

‘Grassroots Community Worker’ Bids Farewell



Barbara Kelly, JNC Manager

Sadly, this is my last newsletter article. I have decided to leave The JNC and will be finishing up sometime in late July, early August. I have not been well for quite a while, and my poor neglected bones and joints have given the rest of me notice to quit, unless I take immediate remedial action! I know, it is hard to believe that I am actually doing what I have been told to do, and it is also hard to imagine life without The JNC. Neighbourhood centres have a habit of getting into your blood and this one certainly has.

I came in to The JNC (Randwick Information and Community Centre – RICC in those days) with a mission to rebuild an organisation that was in low spirits – workers were depressed and were not properly supervised and supported so staff morale was very low, service provision was disorganised and chaotic, and the centre itself was completely invisible and inaccessible hidden on the 2nd floor of the Bowen Library Building.

The one truly amazing thing was that, despite this, the Management Committee was strong, focused and determined to make the necessary changes to the organisation. It was this very evident attitude that attracted me to the challenge, like a moth to a flame!

Nine and a half years later, I can say that the job I set out to do has been done. (cont. on page 3. Interview on page 8)

The Editor Interviews Relma Lardner, RICC/JNC Volunteer 1996 - 2011

As you reflect on your time at RICC & The JNC, what were the challenges for you as a volunteer?

When my neighbour, Elaine Taylor referred me to RICC in 1996, I initially didn't see what I could contribute. It wasn't long before I discovered that my years as an all rounder in office procedures and reception work was appreciated. I learned from that day onwards the needs in my local government area, whereas prior to this, I had no idea.



I watched the staff confront obstacles and the needs of the community and roll up their sleeves and unite to get the job done. (cont. on page 4)

The JNC's New Structure - South Randwick & Randwick 'Hubs'

"The new management structure of the JNC was brought about by the large amount of new funding we have received"

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The Editor Interviews Barbara Kelly, Outgoing JNC Manager

"I do see myself as a grassroots community worker, first and foremost, rather than a manager"

See Page 8

The JNC's New 'Hubs' & Structure!

Joy Steele-Wood, Operations Manager

I have recently been looking back over past issues of the JNC newsletter and I find there are quite a number of occasions where I am introducing myself or giving information about a new role I am doing at the Centre. And here I am doing it again!

The JNC is going through a restructure which means that my job title (but not really my role) has changed.

I am now one of two Operations Managers and I have responsibility for our Aged and Disability Programme, Volunteer and Service Training, and our new Domestic Violence Education and Awareness Project.

The new management structure of the JNC was brought about by the large amount of new funding we have received over the last few months and the announcement of Barb's resignation (please see info elsewhere in this newsletter).

The JNC has received new funding for the following:

