

Magic that Matters

September 2022

Dear Employees, Families and Friends of Ability Works,

Last month I mentioned we were winners of the *Social Traders Game Changer VIC/TAS Award for 2022*. This has now put us in the running for the National award. I am being flown to Brisbane to represent Ability Works to attend the *Social Enterprise World Forum*, where the national winner will be announced on Thursday 29th September. Fingers crossed! We seem to be on an award-winning streak at present. We were nominated (we don't know by whom) for an *Enablement Award* and have won for "The most outstanding support of people with significant barriers to employment". The award was held by the NDIS Update media platform to celebrate and reward excellence in innovation and exemplary achievements in the disability sector. Kannan and Anu represented us and accepted the award.



Aurecon have requested I join them in Sydney on October 13th, as their guest at the *Australian Financial Review (AFR) / Boss Most Innovative Company* award, for the significant role Ability Works played in the Accessible Melbourne Tram Stop project. They hope to rank highly in this year's list. Congratulations to all Ability Works employees who provided consulting advice to Aurecon on this project. The advice provided quality insights into Inclusive Design, which have placed Aurecon in a position of strength.

We have applied to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) Vic for a ½ million-dollar Universal Design Grant to make the two front entrance doors and the

men's and ladies toilets accessible. If there are funds left over, we will be able to replace our 50 year old lift with a larger one, and renovate the staircase to the downstairs factory. The decision on what we renovate, was based on the results of a survey that was sent to all employees, families and carers.

Prior to acquiring a new facility in Dandenong, we plan to co-design the facility with potential employees who live in Dandenong, to ensure we cater to their needs. We now have the funding we need to complete that research. We have received \$25k from Jobsbank and a further \$50k from the Westpac Foundation. RMIT University will be conducting the research with the communities who face the most barriers to employment in Dandenong.

On Wednesday 21st September we had a visit by the Hon. Michael Sukkar (Federal Liberal member for Deakin, & Assistant Shadow Treasurer), as part of our government engagement program. He was very impressed with our work and asked us to contact him should we need his support.



Hope you got a thrill if you've seen the 48 or 109 tram with our four Ability Works employees travelling around Melbourne. Keen to get your feedback on any of our promotions.

Till next time,
Sue Boyce, CEO



UPCOMING EVENTS

OH&S MEETING **Thurs 6th Oct at 1:30pm**
ERC MEETING **Thurs 20th October at 1pm**
Employee RDO **Monday 31st October**

In the News!



Ability Works Community Partnership with Yarra Trams

As a recipient of the Yarra Trams Community Partnerships Program we finally unveiled our Ability Works tram. Ability Works was selected by a panel of judges for their application in response to the 2022 program theme of 'Building a resilient and sustainable Melbourne'. The tram wrap sends a message to anyone in the community, experiencing barriers to employment to contact us.



Here are a couple of articles that circulated in the media. *New Yarra Trams wrap showcases Ability Works - Rail Express.* www.railexpress.com.au/new-yarra-trams-wrap-showcases-ability-works/ and *Yarra trams wrapped up for disability employment* www.freedom2live.com.au/yarra-trams-wrapped-up-for-disability-employment/#.YxgRUqFBw2z

Use the [Yarra Trams tramTRACKER app](#) so that you can find out where the Community Partnerships Tram is at any time of the day. To do this:

1. Open tramTRACKER on your smartphone
2. Select the myTRAM tab on the homepage
3. Enter the tram number 3003 into the search area and press 'go' or the magnifying glass
4. The screen will then tell you which route and where the tram is located on the network



The Hon. Michael Sukkar Visit



As mentioned in Sue's editorial we had a visit by the Hon. Michael Sukkar (Federal Liberal member for Deakin & Asst. Shadow Treasurer). He spent a lot of time in each of our departments. Everyone was thrilled by his visit. We even had employees recognise who he was behind his mask!

