

EYE CONTACT

BWA serving its Members for 75 years

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

May 2014

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My goodness how time flies when having fun and it seems that way so far this year. We are already into May and many people are right into the footy season, some may have even gone to the new Adelaide Oval to see their teams play. Easter Bunny hopped into homes and back yards to deposit some delectable treats over the Easter weekend and Anzac Day was memorialized with the good old Anzac biscuit being served and many thousands getting up before dawn to show their respects to the fallen Service People who never made it home again. In this edition you will be updated on various items of interest.

BOARD REPORT

Dear Members, following on from the Special General Meeting held in February, the Board has revisited the Associate Membership Policy and after seeking advice has revised the criteria in accordance with our risk management process and comments made during the meeting. The Constitution will remain as is with the following Associate Membership Policy adopted by the Board. As identified at the meeting, a contradiction exists regarding special meetings and amendments to the Constitution. The Constitution currently states that any amendments to the Constitution can only be made at an AGM. The Board will address this contradiction and this will be included on the Agenda at the October AGM which is set for the 18th. This policy will be reviewed in the future and in the meantime the Board hopes that members will support the objectives of the policy to enable the Board to discharge its duty of care to members, staff and volunteers whilst complying with quality standards and funding rules in delivering services to our members.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Introduction

The Blind Welfare Association of SA Inc. (hereinafter referred to as BWA) full membership eligibility determines that the person applying for membership will be legally blind. For those persons that are vision impaired (but not legally blind) or those that wish to support a BWA Member as an immediate family member, partner/spouse, or carer, BWA offers and encourages Associate Membership registration.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the eligibility for persons that wish to become Associate Members of BWA.

Definitions

As per BWA Constitution anyone can become an Associate Member of Blind Welfare however; In order to participate in Blind Welfare scheduled activities and programs as an Associate Member those persons will need to meet the following criteria:

- be a person that is Vision Impaired, (corrected vision measured at < 6/18, but NOT legally blind);
- Be a spouse or partner of the member;
- Be a registered Carer of the member they are attending with/supporting;
- Be an immediate family member (son, daughter, sister etc) of member they are attending with/supporting;
- Associate membership will incur a cost of \$10 annual membership. Renewal on 1st July annually;

- Associate members are NOT eligible to access BWA Special Purpose Welfare Funds;
- Associate membership does NOT entitle that person voting rights as is the right of all BWA members;
- Associate members are NOT provided transport to and from BWA activities unless; they are in the vicinity of a member pick up and there is available room in the BWA transport vehicle;
- Associate members will pay full price for any event that is subsidised.

Policy

It is the Policy of BWA that all persons wishing to participate in BWA Social Centre activities, outings, friendship groups and clubs, will be a member or a registered current, Associate Member. All Associate Members will also be able to participate in special events and celebrations and receive BWA Eye Contact newsletter.

TONY STARKEY

President

MANAGER'S REPORT

Greetings to all! I trust reading this latest edition of Eye Contact finds you all well and over the too many chocolate Easter eggs? I started off with good intentions but, there is just something special about chocolate eggs not to mention the Hot Cross Buns! As per usual, always lots happening here at Blind Welfare. You will be hearing from Blind Welfare's new South East Services Officer, Danijela Turner later in this edition. Danijela is based in Morphett Vale and will run all Blind Welfare operations from her home office. This means our members in the southern communities will not have an office to call into physically however Danijela will be able to come to you and meet to discuss your service needs at your chosen venue. I will let Danijela provide her story and her plan for service delivery in the south east. Needless to say I hope you will join me in welcoming Danijela to our team.

Members may be aware that it has been a goal of Blind Welfare and part of our Strategic Plan to better address the service needs of our members in the south eastern area. Finally it's happening, so please if you would like to find out more call us at Gilles Plains or call Danijela direct, phone and all contact details will be provided in Danijela's article.

