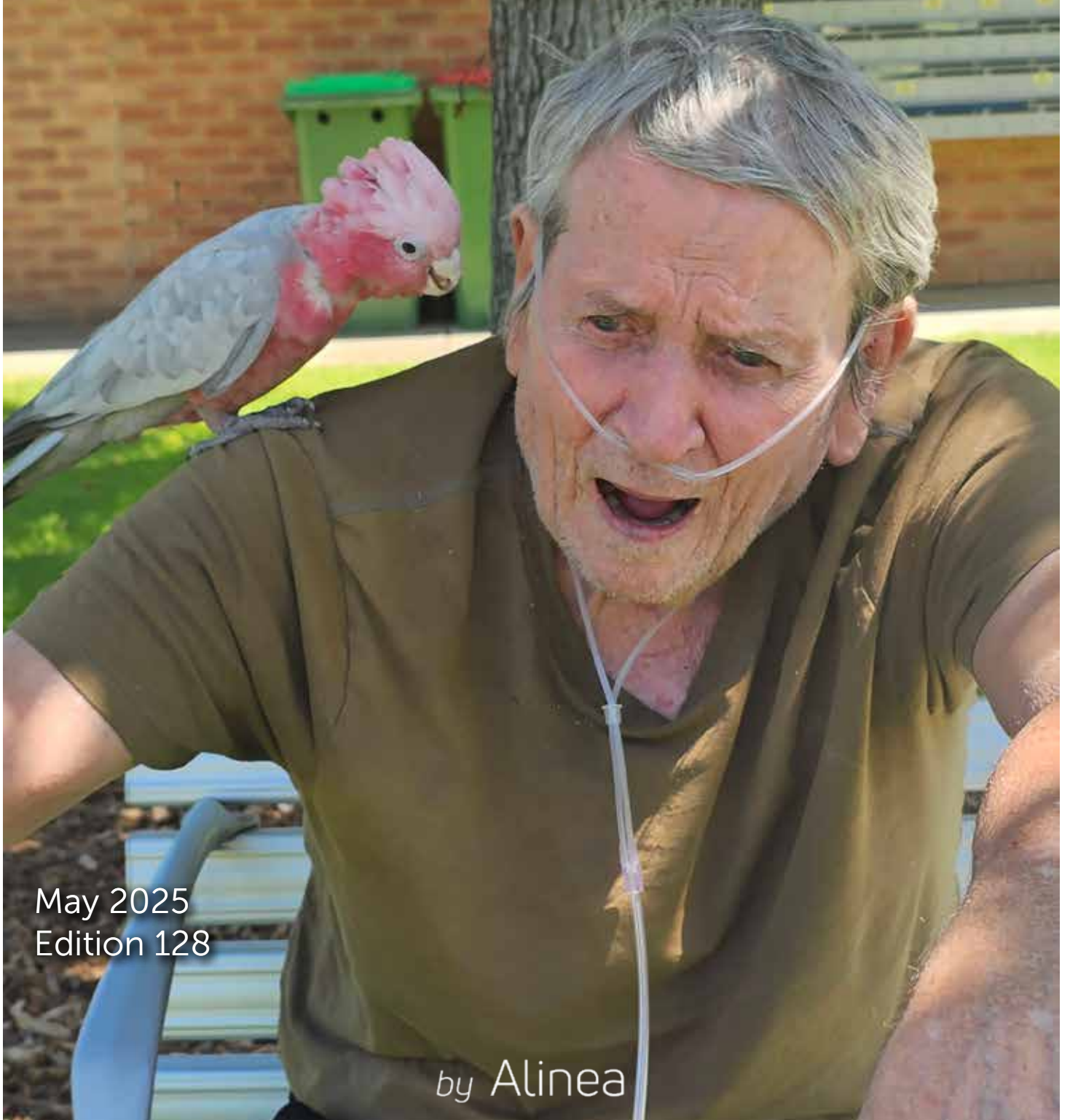


voice

M A G A Z I N E



May 2025
Edition 128

by Alinea

Enriching Lives

Alinea has a long history of service provision in the Western Australian community, with its roots stretching back to the Paraplegic-Quadriplegic Association of WA (Inc.), founded in 1955, and the Civilian Maimed and Limbless Association of Western Australia (Inc.), founded in 1944 (eventually merging to form the Spine & Limb Foundation).

On our journey, operations were expanded into Aged Care, Supported Employment, Independent Community Living, and Recreation Services.

