

2017 Creating New Opportunities



Shepparton Access
believes in people and
what they can achieve

“I have followed my dreams, believed in myself and not given up.”

Chairperson's Report



2017 has been a progressive and challenging year for our business. We thank our staff, families and service users for their support of each other during what was a very challenging year on many fronts. I want to personally thank everyone. The Shepparton Access Community is one

of great strength and care which cannot be underestimated in times of need.

The re-development of 245 Wyndham Street is in the final stages with a grand opening planned in the early stages of the 2018 financial year, the building has been specifically designed to increase learning opportunities for our service users and will create significant scale to our education offering going forward.

Everyone at Shepparton Access continues to develop and grow as important members of our community; many have transitioned to further learning and into a variety of workplaces during the year. We congratulate all of our service users on their extraordinary achievements, and we will continue to focus on realising their dreams as we move into the future.

The year has seen the finalisation of our new Strategic Plan which was developed in consultation with our staff. The strategic directions are based around the key aspects of our business going forward, the services we offer, community inclusion and our transition to the NDIS. Our vision is to CARE, SHARE and DARE and this will form the basis of all our decision making through this critical strategic planning cycle.

I would like to personally thank Wendy Shanks and all the team for their hard work during 2017, without such dedicated staff we would not have such a successful organisation. I would also like to thank all our community partners and sponsors for their ongoing support to the disability sector of the Goulburn Valley.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members for their continued support, we had some new faces join in the board in 2017 and we look forward to working together in the future, we really appreciate their guidance and support.

Jason Limbrick
Board Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Looking back over the past twelve months, Shepparton Access has experienced exceptional growth, both in the number of people who access our service, consolidation of partnerships in our community and the variety of services being offered to people with disabilities and their families.

As we begin our transition into the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) Shepparton Access is looking forward to supporting service users to have a greater control over their decision making around the services and supports they receive.

During the year we farewelled and celebrated the life of 3 members of the Shepparton Access Community.

In 1997 we welcomed Kylee Thomas and her family to Shepparton Access. Kylee was the first person from the local community to access our service. Over a period of 20 years Kylee enjoyed many activities, however swimming, music and the toy library continued to be her favourites. Kylee and her family's life journey was reflected in our Behind Closed Doors publication.

We all miss Kylee and all have many warm memories.

John Hort was one of our nations unsung hero's. His contribution to many in our community cannot be measured. Over a period of 15 years, John travelled up and down the highway transporting a countless number of older people to the doctor and medical appointments in Melbourne. On most days, John would be on the road at 7am and not returning home until 5pm.

John, thank you for your massive contribution, may you rest in peace.

Patrick Crudden was the saviour of Shepparton Access and brought with him an abundance of knowledge and skills. At his first meeting he was elected chairperson of the board. Pat guided the organisation through both tragedy and celebration. Pat was instrumental in placing Shepparton Access in a position for forward thinking and human rights. He remained chairperson up until his retirement in 2001 and after continued to be an active member of the Shepparton Access Community.

Pat, you will always be remembered.

Wendy Shanks
CEO





December 2016

International Day of People with Disability Celebration

International Day of People with Disability is celebrated on December 3rd each year. In 2016 IDPwD sought to increase awareness of the gains to be derived from the inclusion of people with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The theme for 2016 was: *'Achieving goals for the future we want'*

We welcomed former Fremantle and St Kilda AFL player Heath Black to our celebration breakfast. Heath described how he struggled with mental illness throughout his 12 year professional career. He shared the full extent of his mental illness on his personal life, lost job opportunities, several arrests and growing dependence on alcohol. He was later diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder and ADHD. Heath indicated he now has his life back on track and supports others with mental health issues.

Heath's presentation was very stirring and reminded us all of the possibility of vulnerability.

Andrew Mills Memorial Award

The presentation of the 2016 Andrew Mills was again a highlight of our end of year lunch at the Vault.

The award celebrates the life and achievements of our friend Andrew Mills and his contribution to Shepparton Access.

The award for outstanding performance was presented to Katrina. One of Katrina's many achievements in 2016 was being recognised by Australia Post - Our Neighbourhood Trust as a local legend.

"At just 20 years of age, Katrina has written her first book. For Katrina to become an author is nothing short of amazing."