During the Easter school holiday break, some lucky BWA staff, (namely me!) volunteers and BWA members were provided a superb 3 course meal by Guide Dogs cooking group. Absolutely delicious!! Everyone agreed we would be happy for this to happen again! I would like to thank the great cooks and the Guide Dog staff for providing this excellent meal and the opportunity to share with mutual friends and colleagues. Thank you!

I would also like to thank and acknowledge Mr Wayne Allen from Telehold Australia for providing, at no cost to BWA, our new audio on hold recording for our phone systems (08 8 3 6 4 0 7 5 4) Thank you Wayne!

As per usual please do not hesitate to contact myself or any of the team if we can be of any assistance on 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8. Until next time, kind regards to all!

ROSEMARY MURDOCK

Manager

MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

In my last story for Eye Contact I mentioned that we would like to start a new group that shared experiences with Apple Products. I am pleased to announce that our Tech Corner group commenced on the 26th February in the Marney Pearce Technology Lounge. This group is run by members and held fortnightly on Wednesday mornings between 10.00am to 12.30pm. The morning starts with a get together over coffee and ends with lunch. We have had a really good attendance for the four meetings that we have held so far. The following is a summary from John Bastiaans who was instrumental in getting the group together.

‘Each and every one of us has learned from one another. We have had members who are have been great teaching the novices among us how to get the best out of their Apple products. We also had a visit from Anthea from the Royal Society for the Blind who came along to share her extensive knowledge of I devices.

Depending on member interest the group will cover other technology devices, such as: talking book machines, including Victor Reader products and Book Sense, along with devices such as reading machines, GPS navigating products or any other technology that members may require assistance with. The group has been asked by RSB to participate in a survey being conducted by Adelaide University on how to improve adaptive technology devices for the blind. It is also hoped that a guided tour of the Adaptive Technology Centre at Knapman House can be organised later in the year. We would love to see this group successfully continue and grow so that members can share their expertise and experience will enjoying social interaction, so if you would like to come along on a Wednesday or if you require individual training on a specific device, please call Chris Brown on 8367 9732. Transport is provided where possible.’

As you would be aware by now, we have our new Southern Program up and running. This has been very exciting as members now have the opportunity to access transport/social support services in the southern region. Danijela and the team at Gilles Plains have been working closely together to ensure members are aware of these additional services.

In other news we had a visit from a group of students and a Teacher from Tyndale Christian School. The students had donated an enormous amount of Easter Eggs which they donated to BWA to say thank you to volunteers and staff for the work they do. The students were so generous that there were eggs to be shared with everyone who attended the centre. We would like to Thank Tyndale Christian School for their generosity and support.

As Rosemary has mentioned, over the recent school holidays we were fortunate enough to have a group of “Masterchefs” from Guide Dogs SA & NT come along a cook for a few of our members and volunteers. The food was delicious and appreciated by all that attended. It was also a great opportunity to have a chat to these

young Guide Dog Members and their Case Managers to tell them the advantages of becoming a member of Blind Welfare Association. For those cooks that are existing members and will receive this Newsletter, thanks for sharing your new cooking skills with us. Our Holiday Program also included a BBQ and entertainment. This was held at the Social Centre on Thursday the 24th April. We had a really large gathering and everyone had a great time. It was initially thought that being so close to a long weekend we may not have enough volunteer assistance, however, as usual our amazing volunteers were here in force. Our entertainer John Kempes was excellent, providing the opportunity for both members and volunteers to sing-a-long and dance.

During this term we have something for everyone including entertainment, lunches, outings and guest speakers. We would love for you to join us.

Our Programs:

Monday

Tai Chi

Social Group – concerts and get-together

Tuesday

AD Movies

Wednesday

Chat 'N' Craft

Tech Corner (fortnightly)

Thursday

Social group – outings and guest speakers

Friday

Chat'n'Craft

Bingo (fortnightly)

Singing (fortnightly)

Tenants & Friends (1st Friday evening of the month)

Saturday

Travel club (monthly)

Should you have any queries about our social activities, Special Purpose Welfare Fund: Personal loans, Home Maintenance, Power/Phone subsidy or Equipment subsidies or if you need to know anything about any of our other services including shopping, transport to appointments, or social centre, or any other services please do not hesitate to call Chris Brown on 8367 9732.

