



# Community Care TASMANIA

(formerly Community Care NESB)

## CHSP Newsletter

June 2020

Hi everyone

A big thank you to everyone for helping us comply with the new regulations that we have all needed to abide by to assist us in staying well and safe in these challenging COVID-19 times. We have been very active in ensuring all our staff and clients have face masks, plenty of hand sanitiser, as well as bottles of methylated spirits for wiping down all surfaces. An update of CCT's COVID-19 undertakings is featured on page 4 of this newsletter.

While we are fully aware that all the COVID-19 protocols now in place will be here for some considerable time, we are now winding down some of the extra-curricular projects we have been running to refocus on the new 'normal' of how we do business. As COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted, many of our staff who have been working from home will be returning to the office, and we realise that in the past two months there have been a few staff changes, so in this newsletter we thought we would update you on who's currently working in the CHSP space who you may have contact with.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W Mitchell".

Wendy Mitchell, CEO

## Meet the CHSP Team



Tanya



Kristine



Pam



Nadia

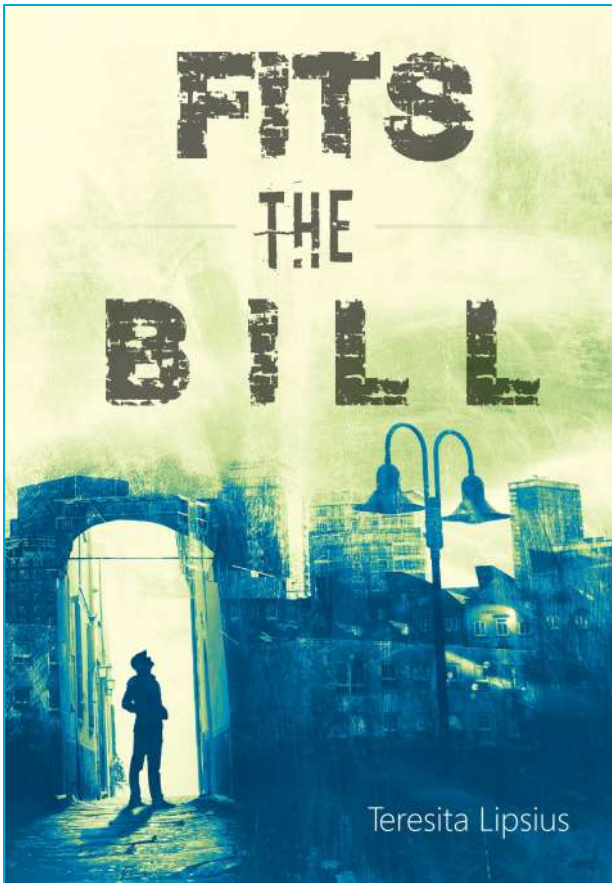


Lou



Bethany

## Fits the Bill



In April 2019 Jonas and Terri were informed by John's Doctor that John had a terminal illness and that there was nothing the medical profession could do to cure John but they could help manage his symptoms.

Hearing this news devastated Terri. It was following a visit from their only child Jonas Jnr (35yrs) around that time that John began to talk about his past, fleeing from Lithuania in WW2 and how he eventually ended up settling in Australia – this was a topic that John had always avoided and was very reluctant to talk about, so when he started to open up and talk about it, Terri was all ears. Terri recalls that John's memories of that time were so vivid and clear that she would go to bed and not be able to sleep thinking about what he must have gone through and how he had not told her about it until now. One night she was not able to sleep, thinking about John's story so she got up and started to put pen to paper and write things down as she felt this story needs to be told. The following day she asked John if he could tell her more and if she could write a book about it and he agreed. Terri embraced this opportunity as she knew John's health was failing and she wanted to get this story onto paper before it was too late. She started the book in April 2019 and completed it in August 2019 – it only took her four months!

Terri called the book "Fit's the Bill" – extract from the back of the book "This is a story of a person who experienced an extraordinary life during and after the Second World War. He was a Displaced Person (DP) who came to Australia, the promised land, from Germany by the famous USAT General Stuart Heintzelman the first migrant boat arrived in Australia in 1947. The migrants arrived after the Australian Government realised how vulnerable its vast land was to foreign invasion and concluded that Australia had to "populate or perish". The Minister for Immigration instructed the selection officers purposely to find "good types" of immigrants; white skin, with blue eyes and blond hair; in order to make a good impression on a sceptical Australian public, and especially the trade union movement. John Lipsius was one of the first Baltic migrants who fitted the bill for migration to Australia selected as one of the "good type" immigrants, white skin, blue eyes and blond hair."

The book is an extraordinary story and tribute from Terri to her husband who she loves very much. Once I started reading it – I couldn't put it down – read it all in one night!

Sharon Latham, CCT Case Manager

*The book can be purchased online through Amazon, Fishpond, Angus & Robertson etc. – just google it and you will find it.*



## CHSP Staff update

We have had some changes to our office personnel in the last couple of months so we thought we would update you with who's who in the CHSP Team. Firstly we would like to say farewell to Jo Smith, who many of you will have spoken to or met over the last couple of years. We thank her for all the work she did while with us, and we will miss having her bubbly personality around the office.