ERC PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings everyone. The rice crackers for Costco are still going really well and the team have been beating their daily targets. This is mainly due to great teamwork and good tools that have been created by AWA to get the job done more efficiently. Work in the logistics area has been busy with a lot of e-tags to test and mail to open. Manufacturing has been a hive of activity with an extra order of snake mesh which is great because this means our customer really likes the work we are doing. During our last ERC meeting, the committee piloted a survey to help us get funding through the Universal Design Grant to improve facilities at AWA like external door access, the lift, bathrooms and our kitchen. We really hope to get the funding because it will make our workplace safer and nicer for everyone. Until next month, stay safe and well, everyone. - Ben Robinson



Human Centred Innovations presents - Matilda

Sue Boyce recently presented at a forum organised by Professor Rajiv Khosla (left), the creator of our robot Matilda, to discuss how we use Matilda at Ability Works. The presentation was also attended by Tasmanian Senator Helen Polley (pictured), who talked about MATILDA® in her speech in Parliament.

The session discussed how MATILDA® uses Artificial Intelligence, and has been revolutionising education, jobs and independent living for Australians with autism and other intellectual disabilities over the last five years.

Matilda (our nickname for MATILDA®) has helped over 1500 children with autism in early childcare and school settings with its Robot Autism Behaviour Intervention (RABI) program and has been developed to empower them with social, behavioral, and communication skills. Matilda has been proven to reduce a child's autism severity, emotional and financial burdens, problem behaviours, stress and workload while promoting a child's communication and social skills. A recent study found two adults with autism interacted with MATILDA® for more than 150 hours in a home-based support setting resulting in respite for their parents over nine months.

At Ability Works, Matilda has been working with Ability Works employees. Together with Matilda, we have been able to create seven additional jobs on the Transurban project by carving jobs into component parts and Matilda helping anyone with literacy challenges to work on the account by reading for them.



Creator of MATILDA® Professor Rajiv Khosla says the key barrier to people with intellectual disabilities having access to MATILDA®, is a lack of funding for the robot. He says tens of thousands more people with intellectual disabilities and their parents could benefit if more funding was provided.



Enablement Awards 2022

On 8th September 2022 Ability Works was a winner at the **Enablement Awards 2022** in the category "The most outstanding support of People with Significant Barriers to Employment". The awards were held by the NDIS Update media platform to celebrate and reward excellence, innovation, and exemplary achievements in the disability care sector.

We were nominated by an unknown nominee for our continual creation of employment opportunities within our Digital Service business unit whereby we employed 25+ people who were facing barriers to employment. We have also gone a step



further and provided permanent positions to two people who worked in the Digital Service business unit.

The award ceremony was attended by 200 people. Kannan and Anu represented AWA and received the award.

Westpac Grant Award!

We have been awarded a 2022 Westpac Foundation Inclusive Employment Grant to help create inclusive and sustainable jobs and opportunities for people in our local community. The \$50,000 grant will help us to co-design our potential facility in Dandenong.

This new grant program was established in response to the significant impacts across Australia of COVID, the changing nature of work, and climate change. The program is designed to foster community-led approaches to building greater social and economic inclusion. We're excited to partner with Westpac Foundation to help change lives for the better.

2022 INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT GRANT RECIPIENT

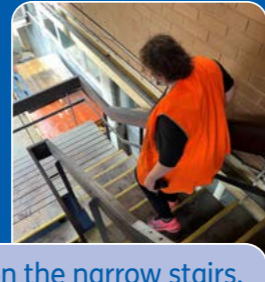
Our promotion designed to attract more employees to Ability Works is currently appearing on Shopa Docket's at Chemist Warehouse. It features Ruby (pictured) and will be running until 6th October in the following locations: Chemist Warehouse Hawthorn, Camberwell, Glenferrie Rd and Kew. This offer is also on the Shopa Docket website.



Inclusive Design

Accessible Workplace Survey

At the beginning of the month all employees, their families and carers, and staff were invited to participate in a survey to assess the accessibility of existing facilities at Ability Works. A number of employees were also involved in follow-up focus groups. These activities helped Ability Works apply for a Victorian Government grant focused on making community facilities more accessible by using universal design and co-design principles. We hope to hear the outcome of the grant in the next few months. If successful, the plan is to make improvements to the entry doors, toilet facilities and lift. Thank you to all those who participated! Stay tuned for more developments next month. - Natalie Collins

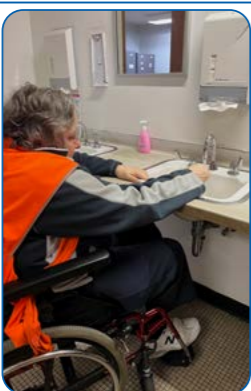


Top right: Ken in the locker room, Nick and Hanan on the narrow stairs.

