



WHS

NEWS BULLETIN

www.meercroft.org

Welcome to the **43rd** edition of the **Work Health Safety News Bulletin**

ON-LINE EDUCATION



Pictured above: Sandra (Sandy) Amos operating the kiosk



As part of our ongoing **Staff Education Program** for 2017 two training courses are currently being conducted on-line for service employees, activities, Munnew and Ocean View breakfast staff.

Namely: **FOOD SAFE** and **CHEMICAL TRAINING**

Meercroft is paying 3 hours for staff completing both sessions and 2 hours for staff only having to do one session.

MEERCROFT AUXILARY

The Meercroft Auxilary is a group of volunteers comprising approximately **15** members with its primary focus of raising necessary funds in order to compliment resident comfort, health and wellbeing.

Funds raised are derived from the kiosk, raffles, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, businesses and personal donations as well as fruit and vegetables donated from local farmers.

For the 2016/17 financial year the Auxilary donated **\$15,000** towards the purchase of new equipment.

Namely:

- ▶ 3 floorline beds with pressure relieving mattresses
- ▶ 3 pressure relieving chairs
- ▶ 3 lambswools

The ongoing commitment and sacrifices made by the Meercroft Auxilary is something we can all be extremely proud of and we trust that the Community, staff and the residents we care for share that pride.



Training must be completed by: 2017.



ALARMING STATISTICS

HUMAN RESOURCE: Sick leave hours for the month of **July 2017** for clinical staff = **927 hours**.

LWOP (Leave Without Pay) = **721 hours**.

An average to cover of **53 hours per day** without carers leave, LSL, annual leave.



200 more hours than same time last year for sick leave.

INFECTION CONTROL



As posted on the **ABC News** website on 19th July 2017, more than 1,000 cases of almost-untreatable superbugs were reported in Australia in the 12 months to March this year.

Nursing homes were singled out as having a high proportion of superbugs i.e. up to 40 per cent of superbug strains **resistant to last-line antibiotics** are found in nursing homes.

Hence, the need to **practice / demonstrate** a high degree of infection control and hygiene standards is therefore essential.

Up to 80% of infectious diseases are transmitted by touch



HOW MANY **GERMS** LIVE ON YOUR CELL PHONE?

Using the Bathroom



Wearing gloves **doesn't negate** the need to wash your hands.

Opening & Closing Doors



Bad Habits



Use it! 59 hand sanitiser units located facility wide.

FOOD SAFE

In accordance with **Policy INF018** staff are cordially reminded of the following **food restrictions**.

Namely:

- Foodsafe regulations prevent the use of food prepared outside an approved and registered provider to be consumed by persons (both residents and staff) in an Aged Care Facility unless preparation and consumption is limited to family members **ONLY**.
- Reheating of food items for residents and / or staff that has not been prepared by Meercroft kitchen staff is **NOT** permitted on these premises. Persons providing these food items are to be assisted to locate a microwave **ONLY** (microwave to be used is to be specifically dedicated for reheating food only). Staff are **not permitted** by law to serve or assist a resident to this food type.
- Refrigerated foods that have not been prepared by Meercroft kitchen staff are not to be handled or served by care staff for any reason whatsoever.



- Take away foods are not to be purchased / brought into the facility by staff, family or friends of residents. Family members / friends may purchase takeaway foods for residents only
 - (a) If the resident is outside the Facility
 - (b) If the resident requests to have takeaway.

STEPPING UP TO THE CHALLENGE

“Whenever you find yourself saying, ‘Somebody should do something about this,’ turn that around and ask yourself, ‘What could I do about this?’”

Rather than restating what’s wrong, start looking at ways to fix it. Every time you take initiative, you build experience that makes it mentally easier to do it again.

Generally, management and supervisors respond well to an employee who comes to them with ideas about solving problems. We also need to understand that we may have an idea that is only a piece of the puzzle and we need to get into a conversation.

Work Health Safety is everybody’s responsibility and stepping up to the challenge is paramount in order to maintain a sustainable and safe workplace environment.



SECURITY SYSTEM

Meercroft Care Inc. recently updated its security system which also included a new CCTV (closed-circuit television) monitor located in ‘The Park’ nurses station *as pictured below:*



In total, there are **35 security cameras** strategically located throughout the facility, both internally and externally. In addition to same regular security and workplace safety checks are conducted every night, which in turn are complimented by random security checks conducted by a licensed security company.

CONCEALED WATER MAINS



The following marking regime applies in respect to concealed water mains where there is a **sealed carriageway with kerb & gutter**.

Namely: fire hydrant cover shall be coloured yellow to AS2700 Y14 ‘**Golden Yellow**’, and public water supply stop valve be coloured blue to AS2700 B41 ‘**Blue Bell**’.

EMPLOYEE FOCUS



Jason Emmerton RN
Team Leader – Ocean View

I am 31 years old, was born in the old Burnie hospital. Was meant to be born on New Year's Eve, but I came early on the 18th December. I am an only child between my Mum and Dad.

I completed my Bachelor of Nursing degree and graduated from UTAS in 2011, previous to that I was working in an Aged Care Home as an ECA. Overall I have about 9 years of experience working in Aged Care.

Very much grateful to be offered the team leader position in Ocean View and am very committed to succeeding in the role. I thank everyone for welcoming me into Meercroft with open arms and am very much enjoying working here.

Aged Care has always been a passion and I feel very honoured to be able to contribute to making a difference.

Hopefully I can become a role model for other new nurses and to attract them to Aged Care as there will need to be a big change in the number of nurses needed in Aged Care once the majority of Baby Boomers begin to retire.

My childhood was difficult, my Mum passed away when I was 11 from the dreadful disease of cancer, although it was septicaemia that took her away from us.

After that it was Dad and I, we have always been a team, there are times where I feel like I could slap him silly!

But that is family and he ain't too bad for a 74-year-old man. Apart from his bad taste in football teams, St Kilda. He'll be devastated next year when Nick Reiwoldt isn't playing!

I am very lucky to have been married to my soul mate for the past 5 years, we have been inseparable ever since we met. We just knew from day 1 that we were meant to be.

Along the way we have had a cheeky little girl, named Madelyn who is turning 3 in September! A ginger/possum-like cat named Arnie, whose lucky to be alive after many close encounters and nearly causing us bankruptcy!

Madelyn was born with a genetic condition of which I also have called Craniosynostosis, which basically means that the sutures in your skull close too quickly, as they're meant to stay open until the age of 3 to allow the brain to grow.

So we both have had a major surgery on our heads by the same specialist, Dr Tony Holmes who is an amazing man! All is well with Madelyn, apart from the terrible 2's and 3's attitude!

My wife Kirsty is currently studying her Bachelor of Nursing also and is due to graduate next year.

Things I like are:

- MUSIC!!!! Very passionate about music. Anything from my favourite band 'The Beatles' to Michael Buble, Country music and everything in between. I also have previously played guitar and sang around Tasmania.
- Sports! Lots of Sports! AFL, Soccer, Cricket, Basketball, Ice Hockey... The list goes on! Essendon is my favourite AFL team!
- Honest, upfront people
- Love having a laugh, love comedy movies! Robin Williams was a favourite, such a character!

Things I dislike:

- Dishonest, false people
- Not having my Mum around to enjoy my life with me

