

# 2016 Realising our Dreams



Creating Pathways  
into the Community

Shepparton Access  
believes in people and  
what they can achieve

*“Anything is possible. Believe in your dreams,  
reach out and you will achieve.”*

# Chairperson's Report

2016 brings to the close of another successful year at Shepparton Access, a year in which our organisation continues to grow and provide outcomes for all our service users in the ever changing environment.

Our aim as a board is to continue to provide the necessary resources for our service users to continue to grow and develop while at Shepparton Access.

Our growth plan has extended to the redevelopment of 245 Wyndham Street. The strategic plan of this building development has been to provide a new learning centre which would offer an increased range of education programs for people with disabilities. The new learning centre is on track to be available for use by the middle of November.

Thanks to the work of our team we have seen the continued growth of our Park to Plate program, we are now offering a wide range of products through the EcoStore with produce grown at Eco Park and donations from various members of the community.

We have seen an increase in trading days from 3 to 4 each week for the store. The store provides an excellent opportunity for community engagement for our service users and our organisation.

The Shepparton Access team is pleased to be applauded for the design and launch of the Park

to Plate Recipe Book, taking many of the great products from EcoPark and EcoStore and bringing them to life in print.

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.

Looking forward 2017 brings us to the start of a new strategic planning cycle which is exciting for our organisation, the board will have specific focus on the NDIS to ensure our organisation is well positioned to manage the changes this will bring and most importantly be a great support to all our service users and families.

I would like to personally thank Wendy Shanks and all the team for their hard work during 2016. 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.



**Jason Limbrick**  
**Board Chairperson**

# Chief Executive Officer's Report

Shepparton Access vision is a community where everyone experiences a sense of belonging and a community which embraces people from diverse backgrounds.

The past year has provided many exciting and unique opportunities for Shepparton Access to promote community inclusion and for our service users to be welcomed into many local business organisations.

We continue to ponder the impact of the NDIS on service users and their families, on local disability services and on the community. The NDIS continues to endorse the ideals of choice and control and an increase in social and economic participation. The NDIS will be rolled out in Shepparton in 2019 and our transition to the new funding and service arrangements are well underway.

The new Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 is in the development stage. The discussions have tended to focus around many new ideas and many new ideals for our organisation. We are all looking

forward to seizing the opportunities and take on countless challenges in the years ahead.

Our major project during 2016 has been the redevelopment of our learning centre at 245 Wyndham Street. The project is now complete and ready for occupation. We would all like to

extend our sincere gratitude to all the organisations who have supported the redevelopment and the installation of the new technology. These organisations have included the Greater Shepparton Connected Community, The Shepparton Club, the Mooroopna Masonic Lodge, the Australia Post Our Neighbourhood Trust and the Shepparton Access Foundation.

I have been amazed at the achievements of the service users who attend each day. Their infectious enthusiasm and willingness to participate in every program has provided great opportunities for each person to achieve each of their individual goals. Congratulations to each and every and every service user for their tremendous efforts and numerous outcomes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated and committed team for their continued support, and also thank the Directors of our Board for their vision and willingness to take on many new challenges which shape our future.

**Wendy Shanks**  
**CEO**



# December 2015

## International Day of People with Disability Celebration

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) is celebrated on December 3 each year. IDPwD is a United Nations sanctioned day that is celebrated internationally to increase community awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities, as well as to celebrate the achievements and contribution of people with disability.

**The theme for 2015 was:** Inclusion matters: Access and Empowerment for people of all abilities.

We were very pleased to welcome Mark Tomkins to our annual celebration breakfast, Mark shared his inspiring story of calling on his inner strength and push against the odds to breaking down the barriers to represent Australia in his chosen sport of archery.

## Andrew Mills Memorial Award

The presentation of the 2015 Andrew Mills Award was the highlight of our end of year lunch at The Vault in December. The award was initiated by Graeme and Jan Mills to celebrate the life and achievements of our friend Andrew Mills as he participated in his many favourite activities at Shepparton Access.

This year we were pleased to welcome Graeme and Jan as the presenters of the prestigious award to Jason Battersby.

We also celebrated the outstanding contribution of our Program Manager Scott Greig as he quietly goes about organising and sometimes reorganising the activities of both our service users and our support staff.



