### EYE CONTACT

### BWA serving its Members for nearly 80 years

**Newsletter for Members of B W A**

**August 2016**

Contact Details: Blind Welfare Association of SA

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Welcome to our third Eye Contact for 2016. No doubt many of you are looking forward to some more pleasant weather as it has certainly been a rather cold and wet winter this year, but we do need all the rain we can get to keep our reservoirs topped up so in the warmer months those of you who like to garden can keep your plants well hydrated. By the time our next edition comes out, the football finals will have been won and lost, the BWA AGM will have been held in late October and then we will be thinking of more festive activities. In this edition you will be kept up to date on up-coming activities. Enjoy.

**Manager’s Report**

Another financial year has come to an end with the BWA continuing to be in a good position both in our financial stability and provision of services for our Members. The Board of Management has approved the new budget for 2016-17 and we are hoping to continue to build on the good work done last financial year. I look at the success of our new Northern Country Music Group and our new initiative in the Western suburbs with Members attending the OOTS Theatre performances in the Parks Community Centre. In addition membership is growing in the South and numbers are up in our Southern Social and Technology programs. In the North East our team has worked cooperatively with the Australian Motor Museum, the SA Art Gallery and the Aviation Museum to specifically develop interactive sensory tours to bring these experiences to life.

Our expansion of the Equipment Subsidy Scheme which now covers mobile smart devices, has also proved popular with many Members gaining new skills and independence and leading to the greater use of our Marney Pearce training room and attendances at the Southern Tech group. The new Special Welfare Funds (SPWF) Recurrent Subsidy eligibility criteria and procedures developed last year proved very successful enabling all our Members in need to benefit from the scheme. Letters and application forms for this financial year have now been posted and Members are encouraged to return completed forms by the 31st of August.

While at this time of year we are not thinking of the heat waves of summer our Board is, and has now approved a change to our Hot Weather Policy to bring it in line with other organisations increasing our maximum activities temperature from 35 to 36 degrees. As in the past, Members will be guided by the forecast given on the 6pm news the night before.

All our activities rely on the good work of our small BWA team and also heavily on the hard work of our Board and Volunteers who have again excelled in their care and reliability, enabling many of our new activities to be successful for which I am very grateful. This last financial year we added two new staff faces in Debra and Visa and twenty nine new Volunteers to the team.

**JIM COLLIGAN**

Manager

**BOARD REPORT**

Hello Members I trust you are all keeping warm!  Well BWA continues to increase the numbers of service and volunteer support hours that we provide to our Members. This financial year 36 new members and 29 new volunteers joined BWA

and we provided members with:

* 10,604 hours of service up 9% on previous year
* 2,149 hours of individual social support up 64%
* 8,892 hours of transport up 15%

BWA assisted members to attend individual recreation interests as diverse as guitar lessons and horse riding and established new supports for:

* The Northern Country music group and Owls Pals
* The Western Social Group – OOTS Concerts
* Gilles Plains walking group
* Arts Group

In addition BWA continued to provide financial support to fund our joint RSB recreational programs. Jim Colligan and the team have continued to ensure that our Quality Assurance practices are compliant and fulfill our contract requirements with the Commonwealth Home Support Program. Our Auditor has nearly completed his work and I believe that our financial practices meet all relevant standards. October 22 has been set as the date for the BWA AGM this year and we are holding it at Knapman House 230 Pirie St Adelaide. We will also provide a light lunch this year so please place this date in your diaries. Look forward to seeing you there.

**TONY STARKEY**

President BWA

**Member Services Officer (North)**

In this period I have been very busy providing information to many new Members, assisting Members to access our Special Welfare Funds, providing them with information about Community Services and plans for independently addressing independent living issues, including access to My Age Care registration and assistance available through many other services.

Some of us have been very excited to attend a new concert activity in the West at the Parks Community Centre involving both new and long term Members, and it has been joyful to see our Members enjoying their Social Centre Activities.

I have especially appreciated the lovely meals that the Centre Volunteers have been preparing and the excellent commitment and assistance they have been giving to Members, not only on a day to day basis, but particularly the efforts and organising that has occurred for the many special events, which take place throughout the term.

Although we try hard to provide Members with the transport they need for medical appointments, we would like to encourage those who have access to other transport options such as Age Care Packages, or who can arrange transport through other Community Services such as Red Cross, to do so prior to making bookings with BWA, as it can be difficult to match volunteer drivers who are able to travel long distances, or wait with Members for lengthy periods.

A new Arts Group has been formed by some of our Members and I’m sure there will be some more surprises in store for the upcoming term from what looks like a fun program of planned experiences.