Laura, Susan and Hanan are testing how easy or difficult it was to open the employee door. They all indicated that a person required some strength to open.



Jenny illustrating the difficulty a wheelchair user has reaching the taps in the bathroom, getting through our narrow dining room doors, and accessing the lift.



Kenny L, Ken H, Nick and Sam assessing the lockers!

Central Melbourne Mobility Map Trial

The Victorian Department of Transport is presently undertaking a pilot of a Central Melbourne Mobility Map. The map is to assist people with mobility aids (wheelchairs, motorised scooters, walkers, canes) to navigate the Arts, Entertainment and Sports precinct.

A map has been created which help rate the ease-of-use of various paths and walkways, as well as the accessibility facilities of toilets and local public transport.

Mark Golotta joined Natalie for an initial briefing with department representatives, who showed how the map worked and people were able to share their initial thoughts and suggestions. There is now a survey available for anyone to complete after trialling the map.

The survey is open to anyone to complete and will remain open until 31 October 2022.

The Engage Victoria website has more information about the pilot and survey: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/dot-mobility-map>
Link directly to the map: <https://briometrix.com/dot-brio-map/>

Inclusive Design Participation

Let the Support Team know if you are interested in participating in our Inclusive Design unit. Natalie is always on the look out for participants to help with surveys, focus groups etc.

Records Management

Transurban Volunteer Program

On Monday & Tuesday we were fortunate to have the company of the Transurban Facilities Team. They came out & offered their time through Volunteering to help out with the daily tasks of running the Transurban department. We had the company of Ashleigh, Pete, Rebecca, Adam, Trish, Molly, Julia & Tim - all taking part in multiple duties around the department. It was good to see the people we deal with on a daily basis. They got to mingle with the crew who do the work which was a pleasure for our employees to be given the opportunity to interact with the Transurban staff - Mark Golotta



Super team work in action within DOD. Left to right: The two Michael's, Nia (Support Staff) and David.



Matthew should be so proud of himself in learning the preparation stage in DOD. Another string to his bow :-)



Ebony celebrating the end of long day of completing the first stage (Cleaning) of DOD digital project.



Anne working in Logistics on end of Line Etags.



Joshua had an amazing first day learning the cleaning stage in DOD

Packing & Reworking



Left: Ebony, Dridan and Gavin putting labels on the sample blocks for **Modwood**. Shane is boxing up the sample kits.



Below: Frances putting the kits together and Gordana using the glue gun to seal the cartons and then palletising. They are both very proud of the great job that they are doing



Gordana packing Norman G Clark kits.



Susie our FLP Queen :-)



The Vitaco Health line continues and so do the happy faces!

Top Row: Neil and David boxing up the snacks, Brant packing the boxes.

Middle Row: Susan, Greg Charles packing more boxes. So far we have packed 25,000 cartons

Bottom row: Phillip and Douglas after morning tea, pictured at the beginning of the process, making the boxes at the start of the 6th pallet. That's 300 boxes! Not bad for the first day back after a long weekend.

Michael & Michael doing a great job, they made 720 cartons that day.

James working for the first time with the "Use By" labeler. Enjoying his new toy, and getting the job done :-)



Thank you Expanscience

A big thank you to one of our longstanding clients for their ongoing support of Ability Works and its employees. Our client since 2013, **Expanscience** has been a great customer for us, even helping out when we were short of work by bringing jobs forward. Last year's revenue was an impressive (nearly) \$40,000 to us. Marie Varga is our main contact and is an absolute pleasure to work with. When the Mustela baby bags orders come in everyone wants to work on the line.

www.mustela.com.au/en/all-products

"The Mustela maternity sample pouch is distributed to new parents in maternity hospitals nationwide. It offers the opportunity to mums and dads to try Mustela's natural skincare essentials made from organic avocados. In our brand new pouch made with organic cotton, you will find a 50ml Gentle Cleansing Gel sample with the iconic Mustela fragrance specifically made to gently cleanse baby's sensitive skin, our great change cream: the Vitamin barrier cream that prevents, soothes and recovers from skin irritations of the nappy area and a sample of our Nursing comfort balm"

Alexandre DELRUE
POS & Consumer Marketing Specialist



Anne, Shane, Wendy and Nickolas enjoying the social aspect of their job. It's Nickolas first week at Ability Works and he's already part of the team. Not only are they working but jobs like this provide the opportunity for a bit of chatter.

