

# Somerville news

THIRD QUARTER, 2017

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## Somerville CEO to be next Administrator of the Northern Territory

**Vicki O'Halloran, our beloved CEO, will become the next Administrator of the Northern Territory. This is an amazing honour and we are incredibly proud of Vicki.**

This appointment is testimony to Vicki's terrific capacity and the deep respect the Northern Territory community holds for her. Vicki has excelled as a Territory leader who has dedicated her working life to the community services sector, relentlessly working to make each day better for people facing significant challenges.

Vicki's appointment as Administrator is a very popular choice. She will be a model to all Territorians of what it is to be a strong, compassionate, creative, dedicated and loyal leader who highly values integrity. Vicki is admired and respected widely – by government, churches, schools, communities on the local front and indeed on the national stage, and of course by those she cares for directly.

When she takes office on 1 November 2017, Vicki will retire from Somerville after 25 years of service and 20 years as Chief Executive Officer.

She has led the agency creatively, always insisting on high standards and developing it into an organisation that is held in the highest regard.

Vicki was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2014. Vicki has been a champion of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, leading the disability services peak body, National Disability Services, as a National Chair during the development of the scheme. She has been a member of the NDS National Committee for 10 years and chaired it for 3 years.

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# Somerville CEO to be next Administrator of the Northern Territory

*continued from front page*

While Somerville has been her prime focus, Vicki has been generous with her time, serving the community on many boards and committees through her commitment to community and her tireless energy. Boards and committees she has served include:

- National Disability Services Northern Territory (Chair, 2011-2017)
- National Disability Services (National President 2012-2015)
- Northern Territory Government Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability Reform
- Northern Territory Government Red Tape Reduction Strategy NGO Advisory Council
- St Philips College and St Philips College Finance Committee
- Northern Territory Council of Social Services
- The Essington School Darwin (Chair, 2012-2015)
- Northern Territory Water Safety Advisory Council
- Northern Territory Government Community Benefit Fund
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Pricing Committee
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Operations Committee
- National Disability Insurance Agency Independent Advisory Council's Housing Innovations Working Group

- Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Northern Territory
- Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Not for Profit Chairs Forum
- Territory Economic Summit External Reference Group
- Children Australia Journal's Editorial Board
- Juror of the Australian Institute of Architects Northern Territory Architecture Awards.
- and more.

Being busy never detracted from Vicki's commitment to treat people as individuals – she always undertakes sensitive acts of kindness and consideration. She is a dedicated family person; family features strongly in her daily world and Vicki always seeks the very best for her husband Craig and her daughter Coco. At present Vicki is on long service leave to fully support Coco in her last few months of year 12.

So Vicki is indeed a special person. We have been proud to work with her at Somerville. We look forward to her time as Administrator and know that she will do it in her own individual and outstanding way. Go Vicki!

*Cover photo: Vicki O'Halloran, CEO. (Credit: Katrina Bridgford/Newspix).*

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## Diversity and Inclusion Group

**Workplace diversity is one of Somerville's greatest strengths, with 78 per cent of our employees originating from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These employees bring a wide range of cultural, professional and personal experience, which Somerville embraces and celebrates. Somerville believes the quality of a community service is directly reflected by the commitment and vision shown by employees.**

Somerville aims to foster a supportive, inclusive and harmonious work environment that respects all employees, acknowledges their diverse strengths and unique contributions as well as the values from their own cultures that they bring to the workplace.

Somerville's Diversity and Inclusion Group continues to develop work practices and innovative strategies through dialogues and by learning and understanding different cultures.

Some of the group's achievements include:

- Publishing the Somerthis and Somerthat – Sharing Diversity Cookbook
- Redeveloping the Diversity and Inclusion training module
- Organising and celebrating various events such as Harmony Day and Diversity Day
- Celebrating the International Women's Day High Tea
- Publishing a diversity calendar
- Forming the Somerville Choir



- Writing a song for Somerville – "We Believe" – about diversity, opportunities and that we all have a story to tell.

Somerville was awarded the NT Human Rights Fitzgerald Diversity Award in 2015. This award is for individuals or organisations whose activities focus on promoting, protecting and fulfilling human rights of diverse communities in the Northern Territory. Somerville's Diversity and Inclusion Group was recognised for its work in celebrating diversity through the above initiatives.

*Photo: Somerville's Diversity and Inclusion Group.*

## Somerville recognised through the Good Shepherd Sisters Awards

**Somerville has been awarded the Good Shepherd Sisters Award for Program Excellence. This national award is focused on the development of new or innovative approaches that enable microfinance programs to better meet the needs of clients.**

Somerville won the award for its efforts in improving the flexibility and accessibility of the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) in 2016–17, which resulted in a 94 per cent increase in families and individuals utilising the scheme.

NILS really does make a difference to people's lives. We were delighted to receive this award in recognition of the innovative approach undertaken by our Financial Services staff.