We also celebrated the remarkable contribution of both Casey and Andrew towards every day life at Shepparton Access.



February 2017

Welcome

We were very pleased to welcome Dom, Brad, Chevy, Tanika, Lana, Maggie, Chloeyann, Erin, Mathilda and Daniel and their families to our Shepparton Access community.

Shepparton Access has provided a variety of new opportunities and challenges assisting each person to make decisions about their future.

Young Endeavour

There was great anticipation when we were invited on board the tall ship, the Young Endeavour operated by the Royal Australian Navy.

After boarding the square rigger at the Williamstown Wharf, the ship sailed around Port Phillip Bay. On board each person became involved in a number of tasks including setting the sails, navigating, keeping watch and taking the helm.

It was pleasing to observe the natural supports offered by the young volunteers on board to assist our service users to become part of the crew for the day.

While the day was challenging, each person came away proud of their achievements and eager to return to be part of the Young Endeavour program during its next tour.





March 2017

Being Safe in the Community

It was a privilege to welcome Leading Senior Constable Glenn Gibson to share tips about keeping safe in the community.

Glenn emphasised the need to think about peoples' own personal circumstances and trying to imagine potentially dangerous situations in advance and planning possible responses.

Glenn also explained the current laws relating to the misuse of social media and the possible impact on both individuals and families.



Grand Prix

For many who attended the Formula 1 Grand Prix, the day was the highlight of the year.

The thrill of watching the many cars racing around the Albert Park Circuit, the sound of the roaring engines and the excitement of the crowd, all contributed to a very memorable day.



Visits to the exhibitions and being able to be up and close and even touching some cars provided a unique opportunity to gain a better understanding of motor racing and the equipment needed for this exciting international event.

April 2017

Community Partnership Initiative

The continuation of our Community Partnership Initiative with local businesses has motivated a variety of businesses to promote cultural change and to break down barriers to community inclusion.

The creation of a variety of natural support models to support people with disabilities to become valued members of work teams has resulted in increasing each person's work skills.

Luke

Luke is now taking responsibility for the assembly of the baffle balls in the assembly of the liquid cartage tanks at TTI in Nathalia. He also helps out in the store room and ensures the forklift pathways are free from debris and safe for use.

Brad

Brad enjoys his role assisting the gardener at Kensington Gardens. Each week he rakes the leaves, mows the lawns and tidies the foot paths and gutters with the petrol blower. Brad also enjoys working at EcoPark and is hoping to gain employment as an assistant gardener in the near future.

Nathan

Each Monday, Nathan looks forward to joining the team at M & S Accounting to assist with data entry and shredding. He also has the responsibility for making tea and coffee for meetings and tidying the tea room. Nathan is looking forward to increasing his work placement activities in 2018.

Amy

Amy loves her work placement at Freshair. She looks forward to folding the towels, dusting and restocking the hair products on the display shelves and sweeping the floor. Some customers make their appointment when Amy is working and enjoy catching up with her for a chat.





May 2017

EcoPark

Over the past year, EcoPark has provided a great range of activities for each person to enjoy and to learn a variety of new skills. Our horticulture group has been busy with propagation and potting seedlings and succulents for sale at Eco Store.

Other service users choose to work in the vegetable gardens planting seeds, watering and harvesting. They take great pride in their achievements and are very proud when they take the vegetables into the store for sale or for use in our own kitchen.

The new garlic gardens will, over the coming weeks, be in full production and we look forward to the fresh cloves being available in the store.

The arrival of new chickens has delighted many. It is easy to spend time observing and watching them grow each day.

The woodwork shed is also very popular. Each person is encouraged to learn new skills using a variety of tools to construct a variety of wooden products. All off-cuts of wood are utilised for our very popular bags of kindling.

We look forward to many new ideas in the pipeline for the coming year.



June 2017

Eco Store

Eco Store continues to expand the variety of produce and products from EcoPark, from donations from local growers and vegetable suppliers and from many of our regular customers.

The assortment of sauces and chutneys change from season to season with many new and delicious varieties becoming available each week.

Some of the jam and chutney varieties have become very popular with customers and customers continue to request their favourite's to be restocked.

