

MHACA is Officially Launched!

IT WAS with much pleasure that the committee, staff, consumers and friends of MHACA celebrated the official opening of our new premises on Wednesday, 10 December 2008. Our board room was full to overflowing, with over 70 people attending to hear a range of presentations followed by the official speech and unveiling by the Hon. Minister for Children and Families, Malarndirri McCarthy.

While MHACA has been 'open for business' in our new premises at 65 Hartley Street since October 2007, there were a number of renovations that needed to take place before we were ready to officially celebrate our new location. It's been a year in the making ... and throughout this time we have gradually settled into our new home. The journey to here has been a long one, and we are grateful for the more spacious and therapeutic environment available for both consumers and staff, as well as all the visitors that come through our doors.



It was great to see a full house gathered in the board room



Minister Malarndirri McCarthy and Claudia Manu-Preston with the official plaque of our new (current) building



Getting ready for our celebrations on the morning of the launch



Minister Malarndirri McCarthy giving an inspiring heartfelt speech at the launch



A Special Thank You to ...

- ◆ members of the MHACA Singing Group who performed at the opening of the celebrations
- ◆ Glenise Alexander who spoke about her journey as a consumer and the role MHACA has played in her recovery
- ◆ Trish van Dijk for her presentation as the new Chairperson of the MHACA Committee
- ◆ Minister Malarndirri McCarthy for her heartfelt speech and recognition of the challenges faced by people living with a mental illness and the importance of support organisations such as MHACA
- ◆ Laurencia for preparing the detailed slide show on the history of mental health in Alice Springs and the evolution of MHACA as an organisation
- ◆ Carmel and Sean for their creativity in producing the inspiring short film 'Talking Feet'
- ◆ Sue and Emily for preparing the building and organising all the hiring and logistics
- ◆ Pip for preparing all the wonderful food
- ◆ Emily and Donna for the colourful festive building decorations
- ◆ Brian for organising the three flags (and successfully getting them hoisted!)



Special guests MLA Jodeen Carney & Mayor Damien Ryan catching up before the presentations

Donna, Glenise, Danielle & Christine enjoying some refreshments after the talks



Last, but not least, a big thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this a festive day. It was great to see you there, and we look forward to the ongoing growth and development of relationships with all members of the MHACA community. ✂