### EYE CONTACT

### BWA serving its Members

### for over 78 years

**Newsletter for Members of B W A**

**February 2016**

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A little bit late but Happy New Year to everyone. I hope the festive season was enjoyable, the break was relaxing and your batteries are all charged up ready for the rest of the year as before you know it, you will be thinking about the footy season and your team’s chances of winning the Premiership. As usual, there will be plenty of information in here to keep you up to date and busy for some time to come.

**Manager’s Report**

The year is off and running with staff back in early January to work on planning the 2016 program and to support Members requiring assistance.

Activities at Gilles Plains Social Centre have commenced and we have also had discussions with the BWA Tenants and Friends about potential improvements to facilities they are looking to support. The Board of Management met in January and on the agenda was the expansion of our equipment subsidy scheme to cover the subsidy of smart devices. Smart devices such as the iPad and iPhone with their multitude of standard accessible features and Apps, have the potential to revolutionise many lives. With training many of our Members report they have already gained new and independent skills. As a result the Board had approved smart devices to be added to our equipment subsidy scheme. However as funding is limited we have introduced guidelines to ensure that applicants are required to be trained and/or demonstrate a degree of proficiency in use of accessible features through formal training and assessment at the RSB’s Low Vision Centre or through attendance at one of the BWA’s technology support groups. This subsidy should not be looked on as opportunity to upgrade your phone but rather a chance to explore and be competent in the use of accessible applications and help choose the right device, which may lead to greater independence.

If you are interested I would suggest you talk to our staff about our technology groups that meet at the Marney Pearce centre, joint RSB/BWA tech groups in the south or referral to the RSB for training.

Our team at BWA has been busy working to meet many of the new challenges of the introduction of the new My Aged Care system and our own plans to provide better assistance to Members currently not accessing services in the north east and south by growing the volunteer base more broadly across the metropolitan area.

**Jim Colligan**

Manager

**The Board**

I trust everyone had a good Christmas and New Year break. As you will read in Jim Colligan’s report the Board has expanded the Equipment Subsidy Scheme to include smart devices that are accessible out of the box for people who are blind or vision impaired. Whilst the funds allocated to this Member benefit are not endless, any grant will be based on available funds and in line with our policies.

The Board hopes that Members that are currently unable to take advantage of the latest technology, maybe, under this scheme become more independent and able to access information more readily - but please remember all these new smart devices require data either over the mobile cellular network or via a wireless internet connection in your home. So please evaluate your capacity to fund this equipment. We will endeavor to keep the BWA policies and benefits up with the latest trends in accessible information.

**Tony Starkey**

President

**Member Services Officer (North)**

Well here we are again at the beginning of another year and ready to forge ahead with Social Centre activities and support for members. As a result of the planning day on 26th November last year and Trudy’s hard work during the holiday closure period, there is an exciting first term ahead, and I’m sure the activity program will provide the usual fun and enjoyment members have come to expect. However, it is worthwhile remembering that due to BWA Hot Weather Policy, activities in January and February will be fairly “low key” so that important events do not have to be cancelled due to the predicted temperature being 35 degrees or more.

There are a number goals for the BWA this year and they include plans to expand our volunteer base further into the northern and western areas so that we can better address the member interest in volunteer support in these regions. As such, a number of community groups will be approached to offer presentations outlining the activities and services we provide in the hopes that increased awareness will foster supportive relationships.

The new Age Care System is also moving into a higher gear this year and we are in the process of aligning our computer systems to cope with the Commonwealth Health Department’s service delivery information, requirements.

During the break, BWA staff were fortunate to undertake some training regarding the new Age Care philosophy of “Re-ablement and Restorative Care” which is aimed at working with people’s strengths and increasing their coping capacities, and BWA will be working this year to support people to maintain their life choices and control. We have also been fortunate to acquire an Apple Mac desk top computer for the Marney Pearce Technology Lounge, so that users who wish to familiarise themselves with Apple accessibility etc., can train on an alternative to our existing Microsoft devices.

I look forward to being involved in the vibrant life of the centre this year and extending our support service regions. I’m sure there are busy and satisfying times ahead for us all. Don’t forget to stay cool and hydrated as summer continues to shine. All the best for 1st term and stay hydrated and indoors

**Debra Beeby**

Member Services Officer

**South East Services Officer**

Hello everyone. Welcome to the New Year after the happy holiday season. I hope everyone is well rested and ready to face the New Year ahead of us.

A successful Christmas lunch for both Members and Volunteers residing in the south east region signaled a wonderful way to end 2015. The lunch was well received by all and attendance numbers were good.

