



SEPTEMBER 2016

Photo of the month Winny our winning scarecrow

The Lab is coming to Kynston
Page 1

Open Days
Page 1

Echuca Dinner Dance
Page 2

IT Review
Page 2

Round the traps
Page 2

A word or two from the CEO
Page 3

Victoria and the NDIS
Page 3

Windarrang in pictures
Page 4

Disability sector on the www
Page 5

Meet a Windarrang family member
Page 6

What's On
Page 6

NDIS Essential Briefing
Page 7

NDIS, Windarrang & You
Page 8

The new \$5 note
Page 11

The Lab is coming to Kyneton



THE LAB

The Lab is a growing network of technology clubs for 10 to 16 year-old young people diagnosed with High Functioning Autism who enjoy working with computers. The Lab offers mentoring by technology professionals in areas such as programming, 3D, digital design and gaming.

The Lab's approach is unstructured and does not have expectations of specific education or technology outcomes. By pairing young people who have High Functioning Autism with tutors who have technical expertise in areas of mutual interest, The Lab seeks to improve the wellbeing and life prospects of young people who are often highly skilled but whose condition can lead them to fall through gaps in the mainstream education system.



[Read more about The Lab and watch the video](#)

Open Days

We are planning some open days. This will be an opportunity for potential participants and the general public to see what happens at Windarrang.

Kyneton
Monday 17 Oct
Castlemaine
Wed 19 Oct
Gisborne
Thu 20 Oct

More information to come soon.

??? Who am I?



- I support St Kilda
- I have two sisters
- I like HOME & Away and Neighbours

Answer on back page

Echuca Dinner Dance



There was a great deal of excitement as people armed with their purple costume bags boarded buses and headed north to Echuca. There was about 40 participants attending, and even though this is a user pays event that everyone looks forward to, Windarrang made it even more accessible by covering the cost of all of the support staff! I'm sure there will be some great stories from this great trip. Thank you to all those who organised, supported and worked to make this happen.



Winnie wins Most Popular Scarecrow in the Kyneton Daffodil Festival Scarecrow competition.

IT Review

Over the past month we have undertaken an IT review, which has highlighted a range of issues and opportunities. The things that we need to address include age and ability of our hardware (computers etc) backup and disaster recovery, and the way our different systems talk to each other. And with NBN coming to a node near us, (Castlemaine and Kyneton soon) we'll be working to make sure we have the right hardware and the right systems.

Round the traps What's been happening here and there?

Kyneton

- Over the past few months some OT students have worked on a project developing a garden space. It was focused on Hutton St, some of the resources they developed, especially around activities can be used throughout the organisation.
- "Flowers on the go" has increased its customers by four since advertising in the Kyneton Connect.
- The Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival was held during the first two weeks of September and welcomed spring with an exciting series of activities and including visual and performing arts, crafts, gardens, flower shows, markets and hospitality. Windarrang Kyneton entered the whole town scarecrow competition with Winny and June scarecrow. We also decorated our shop window. we are immensely proud to say that Winnie won Best Scarecrow!

Gisborne

- Gisborne participants help out each week at the Woodend Primary School Annex at Carlsruhe but this week it was just too wet. We feed the chooks, rabbits and guinea pigs as well as collecting the eggs and picking a few vegies.
- Paul, as part of the travel training group, has been learning how to be more proficient in using his mobile phone. Recently he rang Glenda and clearly explained something was going to be different. He then made another call to the taxi service to complete the changed arrangements. Fantastic effort Paul.
- Luke can now ring the Gisbus to make his own bookings when going to the respite house. He clearly states his name, where he wants to go and how many others are travelling with him. The Gisbus is a valuable service in Gisborne as we are 3.5Kms from the station. Emma T and Jack regularly use the service independently to catch trains home.

A word or two from our CEO



Who's who and where are they...

Congratulations to Georgina Harvey for successfully being appointed in the acting Team leader role in Kyneton. Georgina will start in the role on Monday 3 October. We wish her the best and I'm sure she will do a great job. Kathryn Kew will then begin her role as Manager Pathways to Employment after the holidays too! This is an exciting time where hopefully we can ensure we are providing the best opportunities to our participants.

Update on what's happening with the EBA

There has been a second meeting between Jobs Australia, HACSU and AE where there was a broad ranging discussion around the conflict between pricing and cost pressures, quality and employment conditions. There was general acknowledgment that reconciling these conflicting interests would be difficult but there is a willingness to attempt to do so. Further meetings will be held in the coming weeks.

