Adam Hawkins—on being hands on

Adam with feathered friends in Bali, 2022

Adam as Beetlejuice, adaptCARE Disco, 2025

When Adam joined adaptCARE as a casual Support Worker in 2023 he was also working multiple roles at Glenara Lakes Aged Care Facility as an Extended Care Assistant, and in Administration and as a Rostering Clerk. As adaptCARE has grown, so too has Adam's role in the organisation, multiplying in all directions. In 2024 he became a permanent staff member, joining the organisation's office staff as an Administrator and Community Engagement Officer, and he continues to fill in as a Support Worker as needed. His job title changed recently to Office and Engagement Coordinator and while he is still working out exactly what this means in practical terms, he is now working more with Nadia, our new People, Culture and Compliance Manager, but many of his existing jobs, such as preparing the bi-monthly newsletters, organising the monthly discos, and filling support worker shifts will continue.

Juggling multiple work commitments is nothing new for Adam, but it is not something he always does easily. While on the one hand it suits him, as he likes getting out and about and doing things, but on the other hand, for someone who likes to feel in control and suffers from anxiety he can find it de-stabilising.

Looking back over his life, he realises adapting to change has often been stressful for him. After spending his formative years growing up in Ross, his family moved to Perth when he was 8. The move made him feel ostracised and he hated his new school where he was bullied and picked on, so his mother enrolled him at St Thomas Moore's in Launceston. Overall, the move was a good one. At St Thomas Moore's, people made an effort to speak to him, and he made some good friends. He then went to St Patricks College and although he enjoyed the social aspect of school, academically he didn't fare that well because, Adam thinks, he has undiagnosed Dyslexia.

Adam had no clear career path in mind, however, from working after-school jobs at McDonalds and-Gee Jays's café at Meadow Mews, he thought he might like to be a chef, and he left school in Grade 10 to do a Commercial Cookery Course at TAFE. He didn't complete the course and went back to school and then left again in Grade 11 to complete a Certificate III in Hospitality. This and his food-related work experiences got him a traineeship at JJ's Bakery in Longford, which was to

become his primary workplace for the next 18 years. He loved the staff and felt he was part of the 'family'.

Adam eventually became a manager at JJ's, but he left twice. The first time was to work as a casual steward on the three Spirit of Tasmania ferries for 6-months. He liked doing the Devonport to Melbourne run on the Spirit of Tasmania 1 and 2, but he did not enjoy working the Spirit of Tasmania 3 service to Sydney. In the end, he found the casual nature of the work too unsettling and returned to his job at JJ's. The second time he left JJ's was for what turned out to be a 5-week working stint as an assistant manager at Hungry Jacks in Mowbray, where he put in 12 hour days but paid for only 8. Despite the strong work ethic drummed into him from an early age, and to never to call in sick unless you really were, he found the work culture at Hungry Jack's was not acceptable and he returned to JJ's.

Over the years, Adam also ran several party plan businesses in the evenings and on weekends alongside his job at JJ's. One was The Chef's Toolbox, where he realised his interest in cooking was baking cakes, something he still enjoys doing. Another was with Flaschengeist Australia, a German word and concept meaning 'Spirit in a bottle', which sold liqueurs in beautifully shaped bottles. Adam loved both the concept and the bottles; 'it was like a Tupperware Party but with alcohol,' he says. He became one of their top salespeople in the ten years he ran his business. The experience gave him both confidence in organising and hosting events as well as financial reward, including several overseas trips. He remembers taking his mum on a South Pacific cruise he won. Although his mum is his best friend and they share a very close bond, he remembers he felt like killing her on day two of the cruise because she wouldn't stop talking and saying embarrassing things out loud. This did not impair his love for his mum or for travelling, and he has travelled with his mum again.

Adam and the art of cocktails, 2016

Adam with mum Lyn, South Pacific Cruise 2016

In 2018 Adam decided to change career paths and began a Certificate III in Individual Support, completing his training with a placement at Toosey Nursing Home in Longford in 2019, the year he met adaptCARE founder Ben who he married in February 2025. He took long service leave from JJ's and started work at Glenara Lakes. Now Adam is happy to relinquish the desire for control he once

had. He has found his strength in other things, like organising events. He has done this most of his life, from putting on parties for friends to theme-based events he organised during his time at JJ's, and now with the discos he organises for adaptCARE. He also like office work, which he has also done in most jobs.

Adam, Gold Coast, Queensland, 2022

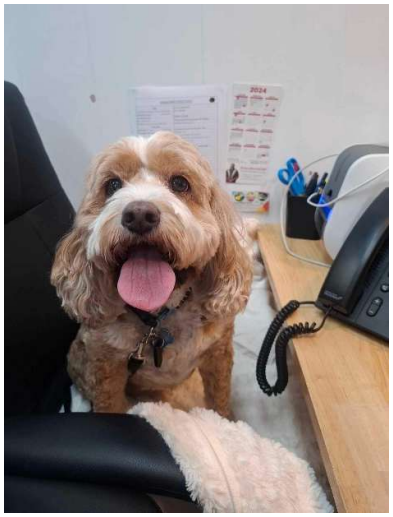
Adam, Ubud, Bali, 2025

Adam recently completed a Cert IV in Leisure and Health to do more hands-on activities. While he learnt some useful things, overall, he found the course very repetitive. He knows on-line study is hard for him; he is much more a face-to-face, hands-on person. He would rather show than tell, and he feels his role at adaptCARE allows him to do that. And although Ben is his husband, there is definitely no favouritism at work. If anything, Adam thinks their relationship places him under more scrutiny than other staff, but he thinks adaptCARE is a great organisation to work for and he loves contributing to its vision.

When not at work, Adam and Ben are always escaping the rush and having weekends away whether its interstate or within our beautiful state, visiting local vineyards, with favourites being JANSZ and Joseph Chromy to enjoy their superb sparkling wines. Travel abroad is also firmly on their agenda. To date, Adam has made seven trips to Bali, three to Singapore, and two to Thailand, as well as two South Pacific cruises. In 2026 he and Ben are planning further adventures overseas. That being said, Adam equally loves to spend time at home with their two dogs, Henry the cavoodle and Frankie, a Golden Retriever, and spoiling his two beautiful nieces, Lydiah and Isla.

Ben & Adam, Wedding Day, Launceston, Feb 2025

Adam on his honeymoon in Thailand, 2025



Adam's cavoodle, Henry at the adaptCARE office, Longford, 2024