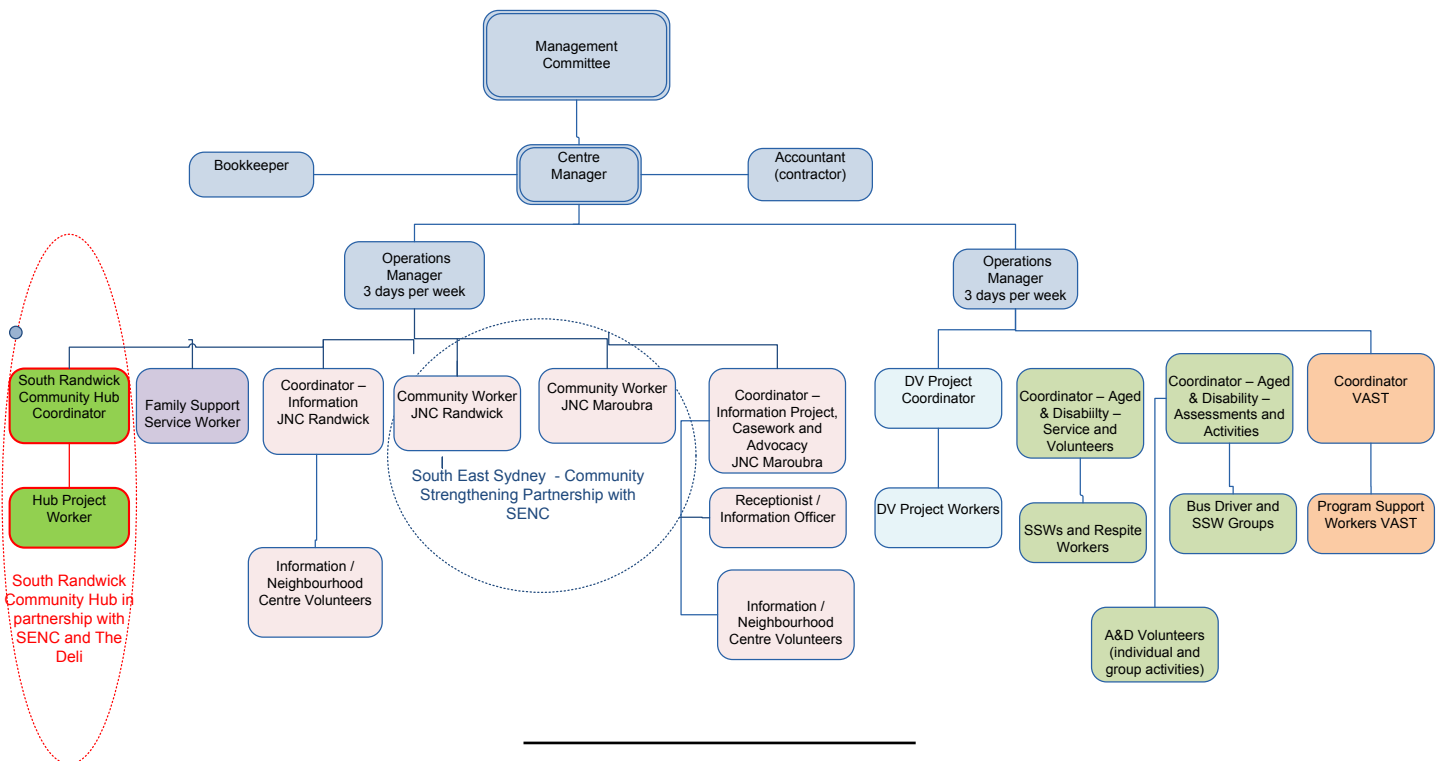
- Randwick Hub (Neighbourhood Centre)
- South Randwick Hub (Working with 0-8 year olds from our Maroubra office)
- Community Capacity Worker (working with CALD communities)
- Community Capacity Worker (working with Aboriginal communities)
- Domestic Violence Education and Awareness Project

We have also received additional funding for two of our existing programmes:

- VAST
- Social Support (Aged and Disability)

In the new management structure, there will be a full-time Centre Manager and two Operations Managers, each directly responsible for management of the programmes run at the JNC. See table below:

New JNC Structure



There are also changes happening in our Neighbourhood Centre (NC) and Family Support (FSS) programmes. As a result of the 'Keeping them Safe' strategy, Community Services is making reforms to the Community Services Grants Programme (that funds our NC and FSS).

Our Family Support Service will be moving to the new 'Early Intervention and Prevention Programme' and our Neighbourhood Centre programme, to the new

'Community Builders'. This involves renegotiating the activities that we do on these programmes and this is currently in progress.

So this is a time of great change once again at the Junction with new funding, new premises, more staff, and we are all excited that the process is underway.

Joy Steele-Wood

Family Support Offers Mentoring Service

While Family Support offers services to people of all ages and backgrounds, a group that tends to go unnoticed or recognised is our young people in the area. I have been working with young people for many years now and continue to be in awe of their resilience and determination.

I have been facilitating a mentoring service for troubled teens and have come across some remarkable youngsters, one 14 year old in particular. This young woman's mother came to our service when she could see that her daughter was really struggling with all of the stresses of life, especially at school. Boy are those school years hard. I think we often forget just how difficult being a teenager is. Well once mother and daughter agreed to give me a shot, this beautiful girl and I started to get to know each other.

Our meetings usually consist of a coffee or ice cream while we discuss what is going on in her life. From school to family, to hopes and dreams, we cover it all. You see, a lot of the time all that a young person needs is some positive attention and a good example. Within a few weeks of our meetings this person was already showing signs of growth and happiness. After a few months her

“her mother came to me and told me that bringing her daughter to us was the best thing that she ever did as she got her daughter back”

mother came to me and told me that bringing her daughter to us was the best thing that she ever did as she got her daughter back.

That is one of the best compliments I have ever received. I have been working with this young woman for 9 months now and she continues to flourish and amaze. And for her she just gets someone to talk to who has been there and can show her that it does get better on the other side. I could not be more proud of her.

The JNC does offer this service to most teens that are in need. Whereas the referral does usually have to come from the parent, the teen does ultimately get to decide whether working with us is something he or she would want to do. It is all about giving them the respect and opportunity to make their own choices and hope that they make positive ones.

If you have a young person whom you think could benefit from this service please feel free to give us a call at 9349 8200.

Or send **Tangee** an email at familysupport@jnc.org.au with further enquiries.

