

EYE CONTACT

BWA serving its Members for 75 years

**Newsletter for Members of B W A proudly
Sponsored by Tenants and Friends**

May 2013

CONTACT DETAILS:

Blind Welfare Association of SA

Administration & Member Services: 1 Cameron Avenue, Gilles Plains

Postal Address: PO Box 163, Greenacres SA 5086

Telephone: 8367 6088

Fax: 8369 0063

E-mail: info@blindwelfare.org.au www.blindwelfare.org.au

Welcome to the latest edition of the Eye Contact in which you will find all the updates for the upcoming months plus relevant information and no doubt there are those of you out there keeping warm with the cooler weather having settled in and following your Footy Team and hoping that this year will be 'The One'!!

I am off to China at the beginning of May and looking forward to the experience. See you when I get back.

LEONORE SCOTT

BWA Board Report

As most of you may have heard the SA Government has signed up to the full NDIS-DisabilityCare. Whilst this may be seen as a positive for some of our members, those who are who are aged 65 years and above are of course not included in the DisabilityCare program.

BWA through the Australian Blindness Forum have been lobbying for the age restriction to be removed, however when the legislation was passed the age restriction still applies, although Minister Macklin indicated that the DisabilityCare and the Department of Health and Ageing were committed to having a seamless service irrelevant of a person's age. BWA will continue to lobby to ensure that services that are currently provided free of charge to people who are blind or vision impaired continue to be supported by the government. This issue is becoming more intense as fundraising from the community is down 14 percent nationally and BWA lotteries are not returning the previous amount of income. Currently government support of BWA is less than 10 percent of our turnover.

On a brighter note the Board look forward to catching up with members at the launching of the Marney Pearce Technology Lounge. We hope that this new facility will provide members with new opportunities to connect with the digital age.

TONY STARKEY

President

BWA Manager's Report

Greetings! As per usual, lots happening here at Blind Welfare, where to begin. As I write this, the holiday program for this break has begun. All who attended really enjoyed the visit from Animal Capers, the keeper Jodie and all her friends, from Joey the baby kangaroo to Napoleon the Green Tree Frog. I especially enjoyed Joey but I must admit he had to be put back in his "man made" pouch. Joey was getting very cheeky and thought he would practice his kangaroo boxing with some of our Members, naughty Joey!! Jodie from Animal Capers has agreed to return with more of her Australian native animals at a later date so watch this space! A big thank you to Brian who not only was our driver, he once again cooked a fabulous BBQ for all who attended. To our volunteers Kath, Hedy and Ann Marie who always do a great job, thank you!

Over this period we have been caught a bit short in our ability to identify volunteers to assist with Members' requests such as medical appointments and shopping. We appreciate how important support in these areas is for our Members and are consciously working at addressing. So please bear with us while we endeavour to recruit more volunteers to meet Member demands. At this time we have determined not to run a holiday program over the next holiday break, 6th to 21st July but concentrate in meeting Member's regular appointments such as shopping and requests for transport to medical and personal appointments. Christine, Jackie and Marj will be looking closely at Member requests to volunteer and vehicle availability. Volunteers need a break as well to do other things, have a rest or spend time with grandchildren over school holidays. Please contact Christine if you have any questions or need to make an appointment for transport or any other assistance.

I look forward to seeing you at the Official Opening of the Marney Pearce Technology Lounge on, Wednesday 22nd May, 10:30 at the Activity Centre on Cameron Avenue Gilles Plains. Please let us know if you need transport assistance and we will do our best to get as many here as possible. Delicious morning tea will be provided, thanks to Leonore Scott, Member and Board Member (Thanks Leonore!!) Please see your invitation in this edition of Eye Contact and let us know as soon as possible if you would like to attend. We will also provide guided tours on the day and staff will be happy to do this on a one on one basis. The equipment and software is on its way and includes a Scanner Reader for converting text documents to speech. Three computers at three separate stations will have Windows 7 Office Suite with Jaws, Zoom Text and Dolphin Guide. We will have a booking system that we will be happy to talk you through on the day. If you can't make it for the opening, I encourage you to contact us and any staff member will be able to talk you through the purpose for the Technology Lounge and how we hope our members will utilise it and answer any questions you may have. If you are a member and are interested in helping other BWA members in the use of any of the software programs, Jaws or Zoom Text please let us know. The plan is to develop a schedule of attendance by "teaching" members with a list of their skills to share. Members who would like to book in for some training sessions can then book the time with the member that has the skills they would like to learn. I am eager to get this roster together so please let me or any staff member know if you are willing to be part of this exciting new venture.