From 2018, as 'Alinea', the Organisation's mission remains the same; to enrich the lives of people living with a disability and elders within the Western Australian community, by continuing to provide contemporary and holistic services. All of the services and programs operated by Alinea have been designed to cater to the needs of the unique individual.



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Shane Yensch

Osboine Facility Manager
Hilda Makkink

Koh-I-Noor Facility Manager
Jennie Neilsen

ParaQuad Industries Manager
Joe Tuson

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Coordinating a Transition

All change at the top of the ParaQuad chain

Over the years ParaQuad Industries has been providing employment for Western Australians with disabilities, we have experienced changes to our structure to take into account things like retirements or resignations. Another such milestone was reached recently with the announcement of the retirement of Joe Tuson as ParaQuad Industries Manager at the end of June. Joe's responsibilities had grown through the years to include four sites and multiple new activities so, in planning for the transition, an opportunity was seen to strengthen the company's resilience by increasing its critical mass.

This has been achieved through the creation of two new roles and the appointments in February of Michael Liotino (*pictured below*) as Operations / Service Delivery Coordinator, and Luke Pountney (*pictured right*) as Donations Logistics Coordinator.

Michael's role includes wiper manufacture, collation, packaging, wholesale sales, exports, and service delivery (e.g. PQI Café, Maintenance, and Cleaning). His background takes in landscaping (13 years) and a stint as a lecturer in Development Psychology and



Human Behaviour at Notre Dame University. Previously, he was part of Alinea's Client Services team but saw this opportunity as a chance to learn other facets of the organisation.

In his role as Donations Logistics Coordinator, Luke has responsibility for the complete donation value chain encompassing acceptance/receipt, sorting, transport, pricing, retail sales, and waste disposal. Luke also has a varied background, taking in time in security, and as an owner-driver courier, which provided him with a strong foundation in logistics, responsibility, and customer service. Having worked as a Senior Truck Driver at ParaQuad, he was ready to take on new challenges.

Prior to the latest changes, many of the responsibilities Michael and Luke are now embracing fell under the auspices of Joe as ParaQuad Industries Manager. The new structure will allow Joe, and his successor, to focus more on activities such as strategic planning, representing ParaQuad at peak bodies, and other leadership roles. We are pleased to have been able to find two quality candidates for internal promotion and wish Luke and Michael all success as they grow into their new roles.



Cool, Calm, and Collected

Crisis Prevention & De-escalation

By Mark Verma

Communication & Project Officer

Recently, Alinea staff from across a range of departments – ParaQuad Industries, Client Services, Recreation – attended a three-hour workshop run by the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) on preventing or de-escalating a crisis.

Attendees learned such things as how to apply knowledge of the brain to understand distress behaviour and the reasons for distress. They also looked at analysing the risk of behaviour and identifying strategies to mitigate the risk.

The inaugural training event is aimed at reducing the risk of incidents escalating into something bigger—like verbal altercations

turning physical or drawing in other customers. Trained staff can spot early warning signs and step in before things spiral. This protects both employees and customers from harm.

Attendee Fran said the workshop was informative, very professional, and dynamic. Fellow attendee Jay agreed and recommended other staff take it.

Many thanks to the CPI and their trainer Sally for running the workshop.



From Shelves to Spotlight

A Book Bazaar volunteer who's also a wordsmith

By Mark Verma
Communication & Project Officer

Culture vultures be aware: Alinea has seen a small wave of artistic flowering at our Shenton park complex in recent times (see article on the Alinea Gallery).

Over at the Book Bazaar, long-time volunteer John Williams, has turned his hand from helping sell books to writing them. His series of historical novels, *The Mallard Melodramas*, made its debut on Amazon not so long ago and John recently mounted a book-signing at the Book Bazaar.

You can find out more about his trilogy at his author website (<https://rjwilliamsauthor.com/>).



In the meantime, any other budding authors among our volunteers or staff can be assured that you have a friend of the arts in Alinea.



Landfill Lifesavers: The Tour

*A Sustainable Tour
of ParaQuad Industries*

*By Mark Verma
Communication & Project Officer*

Every year, ParaQuad industries partners with the Western Metropolitan Regional Council (WMRC) to mount a tour of the ParaQuad facilities by members of the public interested in finding out what happens to their donated items and how they create employment opportunities for people with a disability.

The WMRC is a local government organisation formed to provide waste management services for its five Member Councils. These include waste transfer, community waste treatment and recycling, and waste education and promotion services.

The annual tour took place recently and saw around 15 people join ParaQuad manager Joe



Tuson on a tour of the facilities, including the Containers for Change refund point.