‘Grassroots Community Worker’ Bids Farewell

(cont. from page 1) Ten year's later. We have an extraordinary team of workers who are not just committed to and confident in their jobs at The JNC, they actually enjoy being part of a unique group of workers all pulling together in their many and varied ways, to deliver services to people who live and work in the Randwick Local Government area.

Our services are many and diverse, and each day we strive towards the goal of ensuring that they are quality services, that are meaningful to people and are built on a respect and recognition of a people's strengths and abilities.

The JNC, at its location on Anzac Parade under the Bowen Library, is highly visible, accessible and incredibly well utilised by the local community. About 350 people use our services in any one week.

It is now time to hand the baton on to a new energetic, creative and committed community worker who can lead The JNC into a very exciting future - over the past few months, we have been successful in securing a significant amount of new and recurrent funding to provide a whole new range of services to people who live and work in the local area and surrounds - see details elsewhere in this Newsletter. As one of my colleagues remarked, I should leave more often!

So, that's it from me. To so many people on the management committee, in the team, in the community,

colleagues in other organisations, on working groups, steering committees and management committees, in the corridors of power and in the poverty of neglected public housing, and the many, many others who have supported, encouraged, cuddled, cosseted, criticised, debated, helped, hindered, questioned, defended, laughed and cried with, my humble thanks. I couldn't have done it without you!

Barbara Kelly

The JNC NEWS

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Articles and items of news are welcome and can be sent to: **JNC NEWS**
Email: info@jnc.org.au

The Editor Interviews

Relma Lardner, RICC/JNC Volunteer 1996 - 2011

As you reflect on your time at RICC & The JNC, what were the challenges for you as a volunteer?

My job on the reception desk was the first point of contact and this became a challenge. But with the support and guidance of staff and other volunteers I coped well. There were ten of us rostered on the front desk. We had TAFE training on computers, OHS courses, Red Cross and Brain Storming, which I use till this day. Reception handled bookings for our drivers, courses, events, wheelchair repairs, home visits, training and TAX Help, which was a service that really took off. We had meditation, yoga, art therapy, men's groups, English classes and much more.

Another challenge was to keep expanding our information. At times our brochure racks overflowed. We took RICC brochures and information to outreach venues and community events. Requests would come from GP's, hospitals, other community groups, as well as the public passing by the centre in Green Street.

The collecting of information took another step forward with RICC/JNC joining the Council's LINC program and I was given the opportunity to be involved in this area.

With a shift in community needs I worked with Kim Meddows (JNC Information Coordinator 2005-2011) where the main issues were housing for the homeless and mental health. I watched the staff work with compassion and tolerance and saw them, at times, pushed to the limit.

What were the highlights?

A highlight was my Rotary Award for volunteering and entry on the Grace Runnerstrum Shield in 2007 as the JNC Volunteer of the Year.

Others included working with Corinne Campbell (RICC Information Coordinator 1996-2005) on the English conversation classes with the different nationalities, incredible people and so much learning for me.

As well the gathering of information for the History Book, "A Community Story – The First 25 Years of RICC" where I spent 60 hrs or more going through the CHARM and RICC minutes. I interviewed significant people from that era, including the coordinator of 'The Victims of Crime' project from the 1980's.

Delving this way I became engrossed in the spirit of participation, contribution, merging of talents and selfless

giving. I found myself in awe of the personalities and their individual histories.

What were the fun times?

Carnivale, our Multicultural celebration was great fun. The Spanish group with their dancing, songs and love of colour, the Asian ladies with their moon cakes, fan-dancing and beautiful costumes.

The stories told and the food we shared with the Russian group at our South Coogee outreach project. Such hearty and resilient people!

Handmade-chocolates, Crazy Cakes and Sushi making courses. Laughter workshops, hand massages and card making on Open Days. Watching the social contact develop in the 'Wrap with Love' knitting group, and much more.

What are your plans for your future? Projects, involvement?

To utilise all the information about age care that I have learnt from the staff (thank you Megan Bowyer, Aged & Disability Coordinator!). Its now time to practise on myself. Keep mobile, enjoy social contact, eat healthy and have interests.

I hope to improve my art and eventually conquer oils, although my love is acrylics. There's the South Maroubra Art Group where we do art, drawing, beadwork, knitting, crosswords and plenty of talking. The Next Chapter Art Program at Randwick library offers great speakers and topics of interest in all aspects of art.

The Bowen Library Book Club was a new experience for me. I enjoy the books they choose, many I would never have read but for the Club, including "All Quiet on the Western Front" which will stay with me forever.

I'm now volunteering at the Randwick & District Historical Society and learning new things once again. There are bus trips to interesting places, but I don't feel inclined to do bungy jumping or white water rafting.

