

2020

Diversity & Inclusion





December 2020

International Day of People with Disability

International Day of People with Disability is celebrated on December 3rd each year.

During our annual celebration breakfast in 2019, we not only celebrated the outstanding achievements of Service Users at Shepparton Access, we celebrated the extraordinary dedication of members of our community who have made an outstanding contribution to bringing about social change and breaking down the barriers to participation in community life.

We were very pleased to welcome Brooke Parsons to our celebrations. Brooke shared her inspiring achievements in the face of living as a stroke survivor.

Brooke's inspirational story was filled with endless and positive energy. Her energy has enabled her to overcome a variety of chronic health conditions and become an inspiration to us all.



Andrew Mills Award & Kylee Thomas Award

The presentation of these prestigious awards is always a highlight during our Christmas lunch. The awards acknowledge the outstanding achievements and contribution of Service Users to Shepparton Access.

The Andrew Mills Memorial Award was awarded to Damon Vasterink. Damon has always been known as a quiet achiever. His remarkable achievement of representing Shepparton Access and Victoria at the National Taekwondo Championships was a realisation of his personal dream.

Diane and Bill Thomas were pleased to present the Kylee Thomas Award to Aden Mangles. The Award acknowledges Aden's positive attitude towards establishing new friendships, learning new skills and daring to try new ideas.

February 2020

Volunteers—Enhancing peoples lives

Over many years, volunteers have been vital to our organisation. We have been enriched by the diversity of their many interests.

Cathy Dean spent endless hours at Eco Park supporting Service Users to complete their many tasks and promote ecological sustainability.

Cathy made a substantial contribution to the raising and potting of seedlings for sale at EcoStore. If there was any additional work to be done at EcoPark, Cathy would be the first to volunteer time and endless energy to help.

Unfortunately, we farewelled Cathy with dinner at the Parklake in February, when she moved to Melbourne to follow her vocation. At the dinner Cathy commented: “I’ve volunteered at EcoPark because I get enormous satisfaction from working with the Service Users, they are great”.

We were all very saddened to be informed in July that Cathy had passed away. ‘May she rest in peace’.

Colin, John and Barry also contribute many hours each week to the maintenance at EcoPark and the support of our Service Users. Their contribution is invaluable and we thank them sincerely.

Many craft programs have been enriched by the terrific contribution of Chaz and Kristine. Service Users have enjoyed their enthusiastic involvement in a variety of craft projects and their friendly interaction and conversation.

Francesca has been a regular volunteer in the kitchen and assists with the preparation and cooking of jams and sauces for EcoStore. Her assistance has been very much appreciated.

Brian has contributed to Shepparton Access over many years. His dedication to our bike riders has been amazing, from ensuring bike safety to supporting rides along the many bike trails.

We thank all our volunteers for their endless support and for sharing their interests and skills.



March 2020

The Harmony Cup

The annual Harmony Cricket Cup has become a highly anticipated tournament each year.

The tournament attracts a wide variety of teams throughout the region and beyond.

Our team was able to practice at Princess Park each week to improve their skills and understanding of the modified rules in the lead up to the tournament.

We were very proud of the outstanding achievement of our team. They not only played a very high standard of cricket, they were very respectful of other team members and played in other teams as needed.

The Harmony Cup also provided an opportunity for Service Users to catch up with friends from other services and share their latest news.



Jams and Chutneys for Eco Store

Bunnings Warehouse has a strong commitment to many local community organisations.

Shepparton Access was very pleased to be offered a BBQ date and soon got together to plan for the day.

The sale of 50 kg of sausages and 40 loaves of bread kept everyone busy serving customers from 8am to 4pm.

More than \$2,000 was raised and dedicated to the purchase of specialised hand tools for use at EcoPark.

Thankyou all for giving up your Saturday to assist with this important fundraising opportunity. Your contribution was very much appreciated.



April 2020

The Coronavirus Pandemic

Shepparton Access was forced to close in April due to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Coronavirus brought with it a new way of life, a new vocabulary and new protective strategies for us all to understand and absorb into our daily lives.

When Shepparton Access reopened on April 30th, programs and activities were very different.

All programs and activities were provided within our facilities and at EcoPark. We decided not to access the community at this time.

The introduction of social distancing proved to be difficult for some, however with continued practice, social distancing has become part of our daily lives.

The increase in the sanitation of the building, the washing and sanitising of hands and the taking of temperatures before entering the building was very much out of the ordinary. However, everyone took on the challenge and the strategy has proven to be very successful.

The introduction of face masks soon followed. While the masks continue to be uncomfortable to wear and difficult to keep over our faces, we are all managing okay.

All these changes have now become very much a part of our everyday lives and program activities.

