### EYE CONTACT

### BWA serving its Members for over 80 years

**Newsletter for Members of B W A**

**Autumn 2019**

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Welcome to our first edition of the Eye Contact for 2019. The days are whizzing by very quickly because here we are in March already. The hot weather has certainly been fierce this Summer and even into Autumn, but let’s hope we don’t get too many more such extreme days. Before you know it, you will be preparing for the footy season and all the friendly banter that goes with it. This edition of Eye Contact contains all the usual updates to keep you abreast of what is happening at BWA.

**Board Report**

The Board and Staff of BWA came together to review current Policies and welfare support, and the social participation programs with the view to improve in line with future income ready for the 2019/2020 Budget.

After reviewing current activities, a workshop for new ideas was held with great ideas to improve or enhance what we already do but some really good outside the box ideas as well. Unfortunately, we could not fund all the new ideas and services but the Board then met to review, revise and mould to fit expected income over the next 12 months. I can report that we did not cut any existing programs and once some of the new ideas have been further developed I hope to report some new opportunities and services.

Naturally to increase efficiency and operational processes we think we can increase better value within our limited resources. Prior to the start of the next financial year I will advise Members of new offerings.

Tony Starkey BWA President

**Manager’s Report**

2019 is off and running with both staff and Board Members working on strategic plans for the 2019/20 year. Unfortunately, this year the centre program has been interrupted by hot weather cancelations which is not only inconvenient to both Members and Volunteers but effects our statistics and reporting to Government.

Staff has discussed how we can work around this with the possible solution of making the lost sessions up by reducing our end of term holiday breaks. Other than the inconvenience of the hot weather, staff have been working to produce a great program for the year including new activities like our Tanunda overnight trip and balloon flight for the more adventurous Members.

We look forward to implementing a range of interesting day and overnight activities which are also outcomes of our strategic planning process.

Jim Colligan

**Member’s Services Officer Report**

The BWA New Year has started well with a number of enjoyable group outings and activities, and although there have been some cancellations due to hot weather, there are plans in place for an exciting program going forward.

I have been assessing a number of Special Purpose Welfare Fund applications and have visited many new members. There have also already been many opportunities to provide individual support and information to members wishing to address a wide range of their personal issues.

The Member Services Team are committed to assisting Members to enhance their capacity to experience enriched lives by providing them with information, individual support and social opportunities, so that they can remain well and involved in their communities.

Please contact me if you require any information or support and I look forward, with you, to a happy and fruitful 2019.

Debra Beeby

**Southern Services Coordinator**

Programs are now underway for the southern area with a wide range of interesting activities planned. The South East Social Group meets on first Tuesday of the month at Woodcroft. South East bus trips are offering a variety of destinations this year for a great day out. We will once again link in with Victor Harbor Members for a Rock ‘N’ Roll show at the Town Hall in March. There will be a visit to McLaren Vale and the highly acclaimed ‘Cube’ in April and a lunch cruise on West Lakes in May. New faces always very welcome.

Conversation Corner has also commenced and meets in Glenelg North on the last Monday of the month from 1.30 – 3pm. If you would like a program to be sent, please contact me or visit the BWA website.

As many Members have become aware, BWA is taking steps to expand opportunities available for experiential encounters funded through the BWA Recreation and Personal Development Subsidy. This subsidy allows Members to apply for funding for activities which increase personal knowledge and wellbeing which can include one off activities. Last year several Members took part in a fishing charter day out and others enjoyed a Bi Plane Flight Adventure over the Aldinga / Willunga area. To register an expression of interest for either of these activities or to know more, please contact me on 8 5 5 6 6 2 2 8. Several Members are also getting fitter and healthier by joining their local gym!

Another exciting development also unfolding this year is the advent of overnight stay bus trips. The destination for the first of these is a trip to Tanunda in the Barossa Valley, staying at Tanunda Discovery Parks. Dates for this are Tuesday 9th April and returning late on Wednesday 10th. A great opportunity to get out and about, make new friends and visit some of the highly acclaimed destinations the Barossa has to offer. For the adventurous at heart there will be an optional hot air balloon flight, subsidised by BWA for eligible Members. Places are limited so get in early! Southern Members can contact myself for further information and to book.

Tracy Reed

**Volunteer Officer**

Well Happy New Year to everyone, mind you it feels like the year is flying past and we’re in March already.

Our Volunteers all had a nice break, although I think some of them got a bit bored and were glad to be back in a routine again. Going right back to Christmas our Volunteers had a great night celebrating at The Windsor Hotel and enjoyed a good meal and a chance to catch up with Volunteers that they don’t often see. It was a success and the feedback was positive; as I mentioned last year it’s the first evening function we’ve had for Volunteers.