I will look forward to seeing more of you at the Marney Pearce opening, if not before! Please feel welcome to contact me should you have any questions in regards to Blind Welfare and our services. Kind regards to all.

ROSEMARY MURDOCK

Manager

Welfare/Member Services Officer Report

It is really hard to believe that over three months has passed since I commenced as your Welfare/Member Services Officer. It has been a very busy time with so much to learn and I am really enjoying the position and its challenges and have enjoyed meeting and assisting so many Members.

Since beginning in this role I have approved 25 new memberships, so to those new Members I would like to welcome you all and hope you enjoy your first Eye Contact Newsletter.

As Rosemary explained we are in the middle of our Holiday Program at the moment and it has been wonderful to see so many people come along and enjoy the different programs that we have organized. I would like to share a story sent to us by one of our Members, John, explaining what the Animal Capers experience meant to him. It is really rewarding to receive such wonderful feed-back and I would like to thank John for sharing his thoughts with us.

Oh What A Sensation by John Bastiaans

In the sixty years that I have lived up unto now, I have rarely touched any of the animals in the world that you normally don't get to pat or hold. Like everyone else I have touched and patted dogs, cats, horses and cows, but never animals that you either can't reach or, are only meant to be looked at for their beauty.

Last Monday BWA had its first Holiday Program activity for this year. Those who attended this activity got a rare chance to both hold, pat and smell animals and a bird that you normally can't touch: animals such as a 9 month old kangaroo; a green and yellow ringed tree frog, where you had to have wet hands; a nice fat rabbit; a possum, wrapped in a blanket; a nocturnal bird (forgot name) and finally a small crocodile with its gaping mouth wide open. As most blind and vision impaired people never get the perception on how these animals feel, how they are shaped or their size. Now having held some of these animals and bird I can appreciate and understand more on what these animals so to speak look like, or in blind and vision impaired people's terms feel, smell and what size these creatures are. I found it also amazing that each animal had its own particular smell. I wonder if you could learn each particular animal by its own unique odour? (Editor's comment - little Joey the kangaroo knows how to throw a punch and kick, as I was the recipient of his skills, and even though I was not hurt, when he grows up and is a big boy, he will have no trouble inflicting injury to his foe, but I have to say, he was very cute).

"The Castle" was shown for our Audio Descriptive movie day. Members watched the re-mastered and re-plastered version of the movie while enjoying choc top ice-creams and popcorn. The Troubadours entertained us after BBQ lunch on Monday 22nd April. Our last special holiday event is our Come and Try Day which will be held on Wednesday 24th April. I would not only like to thank all of our Members who participated in our special programs, but also our wonderful volunteers who gave their time to make these events a success. Nothing that is organized by us can be successful without volunteer help. Their tasks are so varied and include: driving, sight guiding, making teas and coffees, cooking BBQ's, assisting Members with crafts & bingo, furniture moving the list is endless. However the most important thing that they do is make Members feel welcome and the Social Centre a friendly environment. During our normal activity time we were privileged enough to have a visit from Robyn Geraghty – ALP Member for Torrens. Robyn spoke to Members about local issues. Members were able to ask questions about their community that had a direct affect on them. Robyn and her assistant Suzanne were extremely knowledgeable and we were grateful that they made time in their busy schedule to visit us.