# February 2016

## Welcome

We were very pleased to welcome Izzy, Myrcina, Brodie, Sam, Savannah, Jamie, Nathan, Rohan, Caleb, Jess, and Toby and their families to our Shepparton Access Community.

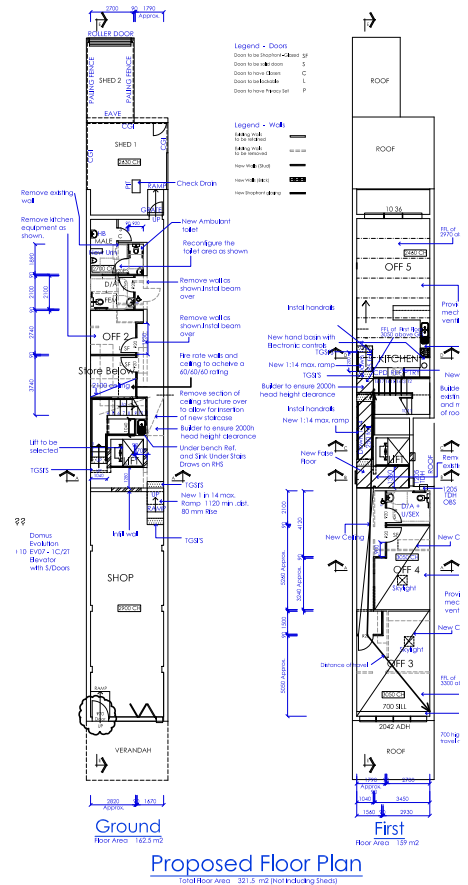
Beginning a new phase in your life is always daunting and the move from school to a post school service is particularly daunting. Each person has made outstanding gains during the year and are to be congratulated for their remarkable achievements.

## Learning Centre Redevelopment

The final plans for the learning centre and upgrade of the bathroom facilities were completed in mid February. The installation of a new lift created some planning issues with local government due to the heritage overlay and the necessity for minor changes to the roofline.

After considerable consultation the planning permit was issued and the demolition of the upper level and lower level rooms began. The learning centre provides for four learning spaces. Two rooms are dedicated to information technology, a kitchen and a craft room.

Everyone is excited as we move into the new facility and make use of the new generation technology over the coming year. We are looking forward to the official opening of the centre in early 2017.



# March 2016

## Fund Raising for others Red Cross calling

The Red Cross calling appeal this year focused on raising funds to help the 'disaster stricken'. The funds raised supported a number of communities to rebuild from fires, floods and storms.

A Shepparton Access team took to the CBD to assist in the collection of the much needed funds. The team helped the local Red Cross Committee by collecting well over \$350.

## Purple Day for Epilepsy

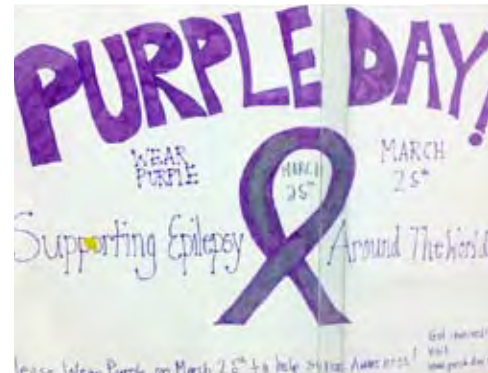
Purple Day is an international grass roots effort to increase the awareness about epilepsy around the world.

The Shepparton Access staff and service users became busy making a variety of merchandising items for sale within the organisation in the weeks leading up to Purple Day. On March 25 everyone came dressed in purple and enjoyed a sausage sizzle lunch. The sale of merchandise and sausage sizzle raised \$285.

Our sincere thanks to Market Meats for the very kind donation of the delicious sausages.

## Australian Society for Intellectual Disability

We received a request to display a short video of the achievements of service users from Shepparton Access to be on show at the National ASID Conference. The video prepared by service users, described their individual achievements and was well received by conference delegates. We received great feedback from the conference organisers.



# April 2016

## Visit to the Shrine

During March and April many of our service users researched the significance of Anzac Day in the lives of Australians. The research included a visit to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Each of the exhibitions provided a chance to further their knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Anzac Day celebrations. All enjoyed the WWI exhibition, particularly the vision of the Gallipoli landing.