Cheers,
Chris O'Connor, CEO
coconnor@windarrang.org.au

New faces in supported living

Kate Healy has decided to move into Millend on a permanent Basis, Kate will be sharing unit one with Marlene.

In unit 4 sharing with Rodney D we have a new tenant by the name of Jason Sturt, Jason comes to us from Bendigo.

We look forward to supporting Jason and Kate with their Goals of living more independently.

Have you ever dreamed of sailing on a tall ship?



With the NDIS supporting people to realise their goals, organisations are coming on board to make it happen, even if they're as adventurous as taking part in a sailing voyage on the open ocean.

Jubilee Sailing Trust Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that makes sailing voyages accessible to every Australian.

NDIS participants with a sense of adventure and a love of teamwork could consider including support for a sailing voyage, such as those offered by Jubilee Sailing Trust, in the Social and Community participation areas of their NDIS plan.

The Jubilee Sailing Trust (JST) is an international, United Nations accredited disability charity, promoting integration through the challenge and adventure of tall ship sailing.

www.jst.org.uk

National disability insurance Scheme



Victoria ready to step in to assist with NDIS

In light of the update provided at the Disability Reform Council meeting on Friday 2 September 2016, Victoria is now ready to partner with the NDIA and the Commonwealth Government to get the National Disability Insurance Scheme back on track.

At the Disability Reform Council meeting, the Commonwealth Government reported that of the joint target set for North East Melbourne of 2,125 participants, only 1623 eligible participants have had access approved and only 138 have plans approved, since 1 July. The scheme roll out would have been in a better shape had the Commonwealth heeded the warnings of earlier advice that indicated more personnel were needed to keep up with the increased workload. To get the scheme back on track, the Commonwealth must immediately lift its recruitment freeze imposed on the NDIA.

The Andrews Labor Government has offered to provide additional seconded Department of Human Services staff, who already have the expertise to help fix the backlog of developing plans to help fast track support for people with disability and their families. The key to the scheme's success is that quality planning processes for each NDIS participants occur, given the undertaking that no one would be worse off is a key principle of the NDIS legislation. Victoria welcomes the progress DRC made on endorsing the National Quality and Standards Framework, which sets a base for quality which we look to build upon especially the role of advocates in the system.

"NDIS participants in North East Melbourne and their families have waited long enough for the support they need to live an ordinary life we all have a responsibility to get the scheme back on track." Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley.

Source: www.premier.vic.gov.au



Supported Living clients at the Kyneton Daffodil Festival parade



Prize Winning Winny

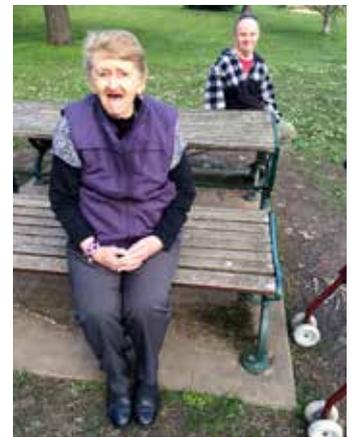
Windarriving in pictures



Echuca Dinner Dance – We don't know who was there, everyone is in disguise!



Ross planting a rose bush



Mary and Robbie at Malsbury Gardens



New pottery vases created from the kiln now operational at Hutton Street.



Geoff at Malsbury Gardens



Melbourne Show excursion

There's so much written about disability and NDIS – it's impossible to read everything!

Below are some excerpts from articles we think are worth a read. If you're reading this as a PDF the underlined words are hyperlinks so you can just click on them to be taken to the webpage the article was sourced from. The full link is also included.



Voice Your Choice Video Empowers Support Workers

Support workers for young people with disability have been given a breakthrough tool to help transition their practice to suit the new NDIS system and empower those in out-of-home care or preparing to leave care.

The national peak consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience has released its first ever supported decision-making training video.

The Voice Your Choice video from CREATE Foundation provides workers with practical skills to put the methodology of supported decision making into practice.

CREATE Foundation NSW state coordinator Lisa Townshend told Pro Bono Australia News workers and carers needed to be skilled in providing appropriate support, particularly under the new model.

"Supported decision making, as an approach to working with people with disability, is new for the disability sector in Australia, but is critical to working effectively with people with disability as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) rolls out," Townshend said.

