

Great Community Transport Volunteer News November 2009



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Hi all!

Christmas is fast approaching—scary hey.

Hope you all have the Christmas party on the 4th December in your diaries. We'd love to see you all there to celebrate a busy year and the festive season.



To all of our new volunteers and also to those who have taken on additional roles within the service. We appreciate you giving your time to assist us and hope you enjoy your time with us.



This year both offices will close for the Christmas, New year break at 12pm on 24th December 2009 and reopen on at 8.30am Monday 4th January 2010.



We are being extra festive this year and the Penrith volunteers have organised an additional Christmas get together for staff , volunteers & their partners at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, Great Western Hwy Emu Plains. It is on the 27th November commencing at 6pm for 6.30. Cost is \$20 per head for finger food platters and we have booked a function room. We need to know numbers and pay a \$10 deposit per person ASAP so please ring the Penrith or Lawson office with your RSVP. Hope to see you there!!

GCT WEBSITE

I'd like to introduce you all to Martin our webmaster. Martin has been a volunteer with GCT for over 2 years as an office receptionist in the Lawson office. Martin has done an amazing job updating the website and is always adding new things for us to look at. You can find all sorts of information there including training calendars and newsletters.

So have a look at the website at www.greatcommunitytransport.org.au to keep up to date with all the latest happenings.



Greg's Gadabout named in honour of Greg Marshall, board member and chairperson, who lost his battle with cancer last year, is now transporting our Cancer Care clients in the Penrith area to their oncology appointments. As you can see by the photo it's a very distinctive vehicle and is well worth the fundraising effort undertaken to purchase it.



Thanks you to all who organised and assisted with the fundraising stall at Nepean Centro on 29th and 30th October and of course a very special thank you to all who donated goods for sale. We made \$1750 from the stall and an additional \$300 from the raffle—which will be drawn at the Client's Christmas Party on 2nd December 2009 at Warragamba Workers Club . What a GREAT effort!!!



VOLUNTEER DRIVER TEAM & SENSIS

These are a group of volunteers who drive our service cars at both offices. They assist us by transporting clients to Nepean Cancer Care in "Barb's Buggy" and "Greg's Gadabout" and also drive 2 other service cars 1 from each office to assist us transport additional clients. The volunteer driver team have been issued with volunteer shirts stating "Volunteer Driver Team" and provide a special service that allows us to assist more clients with their transport requests.

We are entering into a partnership with Sensis (Yellow Pages), who have agreed to provide funds to assist with the running costs and maintenance of the vehicles which will be transporting clients to their oncology treatments at Nepean Cancer Care Centre. A cheque was presented to Helen on 10th November at a function that was also attended by members of our Volunteer Driver Team Gloria, Rob and Jim.

UNIFORMS & ID TAGS

We like all our volunteers to look neat & tidy and are aware that uniforms do need to be replaced, so if you do more than one day or your uniforms are looking a bit worse for wear please let Sharon at Lawson know and I will get replacements or extras to you ASAP.

There are still some volunteers that that do not have ID tags, in order for me to make these I need to take photos in GCT uniform. If you do not have an ID tag please ring Sharon and we can arrange to get a photo taken.

OH&S REPORTING OF HAZARDS

It is the responsibility of all staff and volunteers at GCT to help keep themselves and each other safe. This can only happen if things that are unsafe are reported to the office immediately. Some of these may include:

- Uneven walkways
- Loose boards on verandahs
- Loose pets who may present trip hazards or worse still they might bite.
- Trip hazards on paths and in areas where you may need to walk ie hallways to take shopping into kitchen

All of the above or any other hazard you may notice **MUST** be reported to the office so that steps can be taken to address the problem. If we are not notified of the hazard we can not take steps to correct it and the next volunteer or paid worker may be seriously injured because no action was taken.

Also please remember that when out on the road there are a few things you should remember so you remain safe:

- Volunteers are NOT to use hoists in vehicles this is the responsibility of the paid driver.
- Seat belts must remain done up at all times while the vehicle is in motion.
- Wear uniform shirts / Hi Vis vests.

The above apply to Bus Carers and Volunteer Drivers however Office Receptionists also need to be vigilant to ensure that the offices, which are their work area are safe. Same applies, please report all hazards immediately so they can be rectified.

“Your safety is our priority!”



Low Risk Thinking Low Risk Driving at Lawson



First Aid for Seniors



Low Risk Thinking Low Risk Driving at Penrith



Our Board of Management are Volunteers too!

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Well we've really had a busy few months with lots of training offered to our volunteers. Our volunteers have attended the following sessions:

- Penrith get together which was very well attended.
- A job specific session for the office volunteers at the Lawson office.
- 2 Low Risk Driving, Low Risk Thinking courses
- First Aid for Seniors
- OH&S and First Aid training for the volunteer Smartlink & Access Bus drivers

Most of these courses were very well attended and I'm sure all of those who attended gained new skills and knowledge that will help them perform their roles with GREAT Community Transport.

There is one training course coming up that we have invited all of our service car drivers to attend, this course "Universal Health Precautions" will give you knowledge that will help you transport clients especially those attending Nepean Cancer Care in a safe manner.

NEW TRAINING CALENDARS WILL BE SENT OUT IN THE NEW YEAR, PLEASE MARK YOUR DIARIES WITH THE TRAINING DATES SO THAT YOU CAN JOIN US ON THESE DAYS



Penrith Volunteer Get Together

To all our wonderful
GCT volunteers
Have a very
merry Christmas
and a safe and
prosperous new year

