

## Ovens Valley Transport gets a boost

The Rotary Club of Myrtleford recently held a Golf Day with all the proceeds, approx. \$2600 +, to be donated to our Ovens Valley Specialist Transport Service.

We entered our own team of very keen golfers, including Jacqui Thomson (our Chair), Richard Thomson, Bob Pepper and Gail Dawson (Myrtleford volunteer). The day was great fun and although no-one won the hole in one prize of \$20,000, Gail did manage to get the prize for the longest female drive.



Well done team and thank you to the Rotary Club of Myrtleford.

## Let's Get Mobile



In partnership with the Greater Shepparton Council and their small towns awareness campaign, we have received \$20,000 in funding from Dept. Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, as part of their "Transport Investing in Regions Initiative". The funding will be used to install

static Access Spot displays in a number of communities and also to establish Community Arranged Ride services in two of the larger communities.

## Now and Again

We were successful in our application with our Community Impacts Grant, with the City of Wodonga. Thank You. The grant provides funding to the value of \$5000 for the establishment of the Now and Again service from the Wodonga Office. This service will offer social lunchtime outings to community members who have become isolated and would like to enjoy the company of others in a social setting. We will be offering the service a couple of days a week, to residents of Wodonga. Participants will be collected from and returned to their homes and we will utilise all the scenery and attractions that the North East has to offer.



To help deliver this program, we will need volunteers who are willing to either drive our buses or to act as buddies to ensure everyone is comfortable. Contact Rikki if you would like to be a helper, or if you have any more questions. We are hoping to start this new service in the next couple of months. Let's all work together to continue to support our isolated community members.

## Joss Group Supports the Jets



We are very pleased to announce the Joss Group have kindly donated \$5000 to support the Jet's to play this season. The donation will be spent on covering the costs of the Gala days and some administration expenses. Thank you Joss.

## Let's Shop Local

The Rotary Club of Albury Foundation have provided a grant of \$9000 to support the development of a new service, called Let's Shop Local. We will provide a regular door to door transport service to those aged 65 and older, living in the Wodonga area, incorporating a shuttle style transport timetable and route to incorporate shopping, banking, pharmacy, Centrelink, etc. and support to transfer groceries/shopping home. Thank you to The Foundation for their support.





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## Thank You to CA Inc.

We have recently received Certificates of Gratitude from

- Angel Flight: for the money donated from our Cup Day activities
- Mr Pure Water: who are partners in Buy 1 Give 1. Through the purchase of our bottled water, clean water is provided to people in need around the world.

Let's continue to help those who need it.

## Volunteer Friends at Phillip Island

Our VFP Participants And volunteers, are having a wonderful time at Phillip Island. They have visited Churchill Island, went on a eco boat thrill ride to Seal Rocks and had a great time visiting the Grand Prix circuit on the Island. Yet, another successful VFP holiday.



## What's on in Seymour

Carol & Dawn have been doing a fabulous job drumming up business and promoting our service in the Mitchell Shire area. They have been on local radio and talking to the local media about our need for more volunteers and the availability of our service to the local community. Job well done.

## Happy Retirement and Thank You

### Bruce Tuhan.

Bruce has been with us for 15 years and completed over 670 drives with us for the Numurkah car and has recently made the decision to retire from driving. Bruce's contribution to the Numurkah area and clients has been awesome and he will be sorely missed by the Shepparton staff.



## Down by the River

Recently in Wangaratta, a market and information evening was held down by the Owen's River. Thanks to Bridget, Julie and Susan for their hard work in getting the booth ready and for manning it for the duration.

Many questions were asked about Community Accessibility and hopefully new clients and participants will use our services and more volunteers will be recruited.



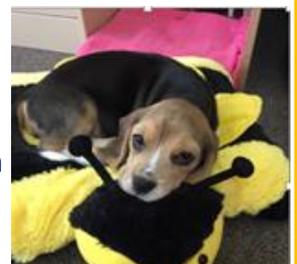
## Office Closures

You just get through Christmas and now it's Easter Holiday's and it is time for office closures again. The closures will affect all offices.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Easter and that the Easter Bunny brings you lots of sweet treats.

This is **Poppy**, the latest addition to the CA Inc. family.





## Spotlight on Safety



I would like to remind everyone to please go slow and where needed toot your horn, when taking vehicles out of our car parks. In a number of locations, our driveways are unable to be seen by pedestrians so take it slow and give a warning that you are coming.

We have 3 main assets as an organisation, our volunteers, our staff and our vehicles. Of late, our maintenance bills have been very high, including one transmission (on a not very old vehicle) and a transmission casing on another. Please treat the vehicles as you would your own and take care.

