

### Thank You & Farewell

I would like to take this opportunity to inform every one of the changes which are taking place in regards to our staff, which will impact every office. I would like to bid a big thank you and farewell to a number of staff who are leaving, their contributions have been outstanding:

- Mike Collins from his role as Area Manager/Coordinator at Shepparton - Mike has served this organisation for 15 years and will be sadly missed by those he supports; colleagues, volunteers and clients.
- Rob Grant from his role as Area Manager/Coordinator at Wodonga - Rob started nearly 10 years ago in the Volunteer Friends program and then moved over to the transport program.
- Graeme Betts from his role as Program Support Officer at Shepparton - Graeme has been both volunteering and working in the office for a number of years and although he will no longer be answering the phone, he will continue to volunteer.
- Ben Cane from his current Volunteer Friends role in Wangaratta - Ben will continue to support the Volunteer Friends program on holidays and outings.

I would again like to thank all these staff for their commitment, contribution and tireless efforts to support the work, volunteers and clients of Community Accessibility and we wish them all well for their future endeavours. Don't be strangers!



### Volunteer Friends head to New Zealand

10 participants & 3 staff set off on a once in a life time journey to the Island of the Long White Cloud. From the hustle & bustle of the airport terminals, the tranquility of the magnificently green country side to the traffic jam on the Auckland Bridge, we saw it all.

Travelling from Wellington to Lake Taupo, even though it was shrouded in mist on the first day, gave us the pleasure of seeing the fattest most content cows in the universe! Rotorua's highlight was the Agrodome where we were delighted with the performing sheep (off all varieties), cattle dogs with Alison & Joanne actually getting to milk a cow! Tamaki Village was incredibly interesting as we immersed ourselves in the Maori traditions & the men became warriors for the night.

Some lucky people had a hot Polynesian spa in Rotorua whilst others were happy to breath in the 'sulphur smells'! We even went on a subterranean boat ride to check stunning underground scenery- the Waitomo Caves & caverns are a galaxy of tiny living lights- glow worms' stalactites & stalagmites just waiting for us to see.

**What a shame we had to come home.**



## A Big Welcome

As with all organisations, big or small, change is inevitable and Community Accessibility is no different. As I mentioned on the previous page, we have a number of staff who are leaving but on the flip side of that is a number of new staff starting with us.

Some have already commenced in their new positions so you may have had contact with them, but many have not.

- **NDIS Project Officer – Vicki Robinson.** *Vicki has already commenced in this position and is working out of our Wangaratta Office. She will be looking at the opportunities regarding the National Disability Insurance Scheme for Community Accessibility.*
- **Program Support Officer (Wangaratta) – Sophie White.** *Sophie is already well established in her position and providing great support to Bridget.*
- **Lead Program Support Officer (Shepparton) – Jessica Skinner.** *Jessica has already started helping out in the office so she can learn as much as possible from Mike before he leaves.*
- **Your Supports Coordinator – Damien Cooke.** *Damien will be delivering our newest service and will be based in our Wodonga Office.*
- **Program support Officer VFP – Emily Ainsworth.** *Emily will be based in our Wangaratta office, support the participants of the Volunteer Friends Program to access respite.*
- **Lead Program Support Officer (Wodonga) – Gail Carter.** *Gail will be commencing on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and has a background in the coordination and delivery of HACC services.*
- **Community Transport & Operations Manager – Rohan Willett.** *Rohan will also be commencing on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and his role is to oversee the delivery of **all** our Community Transport services. Rohan will also visit the other sites on a regular basis to give him the understanding and knowledge of the challenges that face the communities that we serve.*
- **Program Support Officer (Shepparton) TBA – Diane Bethal.** *Diane will commence on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July and will work with Tammy and Jessica.*

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them all to Community Accessibility and wish them well in their new roles. Please make them feel welcome as you come across them and just remember, there is a lot for them to learn so be a little patient.

## Thank You

# Woodturners donate to help locals

AFTER yet another successful woodshow, the Woodturners of the Goulburn Valley have donated \$750 to GV Hospice Care Services and \$750 to Community Accessibility.

The Woodturners of the Goulburn Valley have been running their annual woodshow since 1984, and since then have made donations to several local community groups and organisations to assist them in their contributions to the local community.

Woodturners of the Goulburn Valley treasurer, Vern Marven said, "We do like to keep our donations local. The money is made here and it stays here."

GV Hospice Care Services executive manager, Carmel Smith said, "The woodturners do such a fantastic job with their woodshow and it is so great to see that they utilise the funds they raise to assist locals."

