



Team BEDFORD
CITY-BAY

Sunday Mail
City-Bay Fun Run

Sunday, 19 September 2010

Join Team Bedford and help raise funds for South Australians with disability

bedfordgroup.com.au



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People Remain at the Heart of Bedford

Members of the Bedford family have more than one reason to celebrate this winter.

Not only has Bedford just merged with Heritage Industries in Mount Gambier to become the most diverse provider of disability services in the State, we celebrate our 65th anniversary while reflecting on a significant period of growth and innovation enabling us to support more people than ever before.

Over the past decade, Bedford's scope has reached unparalleled levels in the disability services sector. We now boast 24 sites across South Australia - and an impressive seven mergers in recent times has widened our geographic spread, opening doors in a range of new areas.

Bedford takes a holistic approach to meeting the evolving needs of people with disability - providing employment, accredited tertiary training, life skills education and housing to over 3,000 people with disability or disadvantage.

Just a decade ago, Bedford supported 512 people with disability - we now support six times that number. In only 10 years Bedford has increased the proportion of people we support in community (versus centre based) programmes from 5% to 68%, whilst more than doubling our centre based activities. We have also undergone significant expansion in regional SA, now offering employment, recreation and residential services across the State.

Peoples' needs are constantly changing and Bedford endeavors to adapt accordingly. Bedford is non-prescriptive - believing that individuals make their own decisions and we are therefore committed to providing a range of services that facilitate choice. Best of all, Bedford has continued to see people with disability or disadvantage have the opportunity to gain independence and realise their potential.

Read more about Bedford's 65th anniversary celebrations on page 3...



Bedford to the Max...

Dear Supporter,

65th Anniversary

Our 65th year is an exciting and appropriate time to reflect upon how Bedford has developed and to plan for the future. We have seen significant change over our rich history, the most recent being around our size and diversity. We have moved into regional South Australia, embraced community employment programmes with CareerSystems, in partnership with the Federal Government, and expanded our community housing programmes, with the support of the State Government.

Our anniversary dinner held on 30 July was a wonderful opportunity to look to the past and the future and to thank the many donors and supporters who keep underpinning our success.

I hope this edition helps underline the new shape of Bedford, with stories on our involvement in the new ICAN programme, how we are helping Kimberley Waters in community employment with CareerSystems, as well as the range of our supported employment activities.

There is, of course, a common thread to this diversity – helping to bring the best out of people with diverse needs.

The Board and Executive are now carefully reviewing where we are and our next steps to help ensure that we are around for the next 65 years!

What's in a name?

We have now changed our official name from Bedford Industries Inc to Bedford Group Inc.

This change is to reflect the organisation we have evolved into where the word “Industries” really does not describe who we are. We have grown into a broadly based provider of services for people with disability and disadvantage.

Whilst our traditional supported employment/business areas have continued to grow (doubling in size in the past decade), new community employment activities, which did not even exist a decade ago, have grown significantly with the success of the CareerSystems team. We have also entered the recreational day options area. People served by Bedford could be working with other organisations in the community, in our many and varied business areas, living at Balyana or, increasingly, in community housing, studying through our Registered Training Organisation, learning at school with our ICAN programme or having fun and learning life skills in one of our five day options programmes across the State. We are increasingly seeing people choosing between services and progressing from one service to another.

Hence the name change.

Balyana

Whilst our recent impetus in housing has been into the community, we nevertheless treasure our Balyana residential centre at Clapham, which is the happy home to 86 people with disability. I am pleased to advise that our new Balyana redevelopment committee is making good progress in its focus upon enhancing and upgrading our offerings at this wonderful location.

We thank the State Government for funding Balyana’s residents.

Fundraising

Just a small plug for the Sunday Mail City-Bay “Fun” Run to be held on 19 September. We are hoping for the biggest Team Bedford ever. Once again I will be fronting up for the 12km run, so if you wish to sponsor my effort, let me know by calling or emailing a pledge to me at mdyason@bedfordgroup.com.au

I really need your support to get me over the line!

All contributions will be gratefully received, are tax deductible and go directly to Bedford’s services.

Thanks

Thanks for your support of Bedford and the people we serve. I hope you enjoy this edition of Talking Bedford.