We have recently purchased diesel caps to go on our diesel vehicles. The caps make it impossible to put anything else but diesel in the vehicle. The reason for this is there have been a couple of occasions where the wrong fuel has been placed in a vehicle. The caps are easy to use. You don't need to remove the cap, just place the nozzle directly into the middle of it and fill as per usual.



Please remember that it is an offence to use your mobile phone while driving unless it is secured in a commercially manufactured holder or it is being used via Bluetooth. Also, before leaving the car park, ensure the phone is on before you move the vehicle, not after you have left.

Please don't forget, that while performing your duties with CA Inc. volunteers are required to wear enclosed toes shoes. It's for your safety.

## Growth Funding

Recently, I was notified that we were successful with a funding submission that I had applied for, for growth funding, in Flexible Respite for the aged sector through the seven Shires (Wodonga, Wangaratta, Indigo, Alpine, Towong, Mansfield and Benalla) of the Ovens Murray region. There was no such funding for Goulburn. Yes it is a very large area and although this is our community transport area, we don't provide direct services to all the shires, but assist in other ways.

You may be wondering why we are receiving funding for flexible respite, when it is something we don't actually deliver at the moment? Good question and I don't have an answer, but we do deliver the volunteer friends program which is basically a flexible respite model, but for disability. So the aim is to partially replicate that model for the aged sector. It will be called Your Respite

So how will it be different? The Volunteer Friends Program offers weekend and weeklong holidays away as well as day trips and evening activities as respite for carers. The Your Respite service will be a little different, by providing weekend day trips and a selection of weekday and evening outings to provide a much needed break for full time carers. Unless specifically requested, there will be no overnight trips.

Volunteer Friends operates with a mixture of volunteers and paid staff to support the participants, and so will Your Respite. For weekend day trips we are looking at utilising what is local, including sporting events and activities, tourism events and sites, hobby based activities and other entertainment opportunities.

At this stage, the funding is until June 2018, but we are hopeful that by providing high quality, flexible service, which we deliver now with Volunteer Friends, it will put us in a position for ongoing funding.

If you are located in the Alpine, Wodonga or Wangaratta Shires, and would like to support this program, then please ring Rikki or the Wangaratta or Wodonga offices.



## Being NDIS Ready

Some of you may have heard of this thing called the NDIS, so what actually is it? The NDIS, or National Disability Insurance Scheme, is the future for all disability services in Australia.

So why the change? There are a number of reasons, and here are just a few:

- It will support the development of a uniform national funding scheme (historically every state has delivered their own disability services, causing inconsistency of service and difficulties when state borders are a factor).
- Providers receive a block of funding to deliver services, this will change to the person with the disability being provided with the funds, or their chosen representative, to purchase the service they want, not what people believe they need.
- Removes the **welfare and charity model** of funding, replacing it with a legislatively guaranteed “insurance” model (very similar to the TAC insurance model that is currently used for traffic accident victims, but on a larger scale).
- Allocating funding for disability services and supports to the person with the disability enables greater choice and control and encourages social inclusion.
- It is a buyers’ market and there are no restrictions as to who can provide services under the NDIS – so ‘For Profits’ will be allowed to enter the market for the first time.
- The roll out is staggered, so Goulburn will not be effected until 2019

So, what does that mean to Community Accessibility? A number of things will be impacted, particularly our Volunteer Friends Program. As mentioned above, this program is block funded, so our funding will be removed and this will occur by March 2018. The removal of funds will occur over a number of months, not all at once, thank goodness.

Our transport service is funded by the Commonwealth Government so is not directly impacted by the NDIS, but persons with a disability will be given a transport allowance (which is not very much, especially for those living regionally) with which to pay for their transport requirements for a 12 month period. In the NDIS, transport is not provided by the activity or program, so this needs to be taken into account when choosing the activities they attend and could also restrict access

Service organisations will have to compete to provide services to people with a disability, so everyone is trying to make sure they are NDIS Ready. This is the buzz word at the moment and it means ensuring that your organisation is able to provide services and supports within the boundaries of the NDIS. These include:

- Service delivery types and rates are pre-determined and cannot be increased.
- Payment will be post service delivery, making it difficult to budget in advance
- There is no way of knowing how many participants will take up your services, again making it difficult to budget
- Organisations must know their over-heads and costing’s to ensure they can operate within very tight financial boundaries

So, in a nutshell, that’s it. Don’t worry, it isn’t all bad. The NDIS provides great opportunity for us and choice and control for the service users and we have been planning and preparing for it.

**Watch This Space!**

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