Members have also enjoyed pub lunches, entertainment and bus trips throughout the term; we look forward to more of these outings in the future. By the time you receive this newsletter our normal programs will be back in full swing offering, Tai Chi, Social groups which include entertainment and outings, crafts, bingo (played on special boards with raised numbers), movies, writing group, music group and shopping at Ingle Farm Shopping Centre. If you would like to join us for any of these activities please call Chris or Marj on 8367 9732 and if you live within a 10km radius of Blind Welfare we can organise transport to these events at no cost. We would love to see you! Should you have any queries about either our social activities, Special Purpose Welfare Fund, Personal loans, Home Maintenance fund, or if you need to know

anything about any of our other services including shopping, transport to appointments or referrals to our Blind Welfare/Royal Society for the Blind Rec & Leisure Programs please do not hesitate to call Chris 8367 9732.

CHRIS BROWN

Welfare/Member Services Officer

BWA Volunteer Officer

By the time you read this I will be travelling through Canada and Alaska having a great time I hope. Some of you will know that I had grommets put in my ears to help me to equalise my ears while flying. Unfortunately they had an adverse effect on me and after two lots being inserted I had them removed leaving me almost deaf and feeling wretched. Watch this space for an update after my holiday.

I have had a busy time interviewing more people who wish to become volunteers. The good news is that we do have two more drivers and as I mentioned last time this is a welcome relief for our already busy drivers. Lots of our volunteers are taking time off to have holidays and this has put a lot of pressure on us in our ability to meet our Members requests for Members services. I'm not sure if you all know the procedures which we follow before we can put a new volunteer into action but it does take several weeks from their initial interview to be able to utilize them whether it's as a driver or a general volunteer.

One of the grants that was approved is being used for a Defensive Driving Course and most of our drivers will have completed this by the end of June. The first six drivers did their course on Tuesday 9 April and the feedback from them was excellent and they commented that it was very worthwhile. Three drivers completed the country course while the other three did the metro area. The second grant approved was for us to produce a 30 second commercial with the help of the media students at Flinders University. I met our team of students in March at Flinders University and then again here with Rosemary. Both Rosemary and I put forward concepts for the commercial and the students used their creativity to massage this into an idea. The students attended another meeting with Rosemary and me recently to go through the storyboard and nut out some other ideas. It is very exciting and you may be surprised at a couple of familiar faces that appear in the commercial!! More details will be available in the next Eye Contact when hopefully it will have been produced and some airtime given on the television. We will be able to use this commercial for other promotion. Some of you may have seen the commercial last year on TV that the RSB had with the Labrador puppy rolling around, this was produced from the same funding. I am in the process of applying for two more grants and both are for funding to assist volunteers. The funding can be used for training programs or in the case of one of them for equipment or reimbursement of petrol costs for those drivers using their own vehicles. Thank you to those volunteers who have shown interest in being part of a fundraising committee and also one of our members. If there are any other volunteers or members interested it's not too late! Just let me know. As always a big THANK YOU to all our Volunteers as without your help we couldn't do what we do for our Members so THANK YOU AGAIN!

JACKIE McEWEN

Volunteer Officer

Activities at BWA

Monday	10.00am – 11.00am 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Tai Chi Friendship Club
Tuesday	10.00am – 11.30am 12.00pm – 2.30pm 4.00pm – 5.00pm	Movies Shopping at Ingle Farm (fortnightly) Aqua Aerobics (RSB)
Wednesday	9.00am – 12.30pm 2.30pm – 3.30pm	Craft Aqua Aerobics (RSB)
Wednesday evening	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Indoor Bowls (RSB)
Thursday	10.00 – various	Social Group
Friday	9.00am – 12.00pm 11.30 – 12.30 11.30 – 12.30 12.30pm – 2.00pm	Craft Writers Group “Express Yourself” German Lessons Bingo (fortnightly)

Night Entertainment

Tenants and Friends hold concerts on the 1st Friday of every month, 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Recreation & Leisure (RSB/BWA) Northern