[Read more >> http://bit.ly/2d5fmyi](http://bit.ly/2d5fmyi)

Source: Pro Bono Australia .com.au

Welcome to advokit-NDIS

This website has been developed by Disability Advocacy Network Australia Limited (DANA) to support advocacy for people with disabilities in connection with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

DANA is committed to the vision of an Australia that includes and values people with disabilities and respects human rights for all. Thoughtful use of NDIS funded services and supports can make a strong contribution to achieving this vision. Whether you are a person with a disability, a family member or an independent disability advocacy agency, we aim to inform you about the rights and entitlements of people with disabilities under the NDIS and about how to engage with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to achieve supports that suit the wishes and circumstances of a person with disability. You can browse the site for general information or use the main navigation menu and search function to find information about specific issues. There are also options below to ask a question, provide feedback or submit a case study for inclusion on this site.

[Read more >> http://www.advokit.org.au/](http://www.advokit.org.au/)

Source: <http://www.advokit.org.au/>

Too much reading? Watch a video instead.

Videos

Marlene Katene on You Tube

Marlene Katene is a budding music journo and will chat to anyone. She owns a couple businesses and is nearing completion of her journalism degree. She's available to speak, interview, write and heaps more. Email marlena_katene@hotmail.com

[Watch Marlene's interviews on You Tube](#)



[Interview with Bridget O'Shannessy](#)



[Interview with Steve Wozniak](#)

Source: <http://www.advokit.org.au/>

Gisborne/Kyneton 2016 Concert



Fri 11th November

Doors will open at 6pm for a 6.30pm show at Sacred Heart College Kyneton

Tickets \$10 per person

Enquiries 54288854

Save the date – a concert not to be missed!!!

What's On

Fundraising Raffle – Friday 21st October

The date for the Kyneton Bowling club fund raising raffle is Friday Oct 21st at 6pm and Windarrang is to collect amount raised at the following month which is Fri Nov 18th at 6pm.

International Day for People with Disabilities Dinner Dance – Saturday 3rd December

The date of Saturday 3rd December has been set and the band has been booked. Tickets will be on sale soon and with only 120 issued it will be first in.

We encourage all participants, family, carers, staff and friends to attend both if possible to support these opportunities in our local community.



Important dates

Term 3

Monday 4 July - Thursday 22 September
Closed: Friday 23 September - Friday 30 September

Public holidays during Term 3

Grand Final Friday Friday 30 September

Term 4

Monday 3 October - Thursday 22 December
Closed: Friday 23 December

Public holidays during Term 4

Melbourne Cup	Tuesday 1 November
Gisborne & Castlemaine	
Kyneton Cup	Wednesday 2 November
	Kyneton
Christmas Day	Sunday 25 December
Boxing Day	Monday 26 December
Public Holiday for Christmas Day	Tuesday 27 December



Meet a member of our Windarrang Family

Michele Basten

Based at Gisborne, Michele has been with Windarrang for six years. She loves interacting with participants, watching them grow and of course, smile. She loves watching dramas and documentaries and her favourite film is Dirty Dancing. Anything home made is her preferred food and in her time off likes gardening, walks and day trips to the beach or bush. She's been skydiving in New Zealand but her dream



holiday destination is Machu Picchu in Peru. Michele has two dogs: a dachshund and a Maltese Shitzu Cross. Finally she's a Bulldogs fan so right now she's pretty happy to say the least. (Note: This was written before the grand final result is known)

NDIS Essential Briefing

These are unpredictable times for the disability sector. One thing we know for sure the NDIS will change everything. In the early stages of the Scheme, we are seeing new challenges and new opportunities emerge around us.

NDS's NDIS Essential Briefing series held in every capital city during July and August set out to brief the sector on the NDIS to ensure providers are well informed. All sessions heard presentations from senior NDS staff, an NDIA representative and important feedback and discussion from the audience about their experiences with the transition.

Strategic outlook

As a key part of the Briefingsessions, NDS Chief Executive Ken Baker outlined the strategic outlook around the NDIS. He argued that three things are driving policy decisions: the financial sustainability of the Scheme; participant choice and its boundaries; and the sheer pace and scale of NDIS implementation, moving from 31,000 participants on 1 July 2016 to almost 460,000 three years later.

Policy makers only have a few levers they can use to manage the financial sustainability of the NDIS: eligibility, interface with mainstream service systems, package sizes, administrative costs and prices. One means of informing choice will be the development of a new emarket on which providers will establish shop fronts and participants will look for supports. Initially the emarket will be a place to exchange information but later it will enable payments and allow participants to rate services.

While the system of Information, Linkages and Capacity building services will have access to fairly modest funding, they will be a critical part of the NDIS infrastructure. Decisions about the purchasing rules will be finalised later this year and it is important that the rules not exclude disability service organisations.