Community Accessibility area manager, Mike Collins said, "The Woodturners of the Goulburn Valley are very generous



**DONATIONS APPRECIATED...** From left, Woodturners of the Goulburn Valley treasurer, Vern Marven, Community Accessibility area manager, Mike Collins, Woodturners of the Goulburn Valley president, Len Taylor and GV Hospice Care Services executive manager, Carmel Smith. Photo: Emma Hillier.

people with their time and donations that on the receiving end of their donation this they make and we are very pleased to be year."

## Your Supports

Your Supports is the latest service that Community Accessibility will be providing, servicing the Albury and Wodonga area's.

It is a personalised service where participants have a choice of supports and services to engage with.

We can help to manage their supports and depending on what level of support that is needed, whether in-home, respite, transport, to become independent or just help with organising their day to day schedule, we will provide trained workers to support them to achieve their goals.

Contact the Your Supports Coordinator for more information on 1300 704 530.

## What is 1,015,186

That's the number of km's travelled by our vehicles, until 31/5/16.

**That's a lot of fuel.**



## Meet Stanley Wylie

Wodonga Offices' newest mascot.

## Roadshow Round Up

During the month of June, Rikki, Greg (COM), Marg (COM) and myself, have been hitting the road to visit the Community Accessibility staff and volunteers, throughout the region to keep them abreast of what will be happening with our funding over the next 3 years. The turnout was mixed and unfortunately we had to postpone some visits, due to logistical difficulties but as you will see below, there was still good feedback. We are planning to revisit those areas in July that we had to postpone, so check you emails or post for an invitation.

### Mount Beauty

- Use private cars
- Partnerships within communities to purchase vehicles
- Share vehicles between communities that are smaller or with other organisations, for example L2P - may require differing vehicles
- More support to use existing public transport – ie information dissemination or transport to and from train station/bus etc
- More one way trips
- Use volunteers to escort clients from train/bus etc

### Myrtleford

- Red Cross – key competitor but for patient transport only at this stage – currently needs a medico referral and there are other restrictions to use the service
- Awareness raising – public perception of the range of transport options, for example medical only or more services offered
- Include more variety of services such as social or dental etc

### Shepparton

- Branding & Promotions of the service both locally and to peak bodies or potential stakeholders
- Brochures should be placed and kept up to date in medical/health care surgeries, aged care services etc to create better awareness
- Raise awareness in the community through presentations/talks etc – general noted that awareness of CA Inc is poor until people/families need to actually use it
- Red Cross – may drop Patient Transport in favour of doing Community Transport
- Branding – name of the organization may not resonate and state what we do very well. – ie locals still ask if we are Community Transport

### Seymour

- Raise awareness with more local press, weekly (sponsored) ads for volunteers and clients.
- Sponsorships for new vehicles through large vehicle dealerships or other companies who may have an interest in the service through their community sponsorship programs

We always welcome your feedback and suggestions at any time.

**Helen Hunter - CEO**

## Volunteer News

### Guinness Book of Records Challenge

Myrtleford volunteers Frances Barton, Nola Novak and about 500 other braved the weather on Wednesday the 11th of May to take part in the Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau's Guinness Book of Records Challenge to form the world's largest human letter.

The letter V is the international symbol for Volunteering. Participants all wore red and held up specially made red tiles to form the letter on the Albury Tigers Football Club's main oval.

While the rain and cold may have kept many away, Frances and Nola said they had a great evening and would come again if a second attempt was made next year. "The food was really good, the clubs that did the catering and the organisers were fantastic. Frances and I will be back next year, hopefully with more of our Ovens Valley drivers" said Nola.



### Volunteer Training

There are some fantastic, and often free, formal and informal training opportunities out there for our volunteers. Many of these land on my desk through various networks that I then forward on to our volunteers and some of the more adventurous or those wanting to stimulate their minds often take up these opportunities.

Just recently, students from the Albury Wodonga Community College offered a 9 week program called **Know Your Gizmo** where they teach participants to learn and understand their electronic devices better. Our very own driver/committee member, Jackie Thomson participated and said the concept was fantastic with some students showing excellent knowledge about a wide variety of 'gizmos'. They helped participants learn more about everything from smartphones and ipads through to cameras, GPS, laptops and more.



If you are aware of any courses, workshops or other great learning opportunities in your area, share them with me and I'll make sure the information is sent out to all the volunteers in your local area. Just email me on [volunteers@gettingthere.net.au](mailto:volunteers@gettingthere.net.au)

Cheers, Rikki  
Volunteer Liaison Officer

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