*Photo: Kelly Gulliver, NILS Coordinator/Financial Counsellor with the Good Shepherd Sisters Award for Program Excellence.*



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## National Homelessness Prevention Week

**In August, Somerville's Family Services team hosted the annual Somerville Homelessness Event to mark National Homelessness Prevention Week. Held at Mindil Beach, the event was attended by 16 government and non-government organisations. People experiencing homelessness were provided with care packs, clinic services such as flu vaccinations and health checks, free haircuts, transport, access to shower amenities, food and hygiene packs.**

Entertainment for the event was provided by local musicians Robbie Mills and The Collectives. Prizes such as tents, eskies, and stove tops were donated by Bunnings, Anaconda and Mitchells Camping and Outdoors and drawn throughout the event.

In Katherine, Somerville's Youth and Family Services team hosted a Somerville Walk for Homelessness. The team created a homelessness shirt and posters, and were joined by representatives from the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Mission Australia walking along the riverbank and in parks connecting with people who are experiencing homelessness and providing them with information, services and survival packs.

*Photo: Somerville's Family Services team at Mindil Beach.*



## Somerville takes the prize at the 2017 Royal Darwin Show

**As has become our tradition, Somerville participated at the 2017 Royal Darwin Show in the following categories:**

- Produce
- Arts and Crafts (Homemade Greeting Cards)
- Outdoor Recycled Material.

We always have an entry in the Produce category and to keep it interesting for all facilities each year, we like to participate in at least one other category. This year we chose the Homemade Greeting Cards and the Outdoor Recycled Material categories.

Each team chose their own category entry option, and they chose as follows:

- 46 Chapman Road – Homemade Greeting Cards
- 30 Clarke Crescent – Outdoor Recycled Material (2 hanging planters)
- 155 Girraween Road – Outdoor Recycled Material (3 outdoor furniture objects made from tyres – table, seat and flowerpot vessel)
- 5 Jordon Place – Homemade Greeting Cards
- 37 Trower Road – Outdoor Recycled Material (a giant garden fairy made out of plastic bottles)
- 3 Bonson Terrace – Homemade Greeting Cards
- 3 Victoria Drive – Homemade Greeting Cards

- Disability Services Wagaman – Outdoor Recycled Material (flowers in a lovely wicker basket, made from plastic bottles)
- Family Services and Financial Services Wagaman – Homemade Greeting Cards
- Administration and Finance Wagaman – Outdoor Recycled Material (outdoor hanging garden screen made from CDs, striped phone cord/wire, and an old curtain rod)
- Assets, Infrastructure and Maintenance – Outdoor Recycled Material (a Royal Tin Family – king, queen, prince and the corgi)
- Executive Unit – Homemade Greeting Cards.

'Somervillians' are a competitive bunch, and we always have our own internal competition to see which team we believe is the most creative. Our Acting CEO, Chris Tudor, had the difficult task of judging the best homemade cards and the best outdoor recycled material object. Chris advised that it was extremely difficult to just pick one of each, but as we know there can only be one winner, so we extend our congratulations to the teams from:

- 37 Trower Road – Outdoor Recycled Material (Fairy Garden) – Disability Services
- 3 Victoria Drive – Homemade Greeting Cards – Family and Financial Services

Each winning team received a lovely hamper full of goodies to share.

Now to the Royal Darwin Show winners...

The combined Administration/Finance team won the overall best Outdoor Recycled Material category. The amazing fairy from 37 Trower Road won second prize.

Our homemade greeting cards also fared very well with the team from 46 Chapman Road winning second prize, closely followed by the team at 3 Bonson Terrace, who received a third prize.

In Somerville's entries to the Produce category, we strive to excel with presentation, variety of produce, and flourishing fruit and vegetables. We often take out first prize. This year our results were:

- Fruit and Vegetable Basket – 1st prize
- Novelty Fruit and Vegetable (unusual chilli) – 1st prize
- Variety Vegetable (tiny/wild cucumbers) – 1st prize
- Market Garden (green capsicums) – 1st prize.

The team at 9 Stutterd Street in Katherine produced a giant pumpkin, which weighed 14.85kg! But unfortunately they did not get a prize this year. This competition is judged solely on weight.

We look forward to testing our talent at the 2018 Royal Darwin Show.



Photos: Left; Royal Darwin Show recycled flowers from plastic bottles. Right; Disability Services' Royal Darwin Show Cards.



Above photos: Left; Royal Darwin Show Produce display 1st Prize. Right; Disability Services' recycled garden furniture from tyres.



Above photos: Left; Royal Darwin Show Recycled 1st Prize hanging curtain. Middle; Royal Darwin Show Recycled 2nd Prize fairy princess. Right; Royal Darwin Show Recycled 3rd Prize tin can family.



Above photos: Left; Disability Services' Royal Darwin Show Cards. Right; Royal Darwin Show recycled hanging planter from milk container.

## Katherine Garden Party

**More than 80 guests attended the Katherine Garden Party on a beautiful dry season day on 21 June 2017. The event was held in the gardens of the Katherine office at 30 First Street thanks to the hard work of our wonderful gardener, Travis.**

Service providers, government bodies and the who's who of Katherine attended to celebrate the five decades that Somerville Community Services has supported Territorians to enhance the dignity and quality of lives within the community. Staff, management and board members attended from Katherine and Darwin. The theme for the event was 'mad hatter'.