Last year we packed 77,733 bags for Expanscience. We have packed another 40,000 bags so far this year.



Shane



Frances



Dridan



Max & Daniel



Max



Mustela have lovely new avocado bags, they used to be clear, but now they are fabric ones with little avocados on them. Very cute! From left to right: Daniel, Veronica, Daniel and Brant all love to work on the baby bags. Here they are showing us the new look!

Wire & Metal Fabrication



Our client "Petspiration Group" provided a fun new job for many of us. We had a power team working on this day. As stated by Keith himself "this is my new favourite job".

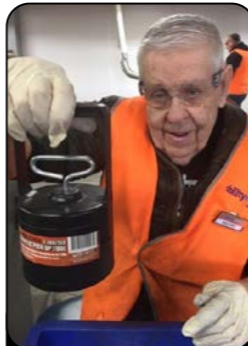
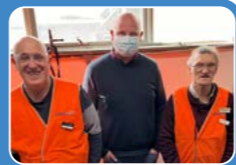


Our client wants us to double our production of snake mesh, so we have David working on a third welder. This will create a further four jobs for our employees!

Here is Greg assembling and boxing coil holders for our client [Abey Australia](#). The cardboard is a training guide to help determine quantity. In the background, James is welding them. Our orders call for 4000 picked up every Wednesday. These are used in the construction housing industry for metal strapping, and can be found in [Bunnings](#).



"Kenny was explaining the job he was working on and how the product is used in reinforcing concrete, as I hadn't seen it before. The job was new to me, but Kenny explained that it is a job that they haven't done for a while". - Jon Adams



Precision snake mesh by Nick P.



Billy working on the snake mesh.

Graeme is most appreciative to David, for purchasing new tools for manufacturing. This magnetic pick up and release tool will make the job much easier and productivity will most likely double.



Masooma taking a break from keeping the kitchen clean to work on the Jelly Ferrules for our client. These are used in precast concrete in the construction industry. Petroleum jelly (Vaseline) helps the bolt go in smoothly.



Above: Joshua and Phillip make an amazing team working on Stage 1 & 2 of the bender!



Above we have Senior Supervisor, Andrew, with Trainer Helena, and Des who had been working on packing coils; Gary on the coil holder welding; Keith on the brush bending machine

Health and Wellbeing

Understanding Stages of Grief and Loss when Life Changes

Many people associate grief primarily with death and loss of significant relationships and things. During the past few years of extraordinary change, many freedoms have been denied, daily activities banned and isolation from others became a lifesaving necessity. More recently, the world experienced other changes, like the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Becoming familiar with the process of grief may be useful in helping make sense of uncharacteristic behaviour, when things unexpectedly change.

The Five Stages of Grief - a theory developed by psychiatrist, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, in 1969, is a useful model to help break down the way in which we deal with the grief and loss experience, and how it may relate to how you and others cope during such periods. - Rae Bonney

Kübler-Ross Grief Curve



STAGE ONE: DENIAL

Managing our emotions through denial allows us time to adjust to distressing situations, however, staying in this stage can interfere with our ability to be resilient and manage challenges.

STAGE TWO: ANGER

When human beings feel helpless, are denied freedom and/or have control taken away, anger is a very natural, emotional response.

STAGE THREE: BARGAINING

We can feel more animated and hopeful during the bargaining stage - feeling almost excited about making plans for when the challenging moment passes - and taking a rest from challenging emotions.

STAGE FOUR: DEPRESSION

Coming down from the heightened feelings of anger and bargaining, can leave us experiencing unexpected sadness and dejection - this is a sign of moving into the depression stage. During this time, it can be tempting to withdraw completely and want to block out the reality of life.

STAGE FIVE: ACCEPTANCE

The stage of acceptance does not indicate the completion of our journey, more likely, we now understand and accept the situation as it is.