Best regards,

MAX DYASON
Chief Executive



Supporters enjoy Bedford's 65th Anniversary Dinner

Celebrating 65 Years

Bedford celebrated a significant milestone on 30 July with a 65th Anniversary Dinner at the Intercontinental Adelaide; a night of fine food, wine and fantastic entertainment. More than 340 guests attended the sell-out event to celebrate Bedford's long history of creating a brighter future for South Australians with disability.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has helped Bedford provide much needed services to people with disability across the State and to reflect on the vital support the organisation had received over its 65 years. Several members of the Bedford family shared their personal achievements throughout the evening through interviews with hosts Mark Aiston and Andrew 'Cosi' Costello.

We thank our sponsors Optus, Macquarie Private Wealth, Graham's Jewellers, NAB, Bluescope Distribution, City Holden, Kensington Financial Services, Carter Holt Harvey, Adelaide United Football Club, FIVEaa and Network Ten for supporting this fantastic event.

Bedford certainly couldn't have reached this milestone if we hadn't received such amazing support from the South Australian community

Programme Snapshot

For the first time in its 65 year history, Bedford is providing disengaged young South Australians with a vital link between secondary education and employment through the ICAN (Innovative Community Action Networks) initiative – led by the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS).

ICAN is designed to find solutions to issues preventing young people from completing their education. Through ICAN, Bedford currently provides work experience, training and employment to more than 70 people young people, helping them determine their strengths, barriers and effectively re-engage with their communities.

Bedford provides innovative training as part of ICAN through Frameworkx at Victor Harbor, an alternative education pathway where young people learn OHS, communication and teamwork skills through repairing bikes. These skills will count towards students achieving Certificate II in Business, with the community reaping further benefits through students donating the repaired bikes to those in need.

To find out more about ICAN and Bedford's training programmes, please contact Paul Gaertner, Team Leader, Training & Education on 0434 187 430 or pgaertner@bedfordgroup.com.au

Heritage Joins the Bedford family

There was plenty to celebrate when Bedford officially merged with Heritage Industries, becoming the largest supported employment provider in the South East. The Bedford Board officially welcomed the 50 Heritage employees and support staff at a luncheon on 24 June.

The merger sees the organisations join forces to share skills, resources and facilities, providing greater opportunity for people with disability in the region. The merge with Heritage and other organisations in the region (including Millicent Work Option Centre and Gambier Contracts) ensures Bedford is able to provide opportunities for even more people with disability in the South East.

Known for its production of pine pallets, wooden wine boxes and contract timber moulding, Heritage will become a key production hub for Bedford. Bedford thanks the Heritage Board and Members for the legacy and their vision for the years to come and now look forward to progressing our plans and paving the way towards a prosperous future.

Heritage Manager Brian Whittenbury said the historic occasion was one which had been much looked forward to by Heritage employees, staff and the local community.

"Today couldn't have come at a better time for the region and the organisation and we look forward to taking a positive step into the future as part of the Bedford Group!"



The Wallaroo team look forward to their new Day Options centre



Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason and employee Peter Tsatsaronis, AUFC player Nigel Boogaard, Bedford employee Nicholas Urbon and AUFC player Sergio van Dijk

Creating a Brighter Future on the Copper Coast

People with disability on the Copper Coast are set to benefit from a new Day Options centre at Bedford's Wallaroo site. The new much larger centre means we'll be able to provide recreational activities; including computer skills; cooking and art and craft, to more people in the region.

The centre will comprise a sensory room, a large open plan area for day activities, covered external areas plus kitchen and dining facilities, providing a pleasant environment that will cater for more than 40 people with disability from the region.

Designed with the environment in mind, the centre will be sited behind the existing facility to take advantage of the rural outlook created by the vacant land between the new centre and the Regional Hospital. The large amount of glass windows incorporated into the design will provide abundant natural light, ventilation and warmth to the building particularly as it has been orientated to maximise north facing sunlight. Roof water will be collected and plumbed to the laundry and bathroom.

The new centre, which is expected to be complete by December 2010, is the next step in Bedford's major facility upgrades at its site in Kadina, Port Pirie and Wallaroo which are benefiting more than 100 people with disability from the region.

Bedford Scores Adelaide United Partnership

Bedford employees and supporters have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the State's key football team thanks to a new partnership with Adelaide United FC (AUFC) which will see the local Champion's League club help to promote Bedford's vital work.