Knitting Group	Gym Group
VIP Dancing Group	Meditation Group
Elizabeth Craft Group	Zumba
Elizabeth Bus Trips	Walking Group
Smithfield Golf	RSB Spin Class
Elizabeth Indoor Carpet Bowls	Boocia
Tandem Training Group	Fishing
Sailing	

Recreation & Leisure East West

Adelaide AD Movie Group	Adelaide Cups & Spoons
Adelaide Knitting Group	Conversational Italian
Burnside Audio Book Club	Eastern Suburbs Walking Group
East Travel Group	RSB Spin
RSB VIP Theatre Group	RSB Yoga
Murray Bridge Coffee Group	Adelaide Men’s Group
Young Adults Social Group	

Recreation & Leisure Groups West

West AD Movie Group	Golf Coaching Clinics
Marion Golf Croquet	Osborne Tai Chi
Tandem Cycling	Western Suburb Golf
Western Suburbs Travel Group	Western Suburbs Walking Group
West Coffee Group	Marion Ten Pin Bowling
Western Suburbs Men’s Group	Freedom Sailing Group

Recreation & Leisure South

Noarlunga Walking Group

Tai Chi

Noarlunga Bus Trips

Noarlunga Bag a Bargain

Seaford Gentle Aqua

Marion Golf Croquet

Noarlunga Ten Pin Bowling

Noarlunga Indoor Bowls

Noarlunga Golf Group

Freedom Sailing Group

Noarlunga Bingo

Noarlunga Coffee Club

There is something for everyone, for all ages, interests and fitness levels, so if any of these activities are of interest to you please contact either Marj or Chris on 8367 6088, **we would love to hear from you and help you get connected!**

BWA/RSB RECREATION AND LEISURE UPDATE APRIL 2013

RECREATION AND LEISURE EAST & WEST UPDATE

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a great Easter and didn't eat too much chocolate! Here are some groups that may be of interest:

Adelaide Men's Group – is seeking new members. If you are an independent man who would like to socialise with other men over a pub lunch, then this is a group for you! The group meets once a month. If you would like to join the group or require information, please contact Emily on (08) 8417 5555.

Elder Hall Lunchtime Concerts – is a new group seeking members. For just \$10, you can enjoy a lunchtime concert at the picturesque Elder Hall in Adelaide on a Friday afternoon. If you would like to join the group or require information, please contact Emily on (08) 8417 5555.

West Walking Group – is seeking new members. If you enjoy walking with others in scenic areas of Adelaide, then this is a group for you! Walks occur once a month. If you would like to join the group or require information, please contact Emily on (08) 8417 5555.

RECREATION AND LEISURE NORTH UPDATE

Thursday Fitness – is a new group which meets on a fortnightly basis at the RSB gym at Gilles Plains. Contact Andrew from more information.

Elizabeth 10 Pin Bowling - is seeking additional members. This group meets at the Elizabeth Bowland on Wednesday morning, Cost \$5 for two games of 10 pin bowls.

Sailing – places are available on board our monthly sailing programme, Freedom Sailing. Sit back and relax or get hands on the choice is yours.

For further information on the above or any other northern group please contact Andrew on 8254 3011.

RECREATION AND LEISURE SOUTH UPDATE

Victor Harbor now has a Tandem Cycling group! Monthly, on days that are convenient. The group heads out meeting at Kent reserve and riding along to Encounter Bay. Anyone is welcome to "Come and try" as we have beginners up to the most experienced of riders. For further information please contact Recreation and Leisure Officer (South) on (08) 8326 1188 for information.

Noarlunga Blokes Business Group – Coming up in May the group is heading out to the North Adelaide Par 3 Golf course to play a new game called "Super-Golf." It is a game that uses larger balls and clubs, perfect for a fun day out! With the group meeting on a Thursday monthly, and with fun activities like above please come and

enjoy!!!. For further information please contact Recreation and Leisure Officer (South) on (08) 8326 1188 for information.