Our President Tony Starkey attended along with another Board Member Leonore Scott. Tony handed out the small gifts to all the Volunteers as a thank you for all their hard efforts plus Jim Colligan our Manager presented a Certificate of Appreciation for their dedication. As we all know without them we could not offer the services that we do.

With the NDIS gradually servicing our Members under 65 the demand for shopping and appointments has drastically reduced, except for those waiting to get their plan finalised. For those Members over 65 we can, if support is available, provide these services to them. The current trend, of course, frees up some of our Volunteers to assist in some of the new exciting events planned for this year. We have a total of 84 Volunteers at the moment, 65 in the northeast area and 19 in the southern region.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Jackie McEwen

**New $20 Banknote**

On 22 February 2019 the Reserve Bank of Australia proudly announced the design of its new $20 banknote, which will be released into general circulation in October 2019. Like others in the new series, it features raised bumps along the long edges to help people who are blind or have low vision to distinguish between different denominations of banknotes.  On the $20 there are three bumps along each of the long edges of the banknote.  Next year will see the release of the final banknote in the series, the $100, which will have five bumps. The new $20 note follows the design and security traditions established with the first three denominations in the Reserve Bank’s Next Generation Banknote series.  This includes features such as a top-to-bottom clear window, a flying kookaburra that moves its wings and changes colour, a reversing number ‘20’ and a patch with a rolling colour effect.

As with the $5, $10 and $50, the new $20 note also includes representations of a wattle and native bird – the *Acacia buxifolia*and a Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*). Both the accessibility of the notes and their high level of awareness in the vision impaired community are testament to the assistance and support that organisations like yours have provided to the Reserve Bank throughout the development process. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support of the program. More information on the new $20 can be found in our media release and on the Bank’s website.

Best wishes,

Banknote Planning and Partnerships team

**Blind Welfare Association Travel Club 2019 Program**

Dear Members and Friends

We have an interesting Programme planned for 2019. Some venues are possibly not to everyone’s liking, but should suit most people. Should you not wish to participate in a particular outing, please feel free to not go, however, I would appreciate you letting me know early, so that other people who would like to be included can be.

* **BOOKINGS** - close at 8pm on the Tuesday prior to the trip.
* **CHARGE FOR THE TRIP IS $35** and this covers admittance to venues and lunch.
* **DISCOUNT** - $4 per trip for those who are able to get to the pickup points. Please ask about these pickup points.
* **ANNUAL TRAVEL CLUB SUBS** - $10 per person, payable at the first outing for the year, or as soon as possible afterwards.
* **ALL TRAVELLERS MUST BE** – a Member, an Associate Member or a Volunteer of the Blind Welfare Association.

For information, or wanting to attend, or to cancel attendance on a trip please contact

* Catherine Bottcher on 8 3 9 5 1 0 0 5
* Blind Welfare Association office on 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8 during business hours of 8.30 a.m to 4.30 p.m.

**This Program could be changed without notification, but it is correct at the time of printing.**

**March 9th** Aviation Museum at Pt Adelaide, lunch locally

**April 13th** Mannum Dock Museum of River History with lunch locally in Mannum

**May 11th** Paracombe Premium Perry at Paracombe with lunch locally

**June 8th** Steiny’s Metwurst tasting room, Tanundaand the Barossa Valley Cheese Company at Angaston, lunch locally

**July 13th** Cockle Train at Goolwa and lunch locally

**August 10th** Paddle Steamer Oscar W at Goolwa for a 1 hour cruise and lunch locally

**September 14th** Martin Dale Hall at Mintaro and possibly the maze in Mintaro or a visit toThe 7 Hills Winery with a tour with lunch locally (depends on availability later in the year)

**October 12th** Travel Club AGM

**November 9th** Littlewood Agapanthus Farm at Littlehampton with lunch locally

**December 14th** Venue to be decided upon

**The Blind Welfare Association’s Hot Weather Policy is strictly adhered to i.e. in the event of the temperature forecast is for 36° or above on the previous night’s 6pm news, the trip will be cancelled. There will be o further notification.**

**Oaks Liberty Apartment**

Do you fancy a break or have a special occasion coming up? Why not book a short holiday at the Oaks Liberty Towers apartment in Glenelg to relax and unwind? The apartment is fully self-contained with 2 bedrooms and is close to the beach, marina, Jetty Road shops and plenty of restaurants and cafes. Members are able to stay up to 7 nights per year in the apartment at a reduced rate. Please note that the Easter long weekend and New Year’s Eve are not available. Call Deidre on 8 3 6 7 6 0 8 8 for all reservation enquiries.

**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 June 2019, 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:

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