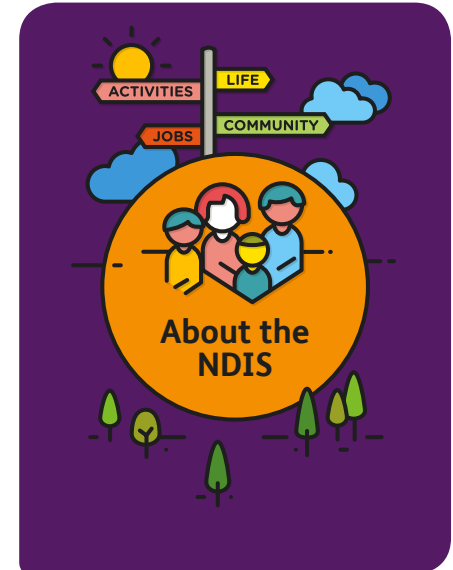
The technology on the Wall of Remembrance and Honour Roll allowed an opportunity to search for family members who served in WWII and in Vietnam. The service users extend their gratitude to the Shepparton Access Foundation for their sponsorship of the visit.

## National Disability Insurance Scheme

The NDIS is being progressively rolled out across Victoria and Shepparton Access continues our preparation for our transition into the scheme in 2019.

The NDIS will provide a new way of providing individualised support for service users and their families. The NDIS aims to give greater independence, community involvement and improved wellbeing.

The Family Support Group is preparing for the NDIS with a variety of information and planning sessions to discuss the crucial aspects of the coming changes.



[ndis.gov.au](http://ndis.gov.au)

**ndis**



# May 2016

## Volunteer with Us

Volunteers remain vital to Shepparton Access. Our volunteer program has been enriched by the diversity of our volunteers, who come from all walks of life. National Volunteer Week provided an special occasion to acknowledge the generous contribution of our volunteers. Each volunteer was presented with a gift from EcoStore as a token of our appreciation.

The additional support offered by volunteers in activities and programs opens up new opportunities for service users to increase their life skills and access to the community.

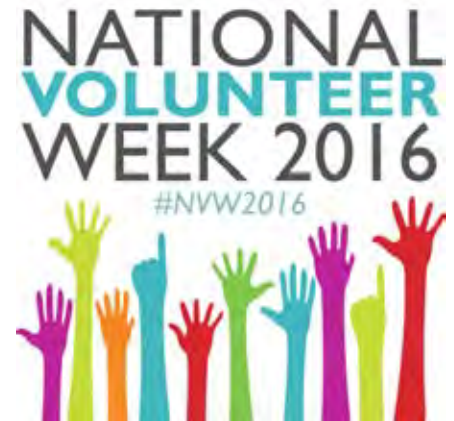
A very special thank you to Ava, Colin, Barry, Karen and Brian for their continued support.

## Abuse and Neglect Forums

VALID and National Disability Services visited Shepparton Access to provide service users and support workers with strategies to understand good practice to prevent abuse and neglect of people with disability in the community.

The two workshops - 'Staying Safe' and 'Understanding Abuse' were very informative and encouraged service users and support workers to ask questions and to be provided with helpful and practical responses.

Many of the issues raised during the forums created new conversations in program activities and has also created a new appreciation for service users of their own safety and wellbeing.



**Abuse and Neglect is  
Never Okay!**

# June 2016

## Park to Plate - Our Favourite Recipes

Over the past 12 months we have received many requests for a variety of preserves and many of our recipes. It has been these requests which has resulted in our recipe book.

Our Favourite Recipes is a collection of our most requested preserves. Many of which have been handed down through the generations and continue to be enjoyed over the years.

We were pleased to launch the recipe book in June and it is now available for purchase from EcoStore. The recipe book along with a couple bottles of preserves is an ideal gift for family and friends.

Thank you to the City of Shepparton's Greater Health Grant for your contribution to the printing of the recipe book.



## *Our Favourite Recipes* **Park to Plate**

# July 2016

## From Park to Plate

Both our EcoPark and EcoStore initiatives are expanding and achieving outcomes beyond our wildest dreams.

The vegetable gardens EcoPark continue to thrive and provide the many vegetables for sale in the store. The introduction of potted colour and herbs have expanded the range of items which are now available for sale.

The purchase of new chooks and chicks have not only increased our egg production they have continued the enthusiasm towards caring for the chicks as they grow and develop ready for the free range yards.