Ways to Stay Healthy and Safe

- ♥ It's quite normal for all the stages of grief to emerge multiple times in different sequences, so when you are feeling discombobulated and out of sorts, check in with the grief curve and see where you're at.
- ♥ Try to resist abandoning your daily plan/routine and allow yourself permission to be sad for very good reason.
- ♥ It's important to not judge yourself and others too harshly when you are feeling angry. Be patient, kind and understanding, as these moments will pass as we adapt and adjust to our changing circumstances.
- ♥ Bottling up emotions can have a detrimental effect on physical and mental health. Staying in regular contact with personal and professional support/people you trust, can help keep perspective and balance.
- ♥ Work is a wonderful antidote for when we are feeling upset, as it gives us purpose and meaning. Now and every day is a time for offering empathy and understanding, recognising everyone experiences grief and loss differently.

"Denial helps us to pace our feelings of grief. There is a grace in denial. It is nature's way of letting in only as much as we can handle".

- Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Puzzles Page!

Help Charles through the maze to find a taxi.



Do you work on weekends?

My boss just asked, "Do you think you can come in on Saturday this week? I know you enjoy your weekends, but I need you here."
I replied, "Yeah, no problem. I'll probably be late though as the public transport is bad on weekends."
He said, "Okay, when do you think you'll get here?"
I said, "Monday."
















Q. What sort of transport does a sheep use?
A. A ewe-nicycle

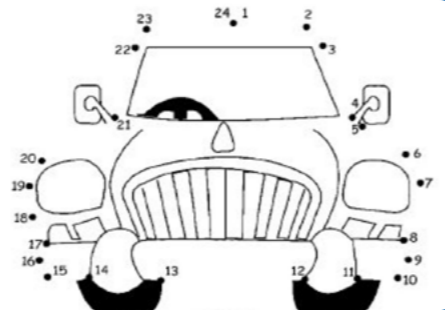
Things that Go!

Can you circle the hidden words?
Remember to look both horizontally and vertically!

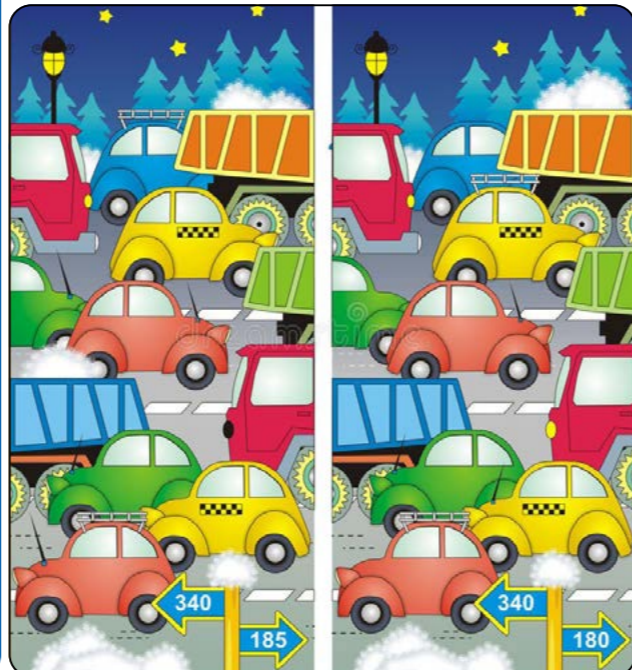


																																																																																																							
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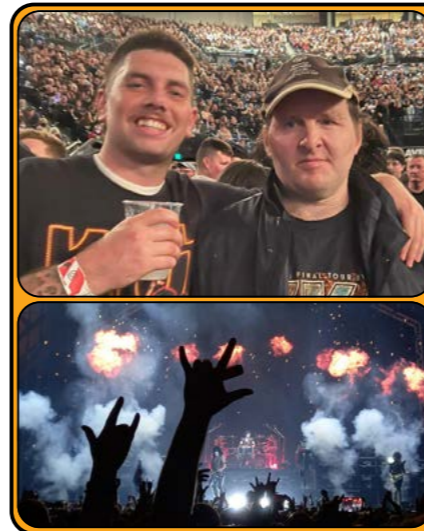
Join The Dots and Colour Me In!



