



**Beyond
Blindness**

Supporting Independence and Inclusion
for Blind South Australians

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022





*Honda Sponsorship—Vehicle handover with Honda rep Greg Harford, Jim Colli-
gan, Tony Starkey and Marketing Consultant Jayson Hanrahan & guide dog Wal-
ter*

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Mission Statement

To provide high standard welfare, support and advocacy services to people who are blind or vision impaired, to promote independence, dignity and quality of life.



Members and volunteers enjoying a coffee and chat.

Board of Management (July 2021—June 2022)

CURRENT BOARD



Tony Starkey (President)

Tony Starkey (President)
Maureen Montes (Vice President)
Leonore Scott (Secretary)
Jed Alexander
Sarah Savage
Sheryl Berry (to February 2022)
Michelle Alexandrou (from November 2021)



(From Left to Right) Board Secretary Leonore Scott, General Manager Jim Colligan, Board President Tony Starkey with local council representatives at our Northern Gawler Office Opening August 2022

President's Report

As Chair of Blind Welfare Association of South Australia (Trading as Beyond blindness), I am very pleased to present the Board's contribution to this year's Annual Report.

The past fiscal year has been highly successful for Beyond Blindness, not only in terms of our operational activity and financial performance, we have also embarked upon an exciting period of growth and expansion for the next part of our organisational journey, aimed at increasing services for our members and securing our ongoing sustainability.

As we recover from the various restrictions of Covid, our services are now back to normal, but we still must comply with government directions as a Disability Community provider.

A major highlight to our growth and expansion for this year has been the establishment and opening of our Northern office at Gawler. This now gives us the capacity to provide equal access to our services for members across the whole of the metropolitan area and surrounding regional communities.

We have also supported this expansion by increasing our minibus fleet from two to four; one each of which will be located at our Northern and Southern offices, with the remaining two to be based centrally to support our members across the East and West.

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Members and volunteers enjoying the craft and chat session

President's Report (cont)

We have also increased our property portfolio with the purchase of a new building at

Campbelltown. This two-storey building is currently being outfitted to create a new administration and member activity centre on the lower floor. The first floor will then be offered for commercial lease, this will in-turn provide income to maintain and assist with rental of our Christies Beach and Gawler offices. Following the relocation of our operations to these new premises, The Gilles Plains site will continue to provide income through the Rental of the onsite units and following discussions with advisors from the Property sector, the office and Social Centre facility is planned to be offered to the market for commercial lease to ensure we maximise the financial return on these assets.

I want to thank my fellow Board members for their dedication, time given and insight to allow Beyond blindness to achieve our vision and goal

to reduce the impact of blindness and allow our members to participate in community social activities. Needless to say, we could also not exist or operate successfully without the support of our wonderful volunteer team, and the generosity of the broader community.

As a South Australian community organisation with a history spanning more than eighty-five years, we remain committed to our mission of supporting independence and inclusion for blind South Australians now and into the future.

TONY STARKEY

President



Holger & Heiki competing! Bowling

Manager's Report

I am pleased to report that Beyond blindness has, once again, ended the Financial Year in a positive position and we will be commencing the new year with funds set aside for future projects and initiatives. This year has seen the culmination of several projects that have positioned the organisation for ongoing financial stability along with future growth and expansion of services.

Over the course of the year, a project to restructure our staffing resources was undertaken. This has resulted in a reduction to our administration costs and has enabled us to dedicate more resources to our Community Engagement efforts. I am extremely pleased to report that we now have four dedicated Member Engagement Officers and can offer coordinated member activities North, South, East, and West of the city. These changes, in conjunction with the establishment of our new Northern and Southern offices at Gawler and Christies Beach respectively, now enables Beyond blindness to support member activities from the Barossa to Victor Harbour.

To support this expansion and increase in member activities, we have also ordered two new buses, doubling our existing fleet to four, as well as implementing a new database system and financial software, helping to reduce duplication and administration costs.



Member Zofia with a deer at Hahndorf Farm

As outlined in the previous Chairperson's Report, the new Beyond Blindness office at Campbelltown, purchased during the reporting year, is currently being outfitted to create a new administration and member activity centre. Works being undertaken at the property will include the installation of a thirty-eight Kilowatt (38Kw) solar power system that will result in substantial future savings in power costs. This, in conjunction with the commercial leasing of the first floor of the building, will provide income and savings that will assist with the rental and maintenance of our Christies Beach and Gawler offices.

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Manager's Report (cont)

Our marketing efforts throughout the year have included radio promotions on Cruise 1323 and Mix FM to increase brand awareness among the broader community, a significant update to the format and content of our Beyond Blindness Magazine, and the development of a Guiding Skills instructional video to complement our Community Education Program. These initiatives aim to increase member communication and information dissemination, and broader community awareness of Beyond Blindness.

In addition, our Small Jobs Program has really taken off with our volunteer team heading out most days to assist members across the metro area with a range of household tasks. We have also increased our overnight trips from four per year to one every six weeks. These trips have proven to be extremely popular with members having the opportunity to holiday all over the state.

Volunteers David & Mario on one of their small job visits

Without the support of our highly active and committed volunteers, along with the dedication and hard work of our small team of staff, all this would not be possible, and I am extremely grateful for all their wonderful support.

JIM COLLIGAN

Manager



“.....Our Small Jobs Program has really taken off with our volunteer team heading out most days.....”

BEYOND BLINDNESS