Activities to now look forward to in the New Year include our ongoing South East Social Group meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month in Morphett Vale. In addition, the south east region also holds monthly Tech Talk group meetings in Christies Downs on the first Wednesday of each month. These activities provide a valuable opportunity for Members to connect and socialise with others in addition to Members gaining knowledge and new skills. It has been most pleasing to note that social group continues to retain its popularity and guest speakers are always well appreciated by Members. These activities are planned to resume in February so please do not hesitate to make contact with me if you are interested in attending either Social Group and/or Tech Talk. RSVP to group activities in the south is required for purposes of transport and catering arrangements. I look forward to keeping you all updated as future exciting BWA activities evolve in the south east region. Meanwhile, enjoy the coming months and stay cool in the hot weather.

**DANIJELA TURNER**

dturner@blindwelfare.org.au

Phone 8 3 2 5 1 6 6 8 or 0 4 3 8 0 5 1 2 2 3

**Volunteer Officer**

It’s a bit late in the year, but happy New Year to everyone! We all had a break over Christmas and our Volunteers who help in the centre are back on board.

We started shopping, medical appointments and home visits earlier than the Centre opening as it becomes too difficult to rearrange, plus our members rely on these services. During December we had a few activities that involved our Volunteers to assist and, as usual we had a good turnout. The Members’ Christmas party on 10th December was a triumph with the aid of 14 Volunteers, who also committed to the BWA Volunteers’ Choir.



***Some of our volunteers in the background waiting to help at the***

***Members’ Christmas Lunch!***

On 16 December Jim and I celebrated with 35 of our Volunteers at the Windsor Hotel for a Christmas lunch and much eating and exchanging of experiences occurred. The Volunteers valued BWA putting on this lunch as a thank you to them for their services and also appreciated their certificates of thanks and a small gift.

From time to time we are made aware of various grants available, particularly by the Office for Volunteers. Back in October last year I submitted an application for the Volunteer Support Fund, which has been approved up to $700. During the Volunteers’ meeting held on 12th May last year there was a discussion regarding GPS’s in the buses and reversing cameras. The funds received from the Volunteer Support Fund will be used for this purpose.

We have a total of 80 volunteers, which includes our Board Members and those in the Southern region. As always a big thank you to all our volunteers as without them we could not offer the services that we do. THANK YOU!

**Jackie McEwen**

Volunteer Officer

**HumanWare Community Forums in SA, WA, VIC and TAS**

Please find below information about some community forums being held in Adelaide, Perth, Hobart and Melbourne. Please direct your responses to Tony Wu (details at the end of this notice). Forums in other cities will follow later.

Please forward this information to anyone with low vision or an interest in low vision who may like to attend.

**HumanWare Community Forum**

Learn about the new generation of low vision aids by HumanWare: explorē and Prodigi Connect 12 - Presented by Tony Wu, Accredited Orthoptist from HumanWare Australia. After the presentation there will be an opportunity for you to try the new low vision aids which are suitable for home, workplace or school.

Who can benefit from this Community Forum: people with vision loss and their families/carers, vision specialists, disability employment agencies, occupational therapists, educators and teachers.

**Location, Date and Time**

Royal Society for the Blind

230 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5000

16th February 2016

2:00pm-4:00pm

HumanWare is a proud supporter and partner of Macular Degeneration Foundation and NDIS. Bookings are essential to reserve your place: Please phone 0488 298 819 or email tony.wu@humanware.com

**Audio Description on iView**

The trial of Audio Description on iView is now available on the FreeviewPlus platform. Further information on the platform can be found here: <http://www.freeview.com.au/freeviewplus.aspx>

**Blind Welfare Travel Club 2016 Program**

A Happy New Year to everyone!!!! We have been delighted to have a number of new members over the past 2 years, and are encouraged by others indicating their interest in our activities.   We also gratefully thank all the BWA staff for their wonderful support, and extra thanks to Danijela, Sandy and Debra for making our group better known.

The program for the year is still to be finalised.  At our AGM we decided to forego arranging an outing in February from this year as we had to cancel it twice last year and traditionally this has always been the AGM.  This is now being scheduled for October. Outings will resume on the 12th March. Destination and lunch venue will be a surprise package!!!  The cost of outings will remain the same which is normally $32, and this covers venue admission and lunch.  Drinks are purchased by the member if required.  Pick-ups points for the $4 discount are at the Social Centre, and a spot on Anzac Highway near South Road.  We are happy to pick up members from their homes, so if you are interested, ask and we can see what can be arranged.  We normally have three vehicles, covering three different areas.  The drivers will always make contact by phone a day or two prior to the outing.  Confirmation of travel should be phoned to the BWA Office and a message left for the Treasurer/Transport Officer (i.e. Catherine) before or on the Tuesday prior to the outing. We look forward to another interesting year.