Local guest speaker Toni Tapp Coutts, author of *A Sunburnt Childhood*, provided an entertaining speech, speaking of the history of Katherine as a town as well as the history of Somerville Community Services.

Awards were presented to Paul Macam from Disability Services for achieving three years' service and Glenda Garcia, also from Disability Services, for achieving five years' service with Somerville. The Katherine team – Kelly Camm, Paul Walker and Paolo Flores – received a certificate of appreciation to



acknowledge the success of the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) in Katherine and 100 per cent success rate of payments being received for the NILS program in Katherine.

It was a great networking opportunity to showcase the wonderful work that Somerville Community Services provides.

*Photo: Somerville staff and guests at the Katherine Garden Party.*

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## Inclusion through community art shows

**At Somerville, we believe we have an important role to support and enable the people in our service to be full and active members of their community. We continue to be a leading advocate for community participation and increased community inclusion for people with disability in the NT. One such way is to support our budding artists to be involved in community art shows.**

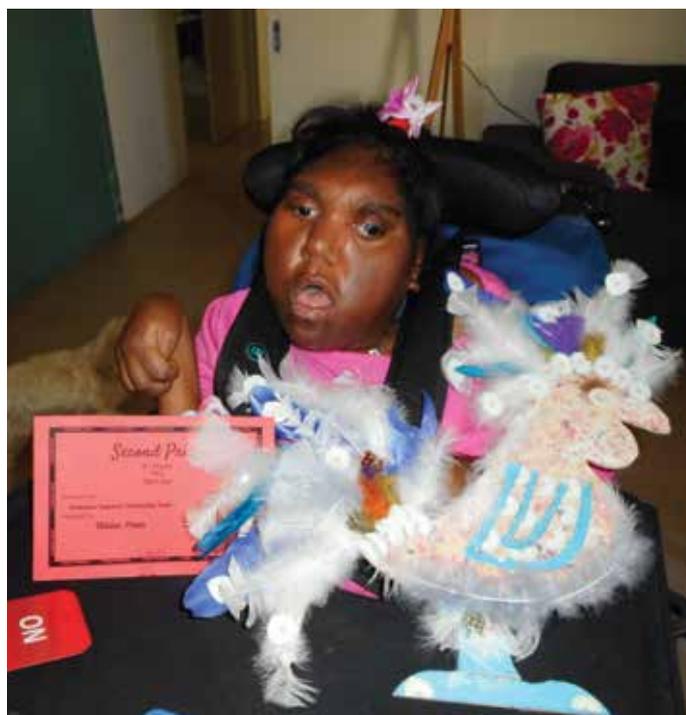
A number of Somerville participants in the Disability Services program have been active contributors to the Royal Katherine Show and Royal Darwin Show for a number of years.

This year we are very pleased to highlight Nikita Peter's contribution to the Katherine Show. Nikita created and entered her Rooster Wall Hanging with the assistance and guidance of the Step Out Arts Program. Nikita won second prize in the 'Poultry' Class P72 – Open Age. Congratulations Nikita!

Louis Tam and Gavan Roe, with the assistance of support worker Kinjo, created entries for the Royal Darwin Show in the Outdoor Recycled Materials art competition.

Ruth Ngalmijnanya and Chelsea Kinter, with the assistance of staff, helped to make homemade greeting cards. Their entry resulted in second place in this arts category at the Royal Darwin Show. They were closely followed in third place by entries from Christopher Markwell, Angela Budulngulil and Sally Davies.

See page 4 for more information and photos about Somerville's participation in the Royal Darwin Show.



*Photo: Nikita Peter with her winning Rooster Wall Hanging.*

## Art a new passion

**In the weeks leading up to the Royal Katherine Show, StepOut Community Access Program brokered an arts program for people with disability in conjunction with Katherine Regional Arts.**

The program was established to give people with disability the opportunity to express themselves through art under the guidance of an experienced artist. The end goal was to have a painting they completed themselves.

For eight weeks Marlene Mundul and Gwenda Robertson worked on their paintings with support from StepOut staff. Both thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are keen to continue with this or a similar program.

This program has been exceptionally beneficial to both Marlene and Gwenda. It gave them the opportunity to meet and socialise with people from different walks of life who share their passion for art.

Katherine Regional Arts supports local artists and cultural development in the region.



*Photos: Left to right, Marlene Mundul's painting, Gwenda Robertson's painting.*

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## Casuarina All Sports Club

**Somerville would like to thank the Casuarina All Sports Club for allowing us to be part of their Wednesday Quiz Night fundraising throughout July.**

Volunteers sold raffle tickets to patrons ahead of each weekly quiz. Every Wednesday the raffle winner was announced during the quiz.

Proceeds of the raffle, together with gold coin donations from all quiz patrons, were donated to Somerville. Overall our volunteers raised an impressive \$1,254.75.

Part of the fun for the volunteers was having a meal and joining in the quiz night. If we have the opportunity to take part again next year, we hope to have better success as contestants in the quizzes!!

*Photo: Chris Tudor (Somerville) and Sheila Kelly (Casuarina All Sports Club).*



## Somerville offers wrap-around service for Territorians

This article was originally published in the *UnitingCare Australia Newsletter, Connecting* (July 2017 edition).

