



March 2020 Newsletter

“Our Voice, Our choice”



Offices: **Ararat, Stawell, Horsham,
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International Day of People with a Disability

GdA celebrated IDPwD in Ararat and Ballarat, where both events were well patronized, and hosted a broad range of activities.

In Ararat there was a walk around the lake, music performances by a local blues artist and Sing Australia. Rotary put on a delicious bbq and Halls Gap Zoo brought some handsome and alluring reptiles to hold or for the less inclined, a tickle and grimace. But in all, it was a fun, mostly sunny day that was a huge success due to the efforts and enthusiasm of a collaboration of Ararat

Neighbourhood House, Ararat and District Carers Group, with a special shout out to Lou Makin who tirelessly put together a big day enjoyed by many. Ballarat IDPwD was also well attended in Wendouree, put on by VaLID and the Ballarat Peer Action Group.

Presentations were made to the winner of the Access and Inclusion Awards. Guest speakers from the local community as well as music provided by the Ballarat Ukulele Group added a brilliant atmosphere for the attendees. Mark Thompson (GdA Board member) was an organizer of the event and was very happy with the turnout. **See page 4 for pictures from IDPwD events.**



NDIS FORUM BALLARAT

GdA Advocates pictured Fiona Tipping (left) and Bernadette Duane (right) met with David Tune at the NDIS Forum held in Ballarat in November 2019. For more information about the NDIS Tune review, [go to page 3](#)



Special Announcement

Grampians disAbility Advocacy has been successful in applying for an NDIS ILC grant of \$1.4 million over three years to increase organizational and capacity building in the GdA serviced areas.

These funds will ensure that people with a disability can connect and participate in their communities.

Peer support groups, including varied activities, and ‘upskilling’ sessions will be implemented across GdA’s 11 Local Government Areas. Stay tuned for more info about what’s happening in your region.

Aust Open Championship Wheelchair Singles

Dylan Alcott says he hopes to inspire people with disability after continuing his dominance at the Australian Open tennis competition with a sixth straight championship in the men's quad wheelchair singles.

The top-seeded Alcott made light work of his British rival Andy Lapthorne in the first set, before winning 6-0, 6-4 in one hour and 15 minutes under the roof on Rod Laver Arena.

It is his 10th major singles title and the win helped avenge his shock loss to Lapthorne in last year's US Open final, which robbed the Australian of a Grand Slam.

Alcott said the most satisfying aspect of his win was the potential to provide inspiration for people with disability across a range of fields. *(from the ABC 1st Feb, picture courtesy of Lee Jin-man)*



Dylan Alcott has called on people with disabilities to chase their dreams after winning his sixth consecutive singles title at the Australian Open

Alcott beat Andy Lapthorne 6-0, 6-4 to win the final on Rod Laver Arena

He will donate \$40,000 to people with disabilities who were affected by the bushfires in Australia.

KAREN COMMUNITY IN NHILL CELEBRATE 2020 NEW YEAR

GdA's DHHS Advocacy Futures Project Officer Kathryn Delahunty participated in the Karen New Year Celebration at Nhill on Jan 11. Kathryn started in her role in September 2019 and has been integral in linking GdA with the Karen Community to improve the community's access to services for people with a disability. Kathryn works alongside Karen Advocate April Noe at Nhill Learning Centre to achieve these outcomes. More than 350 community members from the Wimmera, Melbourne and Werribee joined in the celebrations. This year marked the eighth time Nhill had hosted the annual event.



Traditional dancers featured at Karen New Year 2020

Royal Commission

into Violence, Abuse,
Neglect and Exploitation
of People with Disability

**Community engagement
activities are scheduled in
Regional Victoria
April 1st - 3rd**

**To find out more, contact the
Royal Commission on
1800 517 199 or call GdA if you
or someone you know would like
assistance to make a submission
to the Royal Commission
Confidentiality Assured**

The Australian Government has committed to developing an **NDIS Participant Service Guarantee** to support positive participant experiences with the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

From 1 July 2020, the Guarantee will set new standards for the time it takes for key steps in the NDIS process. This means there will be shorter, agreed timeframes for people to receive a decision on whether they will be covered by the NDIS, to receive an NDIS plan and to have a plan reviewed.

To develop the Guarantee, the Government commissioned a review of the NDIS Act to identify opportunities to make NDIS processes simpler and more straight-forward, and remove legislative barriers to positive participant and provider experiences with the NDIS.

The review was undertaken by an independent expert, Mr David Tune AO PSM. People with disability, family members, carers, advocates and providers from around Australia shared their experiences and ideas through community workshops, an online survey and by making submissions.

To find out more about the **“Tune review report”**, which was handed to the Government in December 2019, go to <https://www.dss.gov.au/disability-and-carers-programs-services-for-people-with-disability-national-disability-insurance-scheme/review-of-the-ndis-act-report>

BREAKING NEWS >>>>> **Flexibility for Transport funding for NDIS participants**

Minister for the NDIS, Stuart Robert, has announced more flexibility and increased choice for participants accessing transport funding in their plans. From March 1, 2020 NDIS participants will be able to flexibly use their plan’s core support funding to claim service provider costs associated with transporting participants to and from NDIS funded community-based activities.

Providers will be able to claim some of their vehicle running costs when offering transport to a participant in conjunction with the community activities identified in their NDIS plan and/or to maintain or increase their independence. ‘This change will give participants more autonomy in their plans, and greater choice and control over the services and supports they need.

‘These changes build on positive momentum in resolving the long-standing issues regarding the interface between the NDIS and transport supports,’ Minister Robert said.

For more information, go to www.ndis.gov.au/news



International Day of People with a Disability



(from left): Cr Belinda Coates, Debbie Verdon, Mark Thompson

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Ararat: Tamara Patterson



Ballarat Ukelele Group performed at the IPDwD in Ballarat providing some upbeat tunes

THE BRIGHT SPARKS
PRESENT OUR FINAL EVENT FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

BEACH PARTY 2020

WHEN: SATURDAY 14TH OF MARCH
TIME: 7:00-10:00
WHERE: VRI HALL
CORNER LYDIARD ST. & NOLAN ST.

TICKETS \$2
(NO CHARGE FOR CARERS)
PREPAID BY 7TH OF MARCH

MUSIC, DANCING, ENTERTAINMENT & PRIZES
LIGHT SUPPER & CORDIAL

- PEOPLE 16+
- NO PERSONAL CARE PROVIDED
- DRESS TO IMPRESS

FOR TICKETS CONTACT BARB SPENCE
0417915828

PROGRAM DESIGNED BY: [SALLY SPENCE](#)

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY motor

The Housing Hub

(for your disability housing needs)
Online guide & links to practical resources that will help you in your housing and NDIS journey

- [Specialist Disability Accommodation \(SDA\) Payments Guide](#)
- [The Pathway to SDA](#)
- [Using SDA to Buy Your Own Property](#)
- [My Housing Preferences](#)
- [The Housing Toolkit](#)
- [Sample NDIS Plans](#)
- [Practice Guide](#)