The wood working shed continues to offer new projects for service users to increase their skills and to make ideal gifts for their families and friends.

EcoStore has also experienced growth in both products and sales. The store continues to receive orders for our corporate boxes and for many favourite family preserves. The arts and crafts available in the store have also expanded, and are changing from week to week.

The Park to Plate initiative continues to be exciting and we look forward to continued growth over the coming years.





# August 2016

## Using Technology

Technology has gradually become a very important resource at Shepparton Access. Service users are all familiar with a variety of devices and use them to support their learning and skill development in many activities.

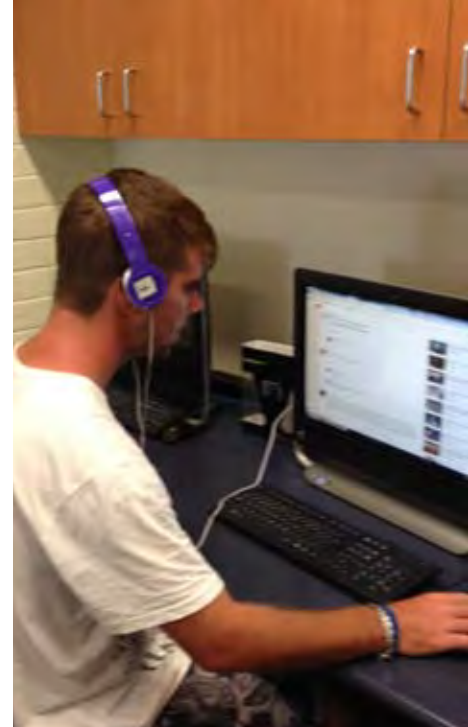
The introduction of iPads has offered new and interesting approaches to engage service users in literacy, reading and numeracy activities.

The diversity of apps provide service users with activities which meet their individual needs and learning activities and can be translated to their own digital devices to use at home. The use of touch screen computers and smart boards have been crucial to the in the connection of services users to their personal interests, in research activities and participation in our education programs.

Other programs such as Story Writing use technology to write and to reflect on their own life experiences and to build their creativity and imagination in the construction of short stories while expanding their individual computer skills.

The increase in the use of technology has also had some short comings. Service users do not always understand and follow the accepted protocols when using Facebook and Twitter. We have over the year provided mentoring to groups and individuals regarding the appropriate use of technology as a communication tool.

As we move to 2017 and beyond, the use of technology will continue to expand and its many benefits in activities and programs are yet to be realised.





# September 2016

## Oral Health Week

Oral Health week at Shepparton Access aimed to educate all about the importance of good oral health in every aspect of our daily lives.

A variety of activities and competitions were held throughout the week and included

Daily adventures with Terry the Tap

Encouraging the drinking of water rather than sweetened carbonated drinks

A visit from the GV Health dental van involving information sessions on the impact of food, clean our teeth and good general dental health

Poster and colouring in competition

Selecting healthy foods to promote healthy teeth in cooking programs

Quizzes and H2O challenges.

A follow up program around oral health in 2017 will reinforce many of the learnings from the week and produce an information book for all to enjoy.



# October 2016

## Success at the Shepparton Show

Upon the arrival of the Shepparton Show schedule service users set to work on the design and construction of a billy cart and planting out gardens in ice-cream containers.

The 'EcoCart' is a reflection of our commitment to sustainability and the very impressive vehicle demonstrates the outstanding skills of our DIY group. The efforts in both design and construction were rewarded with the award of best billy cart. The EcoCart is now on display for everyone to see at EcoStore.

The horticulture group was also successful, winning 1st and 2nd place ribbons for their creative and colourful ice-cream container gardens. Congratulations to everyone who assisted with our outstanding success at the Shepparton Show.

## Carers Week

Carers week is an important week in the Shepparton Access calendar. Carers week recognises the contribution carers make in the community and to the people who come to Shepparton Access. This year we joined with 21 carers for lunch at the Aussie Hotel. The lunch provided a unique opportunity for our family carers to catch up and to support each other and to share their personal experiences.

Our Carers Week lunch is generously sponsored by Carers Victoria. Carers Victoria continues to work to ensure that caring is a shared responsibility of family , community and government.



# November 2016

## Victorian Netball Titles

Our Shepparton Access netball team was very pleased to be part of the 2016 Victorian Netball Titles held in Werribee. They were very honoured to be chosen to represent the Goulburn Valley Netball League.

