

Farewell from Helen Vey

As your Area Managers will have advised, I am leaving Community Accessibility Inc. to take on a role with Vision Australia in Albury. I would like to thank all the Volunteers, Committee of Management and staff who have supported me during my time with CA Inc.

The role of General Manager has presented many challenges which have been tackled head on. I am pleased to say that the organisation is now on the right trajectory to be prepared for the changes in Government Policy and the introduction of the NDIS over the next couple of years.



I have been an active participant in the research project that has been assigned with the task of developing a national fees and funding structure for community transport by the Federal Government. The outcomes of this project will hopefully be known in March or April this year. The changes and adjustments that have been made at CA Inc, and will continue to be made, will see the organisation well placed to function in the new environment.

I wish everyone all the best for the future. Community transport provides a vital link to services and I believe this will continue to go from strength to strength. The General Manager's role will be advertised later this year, in the interim Helen Hunter will be acting in this role. Helen brings experience in both the disability sector and transport.

Again best wishes for the future and remember, members are needed on the Committee of Management to help keep the organisation going.

Helen Vey
General Manager

Volunteers Morning Tea

We had a wonderful turnout for our first get together of our Wodonga volunteers on the 26th of February at the new office. After a quick tour of the new premises, Drivers and Volunteer Friends Program volunteers enjoyed a delicious morning tea and then went through some minor updates and reminders; including using the new Body Fluid Clean Up Packs (now in all vehicles) and the car parking and access of the new office, which has some differing and challenging aspects compared to the car parking space at the old offices.

The result of the discussions provided our Wodonga volunteers a new set of notes and other recommendations. There was full input from those who attended which was great and these notes have since been circulated to those who could not attend.



This will be the first of many gatherings and training sessions on offer for all our volunteers and I am keen to set some dates for our other sites. We will tailor the sessions to the needs of each group of volunteers.

Shepparton and surrounds volunteers, there will be a training day on Wednesday 29th April at 2 locations. More details to follow.

Cheers – Rikki

The Access Spot

We have added the formerly known Travellers Aid station in Wangaratta to our list of services. It is now known as The Access Spot and is located in King George V Gardens Wangaratta. It is a local and regional transport information service and staffed by volunteers who have the knowledge and experience to assist people to get to where they want to go.

The service provides some great facilities including local and regional transport information, a safe and comfortable place to wait, accessible bathrooms, locker hire and much more. So drop in and see us, or join our team.



We are open Monday – Friday from 10am – 3pm.

Like us on Facebook
or Twitter for the latest transport news.



To receive our newsletter, contact us on
info@gettingthere.net.au



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Welcome Tilly

This is Tilly the office mascot for Wodonga. She has been visiting us once a week. Everyone loves her, especially the volunteers who are always disappointed if she is not in that day.

She loves shoe laces, shoes, cords, cuddles and wrapping us all around her very little and very cute paws.



Committee Members Wanted

We are looking for motivated community members to join our highly skilled and passionate, Committee of Management

Ideally, a representative of members from across the region is required. If you can donate about 3 hours a month of your time, we would love to have you on board.

Our meetings are now held during lunch time (lunch is provided), once a month on a Monday. Members are also able to phone in when they are unable to be here in person.

**Please contact Helen Hunter for more information.
We need your help.**

Jets Training Day with Collingwood

The Wodonga Jets were given a unique gift this month to go and train with the Collingwood Football Club. Through Community Accessibility Inc., the Wodonga Jets made the journey to the Westpac training Centre of the Collingwood Football Club for the opportunity of a lifetime! The team was put through its paces with an hour long training session with the Collingwood Football Club and then followed by a personal tour through the Westpac Centre. The players also had the opportunity to meet some of the past/present players including Clinton Young, Nick Maxwell, Alex Fasolo and Jamie Elliott. Each player also received a gift of a backpack, towel, hat & socks. Our players had the best day and would like to thank Mr Nick Conway - President of the Wodonga Raiders who passed on this opportunity to the Wodonga Jets. Also a big thank you to Matt Deegan (Coach), who made this day possible.

**Pauline Carroll
Coordinator**



Hip Hop Dance Classes

Every second Saturday afternoon in Wangaratta, a new exciting Hip Hop Dance class is starting with an experience dance instructor. The class will be held in the mid-afternoon and will not clash for any of the Ten Pin Bowlers. If anyone from Wodonga is interested, we may be able to help with some additional arrangements.



Call 1300 704 530 to join.



