



December 2018

NEWSLETTER

Chair Report

It's always busy at Seeds and a lot has happened since our last newsletter. Linda continues to visit, and support women being held in the AWP. The relationships she builds through these visits helps to create a smoother pathway for women to come to Seeds post-release. Our bi-weekly sessions continue to attract new members, who are in turn supported by our long-term members. This paying it forward approach is one of the strengths of Seeds and is what makes what we do unique. The kitchen and hall have been a hive of activity, as we make our soaps and baked goods which we sell to support ourselves financially. I would like to extend my thanks to Halimah Vayliff and Helen Johnston, both of whom recently stepped down from the board. Halimah and Helen volunteered countless hours of their time over the last couple of years. Recently a group of us travelled to Brisbane to present at the Sisters Inside Conference. To connect with scholars and allies from around the globe was an amazing opportunity.



I think I can safely speak on behalf of everyone who volunteers at Seeds that the greatest reward

is when our women do well in whatever goals that they choose to set for themselves. Whether that is studying, working, volunteering, being healthy, being creative or just staying in the community, your achievements sustain us. In Solidarity, Michele Jarldorn.

Seeds wins a National Award

Linda and Anna recently travelled to Canberra to receive our first federal award. The *Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards* recognise best practice in the prevention or reduction of violence and other types of crime in Australia. Seeds received a bronze award in the community-led category, recognised for supporting and empowering women during, and upon their release, from prison. Australian Institute of Criminology Director, Michael Phelan APM said the project's community development model of service offers a unique opportunity to redress isolation by supporting women to access essential services such as housing, financial support and peer support. "The model encourages women to share strategies that increase their skills and develop pro-active ways to stay out of prison," Mr Phelan said. You can read more about the awards here <https://aic.gov.au/about-us/awards-and-grants/australian-crime-and-violence-prevention-awards/acvpa-winning-projects-2018>

Quiz Night

Thanks to everyone who came along to the 2018 Quiz Night held at Port Adelaide Football Club in July. Port Adelaide legend, Russell Ebert, and his colleagues joined us for lunch and agreed to donate two signed Port Power guernseys to auction. It was good to see so many new faces supporting Seeds. The event raised over \$6000 which is will go a long way to support our work.



Spreading the Word

It's been a busy time for our speaking engagements. These engagements are a great way to spread the word about the work we do, an opportunity for our members to gain confidence in public speaking and to advocate more broadly about the issues facing criminalised women in South Australia. Linda and Fiona presented a paper at the International Reintegration Puzzle conference in Tasmania. Anna was the Keynote Speaker and Fiona presented a paper at the 2018 ANZSWWER Symposium held at Flinders University. Linda was an invited speaker at the Gender & Sexualities Postgrad Conference at the University of Adelaide, while a group of our women spoke at the Statewide Mental Health Social Work Forum. On four separate occasions Seeds have presented a forum to students studying their MSW degree at Flinders University and were invited presenters at a community forum at the Hopgood Theatre titled: *Intersection between criminal justice system and domestic violence*. The positive feedback we receive from these events is heartening as it shows that our advocacy work is making a difference in the way the community thinks about women who have been in prison.

SA Living Artists (SALA) Festival

In August Seeds participated in SALA, hosting an event called *Leaving Prison Behind - Voices and Images of Women Prisoners*. The event showcased work from Michele's photovoice project and audio produced through Radio Seeds. Around 50 people joined us for supper and a forum explaining the rationale behind the creative works on display, the wider work of the organisation and raising awareness about the challenges faced by women during and after incarceration. Many thanks go to the folks at the Semaphore Uniting Church for providing the venue and the City of Port Adelaide Enfield who supported us and other artists to register and advertise our event.



Congratulations!

We celebrated another academic achievement in the Seeds community. Our Chair, Dr Michele Jarldorn, graduated with a PhD from Flinders University for her project, *Radically rethinking imprisonment: A Photovoice exploration of life in and after prison in South Australia*.



Food Donations

Every Tuesday and Friday we get together to make lunch and create a space where women feel safe and supported. Recently, the contributions of Pathways Community Centre and Nannas Free Food Basket have been a massive help, donating a range of delicious food each week. Thank you for your valuable support.



Seeds is on Social Media

Don't forget, you can keep up with Seeds of Affinity news in between newsletters by following us on Facebook and we are now on Twitter and Instagram.