The pace and scale of transition to the NDIS are driving decisions around the streamlining and outsourcing of participant planning. The staged implementation and the uneven distribution of unmet demand complicate planning for providers, and responses to Continuity of Support will differ among national and state departments.

Pricing

Progress in the area of pricing has been slow, which was discussed at the Briefing by NDS's Philippa Angley. Important to note is the NDIA's decision to again delay the introduction of the planned reduction in prices for personal care and community participation to an arbitrary 'efficient price'. NDS argued strongly for this decision.

Other noteworthy issues flagged in the pricing field included expected changes to group-based prices, the introduction of Special Disability Accommodation (SDA) prices for about 6 per cent of participants and the deregulation of prices for self managed plans. Long term pricing remains unresolved for Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs) and open employment. A two year program for school leavers based on NSW's Transition to Work has been trialled in ACT and Tasmania and is now gradually being introduced in other states

The 'unfinished business' of NDIS pricing includes further work on the prices for personal care and community participation, the development of a new pricing mechanism for group based

supports' a review of prices for supported independent living and prices for complex supports. Financial benchmarking is being discussed with the NDIA as a tool to help organisations understand their costs and to drive efficiencies.

The pricing sustainability discussion of the Essential Briefing highlighted joint NDS and Curtin University research which asked, 'What is the likely impact of the NDIS on the sector?' The first report, based on the financial information of 180 providers, will be released shortly.

Workforce readiness

Discussion around workforce readiness under the NDIS recognised that the sector needs more than a series of short term projects to thrive. It also needs a climate where the adoption of good practice is systemic, as well as the means to address the collective interests of the sector and support for innovation as new challenges emerge. Better workforce data, tracked over time is a further priority.

Key facts in the area of workforce readiness include:

- Continued growth in employment at an average of 3% net per quarter, though underemployment has been high at over 15% since 2014. Great challenges concerning rural and remote workforce remain.
- Attention to the interaction between service quality and job quality is important. Most providers express low confidence in their NDIS readiness in 'HR strategy and workforce planning' and NDIA pricing could favour low road solutions.
- Average hours per worker (currently 24 per week) needs to increase if providers are to attract and retain talented workers; this means resisting to NDISrelated pressure to fragment and casualise work.
- Competition with disruptive market entrants is set to rise, especially those using digital platforms.
- The value of effective front line leaders is being recognised; FL and middle management capacity reducing.

Operational issues

The importance of organisations monitoring their own transition progress within the scheme was highlighted toward the end of the Briefing sessions. It was also noted that many operational developments are still in progress with the NDIA. These developments include the (currently dysfunctional) 'myplace' portal and provider registration, the role of Local Area Coordinators and coordination of supports, terms of business and conflicts of interest, the 'bundling' of supports, service agreements, service bookings, payment requests and provider assurance.

Relationships within and outside of organisations are changing. NDS argues for person-centred approaches to realise greater customer service at all levels of organisations. It is also vital to understand and assess partnerships with mainstream organisations and to learn to manage growth effectively

Happily, there have already been positive responses to these developments from trial site providers, including the translation of programs into support offerings, the consolidation of organisational structures to support the new operating environment, the development of roles with a focus on NDIS transition and the assessment and action of partnership opportunities. NDS was proud to deliver these important briefings to our members and other disability service providers and will endeavour to keep the sector informed of future changes around the NDIS.

We are producing a pack of information that we will send out to all current participants and their families, outlining some important information about the NDIS and especially planning. This is the cover letter that will go out with the information:

NDIS, Windarring and You

Welcome to the start of your NDIS journey...

As you may be aware, the National Disability Insurance Scheme is currently being rolled out.

As part of our role, Windarring wants to support you and provide you with important information about the NDIS and how to be best prepared for the NDIS, and to understand the changes.

Your NDIS Journey in 5 steps...



You get the information you need to ensure you are ready for the NDIS.

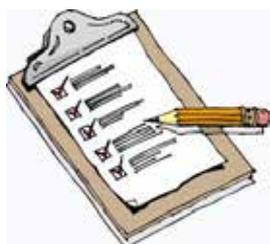
This information pack is part of that process, but **Windarring will also hold NDIS information sessions, and we are always willing to discuss with you individually how we can assist.**



It's important to prepare for NDIS

Asking the questions of what supports and what amount of funding you require to support your needs. You need to think about the types of support you currently get and any other supports you would like to get before you are in a NDIS planning meeting.

Windarring can help you work through this process



When the NDIS rolls out here you will need to finalise your NDIS Plan. This will be completed with the Local Area Coordinator (LAC) Interreach.



