



### Message from Mel – ECS Manager

This month, the staff at ECS are busy organising our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. This includes a birthday party with our ECS Team past and present on 5<sup>th</sup> June, which is the date when the door opened on the original service, as a part of Engadine Senior Citizens Centre. We're also having a special morning tea for our Aged Services clients and dignitaries who can't make it to the dinner.

This anniversary is a huge achievement for the countless locals who have put their hearts and energy into the centre and changed the lives of kids, seniors and families for the better. I'd encourage you to read the latest of our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Fun Facts, below, visit the centre to see our historical photo gallery [thanks to the Commonwealth Bank] and look out for stories from the party next edition.

In this edition, we also have a rundown on the Aged Care Royal Commission by our student, Caitlin, and exciting news from the Toy Library.

### **More Than A Word. Reconciliation Takes Action**

*2021 marks twenty years of Reconciliation Australia and National Reconciliation Week. This year's theme "More than a word. Reconciliation takes action" focuses on shifting the movement to braver and more impactful action.*

*National Reconciliation Week commences **27 May – 3 June 2021** to honour both the 1967 referendum allowing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the right to vote and the High Court Mabo decision. It is a time for us to learn about, share and explore our shared histories, cultures and consider how we can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.*

*ECS pays respects to the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we work and acknowledges and cherishes Elders past and present. We always defer to our colleagues at Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation for advice on First Nations Peoples.*

Please visit <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/calendar> for further information about National Reconciliation Week and its events.

For local expertise: <https://kurranulla.org.au/>

### **A New Dawn: Royal Commission into Aged Care Findings**

The aged care system is a vital component of our society, particularly with the rising number of older Australians. Over recent years, serious issues within the current aged care system have emerged that has led to a review of all current aged care legislation, services and practices.

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has proposed a complete overhaul of the current aged care system to address the issues identified. The new aged care system will focus on ensuring the safety, health and wellbeing of older Australians through person-centred care, greater education, training and awareness, increased staffing levels, enhanced governance and oversight and new quality and safety standards.

The proposed recommendations to be implemented over the next 1-5 years will be critical in delivering quality care and support to older Australians. Some of the key recommendations suggested include:

**Recommendation 25:** A new aged care program which combines the existing Commonwealth Home Support Programme, Home Care [Packages] and Residential Aged Care programs and focuses on providing comprehensive, person-centred care.

**Recommendation 28:** A single comprehensive assessment process undertaken by an independent assessor and promotes older Australians' autonomy and self-determination.

**Recommendation 33:** Developing a social supports category that aims to provide services and activities to reduce social isolation, loneliness and improve the wellbeing of older Australians.

**Recommendation 34:** Creating an assistive technology and home modifications category which enables older Australians to remain independent and reduce their risks of living at home.

[Note: ECS provides social support services under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, and we're pleased that our work is valued.]

To read the complete final report and list of proposed actions for government, go to <https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/final-report>



## News from Engadine Community Services (May 2021)

### ECS Services highlight: What's New in the Toy Library?

Last year, ECS received a Community Services Grant from Sutherland Shire Council to buy some new items for the Toy Library, including an Aboriginal and multicultural collection, so kids recognise themselves and their families.

Building Communities Coordinator, Lee Brack, has been busy purchasing these fun, engaging new toys for our Toy Library, including Aboriginal themed dominoes, culturally-dressed dolls and a collection of Aboriginal wooden dolls.



In ride-ons, we have Marvin "Moo" Cow, Harold "Giddy up" Horse and Ursula "Glitterbottom" Unicorn [pictured]. For the kids who want to get started early on their careers we have science lab sets, doctor, dentist and vet kits, makeup and hairdressing kits and a tool set. For the safety-conscious, there are various traffic signs, road signs and a zebra crossing to choose from.

Coming soon are also a variety of musical instruments and a mini rollercoaster! Be sure to stop by and check them out.

Sutherland Shire Toy Library is operating as a click and collect service, and the grant has also helped with the establishment of the COVID cleaning procedure. To access the Toy Library, join online at <https://sutherland.mibase.com.au/home/index.php>

We're open for collect and drop off Monday and Thursday afternoons 1 – 4 pm and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday mornings 9 am - 12 noon.

### ECS Staff highlight: Mel Paterson

Our Manager has a history with Engadine! She moved here in 1973, as a 2 year old, and has many fond memories of shopping at Woolworths with her mum and Coles, when it opened. Mel went to Engadine Public School and her first bank account was at Engadine Commonwealth Bank. Her GPs were Dr Stokes and Dr Nicoll. Mel's 21<sup>st</sup> party was held in the hall at Engadine Pool, and this year she turns 50 too!

## ECS TURNS 50 THIS MONTH



*Engadine shopping centre in 1970*

### Birthday Fun fact #6

Christina Mannyx was the longest serving manager of Engadine Community Services from 1993 to 2009 (when it was Engadine Community Aid and Information Service). EDCAIS activities increased to include a wide range of courses and programs that have included parenting, menopause and personal development courses, current affairs discussions, craft groups and self-protection workshops to name a few. Christina also established the Engadine Network, a bi-monthly meeting of health and youth workers to identify local community needs. [Next month's newsletter will feature an interview with Chris, who is now on the ECS Management Committee]

*Do you remember EDCAIS activities or events during the 1990s or 2000s? Perhaps you volunteered or were paid staff? Were you a worker who attended those meetings?*

### Birthday Fun fact #7

Engadine Community Services has operated out of several buildings over the past 50 years, including the Women's Rest Centre (renamed the Community Resource Centre in 1997) and an interim office at Boy's Town while awaiting the redevelopment of Engadine Town Square and the current Engadine Community Centre by Sutherland Shire Council in 2008/09.

*Do you have any photos of these buildings or knowledge of anyone involved in their construction?*

Monday to Friday 9.30 am – 4 pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month 9 am – 12 noon

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