

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Great Community Transport VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER February 2012

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Hi All,

Welcome to 2012. I can't believe that it's February already. This newsletter is a bit earlier than usual but I had so much to let you know about, which includes lots of information as well as a tribute to a very special lady, who lost her battle with cancer at the end of last year.

Sit down, make a cuppa and absorb all the latest GCT information.



To new volunteers Chris, Brian, Yuri, Patricia & Kerrie, Doug, Shauna, & Lynette

Hope you enjoy your time as a volunteer with GCT.

NEW CARER CAR

Unfortunately, last month our "Noddy Car" was involved in an accident. Thankfully the volunteer and client who were travelling in it are OK, however, poor Noddy was too badly damaged and was written off.

Enter the new "CUBE" yes our new carer car has been purchased and will be on the road shortly. With its bright red paint it will be very visible and as it has 4 doors it should be more user friendly.

All volunteer drivers will receive training on the Cube before they transport clients.





Vale

Gloria Kathleen Floyd

20th July, 1949 - 13th December 2011

Sadly our friend and a former volunteer of Great Community Transport passed away on Tuesday 13th, December 2011 at the age of 62. Gloria joined GCT in August 2008 as a driver/carer and continued to help the Penrith Community until December 2010. Gloria's bright, bubbly personality and love of life endeared her to all she came in contact with. She will be sadly missed by those who knew or worked with her.



A little ray of sunshine



REVIEWS

It's time for this years' volunteer reviews & updating paperwork Come and have a chat at Lawson on Wednesdays and at Penrith on

Tuesdays. They only take a short time and give you a chance to have a chat about your role, as well as signing your volunteer agreement for the next 12 months. Give me a call and make a time.

UNIFORMS

Are your uniforms looking a bit faded and worse for wear? Do you volunteer several days a week and need additional shirts? Please email me or ring the Lawson office and I'll organise to get new or replacement uniforms to you.

Just remember to give me your old uniforms back as they need to be destroyed correctly.

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

It is now industry standard that all paid team members and volunteers have a criminal record check done for them every 3 years. For those volunteers requiring one to be done I will get you to fill in the form when I do your review. I have to check and photocopy the ID as required by law for all criminal record checks.

Can you bring along 100 points of ID?

CLAIM FORMS

VOLUNTEER HOURS REALLY COUNT

All volunteers who claim mileage from GCT need to complete the "hours worked" column on their "Claim Form". We need this as we are gathering statistics for our funding body to show what a valuable contribution of hours our volunteers make to the service and their local community.

FORMS ON THE WEBSITE

We will shortly have all the latest volunteer forms on the GCT website. This will enable those with internet access to download up-to-date forms as required. Of course if you don't use the net, forms will still be available at the office or we can post them to you, just give me a call and they'll be in the mail that day.

ATTACHMENTS

Attached to this newsletter you will find

- New volunteer claim forms
- RTA Penalties and conditions of use for Mobility Parking Permits—if you use one or client takes one—find this at www.rta.nsw.gov.au/usingroads/mobilityparking/mobility_penalties—for those who receive their newsletter by email

PARKING AT PENRITH



If you wish to park in the yard at the Penrith office all vehicles **MUST** be reverse parked between the lines. This is for safety reasons and so that we can fit as many cars in the yard as possible. Please obey the “No Parking” signs.

ARE YOU FREE??

GCT is looking at doing transports on weekends. O you have an occasional Saturday or Sunday free, please give me a call or email and I'll put you on the list. As with all transports we will ask, it is up to you to say yes or no.

TRAINING NEWS

Training is off and running for 2012, we have had our final catch up training and most of our volunteers are up to date with their communication, WHS & first aid units. Remember that compulsory training needs to be completed every 2 years to be up to date. So get in early and don't leave it until the last minute as no further additional training can be offered. The required training takes a maximum of 2/1/2 days every 2 years and non compulsory training provides you with additional skills that are useful in your role with GCT. You can also catch up with other Volunteers, great time to network.

Please book your training early as we have had to put limits on some training as it is more effective in smaller groups.



In January we held 2 meetings for office volunteers, at Lawson & Penrith. This was a chance to get together with volunteers who work on other days and discuss issues relevant to those that work in the offices.

As you can see from the photo we had a very special visitor at our Lawson meeting.

Unfortunately, our old chook didn't leave us any eggs for lunch.



Volunteers doing an activity during Communication training in early February.

Upcoming training

22nd February— Being an effective Volunteer—this training is for volunteers who are new to the service and haven't attended this training before.

9th March — Work, Health & Safety—this is one of our compulsory units with a representative from Workcover coming to talk on the new WHS legislation, should be interesting.

NEW WORKING GROUP FOR SPECIAL OUTINGS.....

This group has been set up to assist with planning, organising and booking of client special outings and comprises Phillipa & volunteers Pam, Glenda, Joan & Sylvia all bus carers on the special outing buses..



Do you have access to a computer? Do you use Facebook?

Like us on Facebook

Connect with us and each other on Facebook by liking us at www.facebook.com/greatcommunitytransport.

We'd love to hear from you on our Facebook page. Stay tuned for FREE training opportunities..

'til next newsletter, try to stay dry.

Sharon

Email me: sharons@gct.org.au