**The Travel Club Committee**

**Tenants and Friends Social Club**

An old year finished and a new one starting. Tenants and Friends wish you all the best for a happy and successful 2016. As Tenants and Friends had decided that December’s function would be our last, due to lack of support, we decided to hold a free supper and concert with a Christmas theme for those who have supported us over many years. A very nice supper was served and everyone received a Christmas gift. Thanks, to all those who helped.

Tenants and Friends are left with some surplus funds, so the Committee and Management have the pleasant task of deciding an appropriate way of using the money. At a meeting it has been decided that a defibrillator, to be kept in the Social Centre and perhaps taken on trips, would be useful in case of emergency.

No firm decision has been reached for the balance, but the Manager is going to look into improvements in and around the pergola area.

It is very sad to be closing a club which has existed for many years and raised many thousands of dollars for extras around the Blind Welfare complex, but sometimes it is time for renewal and I’m sure something else will fill the gap.

Finally a huge thank you to all those Members and Volunteers who have helped in any way, be it with concerts, the fetes, lunches or one of the many other fund raisers we have held over past years. It’s been fun and a lot of hard work for many.

**Maureen Clothier**

President, Tenants and Friends



Where can I use my card in SA?Conditions may apply. Please contact venue for details. Dated 11 November 2015. For more information about the Companion Card visit [www.companioncard.org.au](http://www.companioncard.org.au) or telephone 1800 667 110 during business hours. There are some new venues now listed.

**Travel Tree, Escorted Vision Impaired Tour**

Travel Tree, located in Perth WA conduct escorted tours for people with vision impairment. A tour to Singapore is planned for July, departing on 17 July 2016, which includes 6 nights and 7 days.

For more than 10 years George Booth has designed and escorted tours for vision impaired persons to many cities in South East Asia, China and New Zealand delivering many exciting experiences, appealing to the senses, with interesting content inclusions to ensure maximum enjoyment on tour. In 2016 an escorted tour of Singapore has been designed with flights departing from around Australia as part of the opportunity to meet other like-minded persons, whilst holidaying in the multi cultural garden city of South East Asia. The activities include morning walks, open top bus tour, the National Orchid Gardens, the Bird Park and even lunch with parrots. Leisure time mixed with the opportunity to shop, take optional tours and eating out together from our base of Peninsula Excelsior Hotel.

Tour Cost per person, twin share: $2620.00 per person Ex Perth or $2840.00 per person Ex Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Costs inclusions:

* Economy class flights Australia to Singapore and return flying Singapore Airlines.
* Current airport taxes and charges.
* 6 nights accommodation at Peninsula Excelsior Hotel (share twin)
* Full buffet breakfast daily
* Two morning walks (China Town and Singapore River)
* Open top bus tour with Satay Dinner at Lau Pa Sat
* Afternoon Many Faces tour to Little India/Malay Heritage Centre and National Orchid Gardens
* Bird Park Tour with lunch included & Singapore by Night tour with dinner included.
* Shopping Mall trip, visit to the National Museum, Gardens by the Bay
* Farewell Dinner
* Tour Escort on tour (subject to minimum of 20 persons on tour)

Note

* Optional tours will be offered for those wanting to experience more of Singapore
* It is compulsory to have a sighted companion for the duration of the tour
* Travel Insurance is compulsory
* A valid Australian passport with at least 6, months validity is required
* A deposit of $250.00 per person is required within 7 days of confirmation with the balance die 8 weeks prior to travel.
* Prices are based on minimum tour numbers met

For more information or to make a reservation contact Ms Faye Pafumi on

(08) 93825082 or e-mail faye@traveltree.com.au.

Footnote: I went on the first conducted tour to Singapore a few years ago, and was very impressed with how George and his wife Jo managed everything, and nothing or obstacle was left to chance.

**INFO DIRECTORY CALLS -** Telstra will be charging individuals for 1223 Info Directory calls. You will need to call Telstra to get an exemption from this.