Any last comments or parting words?

There's much more going on in your Local Council area and Library than ever before and the same goes for Neighbourhood and Community Centres. You learn as a volunteer that you can make a difference, no matter how small your contribution. You also learn that it's important to listen and not to judge.

There's a feeling, a spark you get when someone asks you for advice or information and you think, Yep! I may be able to help you there!

A while back one member, upon retiring said to us, "now its time for you to carry on", well now it's time for me to bow out and for JNC to move to the next stage. My thoughts and care go with you!

Relma Lardner



Relma at her popular Crazy Cakes workshop in 1998

The JNC Welcomes Two New Projects

South East Sydney Community Strengthening Partnership

Firstly, let me introduce myself – my name is Altair Roelants and I am the new Community Building Coordinator at the JNC, joining the team on 10th May 2011.

I will be working on the new South East Sydney Community Strengthening Partnership which is an exciting community capacity building project that JNC is developing in collaboration with The South East Neighbourhood Centre (SENC). The Project is being funded by the Family and Community Services (FaCS) under the Community Builders scheme.

The key focus of the Project is to provide information and a range of programs and activities that aim to engage and connect people who are socially isolated specifically within the Randwick/Kingsford, Maroubra/Matraville/Malabar and Botany LGA's. The project aims to both link target groups into established services and to develop new programs, offer volunteering opportunities and other strategies that strengthen community capacity and cohesion.

I will be working alongside my colleague Ashraf Rahman based at SENC and an Indigenous Community Worker will also be part of the team. We will be located at three 'hubs' - JNC Maroubra, SENC at Eastlakes and I will be based at the new (soon to be unveiled)! JNC Randwick.

“The key focus...is to provide information and a range of programs and activities that aim to engage and connect people who are socially isolated”

I originally hail from London, relocating permanently to Sydney in February 2010 in search of sunshine, relaxation and good food! My education and work history is in the visual arts and community sectors including project management, PR, event coordination, communications and advocacy, research and I've always got a

handful of voluntary activities on the go. Currently, when I'm not at the JNC, I am a freelance arts writer for a variety of national Australian arts press.

I am thrilled to be working at the JNC as I really wanted to develop my passion for arts and community engagement within an inner-city Sydney neighbourhood – and this is a wonderfully welcoming, dedicated and fun team to be part of.

We are currently in the planning and development stages of the Project and are very keen to get input from local service providers and community members – if you have any ideas or suggestions please get in touch:

Altair Roelants
Community Building Coordinator

Tel: 9349 8200
ccbrandwick@jnc.org.au

Domestic Violence Education & Awareness Project

Hi there! My name is Lauren and I am the recently appointed Domestic Violence Education Coordinator at the JNC.

I recently graduated with a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies from University of Sydney which dealt with conflict resolution, human rights and development from a community to international level. Upon completion of this degree I undertook community development work in a rural community in Ecuador with an organisation called AVANTI.

My other professional experience includes human rights work with United Nations Monitoring Team at the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva and with Amnesty International Australia's Demand Dignity Campaign. A stint with the Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights in Boston saw me pursuing academic research on sexual violence in conflict. This year I have decided to pursue a career in human rights education and will be undertaking a Master of Education in Popular Education and Social Change at UTS.

“The Project...aims to raise awareness among CALD communities about family violence issues and available support services”

My work at the JNC involves coordinating the Domestic Violence Education and Awareness Project which aims to raise awareness among CALD communities about family violence issues and available support services. I will be working in partnership with other neighbourhood

centres and DV service centres throughout the Randwick, Botany, Waverley, Woollahra and Sydney LGAs. I will also be working closely with community members whose role will ensure the development of culturally appropriate strategies.

I was born and bred in the Eastern suburbs and am really excited to be able to work within my own community on an issue that's important to me.

Thanks,

Lauren Gecuk
Domestic Violence Education Coordinator



To celebrate National Volunteer Week, VAST, The Centre for Volunteering and Anglicare delivered an information session to students of the University of Sydney on 11th May 2011. This session included an introduction to volunteering with HACC organisations in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. Different rights and responsibilities as well as current volunteer vacancies were promoted to more than forty students. Promotional information from HACC organisations was handed out and expressions of interest were taken onsite.



Tessa Wood (Locum VAST Support Worker) presenting at the University of Sydney.



Representatives from the University of Sydney, The Centre for Volunteering, Anglicare and VAST.



Joint information session to celebrate national Volunteer Week by spreading the word to students!

Would you like Online Training for your Volunteers?

VAST is piloting an online Volunteer Orientation Course. This course has been designed based on the face-to-face mode that VAST provides regularly.