Tenants and Friends

We continue to hold our monthly concerts on the first Friday of each month at 7.30pm. Thanks to Hedy, Leonore has found a few new entertainers and these have been booked for later in the year. If you know of any suitable artists, please contact Leonore on 0419830601

The entertainers for the coming months are:

June 7th: Little Fred

July 5th: Hellena

August 2nd: RoJo Entertainers

Due to circumstances there will be no concert in May.

We remind everyone that they are most welcome to attend, and if at all possible, transport will be arranged. Please contact me for details.

There is an amenities fee of \$3, and Tenants and Friends provide supper at no cost. Cool drinks are available for sale. If you have any items suitable for raffle prizes we would love to accept them.

MAUREEN CLOTHIER

President, Tenants and Friends Social Club

BWA Travel Club Program for 2013

2nd Saturday of each Month

Please keep in mind

- Bookings close at 8pm on the Tuesday prior to the trip
- Buses leave Cameron Ave, Gilles Plains at 9am and the North Adelaide Village, Archer Street at 9.30am
- Charges for trips \$32 includes - meals and admissions, charges to parks, museums and entertainment that is listed on the program. Discount of \$4 for meeting at pick up points.
- Annual Travel Club Subscription is \$10, payable at the February AGM or as soon as possible if joining later.
- All Travellers must be a Member, Volunteer or an Associated Member (\$10 per year) of the Blind Welfare Association.
- Members are encouraged to pay in advance and in the event of you being unable to attend that trip the amount will be credited to your next trip
- For Information or wanting to attend a trip or cancel please contact Catherine Bottcher (Treasurer and Transport) on **8395 1005**, Chris Mountstephen (Secretary) on **8371 2928**, mobile **0438 292 837** or Blind Welfare during office hours, 9am to 4pm on **8367 6088**.
- This information is subject to change but correct as of November 2012

Saturday 11 May Willunga Markets for Mother's Day Gifts
Lunch at the Alma Hotel

Saturday 8 June Alcheringa Entertainment – Wellington
Morning Tea and Lunch

Saturday 13 July See Wind Turbines then Christmas Lunch in July
Yankalilla Senior Citizens Club

Saturday 10 Aug	Movie – Blyth Picture Theatre Lunch at Blyth Hotel
Saturday 14 Sept	Tastings and lunch at Verdale Olive Estate Afternoon tea t Virginia Nursery
Saturday 12 Oct	Hahndorf Farm Barn and BBQ lunch Milk a cow or hold baby animals etc
Saturday 9 Nov	Aviation Museum at Port Adelaide Lunch at the Anchor Hotel
Saturday 14 Dec	to be advised

NOTE: In the event of the temperature being forecast at 35°C or more on the Friday night's 6pm News Bulletin, the trip will be cancelled. There will be no further notification.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sharing your experiences will help guide future Government strategy on accessible accommodation.

I am writing to provide you with an opportunity to take part in a new national survey to share your experiences about travelling with a disability.

This survey might not be directly relevant to you, but it is our hope that as many people as possible with a disability share their experiences with us, so where appropriate, please pass this email on to your networks. At the moment there is limited information on the travelling and accommodation needs of people with disability. Participation in this survey by people with disability is important for several reasons. It will provide a snapshot of your needs when staying in commercial accommodation and provide information to the tourism industry on good service. This information will feed into a study which is being undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers for the Australian Government and will also support policy work around future requirements under the *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010*. Regulations made under the Standards are due to be reviewed in 2015 and the results of this study will help inform this process.

This is a really good opportunity to share your experiences and needs in an area that is sometimes overlooked. To ensure we get comprehensive and useful information the survey is detailed, however you can skip questions that aren't relevant to you and the whole survey can be completed in around 10 minutes. As an added bonus and to thank you for getting involved, participants can go into a draw to win a \$100 dollar gift card. Please note the survey is anonymous and your responses will be kept confidential.

Please click on the link <http://www.pwc.com.au/surveys/travellers-with-a-disability> to begin. To progress through the survey, please use the buttons at the bottom of each page. If you need any help completing the survey, or have questions about it then please contact pwc.economics@au.pwc.com or call 02 6271 3052.

