

'Aunty' Lynne's big plans

By Kathryn Vukovljak

IT'S not enough to raise a few dollars by rattling a tin, says Galilee's new CEO Lynne Harwood. She believes not-for-profit organisations need solid business acumen to succeed – and she brings it in spades.

It's the killer combination of business skills and compassion that gets results, she says. "My aim is to make Galilee an effective, efficient, fully-functioning business. The bleeding heart stuff only gets you so far. I'm here to do business!" she told "CityNews".

Galilee is a not-for-profit organisation working to help disadvantaged children and young people in the community. Lynne has big plans to grow the organisation and drive it into the future.

"Striking a balance between strategic business fundamentals and empathy is intrinsic to success for the not-for-profit sector... organisations who don't do this will fall by the wayside," she says.

"Government funding is not enough to feed us, we are constantly seeking donations and corporate sponsorships, and seeking partnerships to enhance the work we do."

After 14 years as an accountant, Lynne admits she needed a change and has spent the past six years as CEO of Home Help Services ACT.

"At the moment Galilee is very spread out, with the school at Kambah Pool Road and other sections dotted over the inner south. My aim is create a single hub at the school, and I also plan to grow our existing programs, with emphasis on parental skills, prevention rather than cure, mentoring and support for 8-12 year olds, plus vocational training for 16-21-year-olds," she says.



Galilee's new CEO Lynne Harwood... "The bleeding heart stuff only gets you so far. I'm here to do business!"
Photo by Silas.

"I'm a big believer in prevention rather than cure, so that's close to my heart. I want to see more proactive programs to stop the cycle so the child can progress into young adulthood. Also everyone deserves love so I'm looking at different ways to make sure that kids get that.

"My skill, my contribution to the organisation is structuring effective not-for profit organisations that can do good, I'm not a hands on person with children... I want to provide programs and funds for the people who do that to be able to look after more children. Mother to none, aunty to lots."