

Menzies NEWS

INTRODUCING: 'THE DAME'



The Dame

COMING SOON

Menzies Support Services is excited to announce we will launch a community-integrated pop-up vintage, retro, new and recycled social enterprise clothing store opening in June.

Menzies has partnered with Foundation Murrindindi to bolster the delivery of responsive and effective support programs. Our friends at Foundation Murrindindi have leased 88A Grant Street Alexandria, and we are subletting the shop-front from them.

This program, operated by Menzies, will support people with disability, people returning to work and trainees through our partnerships, providing them with meaningful and engaging connection with the community whilst gaining life and pre-work skills within a safe and supportive retail environment.

The name 'The Dame' maintains the connection with Dame Pattie Menzies who was born in Alexandria, lobbied, campaigned, and became the patron of Dame Pattie Menzies Centre in 1980 after the purchase of 'The Mount' property. Read more about Dame Pattie Menzies on page 5.

Plans for the shop are coming together. A group of Menzies staff, clients and volunteers teamed up to paint the interior. Meanwhile at The Mount, the Garage Projects group are busy restoring a table and desk for the shop.

We welcome donations from the community to support The Dame program. Items can be donated at the Menzies office in Nihil Street, or we can arrange collection from your home or business.


- New and used clothing for all ages, in great condition;
- Vintage and retro clothing and accessories;
- Designer labels and brands;
- Jewellery, accessories and footwear;
- Small home décor including items for upcycling.

More news about this fantastic community initiative will come via local media, the Menzies website and social media.

www.menziessupport.org.au/the-dame

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MAY
Nicole Savoulla
Evan

watch THIS space



with Ian Hewitt

RECIPE

5-ingredient bolognese rice bake



Source: taste.com.au

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 brown onion thinly sliced
- 500g beef mince
- 500g jar pasta sauce
- 500g pre-cooked rice (you can use packets of cooked rice from the supermarket)
- 80g (1 cup) shredded cheese

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large ovenproof frying pan over medium-high heat. Add 1 brown onion, halved, thinly sliced and cook, stirring occasionally, for 3-4 minutes or until just softened. Add beef mince, breaking up any lumps, for 5 minutes or until browned. Season. Add pasta sauce and 1/3 cup water, then bring to a simmer.


2. Separate the rice grains and add rice to the beef mixture. Stir to combine, breaking up any large lumps of rice with a wooden spoon. Cook for 2-3 minutes or until the rice is heated through. Smooth the surface and turn off heat.
3. Preheat grill to high. Sprinkle cheese over beef mixture (see notes). Grill for 2-3 minutes or until cheese is golden and bubbling. Serve.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday 7 June ‘The Dame’ shopfront opens
- Sunday 9 June Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show
- Monday 10 June King’s Birthday public holiday



Find us on
Facebook
 @MenziesSupportServices



ALEXANDRA
 Carers meeting carers over a friendly and free morning, sharing information about carer supports available. Enquiries please phone Anthea 0418 402 455.



Phone: (03) 5772 1888
 On-call: 0427 579 961
 Email: reception@menziessupport.org.au

Office: 49 Nihil Street Alexandra 3714
 The Mount: 2456 GV Highway Alexandra
 Mansfield: By appointment

Web: menziessupport.org.au
 Facebook: @MenziesSupportServices

Contributors/Suggestions:
 Please submit material for publication in Menzies News to Leisa Dent by email: leisad@menziessupport.org.au

Local artist extends a warm welcome



The Creativity Club program invites participants to unleash their creative flair using a variety of art and craft materials and tools, working in a group to share a passion for art and celebrate individual creativity.

We recently visited Rennie's at Acheron, where we saw fabulous outdoor sculptures made with steel and glass, and reflected on how the sculptures made us feel.

Artist Marian Rennie made us feel very welcome and made us coffee. Thank you Marian for inviting us to see these inspiring creations.

Above: Bernadette enjoyed the glass flowers.

Right: Nicole with a creation built in steel.



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COMMUNITY AGED CARE NEWS



During our Social Support thrift store trip to Benalla we paused to admire the new street art .



Social Support cooking: Ann and Carol at The Mount.

SOCIAL SUPPORT UPDATE *with Jamie*

During May we have a variety of social activities and outings on offer.

Join us as we travel around the Dandenong ranges Botanic Garden Autumnal Display, on a commentated bus tour.

For shopping we'll travel to Lilydale Marketplace, Westfield, and Chirnside Park.

Morning Melodies at Healesville RSL will feature the Olivia and Dolly Parton Country Chicks tribute show, and at Whittlesea we will listen to the Neil Diamond show.

We'll see 'The Great Escaper' at Swanpool Cinema, have lunch at The General at Strathcreek, visit the Flowerdale Opp shop, and take a drive to Euroa.

There will also be activities closer to home including social lunches in Alexandra and Eildon, and we are invited to tour 'The Dame' shop in Alexandra, followed by a Devonshire tea at our Menzies office, and a Highlands scenic tour.