I hope everyone will have a healthy and happy time for the remainder of the winter and remember spring IS on its way.

Best wishes,

**Debra**

Member Services Officer

**South East Services Officer**

Hello everyone, with the cold weather upon us I hope you are all staying warm. Membership continues to grow steadfastly in the South with a consistent influx of new Members joining BWA in the past couple of months. In particular, new Members have been embracing the social support BWA has to offer Members. Our newly formed monthly bus trips are proving to be very popular. Most recently, Members attended a sensory Haigh’s Chocolate Factory tour followed by lunch in a nearby café. Prior to that tasty experience, Members attended a Buzz Honey Farm presentation in the Adelaide Hills followed by lunch at a Hahndorf Bakery. As well as our monthly bus trips, monthly social group meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month, continue to provide Members with an opportunity to socialise and meet others. We often have interesting Guest Speakers and performers presenting to us at social group. Tech Talk group for those Members who are interested in technology also meet monthly on the first Wednesday of each month from 10am until 12pm in Noarlunga. With so many opportunities now available to meet and greet others who may be like-minded, why not come along and join us? Everyone is always welcome. If you are interested in hearing more about activities in the South, please R S V P to Danijela Turner on 8 3 2 5 1 6 6 8 or 0 4 3 8 0 5 1 2 2 3 or via email address dturner@blindwelfare.org.au RSVP to group activities in the South is required for purposes of transport and catering arrangements.

Enjoy the coming months.

**DANIJELA TURNER**

**Volunteer Officer**

At long last I have managed to get an ad on the Northern Volunteering’s webpage for volunteers specifically in the western area. We are now covered on SEEK and Volunteering SA & NT for this region and hope to be able to recruit volunteers to service our Members in that area. Regrettably we have still not been able to recruit a teacher of Tai Chi to replace our two volunteers who had been running this for several years. We are now considering other activities to fill this gap.

I attended a workshop called “Boom Boom Volunteering” and the keynote speaker was Bernard Salt who discussed how to harness the volunteer power of baby boomers in local communities. It was generally considered that baby boomers were the majority of people drawn to volunteering. That certainly is the case at BWA and we truly appreciate them. Volunteering SA & NT ran a workshop on the National Standards Volunteering and although it isn’t mandatory for Organisations to attain the standards it does have lots of advantages to adhere to these standards. We don’t distinguish between Staff and Volunteers now they are all classed as workers. As the Volunteer Officer I keep abreast of what’s happening with other not for profit Organisations by belonging to the Central Managers Volunteer Network. We meet every three months to exchange ideas and a representative from the Office for Volunteers attends and keeps us up to date on any government initiatives.

It’s imperative that we appreciate our Volunteers and a kind word from all of us goes a long way. **SO THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS.**

**JACKIE McEWEN**

 Volunteer Officer.

**Blind Welfare Travel Club 2016 Program**

Dear Members and Friends

* **BOOKINGS -** Close at 8pm on the Tuesdayprior to the trip
* **CHARGE -** For the trips is $32 which includes meals, and Admission charges to Venues
* **DISCOUNT** - $4 for meeting at pick up point. Please ask the Treasurer for information on pick up points
* **ANNUAL TRAVEL CLUB SUBS** - $10 per person payable at the first outing for the year or a.s.a.p. afterwards
* **ALL TRAVELLERS MUST BE -** a Client, an Associate Member or a Volunteer of the Blind Welfare Association

**For information, OR if you are wanting to attend, OR to cancel attendance on a trip please contact:**

* **Catherine Bottcher** (Treasurer and Transport) **8395 1005**
* **Blind Welfare Association** phone **8367 6088** during business hours (8.30-4.30)

This Program could be changed, but was correct at the time of printing inFebruary 2016

**AUG 13th** Farm Barn with BBQ lunch there

**SEPT 10th**Yummy Snacks and Largs Bay Kiosk for a fish and chip lunch and afternoon tea at a place to be determined

**OCT 15th** Annual General Meeting of the club at the Social Centre, lunch at the Windsor Hotel and Op Shop visit

**NOV 12th** Aviation Museum at Port Adelaide, lunch locally

**DEC 10th** Morning tea at Brian Murdock’s, lunch at the Hampstead Hotel

**NOTE: IN THE EVENT OF THE FORECAST TEMPERATURE BEING 36° OR MORE ON THE FRIDAY 6PM NEWS THE TRIP WILL BE CANCELLED**

**\*\*\* THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER NOTIFICATIONS \*\*\***

**Companion Card**

Where can I use my card in SA?Conditions may apply. Please contact venue for details. For more information about the Companion Card visit [www.companioncard.org.au](http://www.companioncard.org.au) or telephone 1 8 0 0 6 6 7 1 1 0 during business hours.