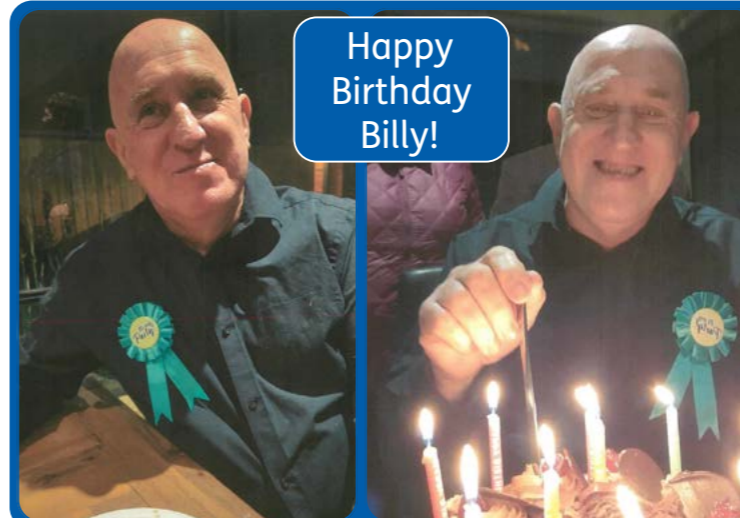
Spot The Difference - there are 10!



Social Pages



KISS held their farewell tour of Australia this month. Our employee, Jared attended and had a fabulous time. Here he is with his nephew Liam. Great photos Jared!



Happy Birthday Billy!

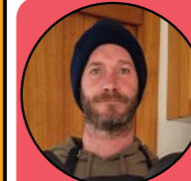
Billy turned 57 in August and had a lovely birthday dinner and fancy cake at his supported accommodation.



Here is Graeme showing off his t-shirt of his favourite 9-5 lady, Dolly Parton!

COOKING WITH JIMMY

Creamy Mushroom and Garlic Soup



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 brown onions
- 2 medium potatoes
- 1 thick leek stem
- 6 cloves of garlic
- 5g dried Porcini mushrooms
- 5g dried Shitake mushrooms
- 750g Button mushrooms
- 140g unsalted butter
- 1 litre of vegetable or chicken stock
- 100ml cream
- 50ml white wine
- 40ml of milk

PREPARATION:

Roast dried mushrooms for 5 minutes at 150°C then grind them in spice grinder, put aside. Roughly chop up the onions and potatoes. Halve the leek stem horizontally, then vertically - thinly slice. Crush and roughly chop the of garlic. Slice the mushrooms into slices.

COOKING:

Place the butter in deep sided pot. Sauté onions and potatoes with a pinch of salt for 7 minutes. Add leek, garlic and button mushrooms, sauté for 12 minutes. Add white wine and reduce for 2 minutes. Add vegetable or chicken stock, cream, milk and salt and pepper to taste and simmer for 10 minutes. Turn heat off and use a stick blender to blend the chunky bits smooth.

Garnish with the mushroom powder, cracked black pepper, truffle oil (optional) and serve with buttered quality toast.

Inspiration from: Chef Jackovens: https://youtube.com/shorts/B_PZN9fsnls?feature=share

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

1926 - 2022



Ability Works Australia remembers Queen Elizabeth II. A symbol of stability, deep sense of duty, leadership, resilience and unwavering, lifelong dedication to serving her people for 70 years is admirable.

Rest in Peace Her Majesty.

UPSKILLING

Have you thought about what goals you would like to set for your IEPs this year? Have a think about what you would like to achieve this year as very soon you will be asked to have a chat to the support team to work out your plans.

Potato Stix Joy!

Employees celebrating their Friday afternoon with a well-deserved fix of Potato Stix!! The Potato Stix were from the Vitaco job. Our customer said we could enjoy any damaged stock and the guys got to have a feast! Everyone reported back that they were super tasty.



Clockwise from top: Paul, Ben, Laura, Ruby, Charlie, Graeme, Linnie, John, Dridan and Ed



Decorating the dining room with a half finished chain decoration of the Geelong colours, and decked out in Yellow & Black is Diane. In her footy colours and getting ready for the Grand Final. She was on the money with her preferred winner.



Celebratory Drinks

Ability Works staff got together after work for some pizza and wine to celebrate winning our "VIC/TAS 2022 Game Changer Award" at Rocket Wine in Fairfield. It was also a great opportunity to welcome our new staff member, Anton.



Employee, Linnie, will be performing with her dance group, *Community Outreach Organisation* at Hawthorn Community House Mental Health Week Twilight Market & Exhibition, 32 Henry Street, Hawthorn, 3122



Linnie & her cast member, Bianca on stage.



