



### Did You Know?

As our organisation is scattered over a very large area, with 4 distinct sub-regions with in our operating area, Hume.

In total we have 29 vehicles of varying shapes and sizes and in various locations, including small community to large regional centres. We deliver short and long distance transport, sometimes with one in a car or 8 in a bus, but always done with the help of over 230 wonderful volunteers and 20 hard working staff.

How many trips & km do we do? **LOTS!**

Km's travelled:	705,227
Trips delivered	28,661

And what are some of the costs that we incur to deliver these trips?

Fuel Purchased	\$68,870
Repairs and Service	\$33,488
Insurance & Rego.	\$32,692

These figures represent the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 – 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

For the first time ever, we are well poised to hit the **1,000,000 km** mark in a financial year!

**Well done everyone!**

### A word from our Committee of Management

Hi All,

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year. The year is going very quickly and the Committee has been busy.

A new structure will be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 so a few changes are being made. We are advertising for a Transport Manager who will be based in Wodonga and will oversee and further develop our transport program.

The NDIS is being rolled out to us in 2017 & 2019 so we are advertising for someone to oversee that we are well prepared for when this happens and to determine what changes we will need to make to be ready.

Helen has been very busy with lots of paperwork for CA Inc. to become an Australian Registered Business. Thanks Helen.

I would like to thank all our Committee, Staff and our many Volunteers for the great job that you all do.

Cheers  
Jacqui Thomson (Chairperson)

### Vale – Douglas “Pop” Rivett

It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of our much loved friend Douglas Rivett affectionately known as “Pop”.

Pop was a wonderful volunteer who gave of his time generously with the Volunteer Friends program and on the Committee of Management. He would always put others before himself.



Everyone always had a smile on their face when Pop was around.

**Rest in Peace Pop...we will miss you.**

**Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter and enjoy being with family and friends. If travelling, stay safe on the roads.**





Community Accessibility  
P O Box 1596,  
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## Staff Changes

As with any organisation, nothing stays the same for long. Recently we have had a couple changes in staff.

We say a fond farewell to:

- Edwina: started in 2014 with the Volunteer Friends Program and then moved to Transport in Wangaratta
- Chris: has been helping out in the office for the last couple of months in Wodonga
- Sandra: replaced Edwina in Wangaratta when she move to Transport.

We wish them all well for the futures and thank them for their contributions.

We welcome Ben Cain, who is replacing Sandra for the Volunteer Program in Wangaratta. Ben has been a volunteer with us for a number of years.



## What's on at VFP?

Ladies Lunch and Shop Yarrowonga	
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> May	\$35
AFL Football, Collingwood V Port Adelaide	
Sun June	TBA
Mansfield in May	
May 13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$590
Dracula's and Vic Market	
May 28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	\$460
Yarrowonga Cruise & Snooze	
June 25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	\$370
Wagga Weekender	
July 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$400

Don't forget our regular activities, bowling, indoor cricket, pub pool, Friday night fun (Wodonga) and all new Thursday night fun (Wangaratta). Ring your local office to express your interest.

**New activity coming out soon.**

## Easter Close

All offices will be closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday. Staff will be back at work on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

## Fishing for your supper

Recently our Volunteer Friends program started a new program; Saturday fishing.

A small group of participants and Ben our staff member, met each Saturday afternoon during January, to try their luck at fishing for Murray Cod in the Ovens River in Wangaratta.

On one occasion a fish took the bait and was brought to the bank and on another occasion, the pesky piscatorial took the bait but made its escape before Will could bring it in. Bad luck Will.

To increase the opportunity for participants to **bring home their supper** and to cater for participants from Wodonga also, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, a group of 8, including staff and volunteers, headed to Lake William Hovell to try their luck on a bigger scale.

A great day was had by all and in total, 17 fish were caught and released. Well done.





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## Roll up, Roll up.

During the next 2 – 3 years, there is going to be huge change in how community services are funded throughout Australia. Funding for these services, including Community Transport will come from the Commonwealth Government and not from the State, as it has always been. The transition will be completed by July 2019.