If you have volunteers who would benefit from online training due to their lack of mobility, transportation, time to attend face-to-face training or who are virtual volunteers or just enjoy online learning then please contact Shyrley or Meryl on vast1@jnc.org.au to express your interest. Users need to have intermediate computer skills and have access to a computer with an internet connection. They would be able to access the course whenever and wherever they like. These volunteers need to be delivering HACC funded services.



Farewell and welcome message

We would like to farewell Santo Barbagallo and Marina Nartova who left their volunteer roles at VAST in search of further studies and travel opportunities. Santo and Marina were key members of the VAST team and vital contributors to the day-to-day running of VAST projects. Thank you for all your help and support and we wish you a future full of success and joy.

We also welcome back Vaishali Shah who, after one year of maternity leave, has returned to continue her role as VAST Support Worker. Vaishali is now the mother of a beautiful baby boy named Aarush.



From left: Meryl Christian and Shyrley Villamil farewell Santo Barbagallo and Marina Nartova

New VAST brochure for agencies

A new VAST brochure has been produced to assist in the promotion of our projects and increase understanding of some procedures when trying to access VAST services. This brochure provides a clear and detailed overview of who we are and what we do. This is a good resource you could use to introduce new HACC workers/volunteers to the services provided by VAST. To open this brochure please go to: http://www.jnc.org.au/Publications/VAST_Training_brochure.pdf



VAST Training Calendar July - November

Home and Community Care Orientation
OH&S and Manual Handling
Volunteer Orientation
Mindfulness for Working with Stress
Supporting Older Adults Through Grief and Loss
Safe Food Handling
Emotional Intelligence for Leading People
Mental Health Awareness
Positively Handling Difficult Conversations
Assessment & Referral Skills
Introduction to Microsoft Excel
Networking with & Promoting your Services to Ethnic Communities
Understanding Boundaries & Duty of Care
Dual Disability (Dementia, Psychiatric, Intellectual)
HIV Awareness
Apply First Aid
Person Centred Care
Volunteer Orientation
OH&S and Manual Handling
Home and Community Care Orientation
International Volunteer Managers Day Celebration 2011

- Wednesday 27 July
- Thursday 28 July
- Thursday 11 August
- Wednesday 24 August
- Thursday 25 August
- Wednesday 31 August
- Thursday 1 September
- Thursday 8 September
- Wednesday 14 September
- Wednesday 21 September
- Thursday 22 September
- Thursday 29 September
- Thursday 6 October
- Wednesday 12 October
- Wednesday 19 October
- Wednesday 26 October (1day)
- Thursday 27 October
- Saturday 5 November
- Wednesday 9 November
- Thursday 10 November
- Thursday 3rd November

Expo at Randwick and Ultimo TAFE

VAST attended these Volunteering Expos which took place earlier this year at Randwick and Ultimo TAFE. Potential volunteers were provided with information on volunteer roles available within HACC organisations. Promotional material was also provided and expressions of interest were taken onsite.

Expo at UNSW

VAST will also attend next Volunteering Expo at the University of New South Wales which usually takes place in July. If you want to attend and book a stall to promote volunteering opportunities in your organisation please contact Careers and Employment at the University of New South Wales on 9385 5429 or careers@unsw.edu.au. If you can't make it on the day, we will be there promoting all HACC services in the Eastern Suburbs and the City of Sydney and suitable volunteers will be referred to you.



New partnership with Woollahra Council & Invitation to Volunteer Forum

Woollahra Council and VAST started a new partnership earlier this year to offer two events for Volunteer Managers. Managers will have the opportunity to get to know other Volunteer Managers (HACC and Non-HACC funded) and access professional development activities. These events are free so don't miss these networking opportunities! The first of these events (The Volunteer Forum) took place on 10th June and a presentation on Motivational Interviewing was delivered. The second event (International Volunteer Manager Day Celebration) will take place later this year on the 3rd November 2011. Details for this event will be released closer to the date. Open link below for more information and RSVP details for our next Volunteer Forum: http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/74776/Volunteer_Forum_Poster.pdf

Is your service HACC funded? Do you have Volunteer Vacancies in your organisation?
Please download the form at: www.jnc.org.au/Publications/VAST_Volunteer_Job_Vacancy_Form.doc
send it to VAST so that we can start recruiting volunteers for you ASAP!

Shyrley Villamil

VAST Program Co-ordinator

(VAST) Volunteer and Service Training Program

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Ph: 93498200 Fax: 93447294 E-mail: vast@jnc.org.au

The Editor Interviews

Barbara Kelly,

Outgoing JNC Manager

Barbara, In your first newsletter article (Winter, 2002) you described yourself as “at heart a grassroots community worker”. Is this the way you still see yourself?