Tracey not happy that her Taxi has not arrived... and then it turned up!

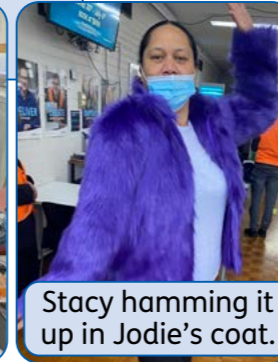
Matthew making healthy choices at Ali's café in the hospital. He likes cheese and tomato sandwiches, not ham!!! He also speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, Indonesian, Malay, Hokien and is interested in learning more! Photo: Billy, Ken, Ali (café owner) and Matthew.



We are happy to announce that Kim Howell's beautiful dog, Jo Jo has found a home with Gaylene (Kim's Post Care Acute Support Worker). Jo Jo is getting on really well with Gaylene's greyhound.

We have a position vacant for an NDIS Employment Services Lead. If you are interested in applying here is the link: <https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au/members/IRCapps/ndis-employment-services-lead-abilityworks>

Rostering. A lot of time goes into making sure you are stationed at a job you like or that one of your IEP goals is met. Callum has daily meetings with supervisors to ensure production is also able to meet their deadlines.



Stacy hamming it up in Jodie's coat.

Support News

September has been a productive month for everyone in the support team. Emma has completed her induction and is a very welcome addition to the AWA team. It is great to have Rudina and Lynne back from leave, and Shannon has taken a well deserved holiday.

As we look to attract more employees to meet the growing business needs it has been great to hear about all the Ability Works tram sightings, have you seen the tram yet? We have some great posters ideal for schools, community boards, businesses or anywhere else that you think may help to attract more employees. If you have an idea for where to put a poster please let the support team know.

This month Sergio moved from his work trial into a permanent role and it is great to see the contribution he is making to the team. We have been conducting lots of interviews and tours recently and look forward to welcoming many new work trailers in coming weeks.

Box Hill Institute courses will be offered again next year, so if you are interested in the courses please let support know. Flyers are available. They will be offering a **Certificate 1 and Certificate 2 in Work Education.**

- Jon Adams

BOOKING TAXI'S FOR EMPLOYEES

You are responsible for arranging your own Taxi to and from work. We only book Taxi's when regular transport does not turn up or in case of emergency. We prefer Silver Top Taxi 131 008.

SPARE CLOTHES

Just a reminder to keep a spare set of clothes in your locker. Anyone who has borrowed clothes from AWA can they please wash and return them.

LOCKERS

Please clean out your lockers regularly. If your locker is broken or the lock needs fixing see the support team who will organise to fix it.

ATTENDANCE

If you are unable to come to work for any reason please call us on **9853 7080** before 8.30am or email support@abilityworks.com.au

This month Shannon was lucky enough to have a two week get away to Bali. One of her dreams was to learn how to scuba dive! She achieved that dream and her reward was that she saw many beautiful green sea turtles



Employee Dridan with our latest edition of Magic That Matters. If you would like to be on our mailing list for the newsletter please email support@abilityworks.com.au

OH&S UPDATES

Weekly OHS refresher training has been scheduled for the Committee members over the next couple of months to strengthen their safety awareness and to arm them with the basic tools to identify potential hazards and risks. The training is conducted by an external consultant Eddie Scaffo-O'Neil. Eddie who recently retired has been a Worksafe Inspector for over 15 years and has recently dedicated some of his time to conduct the training and help with getting our OHS system documentation back into shape.

So far the team has been taken through two interactive training sessions which included "Manual Handling" and "Slips, Trips and Falls". Some of the learnings from these sessions will be demonstrated and shared in upcoming toolbox meetings. I would like to thank Eddie for devoting his time and hard work to support us over the coming months. Also I would like to thank the Committee members for their enthusiasm, dedication and eagerness to make this a safer place to work.

- Tony Balchan



Stair Safety

Recently an issue has been brought to the OH&S Committee's attention that occasionally people congregate on the stairs. The stairs should be used for moving from one area to the next. It is OK to momentarily stop on the stairs to let another member pass however straight after they do so it is important to continue walking and not to stop for a chat. This process ensures that the stairs are available for other members to use safely and congestion is kept to a minimum.

