

Autumn 2023

“Maybanke Matters”

ABN 17 817 961 769

Presidents Update



I hope 2023 has got off to an excellent start for you. At Maybanke we've started the year well, the staff have been very busy with several clients leaving Maybanke to start the next chapter of their lives. We provide Crisis accommodation, so it is important that, when they are ready, we help clients to move forward into permanent accommodation. This is challenging with the current housing rental crisis, and I'd like to acknowledge the great work our staff are doing to aid clients to find appropriate accommodation plus the enormous amount of work to help them with the move and to prepare the empty unit quickly for a new resident.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Maybanke, if you wish to get in touch to work closer with Maybanke or have any feedback on this newsletter please contact me at: president@maybanke.org.au

Jacky

2023 Maybanke Management Committee



Thank you to all the supporters who attended the Maybanke Annual General Meeting. The annual report presented highlighted details of yet another busy year and Heather, one of Maybanke's support workers, related a case study regarding two previous Maybanke residents.

We also formally thanked Jenny Matulaitis who retired from the Management Committee after a decade of service. We wish Jenny well in her retirement.

We'd like to welcome the supporters who signed up for membership of Maybanke Association Inc at the AGM. If becoming a member of Maybanke Association Inc is of interest to you, please contact me directly: president@maybanke.org.au

Donations

Staff were overwhelmed at Christmas with the many, many donations that were both scheduled and surprises! Every day brought about a new pick up of toys, vouchers and presents for the women. The Manager's office was filled many times over!



As the staff said: "It was so joyful, collecting all the amazing toys."

"I can't believe how generous people are."

The fabulous variety of donations received really helped, we were able to ensure the women & children staying at Maybanke had special treats & surprises for Christmas.

With several new families moving into Maybanke the ongoing support given by Soroptimist International Bayside in the form of moving in laundry baskets containing many cleaning/laundry essentials has been invaluable. It not only makes it easier for the staff preparing the units but is a great welcome for the families.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation.

Donations making a Difference

Last year we were very fortunate to receive a fantastic donation from Rotary Club of Redlands Bayside which came about as a result of their fundraising Swimathon. We are using these funds to directly help the families at Maybanke.

For example, one of the children has been struggling at school, she is a very bright girl, and the school could not understand why her grades were falling so significantly. Staff noticed one of her eyes wasn't staying focused and made an appointment at the optometrist. Unfortunately, she has multiple issues with her eyes, notably being unable to read text and numbers without them jumping around and rearranging on the page or screen. The costs involved for eye therapy and specialist glasses are unmanageable for her Mum, this is where we were able to help with using the funds from Rotary. We were able to cover the cost of the glasses and help Mum with the therapy costs. So thank you to the Rotary Club of Redlands Bayside, your donation will be life changing for this young girl.

CASE STUDY

History

Emily had previously resided in another state with her partner and her children and stepchildren. It was a long-term relationship that began without any issues. After some time, Emily began to experience family and domestic violence perpetrated against her. There was significant financial, physical, and emotional/verbal abuse, and the perpetrator's children also created a very unsafe environment for Emily and her children. Emily's children had also been experiencing many complex physical and psychological problems. Emily left the relationship and stayed with her adult daughter but sadly Emily experienced family violence again and was referred to Maybanke Accommodation and Crisis Service for ongoing support with her recovery from Family and Domestic violence.

Arrival at Maybanke

Emily was transferred from another refuge due to the high needs for Emily's daughter Carly needing access to hospital, so that she can attend regular medical appointments. During their stay at Maybanke we provided the following support:

- Referral to an Indigenous support service for counselling via phone appointments for Emily, and medical support for the children Carly and George. This included dental, mental health plans, and referral to a Pediatrician for George to have an ADHD assessment and treatment.
- The children were supported to enroll in the local High school with assistance from support workers.
- Uniforms for school attendance were funded through Zephyr Foundation who provide funding for school uniforms and school supplies for families in crisis.
- Emily received support to apply for brokerage and financial aid from Victims Assist. This application was approved, and Emily is now receiving financial support to assist in setting up her new home.
- Emily received brokerage in the way of furniture provided by Maybanke as a service to enable Emily to move into the private rental for which she was approved.
- Emily and the children were provided with gifts cards, Christmas gifts and food hampers from multiple organizations at Christmas from many services who support our families. We are so grateful for this assistance received from organizations such as Friends with Dignity, the Local Ambulance service, Zonta and many others.
- Our Child Support Worker provided assistance to refer the children to schooling that offered an alternative arrangement with partial attendance at the Centre Education Program. This alternate learning platform will have smaller class sizes, flexible learning options, partial attendance agreements and support from Youth Workers who come to the home and support children to get ready for school and transport them to and from school at the end of the day. This program is run specifically for children like Carly and George who have specialized needs and will provide support with mental health concerns such as anxiety, depression, and recovery from traumatic events. It will also allow for flexible learning arrangements for Carly when she is needing extended periods away from school to attend to her health care needs.
- There was also additional support to access new school shoes and school supplies, for school in 2023 through the local community centre for the children; and
- Support to access housing, and successfully move into a private rental.

Outcomes: Moving On

Emily was proactive in her recovery and engaged with the support that was offered by our staff. Emily actively searched for private rentals with support from her case manager. She was successful in finding a private rental that was even closer to the hospital for Carly and had closer access to the ongoing educational and emotional supports through Centre Education Program. Emily is now able to have a fresh start in long term safe and secure accommodation and continue to thrive in her continued recovery.

(Names have been changed)

SANTA'S VISIT

Once again Santa found time in his busy December schedule to pop into the Maybanke Christmas Party with gifts for the children. Thank you, Santa!



Upcoming Events

Annual Candlelight Vigil to remember those lost to Family & Domestic Violence: Wednesday 3rd May 2023 -Venue and time to be confirmed. This event is organised by Redland City Council.

Diner en Rouge: Annual Fundraiser organised by Redland City Council to support Redlanders affected by Family & Domestic Violence. Saturday 27 May 2023. Venue to be announced.

Maybanke Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 25th October 2023. 7pm RSL Redlands, Cleveland