Yes I do see myself as a grassroots community worker, first and foremost, rather than a manager. Community work has been my passion since I first started to volunteer as a management committee member in the early 1980's at the Deli Women and Children's Centre. I don't know any other way of participating in the community other than as a community worker - it's about an ideology, a philosophy about how you interact with people who may be disadvantaged, or not had the opportunities you've had in life, and how you empower people to help themselves and change their lives. It's about respect for fellow human beings really.

Has your experience at RICC/JNC altered that description?

No, I think I am still that same person, at least I hope that I am! I hope that I have been able to do my job as a manager, but coming from the perspective of a community worker. Sometimes, that has been very difficult to try and achieve, but on balance, I think I have managed to do that.

Is there still a place for “grassroots workers” in Neighbourhood Centres? Or are they now Managers and Operation Managers?

Imagine living in a community sector world where there were no grassroots workers masquerading as managers! No doubt that the managerial part of the job can be demanding, onerous, time consuming and often frustrating, especially when dealing with bureaucracies and red tape. The 21st century seems to have heralded in more red tape for small community organisations than ever before! However, being creatively involved in community development work, and planning and delivering community projects that actually make a difference in people's lives, more than makes up for that other unexciting part of the job.

You also said “I believe that big things can be achieved by little people” Do you still agree with this?

Absolutely! Look what we've achieved in 10 years - the profile we have in our local community and the numbers of people who utilise the centre. Look at all the brilliant things that other workers achieved over the 35 years. Go right back to the beginning and remember those women like Grace Runnerstrum who never let anything stand in the way of getting resources from somewhere to meet a need.

What about little people in the community?

Yes, lots of people become “little”, invisible, especially when they are socially isolated through mental illness, poverty, lack of educational opportunities, unemployment or other factors. One of the most powerful pieces of work that we can do is to be the voice for people who are invisible because they are marginalised and disadvantaged, and encourage and support them to speak

out, join in, assist others and regain their confidence and self respect. Now that's real community work!

Funding issues were a constant theme in the newsletters from 2002 onwards. Has that changed?

It certainly changed for this organisation in the last 6 months. We've become the successful recipient of several large state grants and that money will fund a new centre in Randwick as well as providing a raft of services that have the potential to make huge changes to people's lives in this LGA. Funding was certainly a recurrent theme in our newsletters and I used the front page many times to take all of the three levels of Government to task about their failures to assist us to meet community needs by providing funding. Interestingly, in my many meetings with Government ministers and bureaucrats over the past 10 years, there hasn't been an occasion I can remember, when they weren't aware of our newsletter. I made it my mission to ensure that I included every politician and departmental head I could think of on our mailing list. I know that doing this has helped raise our profile and generated some surprising interest in the organisation and from time to time, new funding.

Is JNC more secure in 2011?

Yes, JNC is very financially secure right now. However, not just financially but also our profile in the community and an enviable reputation for the high quality services we deliver.

You've spoken a number of times about “being responsive to community needs.” Can Neighbourhood Centres still assess what the community needs or is it Government funding that shapes what NC's provide?

Look, I think it's a bit of both. Neighbourhood Centres have always been the first response to a new need in the local community. Because we are accessible, people walk in our door, have a chat, tell us what is going on out in the community, and get some help and assistance if they need it. Often they might want us to come to a community meeting somewhere, like a housing estate, so we can see first hand that there is a problem of some kind or an issue bothering a group of people. It's not rocket science, we talk to people to find out what is going on. We then have a responsibility to do something about it and we do!

However, the reality is that no matter how pressing the need or issue is, it may never get the attention it deserves from government departments. That may be because they have identified other needs, or they don't or won't provide funding or other practical resources, or they simply don't care. The newsletter has been used to publicise these issues many times as well. At the end of the day, we can be responsive about needs in our local community but that doesn't always mean that we can help to meet them.

What community needs are not being met?

Public housing, public housing, public housing...not nearly enough of it, thanks to 11 years of neglect by the Howard Government. The lack of affordable rental properties in the whole of the Eastern Sydney area puts many families at risk of eviction and homelessness. We certainly see many families who are in this high risk category. Mental health and the lack of crisis services, and post crisis support services, comes a close second. The Labour Federal Government has poured a significant amount of money

into mental health services but it is hard to see where they are and what difference they are making. We internally fund and support some mental health groups for people with depression and anxiety, as they make up quite a significant part of our service provision. These are the most significant needs and of course they are not confined to this area alone.

The VISION of the JNC is to contribute to, and be part of a community that works together for Reconciliation, Fairness, Justice, Acceptance and Tolerance for all. Do you think The JNC is successful in this vision?