The eggs from EcoPark remain popular. They arrive each Tuesday morning and are often sold out by lunchtime.

The introduction of new ceramic pieces has added variety to the store. The exciting new shapes and designs have become very popular.

Each service user working in Eco Store has achieved many extraordinary outcomes. Their general retail skills such as customer service and using the till have progressed substantially and now most are able to take on these tasks with little or no support.





July 2017

DIY

Each year the D.I.Y. Group focuses on a major construction project. This year the group decided on building an item for Eco Store.

The group searched magazines and web sites and came upon a picture of an old fashioned market cart.

After many meticulous hours of designing, measuring, cutting, nailing and painting an outstanding market cart evolved.

The D.I.Y Group have displayed great enthusiasm towards the project, and are very proud to see the market cart laden with plants and produce from EcoPark on the pavement outside Eco Store each day.



Taekwondo

Many people look forward to their weekly lesson at the Koryo Taekwondo Centre. Taekwondo is a martial art promoting both health and fitness.

As service users increase their skills they are awarded a coloured belt to reflect their achievements.

Our Taekwondo group was proud to demonstrate their skills in the Queens Gardens during the 2016 IDPwD (International Day for People with Disability) celebrations.

We sincerely thank Sammy for his passion and dedication in supporting each person to achieve their very best.



August 2017

Daffodil Day

Daffodil Day is one of Australia's best known and most popular fundraising events.

Each year Shepparton Access joins the Shepparton Branch of the Cancer Council and other community organisations and volunteers to raise funds for a *cancer free future*.

Over the past 6 years, service users have sold Daffodils and merchandise within the local community. During this time they have raised in excess of \$5,000 for cancer research, prevention and support services.

Cooking Lunches

The Wednesday morning Cooking Lunches group has demonstrated many outstanding gains throughout the year. Each person has enjoyed the opportunity to select their favourite lunch to cook for the week.

The group has worked as a team to select, prepare and cook a variety of healthy foods with a focus on the vegetables grown at EcoPark. Each person has learned many new skills to help out with cooking at home.

It is always very pleasing to watch their enthusiasm, observe their enjoyment, view their table manners, and hear their never ending chatter.



September 2017

Opening of the Education Centre and Eco Store



Due to the ever increasing demand for our services, the purchase of the building at 245 Wyndham Street provided us with an unique chance to expand our Eco brand and significantly increase the opportunities for people with disabilities to become enrolled in further education.

Our Eco Store has become a weekly shopping destination for many locals and our Education Centre with specialised technology will meet the emerging requests from many school leavers to enrol in further education into the future.

We welcomed Federal Member for Murray Damian Drum MP to open the building on the 29th August. Damian commented:

This type of service is critical for people with disability in enabling them to gain access to the service they need to become included into the community. The skills that the service users at Shepparton Access learn in the training rooms will be phenomenal. These are game changing kinds of skills.



Moving into our new Education Centre has resulted in substantial advancements to learning and further education. The use of innovative learning strategies such as Web and App applications, have provided a new learning environment and have resulted in many fantastic outcomes. Increasing learning potential and activities has become vital for growing each persons capacity to become valued members of the community.

October 2017

Walk For Your Rights

The Rights Information and Advocacy Centre and Shout Out Self Advocacy Group hosted a Walk for Your Rights at Victoria Park Lake. Service Users joined in the walk to raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities. The walk promoted the need for people with a disability to feel empowered to stand up for their rights, to have a voice and be heard.

The walk was a huge success. More than 60 people with disability, their carers and their friends walked around Victoria Park Lake. After the walk everyone participated in a variety of fun activities and shared a barbeque lunch.

Carers Week

National Carers Week ran from 15th - 21st October 2017. Carers Week reminds us of the need to recognise the two million Australians who provide care and support to a family member or friend with a disability.

People with disabilities rely on carers most days of the week.

Many of our family members / carers came together to enjoy lunch and share experiences at our Carers Week Lunch.

The lunch provided an opportunity for us to thank our carers for their continuing support and dedication. Guest speaker Donna Rumbiolo from Shepparton's Women's Health Centre provided an informative incite into the need for carers to take time out for themselves and strategies to ensure carers maintain their own health and wellbeing both now and into the future.





