



Community Care TASMANIA

(formerly Community Care NESB)

HCP 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 some 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 HCP 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 HCP Team



Tanya



Melinda



Sharon



Karen

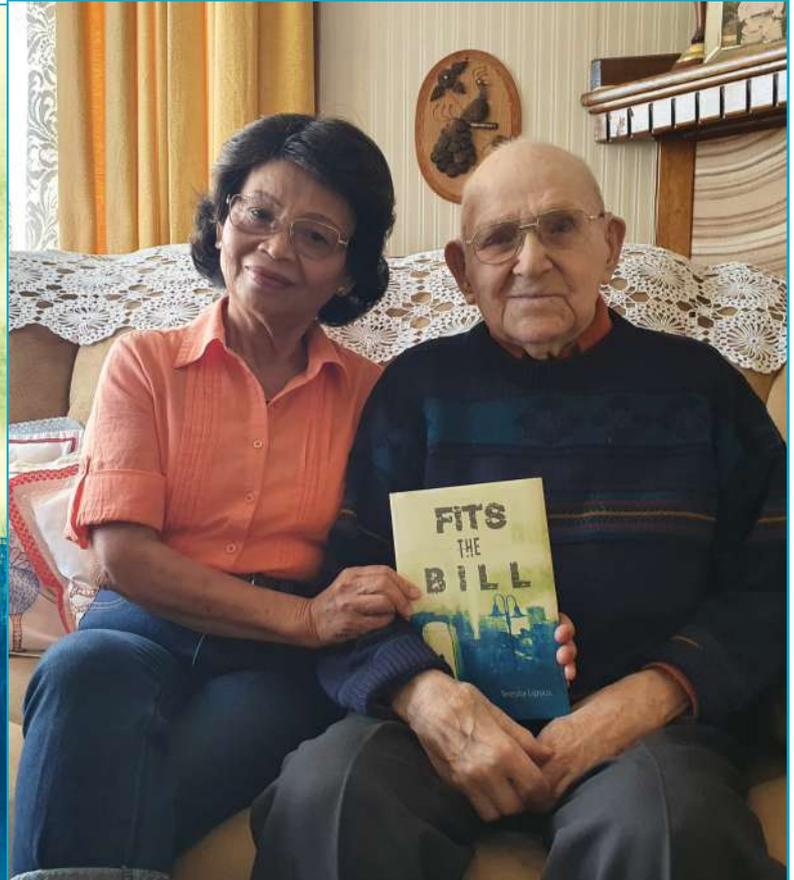
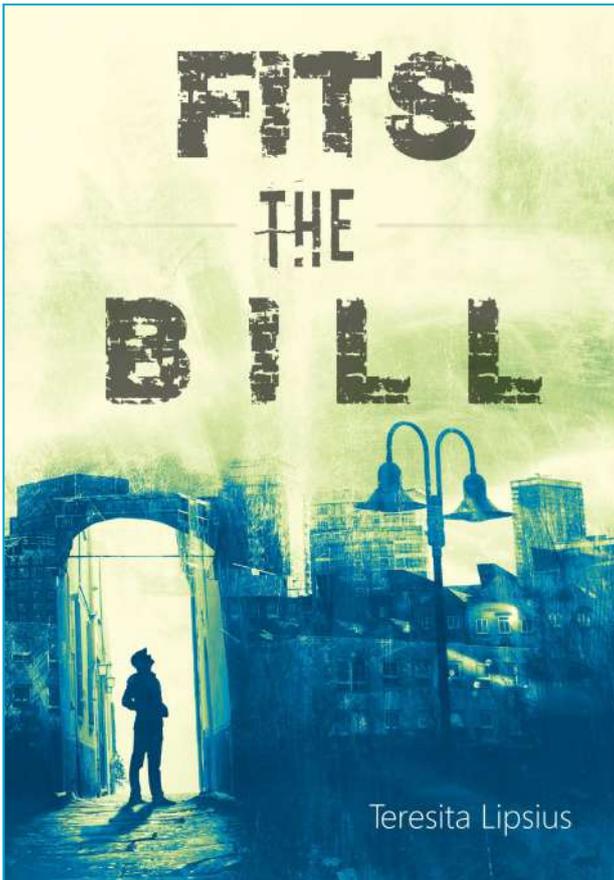


Stella



Marg

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.

