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**NEWS**



## Mike's message

**New people, a new event and a new look!**

Change is a natural part of growth, and one of the most exciting changes in any small non-profit is welcoming new team members. Whether staff, volunteers, students or board members, fresh faces bring fresh ideas and energy.

We embrace new team members because they:

- bring different experiences and creative ideas
- introduce new ways to improve our programs / processes / connection
- add unique skills and strengths, making our organisation more well-rounded
- spark motivation by bringing excitement and enthusiasm
- re-energise the whole organisation and remind us why we do what we do.

So, it's great to be able to welcome two new Board Members, two new Volunteers and three Students who will all help shape the future and keep our vision alive.

You can read all about them in the separate article below.

## A new event

### The Big Village 2025

Following the success of our inaugural Big Village in 2023, registered clients of Grandcarers SA are again invited to a day of information and personal support on Wednesday 30 April 2025. Further details and a link to the booking site are included in a later article.



## A new look

Another change is our new sign outside our office at 30 Pitt Street, Adelaide. Readers may not think it's much to get excited about as it's a fairly simple sign, but after getting design, landlord, planning and building regulations approvals, it didn't prove to be a simple task.

Big thanks to our wonderful volunteer Celine for working on, and persevering through, the design and all the approvals to get it in place.

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Building Design. Without their support and skills, this project would not have succeeded.

**Mike Feszczak**  
CEO Grandcarers SA

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NewPeople

## New people supporting our vision

By welcoming new team members, we ensure our organisation continues to grow and adapt. Their skills and commitment assist us to manage our service delivery and growth whilst their ideas and enthusiasm help shape the future and ensure we have one.

### New students

During February we welcomed three new students to Grandcarers SA. **Anthony Nwagwu** (left) and **Lingyu Zhou** (right) recently started their final Master of Social Work placement with us whilst **Betty Nguyen** (centre) is completing her Bachelor of Community Services.



## New volunteers



**Gai McMichael**

Gai is a Grandcarer. Throughout her career has worked closely with vulnerable children and their families, including children with physical and intellectual developmental disorders. She has facilitated several consumer and expert focus groups as well as home support groups for vulnerable women, providing them with a safe place to share their stories. Gai is a member of the Grandcarers SA Advisory Group and will support our Tea Tree Gully Village.



**Dana Wright**

Dana is a Grandcarer who started caring for her grandson 6 years ago when he was 7 months old. She currently works part time as a Clinical Project Manager in Health, and has worked as a Registered Nurse for over 35 years. In her spare time she likes to try and keep fit, loves walking and travelling with her husband and grandson when they get the chance. Dana is a member of the Grandcarers SA Advisory Group and will support a new Village planned for Somerton Park

**New board members**

Grandcarers SA is pleased to announce the recruitment of two new Board Members who bring excellent skills and experience to our Board.



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Heather has supported this organisation since the early days of it being Grandparents for Grandchildren. As the CEO of Surewise Insurance Heather brings relevant skills and experience, particularly in relation to compliance and risk management.

Marilyn is an experienced lawyer, with past specialisms in Child Protection and Family Law. She previously led the Northern Community Legal Service and was a research adviser to the Legal Services Commission of SA. It is to the credit of our organisation that we are able to attract candidates of this calibre and we look forward to their positive impact on our future.

It is to the credit of our organisation that we are able to attract candidates of this calibre, and we look forward to their positive impact on our future.

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theBV



Grandcarers SA  
**theBigVillage**

WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2025  
9:45AM – 3:00PM  
UNITING COMMUNITIES  
43 FRANKLIN STREET, ADELAIDE SA 5000

SUPPORTED BY  
CARER & COMMUNITY SA

Grandcarers SA

## The Big Village 2025

Following the success of our inaugural Big Village, our registered clients are again invited to a day of information and personal support on Wednesday 30 April 2025.

- A worthwhile welcome pack
- Useful Information for Grandcarers (see below)
- Networking opportunities with other Grandcarers and our team
- Good food, including morning tea and lunch
- A prize draw

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- Her Excellency, the Hon Frances Adamson AC
- Mike Feszczak, CEO Grandcarers SA
- Ashum Owen, CEO Wakwakurna Kanyini
- Michael Bampton, Consumer & Business Services on Cyber Crime and Scams
- Linda White on Strength Based Approaches for Carers
- Jason Tyndall, CEO Nature Play on Saved by Nature
- Sue Newberry, Managing Director The Woohoo Co. on Personal Wellness

**All this at a subsidised cost of only \$20 per registered client or \$150 for a table of 10 clients from a current Grandcarers Village.**

[Click here to book your tickets by Sunday 13 April 2025](#)

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Daniel

## Daniel's journey

We would like to share the incredible journey of Daniel, a young man who was brought up by his grandparents Jeffrey and Heather, clients of Grandcarers SA.

The support of his grandparents and Daniel's determination, resilience, and unwavering commitment to his goals have led him to the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA).

