karinya Keep Cup, Cap, Running Singlet or a Water Bottle
- Hold a Fundraising Event (and set up a Fundraiser page on our Website)

For more information on any of the above... contact Karinya House – 02 6259 8998 or email info@karinyahouse.asn.au
We would love to hear from you.

Government Funding Partner

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We are grateful for the many other Associated Corporate and Community Supporters who provide financial support, pro bono or discounted services or other in kind support. The full listing of Karinya Champions is on our website.

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