The formal partnership is a natural extension of the already prosperous relationship Bedford has formed with the Reds over the years – most recently, we've seen Peter Tsatsaronis, one of our Special Olympians, have a football training session with Adelaide United keeper Eugene Galekovic and in March several of the team competed in the Wii challenge at the Bedford Big BBQ fundraiser.

Throughout the 2010/2011 AFC Champions League season, dedicated Bedford volunteers will fundraise at selected Adelaide United matches, with the football club also arranging half time activities to raise awareness of the Bedford Foundation.

Adelaide United players and club representatives will also appear at Bedford events, giving AUFC fans with disability a chance to meet their sporting idols. The club will attend many of Bedford's events, such as our Big Battle sports quiz, to mingle with fans and offer words of wisdom.

Adelaide United is an inspirational sporting team and the vital encouragement they offer can certainly help people with disability to go on and achieve their own goals and aspirations.

To find out how your organisation can develop a mutually beneficial partnership with Bedford, please contact Lauren Marshall, Relationship Manager on (08) 8275 0221 or email lmarshall@bedfordgroup.com.au

Sex and the City Fans Support Bedford Foundation

Fans of the Manhattan foursome showed their support for people with disability at the Bedford Foundation's screening of Sex and the City 2 in June. Supported by Fernwood Women's Health Clubs, Robern Menz and The Good Guys – Edwardstown, over 270 people (with an overwhelming female majority!) joined together at our fundraiser movie night in June, held at Hoyts Norwood.

Guests generously supported our fundraising raffle and watched a short Bedford film before the movie. Guests were thanked for supporting the Bedford Foundation with Bedford goody bags, creating a sea of orange in the movie theatre which even SJP would have been proud of!



Sex and the City fans Amanda Klingberg, Isobel Taylor and Simone Marangon



CareerSystems client Kimberley Waters is enjoying her management traineeship at Rheinland Bakery



Bedford employee James Velder shows off the new planter range at our Kadina base

Client Profile

After losing her job, Kimberley struggled to find work. She didn't need to worry for long, as CareerSystems, Bedford's employment services division, helped find the right job for her.

Kimberley started her role as a retail assistant at Marion's Rheinland Bakery in November and hasn't looked back.

'Before this I was working at a florist, but I lost my job. I'd been looking for something else for a couple of months without much luck, then I signed up with CareerSystems who told me they had somewhere perfect for me' Kimberley said.

Kimberley's Manager, Wayne Mills, is impressed with Kimberley's customer service and professional approach to work.

'I knew Kimberley was an ideal fit from her first half day trial. She's a great asset to the business – she fits in well with the other staff and my customers all love her,' he said.

The good news doesn't end here. Kimberley showed so much promise that she's now undertaking a 12 month management traineeship to further develop her skills. 'Everything's worked out so well,' said Kimberley 'this really is the perfect job for me.'

To find out how CareerSystems can help finding jobs in the community, or to ask how CareerSystems can supply quality staff for your organisation, please call Tori Christian, Manager, CareerSystems on 0403 465 953 or tchristian@bedfordgroup.com.au

Congratulations to our Special Olympians

We congratulate our 12 employees who proudly represented South Australia in the Special Olympics Australia IX National Games held in Adelaide during April, in sports ranging from soccer to sailing to tenpin bowling.

Our Special Olympians certainly impressed the crowds, giving their all in their chosen fields: Adrian Langford in aquatics, James Henry in Athletics; Sam Thomas, Rebecca Sergeant, Lauren Packham and Mark Collett in basketball; Andrew Waller in sailing; Peter Tsatsaronis in soccer; Damien Braun in swimming; Anne Rossiter in tennis; Therese Garton and Donna Alexander in tenpin bowling.

We also congratulate Special Olympics Ambassador Brett Minervini who made a speech in front of 900 people. We've also heard that Rebecca Sergeant will be representing Australia in the World Games in Greece in 2011!!



Team Profile

Bedford has created a brighter future in Port Pirie and Kadina since merging with Living Skills in 2007, offering employment and training opportunities in its cleaning, grounds maintenance, light assembly and packaging areas. Bedford also supports 46 people in Day Options at centres in Port Pirie and Wallaroo and offers community based employment through our CareerSystems office in Port Pirie.

Our Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE's) in Port Pirie and Kadina have had a busy year, with the Bedford team playing a key role in making sure the local community looks great through landscaping work at the Wallaroo Regional Hospital and keeping the Port Pirie foreshore playground clean.

