

## Cheryl recognised as one of the best around the nation

**There is nothing more satisfying for Werribee MatchWorks Employment Consultant Cheryl Jungbauer than watching a person who has struggled to find work, grow and flourish.**

Cheryl was named in the final three of the National Employment Services Association (NESA) Employment Consultant of the Year awards. She travelled to Sydney in August to accept her award from Federal Employment Participation Minister Mark Arbib. While she didn't take out the top prize, Cheryl said she was thrilled to be recognised for her years of working with clients, many of whom found it difficult to find work due to racial, language, physical or mental illness barriers. MatchWorks has also fared well in the awards in previous years, taking out the top prize in 2008. "This has been the most tremendous experience," Cheryl said. "The testimonials were amazing - just to hear things from clients you wouldn't normally hear." People Cheryl has assisted over the years wrote some lovely

things about her, saying they were impressed with her level of care and that she had made a big difference in their lives. "To be recognised in the top three is mind-blowing because I work with a lot of people that I feel are just as good as what I am," she said. The honours were open to all Job Service Australia providers throughout the country and were narrowed down to a top three out of more than 200 applications received. The grandmother of seven has worked at MatchWorks since its inception. Cheryl said the sense that she was putting something back into the community through her work, in helping disadvantaged people, was a great motivator. "It's not just a matter of going to work, doing what needs to be done, getting money and leaving. It's actually very rewarding," she said. "Obviously work, in many respects, if they are dealing with depression or something like that, can actually help their disability. It's great that there are employers out there willing to give people a go."



MatchWorks Employment Consultant Cheryl Jungbauer (centre) received her award for making it into the top three of the Employment Consultant of the Year awards from National Employment Services Association (NESA) CEO Sally Sinclair and Federal Employment Participation Minister Mark Arbib in Sydney in August.

## News in brief

**Banyan TheatreWorx** (Warrnambool) is currently undertaking a short film project with local filmmaker Sid Sprague. The actors, some of whom are Karingal clients, have finished filming and are eagerly awaiting a screening of the first cut, which will feature in the Awakenings and One and All festivals.

**The South West Disability Network** (SWDN) has been successful with two submissions of funding for network members. Firstly the Department of Human Services allocated \$49,800 for a project to develop capacity of individuals with disabilities to self direct their support. This will complement and extend on a current project at Kyeema where the Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability are providing training and facilitating the formation of peer support programs for clients.

**The National Disability Service's Network for Quality Project** has also won \$15,000 in funding. The project involves South West TAFE partnering with Karingal Training. The project is seeking a cultural shift in disability service provision consistent with the principles of the Disability Act 2006 by developing and delivering training to 150 direct care staff of the South West Disability Network membership.

## Clarification

In the last edition of the Karingal news an article on page 4 stated that the organisation had "received certification" under the Department of Human Services' "stringent, new quality framework". Karingal would like to clarify that it has in fact received "provisional certification" and has been recommended for full certification. The praise for Karingal staff mentioned in the article came from clients and their families as part of their feedback to the independent auditors.

## Brain Injury Awareness Week - breaking down the barriers



Richmond Football Club defender Graham Polak (right) was in Geelong to attend the ARCsupport Employment after Brain Injury forum. He was joined by keynote speaker Philippa McRae from head2work and MatchWorks General Manager Michael Wasley.

**Fleshing out ideas to meet the challenges of returning to work after sustaining a brain injury was the focus of a forum held by ARCsupport, a branch of Karingal and sponsored by MatchWorks.**

The Employment after Brain Injury forum, held on September 14 to mark the start of Brain Injury Awareness Week, was held at the TAC Auditorium in Geelong. The highly informative forum was attended by clients, carers, family and employers. ARCsupport Manager Jacqui Pierce said it wasn't only the injured person who faced challenges reintegrating into the workforce but also their families, carers and employers. Jacqui said support was vital and the first step was finding the right ways to provide assistance to all concerned through the process.

his comeback to AFL football after being hit by a tram in June 2008 where he sustained a life-threatening brain injury, was also in the crowd. An Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is damage to the brain that has occurred after birth as a result of accident, trauma, stroke, brain infection, alcohol or drug abuse or by disease to the brain. One in 50 people across Australia have an ABI, which equates to about 2.2 per cent of the population. ARCsupport Manager Jacqui Pierce said it wasn't only the injured person who faced challenges reintegrating into the workforce but also their families, carers and employers. Jacqui said support was vital and the first step was finding the right ways to provide assistance to all concerned through the process.

"There are challenges with all areas of employment for people with acquired brain injury and the feedback we have had is that their needs aren't being particularly well addressed," she said. "From a person with a brain injury's perspective, they felt that employment services struggled to assist them in the right way. "From family carer's perspectives they often felt that employment issues added more stress to an already traumatic and difficult situation. "Employers sometimes struggle because they don't know how to assist and support the person with the brain injury to come back to work." While there were obstacles that needed to be overcome, Jacqui said engaging in employment for people with an ABI was a vital first step on the road to rehabilitation and recovery. "If we don't get the employment part right for people - that often leads to other issues like depression. "It's a really critical step in the journey back to the most normal life possible following brain injury."

## Karingal calendar

**November 12**  
Karingal Annual General Meeting - Please note there's a change of venue to the **Fred Flanagan Room** at the **Geelong Football Club**. Meeting to start at 4.30pm

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Disability Support QSS ISO 9001 Quality ISO 9001

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## Holiday-makers welcome a blizzardy blast

**Karingal adventurers got out and about in the snow this winter for one of their most exciting trips yet.**

Karingal Adventure Based Learning Experience (KABLE) participants rugged up in beanies, scarves and their all-important waterproof winter woollies for an action-packed trip to Lake Mountain, north-east of Melbourne, in July. KABLE was developed to offer outdoor experiences with an emphasis on personal development, confidence and team building to people with a disability. The program sees individuals tackle various leisure and adventure activities under the guidance of trained recreation instructors. KABLE is a part of Participate, a branch of Karingal that offers day programs and activities to people with a disability. Some of the activities they have undertaken so far include abseiling and rock-climbing, snorkelling, surfing, camping, bike riding, hiking and have even entered teams into the Murray Marathon in previous years. The Lake Mountain trip was filled with plenty of opportunities to have fun in the snow, including the building of snowmen and tobogganing. The mountain is located just 20 minutes from Marysville, one of the hardest hit areas of the Black Saturday bushfires. Even with fresh white snow, it was easy to recognize the devastation that had ripped through the area earlier in the year. But all participants were inspired to see not only people rebuilding all they had lost, but mother-nature taking its course with blackened trees sprouting new life.



KABLE participants braved the chills of Lake Mountain in July to have a ball playing in the snow, building snow men and tobogganing.

## Danny's true talents make top exhibit

**Artist Danny Byrne has been recognised spectacularly this year as his painting proves to be a real passion.**

Not only did the Warrnambool resident win the top prize at this year's KarnivART exhibition, where he entered a dramatic self-portrait, he has also had his work on show at the Victorian Arts Centre for the Connect09 Art Prize. Danny uses syringes filled with paint to create his amazing masterpieces and is now painting at an outstanding level. Danny has been having classes at Art Options Warrnambool and his hard work and effort has certainly paid off. His teachers say they are very impressed with his bright, eye-catching works.



KarnivART art winner Danny Byrne and his friend Matthew Clarke, both from Warrnambool, had their works on display at the Victorian Arts Centre during August. Picture courtesy of Rob Gunstone, The Warrnambool Standard