

'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 JNC Welcomes Two New Projects & New Staff

South East Sydney Community Strengthening Partnership and Domestic Violence Education & Awareness Project

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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"

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