Several new initiatives this year have created additional skills development opportunities, with the team at Port Pirie starting work manufacturing a range of school furniture and packing cake decorating components. A range of easy to assemble wood DIY activity kits aimed at children has also been developed, providing additional hands-on work for Bedford's Kadina team.

An exciting range of contemporary 'mini orb' planters is also in the development stage, which will provide additional skilled manufacturing work to people with disability in Port Pirie.

To find out more about opportunities in Kadina, Port Pirie and Wallaroo, please contact Mike Curtin, Manager – Northern Region, on (08) 8275 0237 or mcurtin@bedfordgroup.com.au

PROVIDING THE IDEAL SOLUTION EVERY TIME...

Bedford provides meaningful employment and training opportunities for over 800 people in its Australian Disability Enterprises (ADE's). By choosing Bedford, you are helping create a brighter future for South Australians with disability or disadvantage.

Bedford offers national capability, total project management and exceptional customer service. Delivering outcomes across multiple industries, Bedford provides comprehensive solutions to meet your needs.

Call us today...
on (08) 8275 0211 or
visit bedfordgroup.com.au

QUALITY ASSURED – EVERY TIME



Bedford's Australian Disability Enterprises are accredited to recognised industry standards



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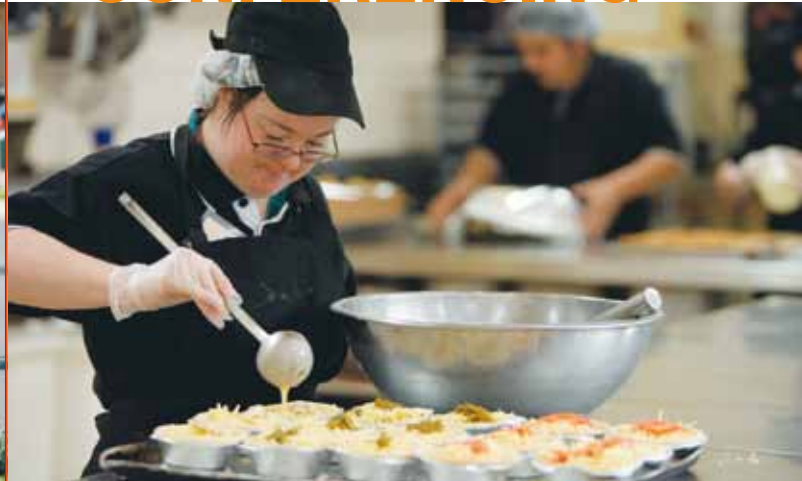
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LAUNDRY SOLUTIONS



Providing quality laundry services to hospitals, aged care facilities and the tourism industry

- Commercial laundry service
- Collection & delivery
- Public laundromat facilities

Our mission is to provide opportunities and support for people with disability to achieve their goals and realise their potential

Bedford Backyard BBQ

Help the Bedford Foundation support people with disability by organising your own Backyard BBQ.

FOR DETAILS CONTACT

Chantelle Dolphin on (08) 8275 0352 or cdolphin@bedfordgroup.com.au

bedfordgroup.com.au



Bedford acknowledges the valued support and funding from Federal, State and Local Governments in assisting the delivery of our services and programmes.

Bedford is proudly supported by:



Get Involved!

Make a difference to your local community by supporting Bedford. More information about our events is available on our website, bedfordgroup.com.au or please contact Chantelle Dolphin, Events Coordinator, on (08) 8275 0352 or email cdolphin@bedfordgroup.com.au

- 22 August Port Lincoln show
- 22 August Port Power Bedford Foundation Match Day, Adelaide
- 19 September Sunday Mail City-Bay Fun Run, Adelaide
- 29 September Smelter's Picnic, Port Pirie
- 8 October World Egg Day celebrations - Port Lincoln
- 21 October Bedford Big Battle at the Hilton, Adelaide
- 29 November – 3 December Bedford Achievement Awards (events state wide)
- 3 December International Day of People with Disability



More than just good business

Talking Bedford is a publication of the Bedford Group
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Could your organisation hold its own at the Bedford Big Battle?



Thursday 21, October
Hilton Adelaide
From 6pm

(Fingers on buzzers at 6:30pm)

To book your table please contact Joanne Smith on (08) 8275 0390 or jsmith@bedfordgroup.com.au



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