Turn your plan into activity and supports.

Windarring can work with you to make it all happen!



Ongoing support and revision of your plan.



We want to make this journey as easy for you as we can.

Information

The introduction of the NDIS is a big change and there is a lot of information. We have put together this pack which we feel has the key information you need to proceed and succeed on this journey.

In this pack you will find:

- Information about the NDIS
- Timeline for the rollout of NDIS
- Information about planning
- A NDIS Planning Workbook
- Glossary of key terms you need to know

If you want more information about the NDIS you can call Windarring and speak to us, or come to one of the Community NDIS information sessions we run. The NDIS website is also a great source of information and can be accessed at www.ndis.gov.au/vic

Planning for your NDIS Plan

Windarring can help guide you through this process, and work through the planning booklet over the phone, in person or in small groups. Let us know how we can help.

We have included a form that you can return to indicate whether and what type of support you might like from Windarring.

NDIS, Windarring and You

Here are some of the key terms that you need to know as you enter into the NDIS

NDIA	The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is an independent statutory agency. Their role is to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
NDIS	The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing support for eligible people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers. It is implemented by NDIA
LAC	Local Area Coordinator (LACs) have various roles in the NDIS. Their main aim is to help better include people with disability within the community. LACs will assist people with disability in the community by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Linking people with disability to providers of supports •Building the capacity of individuals and their carers •Building the capacity of community organisations to understand and meet the needs of people with disability •Helping people access the NDIS, as well as helping them plan and access their supports. <i>Our LAC is Interreach</i>
Registered Service Provider	a disability support provider that has met the NDIS requirements for qualifications, approvals, experience and capacity for the approved supports and the quality standards of the jurisdiction in which they operate <i>Windarring is a registered Service Provider</i>
Participant	A person who is eligible to access the NDIS <i>Anyone who currently receives a service from Windarring is eligible</i>
Participant plans	an approved plan consisting of a participant's statement of goals and aspirations and the reasonable and necessary supports approved by the NDIA CEO
Self managed funds	where funding and supports are managed by the participant and their family
Reasonable and necessary	*the supports that are funded under the NDIS Act. The NDIA publishes operational guidelines to assist decisions on what is to be deemed a reasonable and necessary support.
Support Package	the term used by the Agency to describe the funding available for the supports available to an individual participant
Supports	assistance that helps a participant to reach their goals, objectives and aspirations, and to undertake activities to enable their social and economic participation

New tactile bank notes let blind people get a feel for money



A petition started by 12 year old boy on change.org see release of new bank notes.

The introduction of the new banknotes is a personal victory for Sydney teenager Connor McLeod, who was born blind. As a child Connor only used coins because they were easy to tell apart by touch. But when he was 11 he received some bank notes for Christmas - the only problem was he had to ask his mum how much it was.

The following year, Connor and his mum started a Change.org petition calling for tactile features to be included on Australian bank notes, in line with other countries such as Canada. It eventually got more than 57,000 signatures.

Connor also contacted the Reserve Bank. At first he got a brush-off, but he refused to take no for an answer.

"He came home from school one day and said 'mum, I think we need to get a lawyer'," recalls his mother, Ally Lancaster.

MacLeod did team up with a legal firm, who took the case pro bono and helped him lobby MPs and lodge a complaint to the Human Rights Commission, with Vision Australia as the secondary complainant.

The new \$5 note features a single bump on both of the long sides of the note. Eventually, the Reserve Bank will issue all bank notes with similar bumps - a different quantity for each denomination. The tactile feature will directly benefit about 360,000 Australians who are blind or have low vision.

[Source Sydney Morning Herald 31 Aug 2016](#)

[See full article](#)

[Connor's change.org page](#)



September Birthdays

- 4 Kenneth Curran
- 5 Bishop Martin
- 7 David Silvagni
- 10 Mandy Fennesy
- 12 Mathew Pearce
- 5 Dorothy Cook
- 18 David Iacuone
- 18 Billy Werrett
- 22 Janine Purvis
- 24 Lynette Ramsay
- 26 Dianne Nancarrow
- 26 Jack Golden

??? Who am I?



Kristen Dennis
Receptionist

I was born in Bedigo but now live in Castlemaine. My favourite things to do are go out with friends and listen to bands. My dream holiday would be to go to Disneyland in America.



Flooding at the Carlsruhe annex



Windarring is a people centred, community based organisation committed to eliminating barriers to participation, inclusion and acceptance for people with disabilities in their local community.

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Send your newsletter content to dspiteri@windarring.org.au – the more content the better your newsletter will be!