CHRIS BROWN

Welfare & Member Services Officer

VOLUNTEER OFFICER'S REPORT

My last report started off with "Well the Christmas break is over....." and now Easter has been and gone. The year is speeding by. I had a lovely break in March and went to New South Wales where I flew to Sydney and then drove to Port Stephens, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and finally Sydney, spending about three days in every place.

Since the last Eye Contact I have interviewed 11 potential volunteers, who are either interested in driving or helping in the social centre. With our volunteer base the numbers change frequently as volunteers come and go, some to travel and others

returning to the work force. When I started with BWA in August 2012 we had 57 registered volunteers and about 25 (43%) of them were active. To date we now have 70 registered volunteers and of them 87% are active. On 6 March our volunteer Heather and I attended a luncheon at the Adelaide Convention Centre to celebrate International Women's Day. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and we were entertained by the guest speaker Maggie Beer AM who also presented the awards. After lunch the Nava Persian Women's Performance Group sang and played music and several of the women in the audience joined in the dancing. The reason for attending was the result of me nominating Heather to receive the Irene Bell Community Award. The Irene Bell Award is presented to women who have demonstrated community spirit working in the community and Heather certainly fitted the bill. Heather has been a volunteer with Blind Welfare Association since May 2007 and in earlier years was on the committee of the City of Salisbury Recreation Group Netball for 23 years. She was also involved with her Neighbourhood Watch group as the Zone Leader and Assistant Area Co-ordinator for 10 years. Congratulations Heather!

Coming up very soon is Volunteer Week which will be celebrated during 12–18 May. We will be holding a Volunteer's breakfast for all volunteers at 10am on Tuesday 13th May and you will be receiving your invitation shortly. As we know without our volunteers BWA would not be able to offer the services that we do and all of us truly appreciate the time they give. Thank you volunteers!

JACKIE McEWEN

Volunteer Officer

SOUTH EAST SERVICES OFFICER'S REPORT

Hello everyone, I am pleased to have been appointed in the position of South East Services Officer as of March 2014. Currently, I am in the process of making initial phone contact with members to introduce myself and to determine the current service needs of BWA members. I am also working on recruiting volunteers for the South East region who will be able to support members with much needed services such as home visits, shopping support and transportation to medical appointments. Furthermore, I am anticipating that we will also be able to create avenues for recreation and leisure support services in the future. I am passionate about supporting others to maintain their independence and improve upon their overall quality of living and as such, I greatly look forward to making initial contact with BWA members in the South East region of Adelaide in the ensuing weeks. Please feel free to contact me via email which is dturner@blindwelfare.org.au or via phone on 8 3 2 5 1 6 6 8 or 0 4 3 8 0 5 1 2 2 3. My working hours are Monday to Friday 8:30 am until 2pm unless prior arrangements have been made. If for any reason members are unable to gain contact with me, please contact the BWA Gilles Plains office on 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8. I look forward to meeting you.

Kind Regards

DANIJELA TURNER

Concession stamps - Australia Post

If you have a Federal government concession card you may be eligible for reduced rates on domestic stamps, and other offers, which include a free booklet of five concession stamps, ability to purchase up to 50 concession stamps per year, discount

on mail hold and mail redirection, and a free MyPost concession card and digital mailbox. The following Australian Federal Government concession cards are accepted as proof of eligibility for the scheme.

- Pensioner Concession Card
- Health Care Card
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Card
- Veterans' Repatriation Health Card

The following link to the Australia Post website has an application form that can be downloaded and taken to an Australia Post outlet to get the process started. Please note however that it is not an accessible document. Forms available at Post Office.

<http://auspost.com.au/parcels-mail/mypost-concession-account.html?cmpid=ban----H0-msg1--fser-p1easter--myco-----140331>

HONOUR BOARD

The purpose of the Honour Board is to identify and honour those Members of the BWA who have contributed to the Governance/development and services of the organisation over many years.