The new line up of staff working on CHSP include some existing staff who now work exclusively with CHSP clients, such as Pam and Nadia. We also have a new member, Kristine on the team; Kristine recently joined the organisation as a CHSP Coordinator and you can find out more about her below.

We also have two staff assisting the CHSP team on a part-time basis to help manage the extra work load we have currently after receiving growth funding for CHSP services in several parts of the state, such as Swansea, Smithton, and ?? Helping out a couple of days a week are Bethany, who is one of our rostering team members, and Lou, who has worked in various roles across the organisation since joining us in March, but who has now come on board to help out the CHSP team.



## Meet CHSP Coordinator Kristine



Kristine

Kristine joined the CCT team as CHSP Coordinator on 6 April 2020. Because of the timing in what has become an exceptional year for all of us, Kristine's transition into her new role has been somewhat a baptism of fire. For although she was appointed to the role before the COVID-19 lockdowns were introduced, Kristine moved to Tasmania from Victoria after the two-week isolation restrictions came into effect. Following an application to resettle in Tasmania, and armed with an exemption letter that classified her as an essential worker, Kristine got on the boat with Tori, her newly acquired Groodle (Golden Retriever/Poodle cross), not knowing exactly what would pan out when she arrived. The crossing across Bass Strait was ominous. She woke to walls of water cascading over the boat and she wondered if she was going to even make landfall, let alone be allowed to disembark without going into government-mandated quarantine on arrival. Kristine had visions of her dog going off to the RSPCA while she was sent off to a hotel in Devonport for two weeks. As it turned out Kristine and her dog were reunited on disembarking and she was allowed to travel to her new home in Launceston where she self-isolated for

two weeks before making an appearance at the office.

Kristine hails from a farming background. She was born in Wagga in NSW, and then spent her teenage years on a property that bred Santa Gertrudis cattle near Esperance in Western Australia. Her family then moved to Wangaratta, which is where Kristine has lived for the past 25 years. However, after a visit to Tasmania, she decided it was time for a change of scenery. While she is still not certain how she will handle a Tassie-winter, she loves the English-style feel of our countryside, and she is looking forward to a time when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted sufficiently so she can get out and about to explore her new home properly.

Kristine has worked in Aged Care for the past eight and half years. Previously she worked in legal and medical fields, and then in the construction business she and her husband ran. She moved into aged care after her parents died because she likes working with people and thought she could contribute something meaningful in this sector. She has learnt lots of things since she started at CCT, particularly with the additional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. But she is loving her new workplace and she feels very supported as she navigates her new role; 'the teamwork is excellent' she says, 'and while the times make this an extraordinary period to take on a new job, that makes a huge and positive difference'.

Community Care TASMANIA says...

# Thanks to our volunteers

BY COMMUNITY CARE TASMANIA

2020 has been an extraordinary year, and one where we have all had to adjust to new realities and reflect on how we live and what is important to us.

With much taken away, Community Care TASMANIA offers a heart-felt thanks to everyone who has volunteered in this time of uncertainty to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

We are grateful to the dedicated people who volunteer in our ongoing programs, and this year our appreciation has grown exponentially thanks to the contribution from the many additional people volunteering in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March, we put out the call asking for volunteers to sew fabric face masks to help protect our staff and clients and limit the spread of coronavirus.

The response was immediate and we received offers

of help from 150 people from around Tasmania.

From Scamander to Cygnet and everywhere in-between, people volunteered to sew or donate the materials needed to make the face masks.

By the end of April over 2,000 face masks had been made and distributed to our staff and others working in the community.

3,000 face masks made as part of the Tassie face mask project, who we have been collaborating with, have also been gratefully received and sent to our clients and other vulnerable people in the community. Thank you all so much.

In addition, Community Care TASMANIA would also like to thank the 50 volunteers who have helped us develop and produce vital face-shields.

We have been working with everyone from students operating in their garages, to businesses like Print Division Tasmania, who have utilised their 3D capability

to print face shields we are now distributing to medical personnel.

Seeing how well our community pulls together to lend a helping hand in a time of crisis is gratifying and something we all benefit from.

However, volunteers have also enjoyed having a purpose and contribute to their community.

While there is no denying that the impact of COVID-19 on our lives has been huge, our ability to rise and adapt to the challenges it has presented has been equally remarkable.

All of us at Community Care TASMANIA sincerely thank all who have volunteered their help in these extraordinary times.

As Winston Churchill wisely said: "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

For more information about Community Care TASMANIA, and to learn how you can volunteer and support your community, visit [cct.org.au](http://cct.org.au).



**NEW OPPORTUNITIES:** In March, Community Care TASMANIA asked volunteers to sew fabric face masks to help protect staff and clients, and limit the spread of coronavirus.

## Please contact CCT if you need more face masks

We have sent out facemasks to all our clients and we ask you to please wear them when our staff come to assist you at home. All CCT Support Workers have received several days worth of face masks to allow for washing them and for them to change and wear a fresh mask with every client they visit.

Please note, wearing face masks are an added safety precaution to help keep both you and our staff safe; wearing a facemask on its own will not prevent you from contracting COVID-19. Should you require more face masks please contact Community Care TASMANIA, to let us know how many you need. You can let your Support Worker know, or ring us at the office on:

**P:** 6334 0990 or freecall 1300 722 400, or

**E:** [admin@cct.org.au](mailto:admin@cct.org.au)