CHANGES TO MASK SETTINGS

From 11.59pm, Thursday 22 September 2022, masks are no longer mandatory to wear on public transport or in taxis, rideshare services or tourism vehicles.

Masks continue to be strongly recommended in indoor settings, in situations where people can't physically distance, for people who have COVID symptoms and for anyone who may be immunocompromised or vulnerable to COVID-19.

Masks are still required in some circumstances, such as visiting a hospital, care facility or any other indoor space that is publicly accessible in a healthcare setting, including allied health providers.

FEELING UNWELL?

If you are feeling unwell please stay home. If you have symptoms perform a RAT **BEFORE COMING TO WORK.**



PLEASE OBSERVE THE SPEED LIMIT

The Speed Limit on the Royal Talbot Site is 10.

We are on a hospital site where there are many patients ie. amputees, ABI patients, mobility limitations, patients in wheel chairs, as well as our employees (not to mention medical staff and our own staff who also use the roads). A number of people have been caught doing up to 60 kms an hour on the roadway and not understanding that this is very dangerous on this road. This kind of speed limit over the signed speed limit is enough to lose your licence.

Below is one of our security guards from Royal Talbot, Malcolm. He is diligently working to get people to slow down and be safe and keep everyone else safe.



Employee Recognition



Appreciation of Doug :-)

Doug has been unloading and re-loading a semi-trailer every Friday, as well as performing many other forklift driving tasks. Every week he gets faster at this task while still focusing on safety, not just for himself but for all his work colleagues.

Doug recently came to work on an RDO to get this job done. He doesn't mind delaying his breaks to complete the task, even in bitterly cold weather. He gets the job done with a smile on his face. His skills on the forklift and his safe working practices are, and always have been a great asset to Ability Works. Thanks Doug you are a super star. - David Downie

Thank you, Ruby!

Due to a staff absence, the opportunity existed for an employee to gain further experience and skills in a different role. Ruby jumped at the opportunity to provide support in the reception role. In no time, Ruby was answering the phone and greeting visitors in a very professional manner.

When she was requested to come again the next day, with a twinkle in her eyes, she said "I must have done an OK job to be called again" It was a delight to train Ruby and observe her build her skills and experience.



Congratulations Brant!

Employee Brant has been selected to represent Victoria in Boccé, at the National Games for Special Olympics in Tasmania. He will be attending a major presentation at the MCG on Monday, 3rd October.

Here is Brant receiving his national uniform package at the Veneto Club presentation on Saturday, 10 September.



Congratulations to Sergio and Linnie who have completed their work trial and are now employees of Ability Works. Well done!

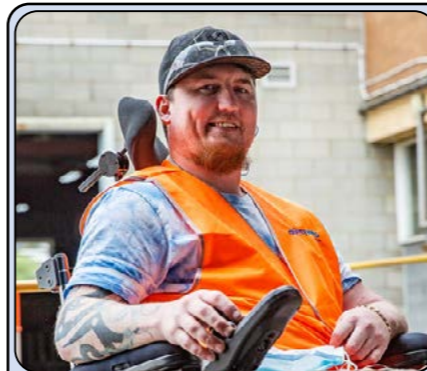
Mark's Story

We are grateful to Mark Golotta who recently told his story, together with Sue, when they were invited to do a podcast for Jobbank. Jobbank is a semi-government funded organisation that encourages inclusive employment. Mark talked about how he started off his career as a welder. Within a couple of weeks of getting his qualifications, he

was involved in a collision while on his motorbike, when a car made an inappropriate U turn. The accident left Mark with paraplegia and after several months in recovery he tried to get back into welding.

This proved challenging as mainstream employers did not have the right supports for him to weld in his wheelchair. He eventually found Ability Works and whilst he still does welding occasionally, has worked his way up to be a Team Leader on the Transurban account. Thanks, Mark, for telling your story. It has facilitated to promote how Ability Works can help get people into employment.

Let us know if you would like to tell your story. It can often help someone in a similar situation to yourself.



September Birthdays!



ANNE 1/09



CHERYL 10/09



HELEN 5/09



PHILIP 14/09



GEORGE 15/09



DAVID 19/09



JARED 27/09



PAUL 4/09

Follow us on Social Media!



Ability Works Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we operate, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our deep respects to the elders, past, present and emerging.

Ability Works Australia is a LGBTQI friendly service



PURPOSE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

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