**“It’s all about the people,” said Kerry Boswell, describing her work at the Northern Territory’s Palmerston Community Centre, a part of Somerville Community Services.**

“People who work here share a passion and commitment to improving people’s lives.”

Deeply embedded in the far north community, Somerville is spread across three sites – Darwin, Palmerston (a satellite city of Darwin) and Katherine (about 370 km south of Darwin) – and is a not-for-profit community service organisation with strong constitutional links to the Uniting Church as an agency of UnitingCare. It is unique to the Northern Territory and started operations in 1965 with an aim to improve the dignity and quality of life of people affected by social and economic disadvantage.

The diverse backgrounds of those working at the new Palmerston Community Centre mirror Darwin’s own

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*“At heart we all want to serve our clients, to help them find an even keel personally, financially and within their family.”*

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diversity. Kerry herself was born, raised and educated in South Africa.

Kerry said she thrived in Somerville’s team environment, and that there was something special about its level of connectedness.

“At heart we all want to serve our clients, to help them find an even keel personally, financially and within their family.

“My personal passion is in creating safety and healing for children so they can build resilient futures.”

Kerry said Palmerston Community Centre offered a ‘wrap-around’ service, with one organisation working under one roof providing therapeutic, financial and family services for the vulnerable and disadvantaged population living in the local and surrounding communities.

Kerry’s chief role at Palmerston is working as manager of Somerville’s Family Services.

“I coordinate, support and supervise a team of 13 workers across all three of our sites. Their qualifications cover the fields of social work, psychology, counselling and community work.

A vital part of my work as manager is supporting those who support our clients. I value being able to promote a healthy work and life balance.”

Kerry said that some of the major difficulties impacting the local communities included substance misuse, domestic violence, homelessness and rising youth crime.

“In response, we provide holistic case-management and counselling, we have a no-wrong-door approach, and our services are free.”

A specific example is the Intensive Family Preservation Service (IFPS), administered by Anya Soares, a Family Services Coordinator and Counsellor.

“We manage this program with Territory Families. It’s designed to work with families in crisis whose children are at risk of removal and placement. We work with families to help prevent their children leaving.

We offer parenting support, case management and family counselling.”

The IFPS is only part of Anya’s workload. She also supervises six other workers and counsellors and supports the community accommodation service for people at risk of becoming homeless or looking for rent assistance.

“The Northern Territory traditionally has the highest rate of homelessness in Australia,” Anya said. “And we’re seeing more and more families needing help.”

She said Somerville also runs transitional housing for up to five families.

“Transitional housing is medium term, providing support for up to four months. It revolves around devising an exit plan for the families – which includes a savings and general budget plan, an employment plan, a sustainable accommodation

plan – from intensive support and case management.”

The Manager for Financial Services and Special Projects Allison O’Connor emphasised that Palmerston Community Centre was a one-stop shop.

“We work very closely with the Family Services team,” Allison said.

“Financial stress is often an indicator of other issues, such as family breakdown, mental illness, domestic violence, financial abuse or gambling.”

Allison said problem gambling is a significant issue in the Northern Territory after the government increased the cap on the number of gaming machines each venue could have.

“But people don’t present due to recognising they have a gambling problem; they come in because they have issues caused by their gambling.”

One of the most important things financial counsellors do for clients is advocate on their behalf with creditors.

“We establish manageable payment options and take the pressure off clients having to deal with creditors themselves.

For their part, creditors generally like it when we become involved because it means action is being taken, benefiting both parties.”

“There is an increasing demand for our services. People have more and more debt. Credit is easily available. Financial literacy needs to be included in the school curriculum so people recognise the traps laid for them.”

Financial Services Coordinator Vicki Borzi agreed a lack of financial literacy was a significant problem.

“While many of our clients are on pensions or receiving some other government allowance, many clients are professionals. The statistics are fairly evenly distributed across income and education levels.

Part of my job is to change people’s mindsets about money, and by giving them the skills that empower them to solve their own problems and make better financial choices going forward.



*“When clients are empowered to sort out their own financial problems they walk out with their heads high.”*

I’ve seen many in construction work, for example, who have no job when the wet season sets in and they haven’t put any money aside.”

Allison said people on low incomes are often trapped by rent-to-buy contracts and payday lenders, when something like a refrigerator costing \$800 in the shop ends up costing someone at least \$3200.

“The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) is run in partnership with the National Australia Bank and Good Shepard Microfinance. Somerville provides NILS for a broad range of household items. We loan up to \$1500.

NILS is a safe, affordable alternative to payday loans and the rent-to-buy schemes.”

Allison said Somerville also offered emergency relief for utility bills.

“The money covers power and water for those who find themselves unable to pay their utilities. Given the climate in the Northern Territory many people experience ‘bill shock’ after receiving their power bill during the wet season.”

Vicki said when clients are empowered to sort out their own financial problems they walk out with their heads high.

Anya said, “You always want to see positive outcomes, for people’s lives to change course and improve. It’s amazing to watch people grow and adapt in society.