Decked out in the league colours of maroon and gold, the team was keen to improve on the past performances, and were delighted to win numerous games on the day. The netball experience was a great opportunity to become part of a regional team and to be supported by other netballers and in turn support other netballers.

The team sincerely thanks the Goulburn Valley Netball League, the Shepparton Access Foundation and Western Composting Technology for their sponsorship of this amazing day.

## Australia Post - Our Neighbourhood Trust

Everyone has been extremely excited and honoured to received monies from the Our Neighbourhood Trust to contribute towards the technology for our new learning centre.

We were also extremely excited and honoured to have Katrina and our organisation highlighted during Australia Posts request for donations from the local community and beyond.

Australian Post wrote 'We are very pleased that we started Our Neighbourhood Trust, a trust that raises money .... to support small local charities and the people they help in communities like Shepparton'.

Everyone at Shepparton Access extends our thanks to the Our Neighbourhood Trust for their very generous donation and promotional activities in our local community.



**Our Neighbourhood**

# Looking to our future

The environment in which Shepparton continues to provide services is rapidly evolving and becoming more complex. We continue to face higher expectations from service users and their families, other organisations, our community partners and government. The continuing policy changes and regulations and the robust quality and continuous improvement requirements have all contributed to the ever changing disability and education environments.

In addition the changes to funding arrangements and reporting requirements, the new Skills First and ACFE allocation of student contact hours and the roll out of the NDIS will require a more precise approach to pricing and financial monitoring.

We have recently began our Strategic Planning cycle and have evaluated our 2013-2016 plan which focused on Shaping the Future. The new Strategic Plan 2017-2020 will prepare Shepparton Access for our entry into the NDIS and beyond.

In positioning Shepparton Access for the future, it is essential that our resources and capabilities reflect the needs of our organisation and our new strategic direction.

Our current infrastructure and the new learning centre will provide for many unique opportunities for service users to expand their horizons and to reach for goals. Our community will continue to be instrumental in the process of breaking down the barriers and promoting community inclusion for all. As Shepparton Access continues to grow we will need to guarantee our workforce capacity and ensure their skills, knowledge and experience are ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Continuing to engage with stakeholders and regular monitoring of our service will provide opportunities for everyone at Shepparton Access to seize the future and to take on the tough challenges.

Shepparton Access is committed to working vigorously towards adapting to and implementing the many challenges and to lay the foundations for our organisation, when looking to our future.

***“Anything is possible. Believe in your dreams, reach out and you will achieve”***



# 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

Australian Football League

Caltex Service Station

Calvary Care

Cardamone Real Estate

Carers Victoria

Cavalier Homes

City of Greater Shepparton

Darryl Twitt Motors

Department of Education and Training

Department of Health and Human Services

East Shepparton Bowling Club

Finer Fruit

Freshair

Goulburn Ovens Tafe

Goulburn Valley Grammar

Goulburn Valley Health

Greyhound Racing Victoria

Grutzner House

Harmony Village

Hungry Jacks

IK Caldwell

Irise's Coffee Shop

Jets Gym

Kensington Gardens Men's Shed

Koryo Taekwondo

M&S Accounting

Major League Indoor Sports Centre

Market Meats

Meals on Wheels

Mooroopna Community & Learning  
Centre

Mooroopna Lions Club  
Mooroopna Men's Shed  
Mooroopna Masonic Lodge  
Notre Dame College  
Numurkah Memorial Pioneer Lodge  
Ray Dobson Real Estate  
RIAC  
Rise Centre  
Rob and Mary Farren  
Rossignoli Real Estate  
Rumbalara Disability and Aged Care  
Sessions Builders  
Shepparton News  
Shepparton Sailability  
Shepparton Sports Stadium  
Shepparton Taxis  
Shepparton Villages  
Shepparton Chamber of Commerce  
South Shepparton Community House  
Southern Cross Care  
Southern Cross Orchards  
St Brendan's Parish  
St Luke's Catholic Primary School  
St Mary's of the Angels  
Star Bowl  
Stockdale & Leggo  
Tallis Wines  
Tatura Fresh  
The Connection  
The Shepparton Adviser  
The Fryers Street Food Store  
The Shepparton Club  
Trans Tank International  
Verney Road School

# 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

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