The WMRC later offered a short presentation on their work and on ParaQuad's efforts at recycling. In the spirit of the day, the morning tea had 'sustainable/low waste' refreshments available.



Green Thumbs Up



Gardening with the gardeners

*By Helena Nguyen
Bayswater Facilities Lifestyle Coordinator*

Bayswater facilities recently started up a residents' gardening group with their gardeners.

Gardening can relieve stress, boosts mood - among other emotional benefits, strengthens muscles, and promotes bonding and connecting with others. It involves activities such as digging, planting, weeding, and watering - all of which help improve strength, flexibility and stamina.

Green finger residents at both Osboine and Ritcher Lodge have loved that they can spend some time with the gardeners and do what they love.

The facilities hope to have more gardening sessions with the gardeners, weather permitting.





Wheels of Clean

Driving tests for the LaundryMobile

*By Mark Verma
Communication & Project Officer*

If you're ever at our Bayswater location, you may have spotted a curious golf-cart-looking vehicle slowly driving around the grounds.

This is the laundry buggy, driven around the grounds daily to collect dirty laundry, take it to be washed, dried, and folded, and then delivered back to various residents. In other words, it's an essential part of what makes the whole operation tick.

Recently, training was conducted for staff who are not readily familiar with the vehicle, covering such things as starting it, reversing it, its safety features, and what speed should be employed (walking pace).

Ben, from maintenance, reports the training

session went well and Bayswater now has more drivers who've passed their buggy driving test.



Caring & Culture



Celebrating the diversity of unity

By Mark Verma
Communication & Project Officer

Harmony Day is a celebration that takes place on March 21st each year, and which recognises our diversity, bringing together Australians from different backgrounds.

The day was first celebrated in Australia in 1999, but its roots date back centuries. The first settlers to arrive in Australia were the original indigenous Australians, who lived in harmony with the land for centuries.

Australia is one of the world's most successful multicultural countries and at Alinea/Paraquid Industries we have staff from a number of different heritages.

Bayswater staff celebrated by wearing traditional dress from their respective countries.



Mum's Pride: Artist Shines

*Some words from the Mum of one of the exhibitors
in Alinea's new gallery space*

Note: As announced last issue, Alinea has opened a new dedicated art space/gallery in the location formerly housing its Picture Framing services. Three exhibitions have been held in the gallery to date - and one was for artist Ashley Odgers, a long-time participant in our Recreation Services.

My husband and I would like to wholeheartedly thank Alinea for providing the new gallery space for our adult son to show his artwork off to the local community. We were advised that this opportunity was coming for many months, then all of a sudden it was time to put the show on.

Recreation centre staff Fran and Juliette were



*Lisa Odgers,
Parent of Program Participant*

very helpful in assisting with typing the art piece labels for us to attach next to each of Ashley's 45 works. Ash's art mentor, Ben, and he hung all the artworks in the lovely gallery. The picture hanging system was very professional and easy for them to use. When all the colourful works were on the walls, it was breathtaking.

Each picture stood out as a whole - it was just incredible. To see the work so professionally presented was so uplifting for Ash. He had never seen a whole room with just his art covering the walls!

He felt very proud.

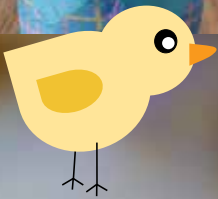
People with disabilities don't get many opportunities to be celebrated or to shine. This gallery, with the support of Alinea, does just that. It lets them realise that they have talent, that they truly are an artist, in all the meanings of the title, and they can be proud of this, proud of themselves.

I hope that the gallery is able to stay filled, most of the time, with works of people with disabilities. Not only for them, but also to continue to remind the community that these guys/gals really do have talent, pride, have personalities, and they want to be acknowledged, respected, and celebrated.

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you Alinea. Without you, none of this great work would be happening.