Eligibility

All Members of the Association are eligible to be nominated, providing they have demonstrated over 10 years of service to the Association.

Selection Process

Each year, the Board will accept nominations during the months of July/August from Members with a nominator and seconder and then the Board will evaluate the nominees and announce the two successful recipients at the AGM. Please note this was originally for Members who were deceased, but the award can now be for those living as well as those deceased, which will be another way of showing the recipient how much the Members of BWA appreciate their contributions. Application forms and inquiries can be made at the Head Office, Gilles Plains.

TENANTS AND FRIENDS

Well here it is May already, Easter and Anzac Day are over and we hope you all had a restful break. Winter is on the way, so keep warm. The monthly concerts continue on the first Friday of each month at 7.30pm. John has organised the entertainment and in the following months we will enjoy:

May 2: Mat Rayner

June 6: Terry & Marie Double Image

July 4th: Showtime Singers

If you know of any singers or groups, who would be suitable please contact John on 8369 3556. 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 small items suitable for raffle prizes we would love to accept them.

MAUREEN CLOTHIER

President Tenants and Friends Social Club

BLIND WELFARE TRAVEL CLUB 2014 PROGRAM

Dear Members

- Bookings: Close at 8pm on the Tuesday prior to the trip
- Bus Leaves: Cameron Avenue Gilles Plains at 9am
- Charge for Trips: \$32, which includes meals and admission charges to venues
- Discount of \$4 for meeting at pick up points. Please advise the Treasurer if you drive to pick up point
- Annual Travel Club Subscription: \$10 per person. Payable at the February AGM or ASAP afterwards
- All Travellers must be a Client, an Associate Member or a Volunteer of the Blind Welfare Association

For information or wanting to attend or cancel a trip please contact

- Catherine Bottcher (Treasurer and Transport) on 8395 1005
- Chris Mountstephen (Secretary) 8371 2928 or 0438292837
- Blind Welfare Association: 8367 6088, Business hours 9am- to 4pm

This information is subject to change but correct in November 2013 at the time of printing

- Sat 10 May: Gorge Wildlife Park – lunch locally
- Sat 14 June: Pryors on the Peninsular, includes morning tea and lunch
- Sat 12 July: Olive Farm for tasting and lunch – go on to
 - Two Wells and visit the Leopard Tank Display
- Sat 9 August: Lavender Farm Shop and morning tea –
 - Lunch locally.
- Sat 13 Sept: Carrick Hill visit – lunch locally
- Sat 11 Oct: Dolphin Cruise – lunch on board
- Sat 8 Nov: Dried Fruit Shop at Kilkenny for purchases
 - if desired and visit to the Jet Museum at Parafield Airport – lunch locally
- Sat 13 Dec: Christmas Lunch at a venue to be advised

Note: In the event of the temperature forecast being 35° or more on the Friday 6pm News the trip will be cancelled. There will be no further notification.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

I hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Eye Contact. Our next one is due out in early August, so if you would like to make a contribution please forward it on to the BWA Office or speak to one of the Staff and they will do the rest. Contact details are as follows:

Telephone: 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8, **Fax:** 8 3 6 9 0 0 6 3,

E-mail: info@blindwelfare.org.au

Web site: www.blindwelfare.org.au



BLIND WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF S.A. INC.

NOMINATION FOR HONOUR BOARD

- NOTES: (1) Only full members of the Association are eligible for nomination and all nominations must be made by a full member;
- (2) All members are eligible to be nominated providing they have demonstrated over 10 years of service to the Association;
- (3) This form must be seconded by a full member of the Association
- (4) Please complete this form in block letters
- (5) If you require help completing form, BWA staff will be happy to assist you

NAME OF NOMINEE:

NAME OF NOMINATOR:

NOMINATION SECONDED BY:

I would like the Board of Management to consider this nomination for the Honour Board because:

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE:

DATE: / /