It’s challenging work, often difficult, especially when some clients return with the same or similar problems. Their lives are cyclic, but sometimes what’s important is just to be understanding and give what support you can.”

Vicki knows if her clients do not turn things around financially, it can affect their health, creating anxiety and stress that leads to illness; she said it was not unusual to receive referrals from GPs.

“In fact, one of the important functions of my job is identifying clients who need other kinds of counselling: family counselling, for example.”

*“To effect greater social change we need to advocate for better long-term government support to alleviate problems instead of taking a Band-Aid approach at the crisis end of the continuum.”*

With Family Counselling, Vicki helped develop the Step Forward Program for those in prison.

“We take the program into the prisons. The program teaches prisoners basic life skills, and three of the eight modules deal with money, budgeting and saving. It helps fill a gap in their knowledge about how money actually works.”

But for all their good and important work, funding is precarious.

“We limp along,” said Vicki.

Kerry agreed. “To effect greater social change we need to advocate for better long-term government support to alleviate problems instead of taking a Band-Aid approach at the crisis end of the continuum.

Early intervention and prevention requires long-term commitment, financial support and a good hard look at what is being done in the sector.”

She said the community services sector in the Northern Territory collaborates with one another, but all are experiencing stretched resources and overfull caseloads.

But for all that Kerry thinks she and her colleagues are blessed working for a great organisation like Somerville.

“We call ourselves ‘Somervillians,’” Kerry said with pride.

*Photo: from left, Somerville Community Services’ Vicki Borzi, Kerry Boswell, Allison O’Connor and Anya Soares.*

# Somerville's Disability Services

**Under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Somerville will continue to provide high quality, individually tailored programs to meet the needs of people with disability.**

The following is a summary of some services Somerville has on offer.

## Shared Living and Accommodation Services

Somerville operates a variety of types of supported accommodation services that promote choice, control and community inclusion for people with disability.

We work with people to identify what they want in a home and the supports they need to live the life they want.

Currently we operate 11 supported accommodation services in Darwin, Palmerston, Howard Springs and Katherine. These services are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure that each person receives the quality support they require.

This level of support from highly skilled staff allows for the implementation of various programs of specific benefit to each person ensuring they can live with greater choice, control and independence.

We also support people to live semi-independently. We can provide different levels of support depending on our participants needs and wants. Supports might include personal care, meal preparation, skills training, support to access the local community, or garden maintenance services.

## Life Skills Development Program

Somerville's Life Skills Development Program is person-centred and individually tailored to ensure chosen activities meet a person's needs, wants and aspirations. We have a mixture of community and centre based activities.

We operate an exciting and diverse program that provides varied activities under different categories including:

- Health and Fitness
- Creative Arts
- Information Communication and Technology
- Independent Life Skills
- Social Outings
- Sensory Activities
- One off events
- Just because it's fun!

Some of the programs we offer include Ladies Leisurely Lunge Café, You Can Create, East Point Express, and Fun in the Sun. If you would like to know more, call us on 08 8920 4100 or visit [www.somerville.org.au](http://www.somerville.org.au).

Our connection to and involvement with our local communities is essential to our Life Skills Development Program. We have strong partnerships with local people, organisations and businesses in the Darwin, Palmerston and Katherine regions. We are grateful for these strong partnerships and the support they provide in ensuring inclusion in the community.



If we don't offer a program that you are looking for, please call Debbie Bampton, Services Development Manager and Administrator. She may be able to link you to someone who does have it or work with you to meet your need.

*Photos: Chelsea at Chicks at the Fliks, paddle boating, Marie at the Casuarina Library.*

## Meet our Board

### Phil Johnson

#### **Phil has been a Somerville Board member since 1988.**

Phil was born and raised in Sydney. He worked for FIAT in the trucking division as the warehouse manager and after an extremely cold winter in 1978, decided it was time for a change. He saw a newspaper ad for a job with an indigenous organisation in Katherine, where the temperatures were averaging 32 degrees, and applied. His application was successful and he moved to Katherine in October 1978.

Phil arrived at 10 am on 3 October 1978 in a turbo prop plane from Alice Springs on the 'milk run' to Darwin. Phil landed at Tindal Airport, which consisted of a small single building, and was shocked that there was no town. He was driven into Katherine some 14 kilometres away and was relieved to find the town, which back then had a population of 1900 people. Phil recalls it was a very hot day and when he first felt the heat, it felt "like someone grabbing him by the throat and putting a blow torch down it."

Some months later Phil's son Damian and Damian's mother joined him in Katherine. As we know, living remotely is not everyone's choice, and Damian and his mother returned to Sydney.

After 12 months Phil moved from his initial job to Buntine Roadways. Noel Buntine had pioneered the road train industry in the Northern Territory and Phil's previous experience in trucking made him a good fit for the role.

In 1980 Damian returned to Katherine to live with his father full time. Damian would go to work with Phil when not attending his special education classes in Katherine. At this time, Somerville contacted Phil about a disability house they were establishing in Darwin.

At the age of 15 Damian moved to Darwin to live in a Somerville Disability Services house in Casuarina, then known as 'Bunyip House'. He then attended the nearby Henbury School. Phil recalls this time as very stressful as it meant sending Damian to Darwin, some 320 kilometres away.