### A dream set early

From a young age, Daniel had a clear vision for his future. In Year 9, he decided that he wanted to pursue engineering at ADFA, and by Year 10, he was already taking steps to make that dream a reality. He negotiated with his school to complete work experience at a different time to the school's set schedule, showing his early drive and proactive approach. Though he faced some setbacks, including missing out on his first attempt at Defence's competitive work experience, he didn't give up. His

## Leadership and hard work

Throughout this time, Daniel wasn't just focused on academics. He took on leadership roles, including being the captain of the Tea Tree Gully Little Athletics Club, becoming a school house-captain and captaining a robotics team that won a national Tech Challenge Championship. He chose the subjects necessary for ADFA entry – Maths Methods, Specialist Mathematics, and Physics, and even joined a gym to work on his fitness. His efforts paid off when he achieved a high ATAR score, with additional bonus points for his kinship care status, and met the requirements for ADFA's Aeronautical Engineering course.

## The selection process

Getting into ADFA isn't just about grades. The selection process is rigorous, involving both academic requirements and a series of tests and interviews. Daniel applied to both the Army and the Airforce, and while he received invitations from both, the Army responded faster, offering him a cadetship. Over 15 months, he completed 11 tests and interviews, demonstrating his commitment and readiness for this next step.

## Boot camp and university life

On 20 January 2025, Daniel, along with five other Army Officer Cadets from Adelaide, enlisted and headed straight to ADFA for a 5-week boot camp. While this has been challenging, especially with limited phone access, Daniel has remained positive, knowing he had prepared for this moment for three years. He completed all the sections and remained free of injury, enjoying the challenges and remaining positive. He also participated in the Chief of Defence Parade in Canberra before beginning his engineering course on 24 February. His schedule will be demanding, with 35 hours of university work and 15 hours of military training each week, but he is more than ready for it.

## A proud moment

For Jeffrey and Heather, watching Daniel take this journey has been incredibly rewarding. His hard work, resilience, and ability to stay focused on his goals despite setbacks are qualities that will serve him well in the future. As Grandcarers, seeing him achieve his dreams has been a moment of pride, and they are excited to see where his journey will take him next.

To all our Grandcarers, thank you for your ongoing support of the young people in your care. Together, we can help them reach their full potential, just like Daniel.

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# Congratulations Joanne and Tom!



Grandcarers SA sends huge congratulations to our very own Operations Coordinator Joanne and her partner Tom for their fabulous wedding on Saturday 22 February.

Following a honeymoon in Hamilton Island, Joanne will be returning to work on the 11 March.

We all look forward to welcoming her back as Mrs Joanne Hunter.

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## INFORMATION

ElizabethRise

**If you are a grandparent or kinship carer and live in the outer northern suburbs**

Come and share your challenges, ask questions and connect with us.

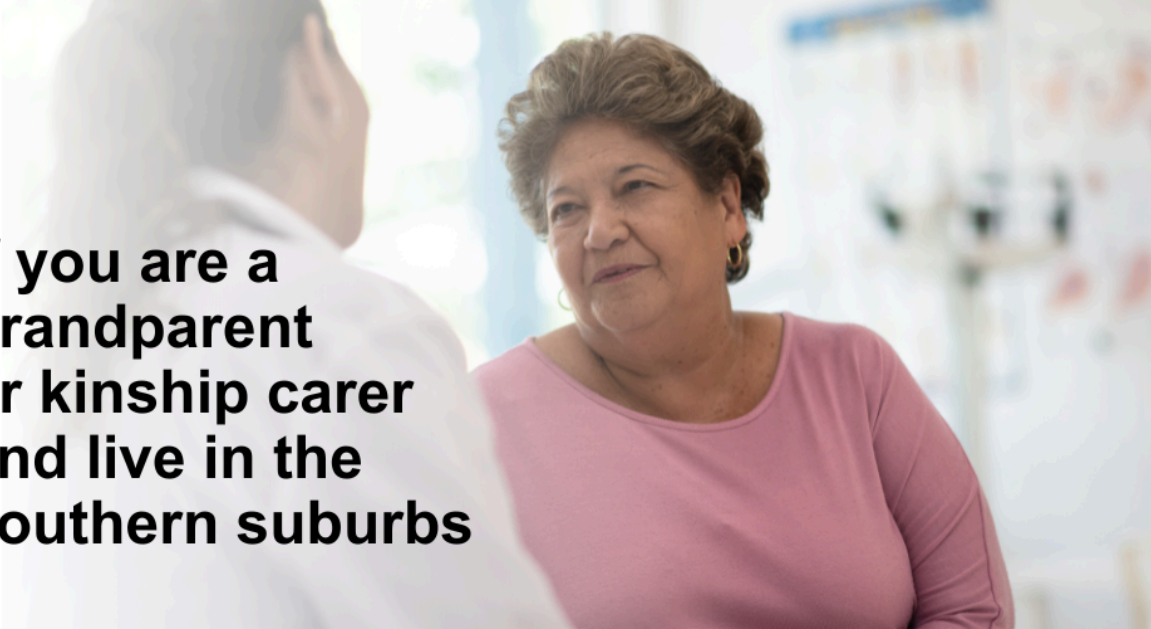
Grandcarers SA in conjunction with the Elizabeth Rise Community Centre would like you to join us for an informal chat about how we can better support grandparent and kinship carers in our community.