November 2017

Oakes Day at Goulburn Weir

Our annual Oaks Day out at the Goulburn Weir provided an opportunity for everyone to share in a day of fun and laughter. The many outstanding and colourful outfits and hats was one of the highlights of the day. Other highlights included the horse races, games of cricket and bocce, relay races and the historical tour of the site.

The barbeque lunch provided a well needed refreshment for both service users and support staff.



Sailability

Sailability is everyone's favourite program.

"Sailing is Aaron's new passion. The first day Aaron went sailing he did not want to get into the sailing boat. He sat on the beach and watched the others enjoy sailing around the lake.

"The following week Aaron was coached to put on his flotation jacket and to climb into the Shepparton Access boat with a volunteer from Shepparton Sailability. This was the beginning of a new passion for Aaron.

Now Aaron cannot wait for Tuesday afternoons. He is first to jump into the bus ready for the drive to the lake. Aaron is also first off the bus and ready to grab a jacket and line up for his turn to sail around the lake.

It is wonderful to see the smile on Aaron's face when he arrives at the lake and he is always warmly welcomed by the Shepparton Sailability Team. Every time Aaron goes past the lake he points to the lake and laughs. He cannot wait until Tuesdays so he can continue his new passion of sailing."

Looking to our future

As Shepparton Access looks to the future we cannot look beyond our transition into the NDIS. The NDIS is the most significant social welfare initiative of this generation. It signals a shift in the way people with permanent and significant disabilities access reasonable and necessary supports in order to achieve their goals and aspirations.

The future for people who attend Shepparton Access and their families evolves around our transition to the NDIS. As we move to the NDIS, it will become increasingly crucial to evaluate and monitor our processes and increase our service effectiveness. New ideas and opportunities will be need to be identified, however, our resources will remain finite.

The NDIS encourages community inclusion and provides people with choice and control over how, when and where they would like to spend their time.

Into the future, Shepparton Access will need to enter into more diverse markets and create a greater range of services to meet the changing needs of people with disabilities. Our future support services will increasingly focus on mainstream opportunities and our community inclusion model rather than the traditional disability support network.

Much has been said about the Shepparton Access community inclusion model over the years. It remains a concept which is very difficult to define. Rather, community inclusion has simply evolved over time and reflects the culture, the beliefs and the philosophy of our organisation.

People with disabilities will continue to be encouraged to take their place as full citizens in our community. Each person will receive the services they need to achieve their own goals in life. Services will be based on support needs rather than on their diagnosed disability.

The future for Shepparton Access will involve each member of our community working together to continue to be proactive in pushing the boundaries.

“I have followed my dreams, believed in myself and not given up.”

Our Partners and Sponsors

Everyone at Shepparton Access would like to thank our partners and sponsors for their ongoing contribution to the people and their families who come to Shepparton Access.

Advance Fitness

Anytime Fitness

Aquamoves

ASHE

Caltex Service Station

Calvary Care

Cardamone Real Estate

Carers Victoria

Cavalier Homes

City of Greater Shepparton

CVGT

Darryl Twitt Motors

Department of Education and Training

Department of Health and Human Services

East Shepparton Bowling Club

Finer Fruit

Freshair

Gagliardi Scott Real Estate

Goulburn Ovens Tafe

Goulburn Valley Grammar

Goulburn Valley Health

Greyhound Racing Victoria

Grutzner House

Harmony Village

Hungry Jacks

Irise's Coffee Shop

Jets Gym

Katamatite Garlic

Kensington Gardens Men's Shed & Gardens

Koryo Taekwondo

La Trobe University

M&S Accounting

Major League Indoor Sports Centre

Market Meats

Meals on Wheels

Mooroopna Community and Learning Centre

Mooroopna Library

Mooroopna Men's Shed

Are you interested in:

- Becoming a part of Shepparton Access
- Supporting people with disability in the community

We will be pleased to welcome you as a volunteer,
community partner or friend.

Please contact us if you would like to contribute to quality of life,
life long learning and an inclusive community for people with disability.



Creating Pathways
into the Community

Shepparton Access

227 Wyndham Street
Shepparton VIC 3630

P 03 5831 6180
F 03 5831 6340

admin@sheppaccess.com.au
www.sheppaccess.com.au