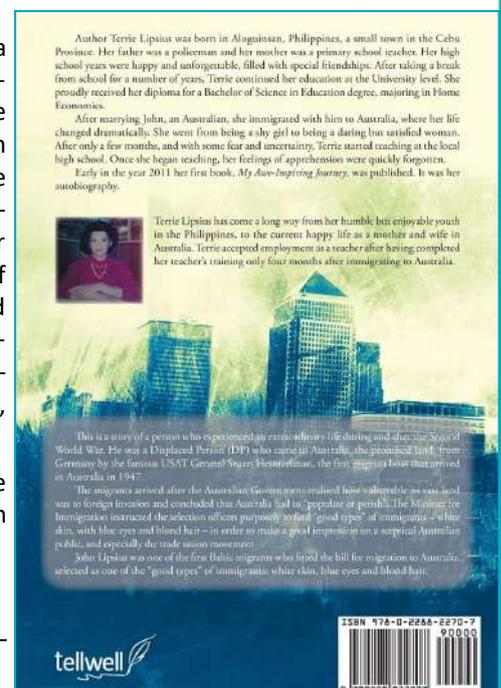
Hearing this news devastated Terri. It was following a visit from their only child Jonas Jnr (35yrs) around that time that John began to talk about his past, fleeing from Lithuania in WW2 and how he eventually ended up settling in Australia – this was a topic that John had always avoided and was very 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!

Shaz (CCT Case Manager Sharon Latham)

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



HCP Staff update

I'VE ALMOST COMPLETED
MY 90-DAY TRIAL OF 2020.



We have had some changes to our office personnel in the last couple of months, but because of the extra work everyone has been involved in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic we have not had time to introduce them to you.

While we have a number of new staff joining our team, most of our HCP staff remain the same but we welcome one new team member, Marg Egan, to the HCP team.

Marg commenced work at CCT on Tuesday 10th March. Although Marg came on board as a Case Manager for HCP clients, initially she was assisting the NDIS Team while we waited for new staff to take up their positions in that space. Now that they have done so, Marg, who works four days a week, is now working with HCP clients.

Meet HCP Case Manager Marg

Marg has spent most of her life in Launceston, which is where most of her working life in care-related roles has been based. She joined the team at Community Care TASMANIA in early March 2020. Although initially Marg's expertise was used to help out with our NDIS clients, Marg took the job at CCT to work in Aged Care, a career direction she wanted to take after losing her 95 year-old dad, and her husband who had Parkinson's and died from a brain-stem stroke. Marg's personal experiences have made her a passionate advocate for Advanced Care Directives; 'I really want to encourage people to seriously consider what they are prepared to live with, or live without, and put in place care plans that reflect those wishes while they are able to do so', says Marg.

Helping make a difference in people's lives underpins Marg's working life. While she knows she has a lot to learn in the aged care space, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from a variety of roles delivering support and services to vulnerable people requiring assistance. Her first job in this career trajectory was as a support staff member assisting young adults with intellectual disabilities at St Andrew's Hostel (now Ellison House) a residential home in Launceston. She then spent ten years working with the MS Society delivering support to those living with Multiple Sclerosis.

When the MS Society centralised its operations and programs from Hobart, Marg took a job with Carers Tasmania, developing and supplying education and training for unpaid family care givers in outreach programs run in the North and North West Coast. After nearly five years with Carers Tas, she moved to the Cancer Council and spent the next eight years running a state-wide peer-support program, as well as other support and education programs. In 2011, after the death of her husband and taking some time out for some overdue long-service leave, Marg joined Baptistcare as a Local Area Coordinator (LAC) in state-funded disability services. She also spent 18 months as a Support Coordinator for NDIS clients, until this role was seen as conflict of interest when Baptistcare became an auspice of the national NDIS LAC services in Tasmania. She remembers being delighted to discover how much she liked working with an organisation that had well-established processes and certainty, and knowing CCT also offered these was definitely one of the drawcards in applying for her role here when it became available.

Outside of work Marg likes to get physical. She loves walking and swimming – she feels like her legs have been chopped off while her local pool has been closed because of COVID-19 restrictions. She also likes to potter in her small garden: but her current gardening pursuits are a far cry from when in her youth she ended up as a gardener planting out a public native garden at Bellerive after moving to Hobart to begin a nursing degree that did not gel. Marg still enjoys visiting the garden in Bellerive to see how the trees she planted are growing. Marg also lived for a brief time in Devonport after her husband took a fulltime job there; it was a place she got to know well after a short stint driving an old Bedford bus around the district for an independent school. She still enjoys doing fun things with children, but now it is with her four grandchildren!



Marg

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.



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