Please see your social support schedule for details and RSVP to reserve your place.

CONTACTING MSS DURING OUTAGES

If electricity or internet outages disrupt our phone system and you need to talk to us urgently during office hours, you can phone the on-call number:
0427 579 961

Remembering Dame Pattie Menzies



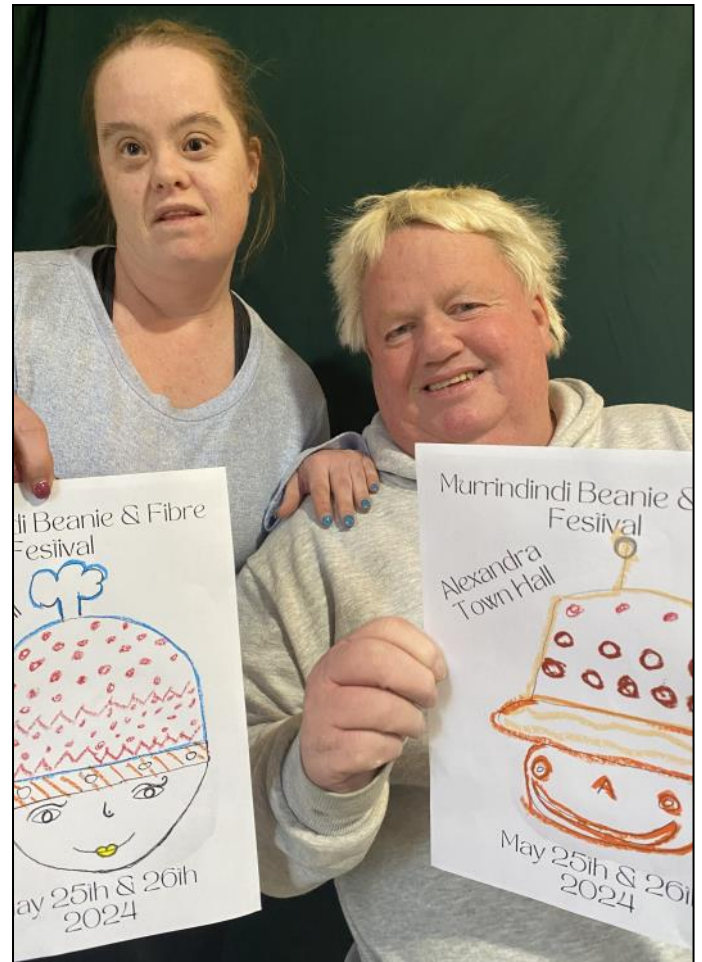
Dame Pattie Menzies, left, opened the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre in 1981; pictured with Kath Cooper, Shire President; and Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, Commonwealth Minister for Finance.

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Word Search

- BORN PATTIE LECKIE
- GREW UP ALEXANDRA
- PLAYED TENNIS
- DPMC PATRON
- OPENED THE MOUNT
- PUBLIC SPEAKER
- CANBERRA FOOTPATHS
- CHARITY WORK
- ELECTORAL TOURS
- MELBOURNE HOSPITALS
- AGED PERSONS HOMES
- LIBERAL FOUNDATION
- SIR ROBERT MENZIES

Meanwhile, at The Mount



Left. Adam at The Mount.

Above: Community Art participants Anne-Marie and Darren have been teaching students at St Mary's how to make Murrindindi Beanie Festival posters using pastel and watercolour.



Plan Management Cessation

Menzies Support Services has made the executive decision to cease providing NDIS Plan Management Services effective 14th May 2024.

You can use the NDIS Provider Finder to help you choose a new Plan Management service:

www.ndis.gov.au/participants/working-providers/find-registered-provider/provider-finder

Whilst we understand that moving to a new provider may sound daunting, the new providers will support you to achieve a smooth transition through a relatively quick and simple process once you contact them and request their service. Please contact us directly, via email PM@menziessupport.org.au or phone 5772 1888 when you make alternative arrangements and secure a new provider as we will need to correspond with them about releasing your plan managed funds.

We would sincerely like to thank you for working with us as we Plan Managed your NDIS Plan and wish you well in the future.

ADMINISTRATION ROLES



WE
ARE
HIRING

menziessupport.org.au/careers

Tip-offs helping to catch NDIS fraudsters

Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Government Services Bill Shorten is thanking Australians for providing critical tip offs to stop fraudsters and crooks ripping off people with disability.

There's been a radical increase in the number of fraud tip-offs to the National Disability Insurance Agency since the Albanese Government set up the Fraud Fusion Taskforce (FFT) in November 2022.

In the most recent quarter, the NDIA received 4,667 tip-offs related to fraud and compliance issues – an increase of more than 75 per cent on similar quarters prior to the establishment of the FFT. That trend has continued in 2024, with more than 2,000 tip-offs received in the month of February alone.