I sincerely thank you all for your ongoing support and patience as we have all lived through the extremely difficult pandemic period.



May 2020

EcoStore Ceramics

Over the past couple of years our ceramics have been very popular and many people visit the store to purchase a selection of our ceramic pieces.

During the lockdown at Shepparton Access over the winter months, we were able to create a variety of ceramic items to stock up the shelves in EcoStore.

There are many new and distinctive designs in the ceramic range. The sensational use of colour and shape has been utilised to create a variety of plates and platters, vases, coffee mugs, wall hangings and jewellery.

All items, either singularly or teamed together with similar colours and designs will make ideal gifts or Christmas.

A variety of soaps and craft items are also available.

An assortment of hampers and prewrapped gifts have been prepared and items range from sauces, chutney and jams to a mix of our diverse products.

This year we have included a variety of complementary items in our hampers to promote variety and interest.



June 2020

Planting For Spring

Over the winter months the activities at EcoPark focused on the preparation of garden beds for the spring/summer vegetables and seedlings for sale in EcoStore.

A variety of new seed raising boxes were built in preparation for raising our own seedlings, rather than purchasing them from Bunnings.

The new vegetable beds were cultivated and fertilised in preparation for growing a variety of vegetables.

Green leafy vegetables together with peas, beans, capsicums and tomatoes will all be available in the store in spring and summer.

Some vegetables continue to be protected from the pesky rabbits which tended to be regular visitors.

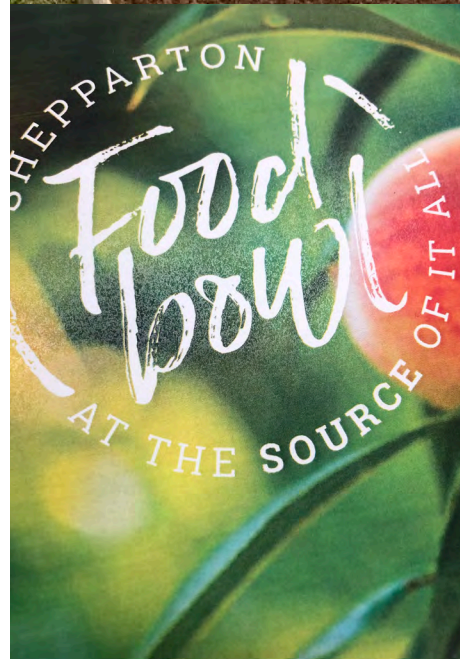
Shepparton Food Bowl Cookbook

Greater Shepparton has always been recognised as the heart of Australia's food bowl.

During 2020, Greater Shepparton Council commissioned a cookbook and invited the community to share the story of our region through a partnership with cafes, restaurants, growers and manufacturers.

Shepparton Access was very honoured to be invited to participate and to promote our Park to Plate initiative. One of our favourite recipes, Rhubarb, Strawberry and Vanilla Jam, was selected to be included in the cookbook.

The production team visited the Shepparton Access kitchen to photograph a presentation page to highlight our Park to Plate initiative.





July 2020

Welcome to the new Service Users of 2020

During 2020 we were very pleased to welcome a number of new faces, Callum, Heath, Jack, Maddie, and Maree.

They began their journey into our service in late January and instantly settled into their new daily routine.

Each person now has a program, activities and support to achieve their individual goals and aspirations into the future.

While 2020 proved to be a year of interruptions and change, these young adults have demonstrated their maturity and an eagerness to be actively involved in every opportunity which has come their way.

It has been gratifying to observe their growth in their life skills, their independence, influence over their decisions and their inclusiveness.

Each has established valuable relationships with each other and other Service Users.

These attributes will provide them with many of the skills they will require to pursue gaining and maintaining work experience in 2021.

August 2020

Purchasing New Technology

Each year Shepparton Access receives funding from ACFE (Adult Community and Further Education) to support Service Users to participate in Education courses.

During the Coronavirus Pandemic, we were very pleased to receive an additional grant for the purchase of new technology to assist in our education program.