Phil then went to work for Basil Hickey, a well-known Katherine businessman,



who owned a farm machinery business. Phil describes Basil as an entrepreneur and recalls that in those days the Territory was home to many characters like Basil.

Phil made regular trips to Darwin to visit Damian and was amazed at how many people in the community knew his son. Phil says that Somerville has always been very proactive in ensuring that people with a disability are involved in the community.

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*Phil says his time on the Somerville Board has been a great experience and he has been able to meet a wide variety of people.*

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Phil eventually bought the business from Basil with a partner and ran the business until 2009, when he sold the business, semi-retired and moved to Darwin.

Phil now works in Darwin for a company servicing fire suppressions systems. While Phil works full time, he considers he is semi-retired. Phil's son Damian is now 46 and has lived in Somerville's supported accommodation homes since he was 15. Phil – and several of his friends – share concerns about the care of their disabled children, knowing that as parents they are getting older and worrying about who will care for their child once they die.

Phil and his wife Kate would like to retire down south to a milder climate but Phil does not want to move Damian – having investigated care options interstate, he feels he would struggle to find the level of care that Damian receives at Somerville, care that has allowed him to live a full life.

Phil has worked with two CEOs – Graeme Bull and Vicki O'Halloran – during his 30 years' service on the Somerville Board, and describes Vicki as being 'uniquely talented'.

Phil also had the opportunity to meet Margaret Somerville on a number of occasions and is in awe of her remarkable story. Phil has met many of the Croker Island children who Margaret helped evacuate, as some eventually settled in Katherine. Through getting to know these children Phil has learned about both sides of the story and the legend that was Margaret.

Phil says his time on the Somerville Board has been a great experience and he has been able to meet a wide variety of people. He appreciates the skills that each of the board members bring to the board. Overall he sees the experience has been positive and has given him the opportunity to make a difference.

*Photo: Phil and Damian Johnson.*

## Meet our Board

### Dr Susana Akua Saffu

**Dr Susana Akua Saffu was born in Ghana, West Africa and has lived and worked in multicultural and multiethnic environments before migrating to Australia with her husband and three sons in 1995.**

Susana has an extensive experience working in a range of educational contexts. She began her career as a secondary school teacher and has worked in vocational education, higher education and community development for over three decades. Susana's wide ranging interests in adult education, women's education, indigenous, migrant, refugee and cross-cultural education, and online learning are inspired by her personal, professional and academic experiences as an African woman migrant, an adult educator and community development practitioner.

Susana is a passionate advocate for families and marginalised communities' advancement, and through her academic work and community service, has achieved a strong record and reputation in developing meaningful and productive working relationships with stakeholders in capacity building ventures. She serves on several local and national advisory committees for government and non-government organisations on families, gender, education, immigration, multicultural and social inclusion issues.

Susana was a founding member of the African Australian Friendship Association (AAFA) in 1999, and has close links with

a number of local and national ethnic and community associations.

Roles and groups she has been involved include:

- DiversityWise employment mentorship program for migrants and the long-term unemployed as a volunteer mentor
- a member of Women's Advisory Council, NT
- NT Working Women's Centre
- NT Police Ethnic Advisory Group
- United Nations Women's Community Refugee Settlement Support Group, NT
- Multicultural Council NT Board
- Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance (AIRWA)
- Federation of Ethnic Communities' Council of Australia (FECCA)
- the Federal Minister's Children and Family Roundtable
- Families Australia Ambassador in the NT.

Susana is currently a member of the boards of management for Somerville Community Services and Somerville Foundation (Uniting Care); Top End Women's Legal Service; the United Nations Association of Australia, NT; and Palmerston Uniting Church Council.

Susana's work combines roles as an educationalist, researcher, writer and community development practitioner. She is particularly committed to capacity building, empowerment, equalities practice, social inclusion and networking for diverse and marginalised communities.



She coordinates the Bachelor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocacy, Associate Degree and Bachelor of Applied Social Science programs through a joint initiative of Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and Charles Darwin University.

Awards:

- 2015 Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning – BIITE
- 2012 Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of mentoring with the DiversityWise Program

*Photo: Dr Susana Akua Saffu, PhD; Master of International & Community Development; Master of Educational Studies; Bachelor of Education.*

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## UnitingCare visits Somerville

**It was a pleasure to welcome Claerwen Little to Darwin. Claerwen is the new National Director of UnitingCare. Her visit to the Northern Territory enabled her to spend time with colleagues at Somerville Community Services and at the Northern Synod.**

Claerwen visited our wonderful Palmerston facility and enjoyed morning tea with staff and service users at our Lee Point Road offices.

*Photo: Claerwen Little (centre) with Somerville staff.*



## Recipes

Somerville has published two editions of its cookbook, *Somerthis* and *Somerthat*, featuring some of our multicultural staffs' favourite recipes. Bev's scones are in our cookbooks but the desserts from Sylvia, and the pig's trotters from Vince are new. Enjoy!