These tips off are leading to investigations and prosecutions. In recent weeks, two major prosecutions have highlighted the role all Australians can play in preventing fraud against the NDIS.

In one investigation, tip-offs led to two women being charged, with one pleading guilty and another being found guilty following a trial.

One of the women was last week (Friday 12 April) found guilty of falsifying reports and overcharging for services in a Sydney court. She could face years behind bars after a jury found her guilty on all 22 counts of fraud-related offences.

A tip-off led the NDIA's fraud team to investigate the former healthcare practitioner, with 36 witnesses – including 20 NDIS participants – giving evidence in court during the trial.

Charges included dishonestly obtaining a financial advantage from the Commonwealth, with an alleged fraud value of more than \$1 million.

The second investigation resulted in woman being jailed last month in Queensland for three-and-a-half years for her involvement in an attempt to defraud the NDIS.

The NDIA had investigated the QLD case after receiving complaints people had been claiming for services they never actually provided to an NDIS participant. The woman was among four people arrested and charged from the investigation, with all four pleading guilty to charges of General Dishonesty against the Commonwealth.

“These two cases have a couple of things in common. Significantly, they both started after people told authorities they suspected these crooks were taking advantage of NDIS participants,” Minister Shorten said.

‘I'd like to thank Australians for supporting our efforts to rid the NDIS of fraudsters, scammers, rorters and criminals.

“This Government has made no secret of our focus on combating fraud against the NDIS and stamping out any dodgy operators. This increased focus has seen the number of tip-offs received by the NDIA skyrocket, and the Agency assesses every tip-off it receives.

“We also established the Fraud Fusion Taskforce and invested heavily in measures to further strengthen the integrity of the Scheme.”

The Crack Down on Fraud program, announced in February and deployed by the NDIA, is now allowing detection of assessments and claims by dodgy providers. These cases are being taken seriously and will lead to a significant number of prosecutions.

Minister Shorten warned those seeking to exploit people with disability that they would be caught, and urged anyone who suspects the misuse of NDIS funding to continue contacting authorities. The FFT assesses every tip-off it receives.

“Since commencing in 2022, the Fraud Fusion Taskforce has investigated more than 100 cases with over \$1 billion of NDIS funding,” Minister Shorten said. “For the NDIS to thrive, we need to ensure that every dollar of the NDIS is going towards supporting people with disability.

I want any would-be crook looking to prey on those who rely on NDIS funding to be caught and prosecuted.”

Anyone with information about suspected fraud involving the NDIS should contact the NDIS fraud helpline on 1800 650 717, or email:

fraudreporting@ndis.gov.au.



Stay informed with NDIS news
www.ndis.gov.au/news | Facebook: facebook.com/NDISAus

Work with us!



- **Project Manager:** Fixed term 12-month contract, part time 15.2 hours per week (with an additional day when required). This position will support the Murrindindi Health Network and the Murrindindi Aged and Disability Workforce Network to facilitate access to training and professional development of the Aged care, Disability and Health industries across Murrindindi.
- **Service Delivery Assistant, Community Aged Care:** Fixed term maternity leave backfill position, 60.8 hours per fortnight (with additional hours as required). This is a key role within the Community Aged Care team, the primary function of the role is to ensure that support services are scheduled/delivered to service users as per their individual service agreements.



To learn more visit: menziessupport.org.au/careers

Enquiries: ceo@menziessupport.org.au | Phone: 5772 1888

Applications to: careers@menziessupport.org.au

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Training will be offered this year in a variety of formats including taster courses, short courses, professional development and full accredited certificate courses. Training will be held locally.

Menzies Support Services is collecting expressions of interest on behalf of the Murrindindi Health Network. If you would like to receive updates, please send your contact details to:

careers@menziessupport.org.au

Website: murrindindihealthnetwork.com.au

DIRECTORY

EMERGENCY

Dial Triple Zero 000

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Alexandra Family Medical
114 Grant St, 5772 1699

Alexandra Medical Centre
54 Downey St, 5772 1444

Alexandra Taxi
0408 576 420

Murrindindi Shire Council
www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au
Access and Inclusion Officer
Andrew Langley, 5772 0333

My Aged Care
www.myagedcare.gov.au
1800 200 422

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission
www.agedcarequality.gov.au
1800 951 822

OPAN (Older Persons Advocacy Network)
1800 700 600 | opan.org.au

NDIS
ndis.gov.au | 1800 800 110
facebook.com/NDISAus
youtube.com/DisabilityCare

NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission
1800 035 544
www.ndiscommission.gov.au

The Disability Gateway
1800 643 787
disabilitygateway.gov.au

VALID
Free independent advocacy for Victorians over 18 with an intellectual disability.
1800 655 570 | valid.org.au

Association for Children with Disability
acd.org.au

Self Advocacy Resource Unit (SARU)
03 9639 6856 | saru.net.au

Mental Health Victoria
www.mhvic.org.au/

Nurse on Call
1300 60 60 24

Poisons Information
13 11 26