Yes I do think we are successful in striving to meet our vision. Really, that is the most important thing we can do – continually strive to reach this goal because it means we are all focused on trying to get there and that means things like quality in our services, respect for our clients, committed workers, energy and creativity, support and encouragement and other aspirations. It is a fantastic vision to have and it came about as a result of lots of team discussions and a very strong desire from the JNC workers to have a vision that wasn't just about the organisation, it was about the ideal community that we all wanted to be part of. Because we "own" our vision, we work hard to see it realised.

You have been at the helm of the NC for a decade, how does it feel?

First of all, it's hard to believe – that time has just passed by in a flash. The JNC has been a big part of my life and so it is important for me to reflect on the past 10 years, and the many changes this organisation has gone through, and the hard decisions we all have had to make at various times. It feels both exciting and regretful to be leaving, but the timing is perfect and I feel that I have finished what I set out to do. However, no matter where I am in the future, I will always be checking out the JNC website to find out what's going on!

What are the highlights and successes of your decade?

a.) Undoubtedly being involved in campaigning and lobbying for our new Industrial Award (SACS) in 2002 was a huge highlight. Not just for workers at The JNC but for all community workers in the state. It was fantastic to get this organisation involved in these issues in an activist way, probably for the first time, and actually be part of a strong push for government and community recognition for the job that we do.

b.) Finally getting a permanent home for The JNC was probably the single biggest achievement to ensure the long term security of the organisation. Not having permanent premises for several years affected everyone in the organisation, and the lobbying we undertook to finally secure long term premises was exhausting and at times, demoralising. When we finally achieved this hard won goal, we were ecstatic.

c.) Publicly and significantly recognising the work volunteers do in our centre. Volunteers are often invisible people and it's very hard to get publicity about them, other than when something exceptional happens. No community organisation in the state, and certainly not this one, could deliver half of its services without the help of volunteers. Volunteers are on management committees, they're driving people to doctor's appointments, taking English classes, helping out on the front desk in the centre, providing tax help assistance, facilitating groups, and many other roles and duties - the list is endless.

In recognition of the support that volunteers give to this organisation, we instituted the Grace Runnerstrum Award,

to publicly thank a selected volunteer, each year at our AGM. We have a Roll of Honour Board above our reception desk on which their name is recorded. Grace was a long-term volunteer for almost 30 years, from the early days of the organisation and we thought it fitting that the annual JNC Volunteer of The Year Award should be named after her.

d) On February 13th 2008, we publicly said SORRY, on the front page of The JNC News, acknowledging and apologising for past and present injustices suffered by the Indigenous Community in this local area. We also recognised their right to achieve social justice. We

celebrated this commitment with the young kids and their teachers at La Perouse Public School. It was both a tearful and joyous occasion and one I will never forget.

Any regrets or things you would have changed?

Not being able to secure a community work traineeship for a female Indigenous Worker in 2009, was disheartening. I spent many long hours trying to lobby the federal government to fund such a position here at The JNC. However, we have just received funding in the last 2 months, to employ a part time Indigenous community development worker. I guess that is a great ending to be able to relate.

What do you see as the future of JNC?

I see a fantastic future for The JNC. I'm leaving at a very good time. The organisation is secure, it's got a fantastic reputation and profile, a strong and committed management committee, and a very talented team of workers. Part of the work that I have been very passionate about here is making sure the whole organisation works from a social justice perspective. This sounds fancy but really, it's just about recognising the reasons for disadvantage, understanding the inequalities in our society, and empowering people and helping them to take control of their own destiny. If that is what a "grassroots" community worker can do, then that is plenty.

I can't finish without quoting Rob Riley on working towards achieving social justice. Rob was a Western Australian indigenous community worker, whom I never had the privilege of meeting, but will always wish I did, "you can't be wrong when you are right."



Barb at the "Help Save Our Services" Rally in 2002

The JNC Celebrates National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week 2011! But how to celebrate? How to recognise the major contribution volunteers make to communities right across Australia? And most importantly, the vital part volunteers play at The Junction Neighbourhood Centre - in our programmes, our groups, our classes. And, specifically, within our Aged and Disability Programme I am minding at the moment while Megan is on leave.

Our A&D volunteers are a very special type – they do home visits, give social support and, of course, they help on the bus. The JNC bus gets a regular run for shopping trips, day away adventures and more recently respite outings.