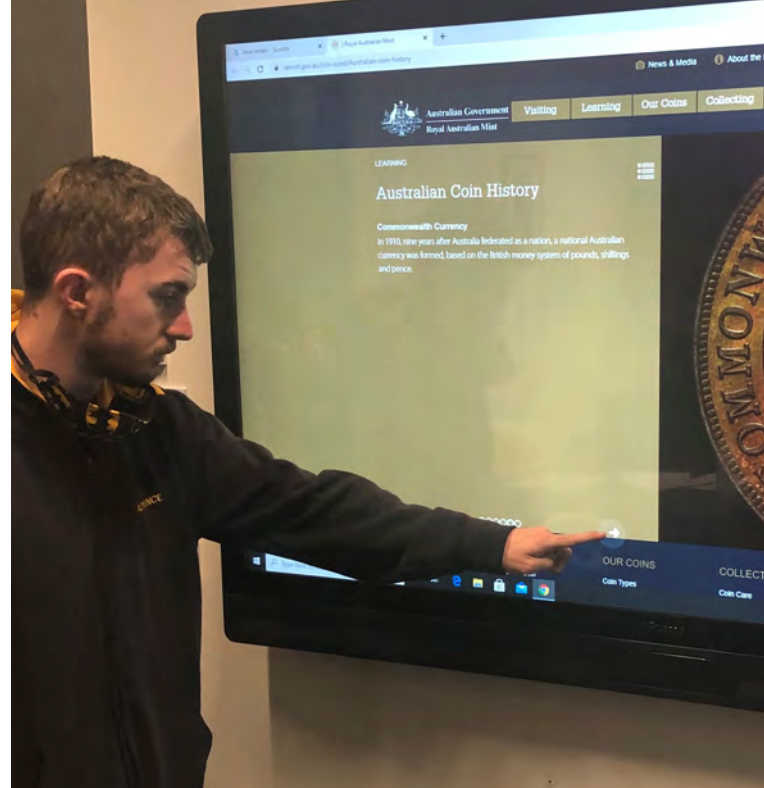
We decided to purchase a new Interactive Smart Board for Service Users to use in our Education Room.

The Smart Board complements the existing technology available for Service Users to strengthen their knowledge and skills. Both the Club Room and Bendigo Room also have Smart Boards and computers.

All our computers have access to adaptive technology to assist Service Users with specialised needs to access e-learning.

Shepparton Access has been extremely grateful for the many donations and grants we have received throughout the year.

These donations and grants have been utilised to both expand the availability of technology for Service Users and to purchase new and updated models.



September 2020

Virtual Agricultural Show

Shepparton Access has always been a keen supporter of the Shepparton Show. Unfortunately and to the disappointment of many the Shepparton Show was cancelled this year.

We were surprised when we received a call from ABC Local Radio inviting us to become involved in the ABC Virtual Agricultural Show.

During the many COVID restrictions, the Virtual Show provided a new opportunity for Service Users to participate in the community within the safety of our daily environment.

Service Users were excited with the opportunity to continue to support the revised Agriculture Show. After receiving the catalogue many expressed an interest in a variety of the categories.

While Service Users would not be able to visit the show and observe their own entries, they were able to view their entries online.

Service Users were eager to search out for recipes for both scones and cup cakes and prepared and cooked a variety of entries.

Other Service Users selected an assortment of vegetables they had grown at EcoPark.

The favourite entry was our much loved chook and the mascot of EcoPark - Princess Layer.



October 2020

Vale Lisa Varapodio

24.06.1975 - 09.10.2020

After completing her secondary education at Mooroopna Secondary College, Lisa transitioned to Shepparton Access in 1997. It was great to welcome Lisa and her enthusiasm and lively attitude to joining in activities and becoming part of the local community.

Over the years, Lisa has made many friends both at Shepparton Access and in the community. Lisa enjoyed visiting the Mall, window shopping and purchasing her much loved jewellery. While out in the community Lisa loved to have a gossip and to find out what was happening around the town.

Lisa was warmly welcomed by the St Andrews Friendship Group. Each week Lisa looked forward to catching up with the gossip of the group and joining in their many activities and outings. Thank you sincerely to each member of the Friendship Group for sharing their enthusiasm for life and lively conversation.

Over the years Lisa would love to tell of her remarkable accomplishments such as skydiving. Her incredible zest for life and living was truly amazing and Lisa loved to keep us all on our toes.

Everyone who knew Lisa will miss her. We will all miss her welcoming smile, her bubbly personality and her passion for life.



November 2020

Oaks Day Celebrations

Each year on Oaks Day all Service Users and staff venture to the Goulburn Weir for a day of celebration and games.

As this was not possible this year, Oaks Day was celebrated with Service Users coming into Shepparton Access in their favourite race outfits, including a variety of hats, fascinators, ties and party shirts.

Prizes were awarded for the best dressed and fashions on the field. A lunch was prepared by our hospitality group and enjoyed by all.

Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award provides Service Users with an exclusive opportunity to develop skills such as teamwork, leadership, resilience, resourcefulness and effective communication.

Our five Duke of Edinburgh participants have continued to strive to achieve their silver level during 2020. With the COVID19 restrictions it has been difficult to achieve their community service component.

The creation of a Pen Pal relationship with Moyola Lodge in Tatura has provided a chance to exchange letters with their new pen pals.

Everyone in the program both at Shepparton Access and Moyola Lodge are very much looking forward to catching up over a morning tea in the New Year.



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

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