### Bev's scones

*Beverley Dickens, Coordinator, Somerville Disability Services, Katherine*

For everyone who has ever tried unsuccessfully to make scones, this is the easiest recipe to follow and you will have light, puffy scones in 20 minutes.

#### Ingredients

- 300 ml thickened cream
- 1 cup lemonade
- 3 cups self-raising sifted flour

#### Method

Mix all ingredients. Roll dough into small hand-sized balls and place on tray – spread apart to allow room to spread and place close to edge of tray to allow to rise. Muffin trays work very well for these scones. Bake at 230°C for about 15 minutes or until golden.



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### Vince's Sour Pigs Trotters

*Vince Yuen, Maintenance Assistant, Assets, Infrastructure and Maintenance team*

#### Ingredients

- 6 pigs trotters (around 454 grams)
- ½ pound young fresh green ginger
- Approximately 250 g sugar
- 6 hard-boiled eggs
- 250 ml brandy
- 480 ml white vinegar
- 1 tablespoon salt

#### Method

Wash pigs trotters thoroughly and pluck away any fine hairs remaining on skin. Chop into 3-inch sections. Place in a large saucepan with enough water to cover. Scrape skin from the ginger and add to trotters. Bring to the boil and simmer for 1 hour.

Add salt, vinegar and sugar and continue cooking until trotters are tender. Pour in the brandy and peeled hard-boiled eggs. Simmer for another half hour, replenishing with water if necessary. Correct seasoning.

Allow to stand overnight and reheat next day. Serve pigs trotters in a bowl with a piece of ginger, hard-boiled egg and soup.



*Recipes continue on page 14*

## Sweet Sticky Rice with coconut filling topping

Sylvia Lewis, Disability Support Worker, Katherine

### Ingredients

- 900 g glutinous rice, washed and soak for 2 hours
- 200 ml thick coconut milk
- 3 tsp salt
- 3 pandan leaves
- Butterfly pea flowers – ¼ cup
- 2 big pieces of banana leaves
- 2 steaming trays of the same size

### Method

Heat up a steamer on high heat and when boiling turn to medium heat. While the steamer is heating up, take the blue flowers and place them in a cup. Pour boiling water into the cup and cover with a saucer to enable the dye to emerge from the flowers. After half an hour, stir the mixture to dissolve more of the colour, strain it and set aside.

Place the glutinous rice into one tray and pour 40 ml of coconut cream evenly covering the entire area. Place the pandan leaves on top of rice and steam for 20 minutes. Remove the pandan leaves and then fluff the rice with a chopstick or fork.

Pour remaining coconut milk evenly over the rice, covering the surface area. Steam for another 15 minutes. Fluff up the rice and then pour the blue flower dye in streaks across the rice. Steam again for 7 minutes. Fluff up the rice again but only gently so as not to spoil the marble effect in the colouring. Press down the rice from edge to edge.

Clean a piece of banana leaf and cut it to cover the top of the tray. Use the second tray to press down on the cooked rice. Place a mortar and pestle or anything of equivalent weight on the top tray to compress rice further. Leave for 15 minutes. You can then either cut the rice into similar rectangle shapes and size or use a round cutter. Place rice into a banana leaf, scoop 1 heaped teaspoon of coconut filling used for the ketayap.



## Pandan Crepe with Coconut Filling

(kuih ketayap/dadar)

Sylvia Lewis, Disability Support Worker, Katherine

### Ingredients – Pandan Juice

- 8 pandan leaves
- ¾ cup water

### Ingredients – Crepe Batter

- 120 g flour
- 1 egg
- 300 ml coconut milk
- 4 tablespoons pandan juice
- ¼ tsp salt

### Ingredients – Filling

- 90 g dark brown sugar
- 50 g water
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 pandan leaf knotted
- 1 cup moist coconut flakes
- 1 tsp corn starch

### Method

For pandan juice, wash and cut pandan leaves into one inch lengths and put into a blender with half a cup of water. Blend until fine and extract juice with a muslin cloth or if by hand, juice over a fine sieve. Make 3 tablespoons of juice. Put aside.

For the crepe batter, sieve flour into a mixing bowl, make a hole in the centre and crack the egg into it. Add in the coconut milk, pandan juice and salt and blend until batter is smooth. Set aside.

To make the crepe, heat an 8-inch non-stick pan on medium heat, spray only once with cooking oil spray. Once it is heated up, pour half of the batter into the pan and lift the pan to swirl it to create a thin, light crepe. Cook until bubbles appear and turn the crepe to cook for about 3 minutes and remove it to a flat clean work surface like a chopping board. Roll up crepe as you would a spring roll with 1 full tablespoon of coconut filling inside. (If the crepe is too thick, add a bit of coconut milk at a time to the batter until it reaches the right consistency).

## Somerville annual report wins gold again!

**Somerville is delighted to announce that it received a gold award for its 2015–16 Annual Report in the 2017 Australasian Reporting Awards.**

This is the second year that Somerville has received a gold award and validates our approach to delivering a high quality document to our many stakeholders. Thanks go to everyone who contributed to the annual report – your input each year is very much appreciated and goes a long way to the production of an award-winning document.