**Tuesday 11 March 2025  
10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Elizabeth Rise Community Centre**

Morning tea provided.

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ChristiesBeach



**If you are a  
grandparent  
or kinship carer  
and live in the  
southern suburbs**

Come and meet the CEO to discuss the future of our  
**Christies Beach Village**  
and how we can better support you.

**Thursday 20 March 2025**  
**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Taikurrendi Children & Family Centre**  
8 Price Street, Christies Beach SA 5165

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FASD



**Are you new to the topic of Fetal Alcohol  
Spectrum Disorder (FASD)?**

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5), NOFASD's new "Starting Steps" program will be the perfect place for you to start.

Commencing on Friday 7th March and delivered over four weeks, each 1-hour, online session will introduce key knowledge about FASD and provide information about the resources and supports that are available so that you can move forward with confidence and support your child to achieve positive outcomes. You'll also have the opportunity to connect with other caregivers who are also at the outset of their FASD journey.

To register your interest in participating please provide your details at:

[www.nofasd.org.au/contact-us/](http://www.nofasd.org.au/contact-us/) (please indicate that you're interested in the "Starting Steps" group) or call NOFASD's Helpline: 1800 860 613

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WildWest

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TALK  
OUTLOUD



# WILD WEST EMPOWERMENT WEEKEND

AGES 18+

TAKE A BREAK FROM THE BUSYNESS  
OF LIFE, ENJOY A VARIETY OF  
EXPERIENCES, MAKE NEW CONNECTIONS,  
ENHANCE TEAM-BUILDING SKILLS &  
FORGE LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS!



## Activities

- Team building ✓
- Sheep herding ✓
- Shelter building ✓
- Amazing Race ✓
- Line dancing ✓
- and much more! ✓

**Starts: 6pm Friday 28/03/25**

**Ends: 3pm Sunday 30/03/25**

Wirraway Homestead  
660 Old Bull Creek Rd,  
Strathalbyn

[camps@talkoutloud.com.au](mailto:camps@talkoutloud.com.au)

**MOB: 0467 485 880**

<https://jotform.com/92871699388885>



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Join us at a playgroup at Evanston Gardens Library where the young and the young at heart join together for a fun experience that is great for everyone!

Gawler Libraries, proudly working with Playgroup SA, Evanston Gardens Primary School & Gawler and District College Children's Centre.  
Bookings are not required for this event.

**Gawler**  
LIBRARIES

FOR TICKETS,  
SCAN HERE TO  
BOOK ONLINE,  
OR PH: 8522 9215

**HUMANITY**



10:00am-11:30am  
Wednesdays during term time  
**EVANSTON GARDENS**

\* No need to book every week, all families and older friends welcome  
for more information please call or text Kim on 0408 192 143

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UpcomingV

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## Upcoming Villages

### Tea Tree Gully

Monday 3 March, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Surrey Downs Community Centre, Meeting Room 2,  
6 Zanoni Crescent, Surrey Downs SA 5126

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### Port Lincoln

Wednesday 5 March, phone 08 8682 6677 for time

PLACC, 30 Ravendale Road, Port Lincoln SA 5606

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### Adelaide Hills

Wednesday 12 March, 10:30am-12:00pm

The Hut Community Centre, 1 Euston Road, Aldgate SA 5154

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### Barossa Valley

Thursday 13 March, 10:30am-12:00pm

CALD Office, 15 Second Street, Nuriootpa SA 5355

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### Para Hills

Wednesday 19 March, 10:00am-12:00pm

Para Hills Community Hub, 22 Wilkinson Road, Para Hills SA 5096

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### Riverland

Grandcarers, Kinship & FosterCarers Group

Wednesday 19 March

Contact Jo on 0459 933 555 for location and time

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### Christies Beach

Thursday 20 March, 10:30am-12:00pm

Taikurrendi Children and Family Centre, 8 Price Street, Christies Beach SA 5165

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### Port Adelaide

Monday 24 March, 10:00am-12:00pm

Bower Cottages, 200 Bower Road, Semaphore Park SA 5019

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**MAKE A DONATION**



Grandcarers SA is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.  
ABN 98 758 891 825

**Phone:** 08 8212 1937

**Email:** [contactus@grandcarers.au](mailto:contactus@grandcarers.au)

**Location address:** 30 Pitt Street ADELAIDE SA 5000

**Mailing address:** Grandcarers SA c/o Uniting Communities 43 Franklin Street ADELAIDE SA 5000

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