So why not celebrate our volunteer contribution during the shopping trip outing? What a good idea, Jan! So we decided we would all meet at Eastgardens at the end of the regular Monday shopping – clients, workers and volunteers. Michel's Patisserie was an obvious place to meet – always a favourite. So we met on the Monday morning of Volunteer Week – it was wonderful and everyone had a great time! There was coffee, pastries

'Our A&D volunteers are a very special type – they do home visits, give social support and, of course, they help on the bus'

and even a special cake saying "Thank You Volunteers!". All organised by Amneh (Anne) who is running the bus while Megan is away.

And there was more; a presentation and photo opportunity where each volunteer was given a Certificate of Recognition, movie tickets and a slice of the cake. All in recognition and a gesture of thanks for the great work volunteers do at the Junction for our clients and for our local community. I have to say I did enjoy myself – I always do! – and I can't wait for the next volunteer celebration. But then every day, we say thanks to our volunteers. Thank you!

As a postscript, the Southern Courier newspaper was also in attendance at our volunteer event. VAST, our Volunteer and Service Training arm, had arranged with the Courier to do a feature article on one of our A&D volunteers, Barbara. Hopefully you saw the item and a great photo in the Courier on 17th May'11 (See the item opposite). Well done, Barbara!

Jan Muller
Acting Coordinator – Aged and Disability Programme

TAX HELP

Thursdays, July 28 - October 27

10.00am - 4.00pm

It's that time of year again with our TAX Help service commencing soon. Joanne, our Tax Help volunteer, will be starting Thursday 28 July and will be here each Thursday from 10.00am to 4.00pm through to the last Thursday, 27 October.

What you need to know

1. We don't take bookings for anyone with a business, or for people earning over \$50,000 per year.
2. Please bring with you your Tax File Number, Group Certificates, otherwise known as Payment Summaries, and last year's, or last submitted, tax return details.
3. This service is only for people who want help with last year's tax return (not for multiple returns)

This is always a very popular service so make your appointments soon by calling the JNC on 93498200. **BOOK EARLY!**

LIFESTYLE? GENES? WHAT REALLY CAUSES CANCER?

Cancer Council NSW needs your help to find out what causes cancer.

We are undertaking a landmark research initiative to assess the causes of cancer. The CLEAR Study has the potential to lead to cancer breakthroughs.

You – or someone you know - can participate if you have been diagnosed with cancer for the first time within the past 18 months.

We need 10,000 people by the end of 2011. We are halfway there, but we need your help.

Participation in the CLEAR study involves completing a questionnaire and providing a small blood sample (optional). Both are a one time only activity, and there are no further obligations. It's that simple to help us find the answers.

You can participate in the CLEAR Study online at www.clearstudy.org.au or receive a paper copy by calling 1800 500 894 (free call in NSW).



The JNC Volunteers - Our Community Heroes



Above: Volunteer Barbara Murray

An article to promote the spirit of volunteering

VAST approached the Southern Courier for assistance to celebrate Volunteer Week and recognise the work of our community heroes. Barbara Murray (pictured left) is one of them. Barbara has been volunteering with The Junction Neighbourhood Centre for the last five years and her work and volunteering spirit has been recognised and acknowledged by the JNC and now by the media. We are sure this article will help us promote the spirit of volunteering. The Courier article is pictured below.

COMMUNITY HEROES

Help someone shop

Deborah Jackson

THE Junction Neighbourhood Centre (JNC) provides an invaluable service to our elderly community and it is all thanks to the tireless work of volunteers.

Barbara Murray has been volunteering with the JNC for the past five years since retiring.

"I always knew I wanted to do volunteer work when I retired," she said.

"What I do is I take people shopping. I have certain people that I see either weekly or fortnightly.

"They are people who have difficulty doing it by themselves. It is just the two of us and I take them wherever they want to go."



Above: Volunteer Barbara Murray (right) with client Shiela out shopping.



Above: Volunteer Mary Al Layouts
Below: Amneh (Anne) Harb (A&D worker)



Above front left: Volunteers - Mary, Bernadette & Tanya. At the tables, clients and other volunteers enjoying the celebrations.



Below from left: Dot (client) Bernadette & Tanya



Below left: Volunteer Mary Madiman with Jan Muller (A&D Coordinator)





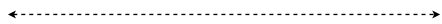
Address: Shop 2, 669-673 Anzac Parade, Maroubra 2035;
Phone: 9349 8200; Fax: 9344 7294; Email: info@jnc.org.au; Website: www.jnc.org.au

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Maroubra 2035

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**The Junction Neighbourhood Centre News
is proudly sponsored by**



**The JNC thanks
Clovelly Community Bank for their sponsorship grant of \$2000
to purchase kitchen and office equipment for the new centre in Randwick**

**We also appreciate the \$3,000 Grant
that assists in the publication of the JNC newsletter.**