Added to this is the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which will definitely affect our funding for the Volunteer Friends program; we can almost guarantee that 100% of that funding it will be withdrawn. The NDIS will also affect Community Transport; 25% of our current funding is allocated to disability clients, so as with our VFP funding, it will be withdrawn. For the remaining 75%, it will be a couple of years before we know what that will relate to CA Inc. in \$ terms.

Each state within the Commonwealth has been funded differently in regards to Community Transport; Victoria receives the least amount with the other states receiving significantly more. The Commonwealth are yet to determine a system that takes into account all current funding models and develop one that is fair and equal. As you can imagine, the other states will not be happy if their funding is reduced to our level, but we would be very happy if our funding was increased to theirs.

The Government is very keen to encourage competition and a business model of service delivery, so to this end, it will be imperative that our delivery is the best, our processes are consistent and our costing's are spot on so we can flourish and survive in a competitive world.

What impact does this have on us? In the short term, we are looking closely at our budgets to ensure that the funding we receive is being used where it is needed most. Now don't think that it is all bad. There may be some changes in the short term and a number of challenges along the way, but the long term goal is to continue to deliver the services that we currently deliver and more; continuing to enable independence throughout the Hume region.

The NDIS offers many opportunities for Community Accessibility, including the potential for increased transport throughout the region within the disability sector and being in a position to offer more disability services.

Without our staff and volunteers, Community Accessibility would not exist and it is important that you are all kept informed about the journey we are about to take together. To that end, I am planning a road trip, with other staff and COM members, to all our offices and volunteer groups in June of this year. The aim being to ensure that everyone is on the same page and is aware of what is happening and why.

The dates of the visits are being finalized, and there will be a number of them. We will get them out to everyone closer to the time. We hope that you are all able to attend one of the sessions.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

**Helen Hunter - CEO**

## Client Compliments

Driver Des this morning was an "absolute gentleman, gorgeous" – escorted her to car with an umbrella and into her appointment. "Made my day". Really appreciated driver Brett taking her to an appointment. "He came in to get me from her optometrist appointment, as I had drops in eyes and escorted me to the car". Hannah T



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## Volunteer News

Shepparton's long serving volunteer, Maurie Rowlands (14 years this year) has also been very busy with his other community passion, bowls. Maurie was recently recognized as Shepparton Senior Citizen of the Year for his more than 15 years of service and dedication as a committee member of no less than two Goulburn Valley Bowls Divisions and for serving as president through the merger of two groups. Congratulations Maurie, from the whole team at CA Inc.

**Here is some news and housekeeping also, from both Working With Children Check and CrimCheck.**

Many volunteers will know that WWCC has become primarily an online service where you can update your details and renew your checks when they are due. WWCC will also be requiring you to upload new photos of yourself if they are too old when you renew your check. Go to their website <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au> to find out more or ask for our assistance – you can do this through your local office.

If you work across a number of organisations you ***must*** add Community Accessibility as a new organization when you start with us. For those who originally registered with WWCC using their local CA Inc. office address, please go on line and change the details to reflect our head office in Wodonga. The correct address is **P.O. Box 1596, Wodonga, Vic 3689**. Otherwise any WWCC notifications do not reach us, not that we expect any.

Our National Police checking service CrimCheck now has an online portal for volunteers so they can also enter their details on line. You will still be required to provide **Certified ID** but will be able to scan and email it to me direct and then I just go online, complete the check and send you the certificate. We've already tested it on our staff who were due and it works very well.

This service will save a lot of time and postage, especially for volunteers who live a distance from their local CA Inc office. In the future, if you have provided us with an email address we may send you a link to the portal and ask you to complete the online details. Otherwise you may still complete the usual paper form and return it to me or your local CA office. Staff at any of our offices can sight your ID.

***Please ensure that when you receive a request to do your police check or a WWCC, you attend to it as soon as possible. It is a requirement of our funding and also our policy that these are completed and updated as required by volunteers and staff alike.***

On another note we are issuing a simple ID badge and lanyard for volunteers. It contains just your Christian name and a photo. This helps our clients to know who you are, to remember your name and staff from other organisations to know where you are from who their driver is on the day. Please send me a **favourite** photo – I can crop and adjust it – or ask a staff member at your local CA office to take one and they will send it for you.

Rikki Raadveld  
Volunteer Liaison Officer

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