There are some new venues now listed.

**Show Tickets**

The Royal Adelaide Show is almost here and BWA has tickets to give away. To ensure distribution is fair we will be registering names and drawing winners who will each receive 2 tickets. To register for the Royal Adelaide Show ticket draw please contact the office by phoning 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8 or email us at info@blindwelfare.org.au

**People’s Choice Lottery**

We still have some tickets available in the People’s Choice Lottery. Tickets are $2 each in books of 10. Members can order books through the office or buy tickets on line on the People's Choice website, don't forget to choose BWA as your preferred charity. There are some fantastic prizes and all proceeds from tickets sold by BWA are returned to help fund further member activities.

**Editors Comment**

I hope you enjoyed this edition of your Eye Contact and if you would like to make a contribution to our next copy, which is due out in early November 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)

s**ocial Activities for Term 3 2016**

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. Call us on 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8

**All Social Centre Activities incur a $3.00 fee.** This fee contributes to keeping the Centre running (Cleaning, Utility Costs, Catering Supplies, Transport & More)

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

**AUGUST**

**WEEK 3**

Monday 8th Social Club one to three p.m

 KingFisher Duo one thirty to two thirty

Tuesday 9th A.D. Movies ten to twelve noon

Wednesday 10th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

Thursday 11th Social Group ten to two p.m

 Scattergories

 Pizza Lunch $5.00

Friday 12th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

Bingo one to two p.m

**WEEK 4**

Monday 15th  Social Club one to three p.m

 Jody from Access to Arts one thirty to two thirty

Tuesday 16th A.D. Movies ten to twelve thirty p.m

 Arts Group ten thirty to twelve noon

Wednesday 17th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty p.m

Thursday 18th Social Group ten to two p.m

McQueen’s twelve noon

Friday 19th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty p.m

 Walking Group ten thirty to twelve noon

**WEEK 5**

Monday 22nd Social Club one to three p.m

 The Voice of BWA - Talent Quest

Tuesday 23rd A.D. Movies ten to twelve thirty

Wednesday 24th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

Thursday 25th Social Group ten to two p.m

 Middle Eastern Lunch $6.00

Friday 26th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

Bingo one to two p.m

**WEEK 6**

Monday 29th Social Club one to three p.m

Helen & John one thirty to two thirty

Tuesday 30th Cooking Demo ten thirty to one p.m

Wednesday 31st Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

**SEPTEMBER**

Thursday 1st  Social Group ten to two p.m

RSB Smithfield - Low Tech Tour Lunch T.B.A

Friday 2nd Chat ‘n’ craft ten to twelve thirty

Walking Group ten thirty to twelve noon

**WEEK 7**

Monday 5th Social Club one to three p.m

BWA Quiz Mania

Tuesday 6th A.D. Movies ten to twelve thirty

Wednesday 7th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

 Tech Corner ten to twelve thirty

Thursday 8th Social Group ten to two p.m

 European Lunch $6.00

Friday 9th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

Bingo one to two p.m

**WEEK 8**

Monday 12th Social Club one to three p.m

 Matinee Entertainers one to two thirty

Tuesday 13th A.D. Movies ten to twelve thirty

Wednesday 14th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

Thursday 15th Social Group ten to two p.m

Southern Hotel 12.00 Lunches start at $7.90

Friday 16th Chat ‘n’ craft ten to twelve noon

 Walking Group ten thirty to twelve noon

**WEEK 9**

Monday 19th Social Club one to three p.m

Encounter Ensemble one thirty to two thirty

Tuesday 20th A.D. Movies ten to twelve thirty

 Arts Group ten thirty to twelve noon

Wednesday 21st Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve noon

Thursday 22th Social Group ten to two p.m

 Spring B.B.Q $6.00

Friday 23rd Chat ‘n’ craft ten to twelve thirty

Bingo one to two p.m

**WEEK 10**

Monday 26th Social Club one to three p.m

Something Funny Happened…..

Everyone has a funny story so please tell us!

Tuesday 27th A.D. Movies ten to twelve thirty

Wednesday 28th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

Thursday 29th Social Group one to two p.m

 Whispering Wall & Williamstown Bakery Lunch

Friday 30th Chat ‘n’ Craft ten to twelve thirty

Walking Group ten thirty to twelve noon

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

Please speak with Trudy on 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BEGIN**

**ON Monday 3rd October**

**CENTRE RE-OPENS**

**ON Monday 17th October**

**Holiday Program**

**To Be Advised**