Easter @ Alinea





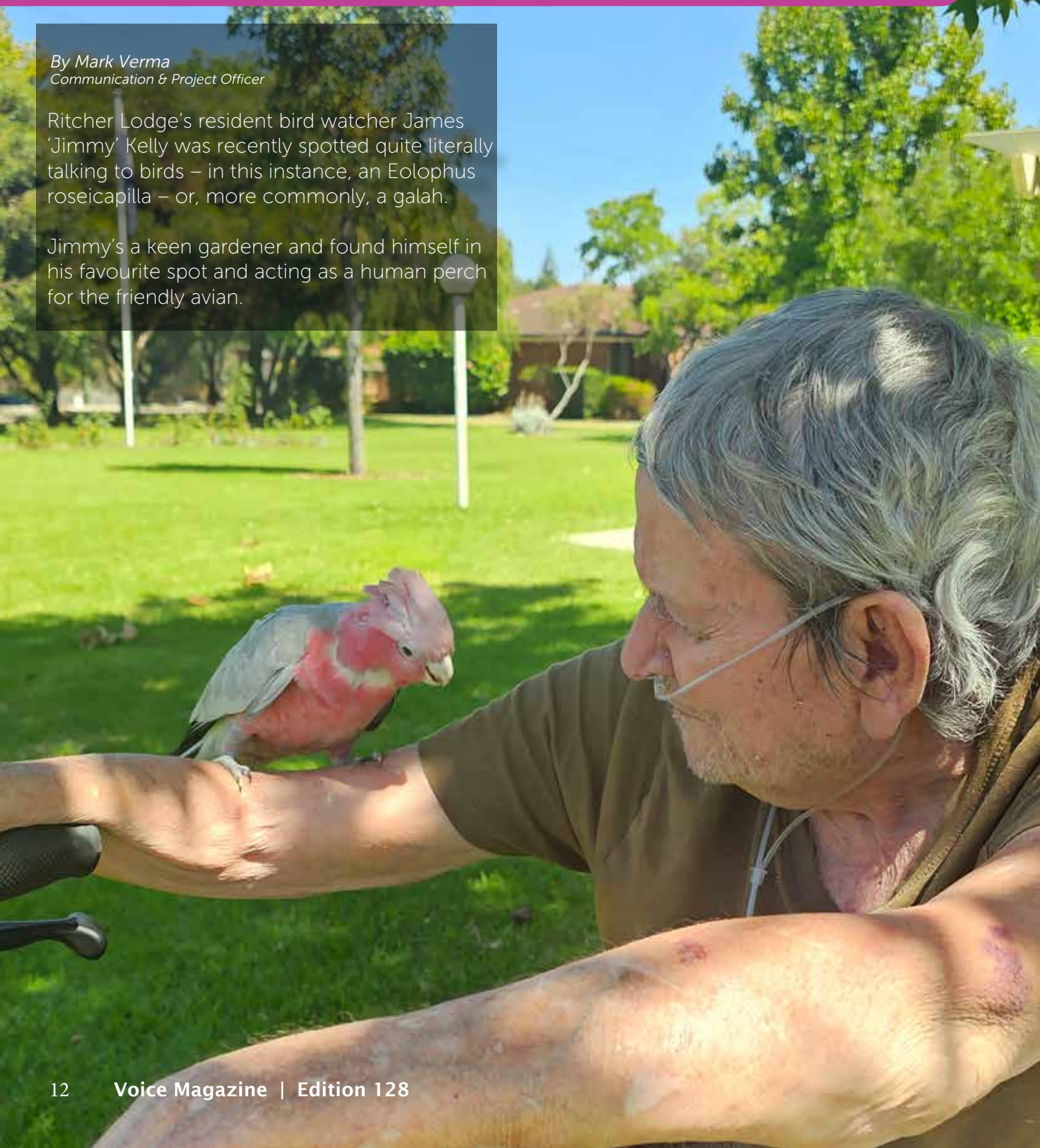
Jimmy's Birds

Sunshine and Feathered Friends

By Mark Verma
Communication & Project Officer

Ritcher Lodge's resident bird watcher James 'Jimmy' Kelly was recently spotted quite literally talking to birds – in this instance, an *Eolophus roseicapilla* – or, more commonly, a galah.

Jimmy's a keen gardener and found himself in his favourite spot and acting as a human perch for the friendly avian.



Events Calendar 2025

Book Bazaar Sale Dates - Shenton Park

16th & 17th May
20th & 21st June
18th & 19th July
22nd & 23rd August
19th & 20th September
17th & 18th October
21st & 22nd November
5th & 6th December

International Nurses Day

12th May

NAIDOC Week

6th - 13th July

Aged Care Employee Day

7th August

World Spinal Cord Injury Day

5th September

International Day of Older Persons

1st October

International Day of People with Disabilities

3rd December



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on upcoming events,
announcements and news

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Alinea

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Incorporating:

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Osboine Contemporary Aged Care, Bayswater | Ritcher Lodge, Bayswater

ParaQuad Industries, Shenton Park | Alinea Recreation Services

Paravin, Campbellfield, Victoria | Alinea Client Services