Thank you for taking part. Please feel free to pass this email on to your networks.

ANNA SHERBURN

Fay's Story

My name is Fay Rohrlach and I am a person who has vision impairment. I was born with Congenital Cataracts, but this, I am told, was not found until I was about 2 or 3 years old and my parents noticed that I wasn't walking straight so they took me to the eye specialist (as any good parents would, out of concern for the child). Thankfully I was operated on, which did give me some very considerable vision, but definitely not sufficient to be able to attend the normal school for education purposes. Townsend House (a school for the blind and vision impaired children at Brighton at the time) was the best option for me. A good education for any child (whatever the disability) is just as good today as it was back then, but with more changes having taken place and I'm amazed at the wonderful technology that is around now to assist blind and vision impaired children to be able to achieve their potential goal in life, no matter what it is.

I attended Townsend House in 1955, finishing 10 years later in the December of 1965, being the only child to leave school during that era. I went home for 3 months, as my parents lived in the country at Stockwell before returning to Adelaide to secure employment at Bedford Industries, a vocational rehabilitation centre in Adelaide's south for people with various disabilities. I learned how to mix, and generally get along with people as a whole. I started on the 1st of March, 1966 and was there for 1 year and 11 months before I moved over to the Royal Institution for the Blind at North Adelaide, which moved to Gilles Plains a few years later, and had a name change to the Royal Society for the Blind. I was a basket maker by trade and made all kinds of baskets, ranging from small thermos flasks, bucket baskets and big baby's bassinets, just to name a few. I had this job for 25 years and during that time, I was nominated and received a Pride of Workmanship Award for my work on chair repairs and this took place on the 2nd of June, 1986.

As my parents lived in the country, this necessitated me to boarding in the city where I lived at a guest house for about a year before boarding privately with a friend in the northern suburbs at Manningham for the next 15 years. The time came when I realised that my friend was getting on in years and there would come a time when I'd have to move. I felt part of the family as there were 2 sons who were like my brothers as I've got 2 other sisters (both younger than myself) and no brothers. Thankfully at this time Blind Welfare Association came into play and I was able to live for 12 years as a resident in one of the independent living units, being upstairs for 8 years and the remaining 4 years I was downstairs. Activities I have been involved with throughout the years have included, choral and church activities, Blind Workers Union 15 years as Minute Secretary, Housing Trust Advisory Board Modbury 15 years (this is now in recess), Chairing Blind Welfare Residents meetings for tenants in the independent living units for the 12 years I resided there. I'm currently a Committee Member of the Adelaide branch of Blind Citizens of SA for about a year now and this has given me much more confidence.

I am currently volunteering at Blind Welfare assisting and showing some of the other volunteers on Wednesday mornings each week (excluding the holidays) how to help and assist the Members on how to make cane baskets and if you, or anyone you know would like to come along and "give it a cracker," you'd be more than welcome. Now happily retired, I have the best of both worlds, there's no time, nor any excuses

for loneliness, nor for anyone to be lonely for that matter, for you do have the radio to listen to (regardless of station) your social activities, and so on so "get out there, and pursue it to the fullest, and live your life to the full".

Best regards to all
Fay Rohrlach "Miss"
e-mail fiffyfay@adam.com.au

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Please join us as we officially open the Marney Pearce Technology Lounge on Wednesday 22nd May, 2013 at Blind Welfare Association 1 Cameron Avenue Gilles Plains from 10-11.30am.

This lounge will allow members of Blind Welfare Association access to specialized equipment to further enhance their independence and to learn more about the world of IT.

Morning tea will be provided so if you could please advise your attendance by calling 8367 6088 before 15th May, 2013 I would appreciate it.

I look forward to seeing you on the 22nd of May.

Yours sincerely

ROSEMARY MURDOCK

Manager

Editor's Comment

Our next edition of Eye Contact will go out in August of 2013 and if there is anything you'd like to contribute please do so by contacting the Office via e-mail at info@blindwelfare.org.au or the staff by calling 8367 6088.