**Editors Comment**

I hope you enjoyed this edition of your Eye Contact. If you would like to make a contribution to our next copy, which is due out in early May 2016, 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](http://www.blindwelfare.org.au)

**Social Activities for TERM 1 2016**



**WEEK 3**

**Monday 8th** Tai chi 10.00am – 11.00am

Social club 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Dean Bird – 1.30pm – 2.30pm

**Tuesday 9th** A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Wednesday 10th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 11th** Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

 New Orleans Mardi Gras - $7.00

(Shrove Tuesday Celebration)

 Masks, Beads, [Jambalaya](http://www.womansday.com/Recipes/Jambalaya) & Pancakes

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**Friday 12th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

Bingo 1.00pm - 2.00pm

**WEEK 4**

**Monday 15th** Tai chi 10.00am – 11.00am

Social club 1.00pm – 3.00pm

  Valentines Lunch 

 menu to be advised

**Tuesday 16th**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

 Shopping

**Wednesday 17th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 18th**  Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

 Op Shopping & Vilis Café

**Friday 19th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – .2.30pm

 Walking Group 10.30am – 12.00pm

**WEEK 5**

**Monday 22nd** Tai chi 10.00am – 11.00am

Social club 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Helen & John 1.30pm – 2.30pm

**Tuesday 23rd**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

 Drama Group (To Be Confirmed)

**Wednesday 24th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 25th**  Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

 Greek Lunch - $6.00

 Open Yiros & Baklava

**Friday 26th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

Bingo 1.00pm - 2.00pm



**WEEK 6**

**Monday 29th** Tai chi 10.00am – 11.00am

Social club 1.00pm – 3.00pm

To Be Advised

**MARCH**

**Tuesday 1st**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Wednesday 2nd** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

 Tech Corner 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 3rd**  Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm Gawler Arms Hotel

**Friday 4th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pmWalking Group 10.30am – 12.00pm



**WEEK 7**

**Monday 7th** Tai chi 10.00am – 11.00am

Social club 1.00pm – 3.00pm

BWA Quizmania

**Tuesday 8th**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Wednesday 9th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm



**Thursday 10th**  Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

 Beach with fish & chip lunch

**Friday 11th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

Bingo 1.00pm - 2.00pm

**WEEK 8**

**Monday 14th *PUBLIC HOLIDAY***

Adelaide Cup - Social Centre Closed

**Tuesday 15th**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

 Shopping

**Wednesday 16th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 17th**  Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

St Patrick’s Day Lunch - $6.00

Baked Potatoes with the Lot!

**Friday 18th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

 Walking Group 10.30am – 12.00pm

**WEEK 9**

**Monday 21st** Tai chi 10.00am – 11.00am

Social club 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Matt Raynor 1.30pm – 2.30pm

**Tuesday 22nd**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

Drama Group (To Be Confirmed)

**Wednesday 23rd**Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 24th**  Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

 Easter Brunch 10.00am – 1.30pm

 Bacon & eggs, tomatoes & hash browns

 

**Friday 25th PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Good Friday - Social Centre Closed

**WEEK 10**

**Monday 28th PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Easter Monday - Social Centre Closed

**Tuesday 29th**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Wednesday 30th**Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 31st** Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

 Paradise Hotel



**APRIL**

**Friday 1st** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

Walking Group 10.30am – 12.00pm

**WEEK 11**

**Monday 4th** Tai chi 10.00am – 11.00am

Social club 1.00pm – 3.00pm

BWA Quizmania

**Tuesday 5th**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

 Tech Corner 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Wednesday 6th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

Tech corner 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 7th**  Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

 Birdwood Museum Tour

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**Friday 8th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

Bingo 1.00pm - 2.00pm

**WEEK 12**

**Monday 11th** Tai chi 10.00am – 11.00am

Social Group 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Encounter Ensemble 1.30pm – 2.30pm

**Tuesday 12th**  A.D. movies 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Wednesday 13th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

**Thursday 14th**  Social Group10.00am – 2.00pm

Chinese Banquet -$8.00

**Friday 15th** Chat ‘n’ craft 10.00am – 12.30pm

Walking Group 10.30am – 12.00pm

All Social Centre Activities incur a $3.00 fee for amenities

(Transport, tea, coffee, biscuits and use of the hall etc.)

**Lunches available at Social Centre activities from $3.00**

** **

All Members are welcome to attend any and all of the activities in the program.

Please contact the BWA office to attend as some activities require attendance numbers in advance for transport and catering



Members’ input and ideas for the Social Centre activities are very welcome

Please speak with Trudy

**PHONE: 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8**

The Hot Weather Policy applies to all BWA Activities.

When the 6 o’clock evening news (TV) forecasts the temperature to be 35 degrees or over for the next day activities for that day are cancelled.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BEGIN ON 18TH APRIL**

**CENTRE RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 2nd May**

**Holiday Program to be advised**