*Photo: Jenny Upton and Allison O'Connor with Somerville's gold ARA award.*



## Staff profile: Elaine Castles

**I was born in Devonport, New Zealand however my Australian passport just says Devonport, so people think I was born in Tasmania.**

My family immigrated to Victoria in 1967 when I was 6 years old and through my father's wanderlust, kept moving north until we arrived in Darwin in 1977, having dropped off two sons along the way. One started his working life in Melbourne and the other joined the navy in Queensland. Consequently, all my schooling was in Victoria and Queensland.

I initially worked for a union and then an employers' organisation, then got married and had two sons in Darwin. While most of the years from 1977 until now were spent in Darwin, the family spent almost two years living and working in Alice Springs, and another two-year stint in Melbourne. We permanently moved back to Darwin in 1990.

I joined Somerville in 1996 as Executive Assistant to Vicki O'Halloran, who was then the Assistant Director. I undertook the usual secretarial tasks – shorthand, typing, filing, minute taking, some research etc. In 1998 Vicki was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and my position description changed beyond recognition. From this point on I have

done a myriad of jobs ranging from organising volunteer fundraising events, organising and being part of team building events, managing meetings of the Somerville Board and Executive, diary coordination, submission writing, being the editor of the Somerville newsletter for several years, and the never-ending day-to-day administrative requirements of a very busy executive assistant's position.

Special highlights of these years were:

- meeting and spending time with Margaret Somerville, including a visit to her home in Sydney to celebrate her 100th birthday
- visits to Somerville by the then Governor-General, Quentin Bryce and the then Prime Minister, Julia Gillard
- having the opportunity to handle the Melbourne Cup
- being selected as a fashion model for Somerville's International Women's Day event
- being part of the Somerville Choir and singing at special events including Somerville's annual Christmas Carols at Parliament House.

Another highlight soon to be enjoyed is competing as a celebrity in the Dancing with Celebrities event organised by Total Recreation in October.



I am very interested in all forms of craft but my main hobby is patchwork quilting. My husband Greg and I keep fit through regular Body Pump at the gym and walking around Wulagi and Anula with our rehomed greyhound, Lily. Happily, both my sons are settled working and living in Darwin.

*Photo: Elaine Castles.*

## Staff profile: Kimberly Wasare

### OUR MISSION

"To impact positively on the dignity and quality of life of people who are affected by social and economic disadvantage."

### OUR VISION

"People are able to gain improvement in their quality of life by achieving the highest attainable standard of social and economic outcomes."

### OUR VALUES

- Recognition of the intrinsic worth of every human being
- Generosity from the heart
- Service to the community
- Justice within our society

## Somerville news

Somerville News is the quarterly journal of Somerville Community Services Inc. Further information about our organisation and its work is available from the CEO on (08) 8920 4100. Articles may be reproduced freely but we request acknowledgement.



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**Hi, my name is Kimberly Wasare. I was born and raised in Darwin, and I am the youngest sibling in a family of five children.**

I have long connections with Somerville. My father, mother, sister, and some of my extended family members have all previously worked for the organisation. Presently, I now work alongside two of my cousins and aunties.

I completed my primary years at Manunda Terrace Primary, high school at Sanderson Middle School, and for my senior years attended Casuarina Senior College.

After finishing school, I went to Europe and did a three-month Contiki Tour. I visited 13 countries starting off in London and finishing in Amsterdam. My favourite country was Paris, 'the city of lights', because of its fashion, cuisine, art and architecture. Travelling to Europe at such a young age made me grow as an individual. It was very hard not having my family around as my safety net, but it made me appreciate them so much more. It was definitely a great life experience and something I will remember forever.

I returned to Darwin and then moved to Brisbane, where I lived for one and a half years. It was very hard to find a permanent job there because it was so competitive and so little work was available. However, Brisbane is where I met my husband, and we both decided to move to Darwin.

Returning back home was a great feeling. I loved being around my family and friends and took up a position as an assistant store manager in a clothing store.

In 2012 I got married, and the following day, I found out I was pregnant with my first child. Besides getting married, finding out I was pregnant was the happiest moment in my life. I worked full time in retail until I was seven months pregnant as my body just couldn't take the strain of being on my feet all day. On 17 October 2012, I gave birth to my beautiful daughter Sameera Lee Wasare; she is absolutely perfect.



For three years I was a stay-at-home mum, watching my daughter grow and develop into the talented and smart toddler that she is today. In June 2015, I returned to full-time work as an assistant manager for the JPL group. I worked for the JPL group for eight months until I came across the advertisement on the Somerville's website for an administration officer. I thought this could be a great change in career and would allow me to have more family time with my daughter.

I have been with Somerville for the past 18 months as an administration officer for the HRITAS team. I provide general administrative support to the HR, IT and Administrative Services Manager, ensuring operational tasks and deadlines are met. Recently I have transitioned into Assets, Infrastructure and Maintenance as their administration officer to provide general administrative support to the manager. I liaise with contractors and assist with house checks and working bees for Somerville properties.

I have enjoyed my time at Somerville, and have found challenges in a new field very rewarding. Even though I have had long connections with Somerville, I never knew the full extent of the commitment and generosity the organisation has with the community.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to work for such an amazing organisation.

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