Managing Challenging Behaviours Training

If you are a volunteer interested in learning how to respond effectively and ethically to behaviours of concern, then this course is for you. You will learn to:

- Monitor behavior of the client including identifying triggers, contextual factors and sign posts.
- Respond appropriately to behaviors of concern using positive support strategies.
- Address challenging behaviours associated with dementia
- Use communication strategies to de-escalate conflict.

There are 2 sessions available

April 15 at the Benalla Racing Club from 9.30am – 4pm.

May 13, Wodonga RSL from 9.30 – 4.00pm

For Bookings please phone 1300 704 530.

Transport will be available

And it's FREE

Geelong/Queenscliff Holiday February 23 - 26 2015

This was the first holiday for our new VFP Program Support Officer, Edwina Willett. She loved it and can't wait for the next one!

Edwina, Sommer, Laurence, Georgina, Michael & Ross from Wodonga met the Wangaratta people, Susan, Harry, Fred and Mike before travelling to Benalla to pick up Judy and John. Enroute to Geelong we encountered a very heavy storm so we were all very glad that Harry was driving. The Big 4 at Queenscliff is so great with its own Café, heated swimming pool and a fabulous hot spa tub that Mike had to be convinced to leave as his skin was going 'wrinkly'.

A trip to the Maritime Museum in Queenscliff took us back in time and into a deep sea diving suit for some! An awesome sea-side lunch was taken at the new Queenscliff boardwalk before we met our guide Peter, at the Marine Discovery Centre. At the Centre we learnt about marine and freshwater creatures and were able to actually handle crabs, starfish & other crawly, fishy things. Back to the Big 4 and time for a swim before going to a local hotel for dinner. Wednesday was a warmer day and was perfect for traveling on the ferry from Queenscliff to Sorrento and back. Sommer's dream came true; we saw dolphins!

On the return journey from Sorrento we marveled at the 'Special Services Forces' carrying out maneuvers on the ferry involving helicopters, speed boats and hanging ropes. It was really exciting especially when it appeared on the channel 7 news on the Thursday night! Thursday was pack up and travel home day after a really fabulous time at Queenscliff with the only complaint that it was "too short" the holiday that is!

Cheers **Susan Robertson**
VFP- Wangaratta





Coming Events and Activities Volunteer Friends Program

Day Activities

Wodonga Ten Pin Bowls	Every Tues
Wodonga Indoor Cricket	Every Thurs
Mansfield Zoo Day	May 17
Wangaratta Ten Pin Bowls	April 11, 18 May 9, 23 June 13, 27
Wangaratta Country Dance	April 9, 23 May 7, 21 June 4, 18
Wangaratta Pub Pool	April 6, 20 May 4, 18 June 1, 15
Friday Night Fun –DVD night/Pizza	May 5

Coming Events and Activities Volunteer Friends Program

Program Holidays

Mornington Peninsula	April 20-24
Echuca Weekend	May 30-31
Melbourne Shopping Trip	June 20- 21
Gold Coast	October

Hello all,

Well it has been a very interesting time and very big shoes to fill since taking on the role that was vacated by Helen Vey.

With the help of all the staff and volunteers and working together, we have been able to continue to move forward without skipping too many beats.

January and February were very busy, with the move of our Wodonga office to its new premises at 102 Hume St, being fairly straight forward, however, some issues did follow.

As part of the move, Community Accessibility decided to upgrade all phone and IT systems across the entire organisation. As per usual, not much went to plan and what we thought would take a couple of weeks, took a couple of months. During the implementation, we had reduced lines in every office and email addresses going astray, which made things very difficult. Many calls were missed and messages didn't get through. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to everyone who was affected by this situation and to let you know that the system is now up and running. No system is perfect but things will be a lot smoother now and no calls should be missed.

There have been a few staff changes in the organisation, apart from Helen and myself:

- Edwina Willet is the new Program Support Officer in Wangaratta. Edwina supports the Volunteer Friends Program and looks after the Access Spot.
- Graeme Betts and Tammy Paris will support the Shepparton office as permanent Program Support Offices.
- Ben Keast has also joined our team as Respite Support Officer. He supports the Volunteer Friends Program by attending holidays and some regular activities.
- Jacinda Ryan has taken on the role of casual Program Support Officer for Shepparton and Seymour.
- Dawn Brown is the Program Support Officer for Seymour, she has taken over the role from Diane Butt, who left the organisation recently.

We wish all our new staff well in their positions and welcome them to the Community Accessibility family and a sad farewell and best of luck to those who have moved on.

If at any time you like to have chat with me, please feel free to drop me a line or just pop in to the office.

Helen Hunter
Acting General Manager