



2015
60th Annual Report

Our Mission

Providing quality support to people with disability that enables the pursuit of their dreams, goals and aspirations.



**“ Your Dreams, Your Goals, Your Aspirations
.....*Our Mission*”**

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**Australian
Disability
Enterprises**
More than just good business



home and community care

A JOINT COMMONWEALTH AND STATE/TERRITORY PROGRAM
PROVIDING FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE FOR AUSTRALIANS IN NEED



Human Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014/ 15

During the past year we have concentrated on strengthening our operational procedures & consolidating our financial position to enable us to be ready for the introduction of the National Disability Scheme (NDIS) when it is introduced next year. We have been advised that The Ascent Group will become part of the NDIS in July making us one of the first cabs off the rank. I am confident we are well positioned for this change.

The NSW Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care (ADHC) is also planning to privatise many of its services in the near future by calling for tenders for organisations like ours (& in fact for profit organisations) to take over areas such as supported accommodation & Day Services. There may be opportunities for The Ascent Group here.

In view of the above & bearing in mind that the new world we will be entering into will be a much more competitive one, the Board, through Strategic Planning reviews identified areas we needed to concentrate on. Senior management & staff have responded accordingly by putting in a huge effort over the year.

You will notice from our Treasurers Report that our balance sheet is in very good shape & that we achieved a modest trading surplus over the year.

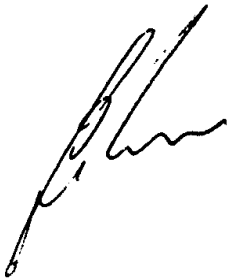
The Board is aware that in concentrating on operational procedures over the past twelve months it has probably not allocated enough time for interaction with families. Overcoming this will be a priority during the coming year.

I would like to thank our staff, senior management & fellow Board members for their dedication & hard work during the year.

In finishing may I pay tribute to our participants, their families & carers. They are what we are about.

I commend this report to you.

Huntly Gordon



Chairman



CEO'S REPORT 2014 / 15

The Ascent Group has enjoyed another full and productive year, in line with our mission to provide quality support to people with disability that enables the realisation of their dreams, aspirations and goals. This year has been particularly special as we have celebrated the milestone of our 60th Anniversary while initially anticipating, then embracing the announcement that we will be included in the first stage of the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme mid-2016.



During the year we have focused our energies on refreshing our policy and procedural environment within our quality management system. We established the benchmark of third party verification against the National Disability Service Standards with a focus on building our capability and contemporising our governance and culture. Particular emphasis has been placed on increasing the knowledge and awareness of our valued staff so they can support the transition of the organisation into the personalised environment which will soon be our future.

We have enjoyed high demand throughout the year for the innovative programs we have delivered, particularly our Art and Music Therapy workshops. The pinnacle of the year being the 60th Anniversary Celebrative Art Show, hosted by NERAM, where 120 guests reflected on the proud history of the Organisation and applauded the exhibition of the great works of art on display by our talented artists. We were privileged to have Gwen Blackman, a founding member, on hand to officially open the Anniversary Art Show which has been dedicated to the memory of Gwen's daughter Leone.

I would like to acknowledge the great effort and contribution made during the year by the management team to support the transition process we have embarked upon. Also to record the absolute dedication of our support staff who continue to deliver high quality support, while they are personally adjusting culturally and professionally to a rapidly changing individualised and customer focused service environment.

Our success as a service provider of choice in the future will be underpinned by ensuring people with disability and their families can meaningfully engage in directing their own future and are able to purchase quality support that enables the fulfilment of their choice and control to live a meaningful and inclusive life.

There is considerable work ahead of us as we prepare for the NDIS. During the coming months we will be engaging directly with all of the participants in our existing programs, and their families, to provide advice and support leading up to the NDIS pre planning process.

I remain confident about the future for The Ascent Group and look forward to a successful transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme which will rapidly provide new opportunities for people with disability in the New England Region.

Peter Westbrook

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Westbrook', written in a cursive style.

Chief Executive Officer

TREASURER'S REPORT 2014/ 15

Financial Performance

During 2014-15 The Ascent Group recorded an operating surplus of \$200,464, this compares favourably to the 2013-14 surplus of \$156,212.

This result is even more favourable when gains on disposal of assets are removed, with 2014-15 recording a surplus of \$188,464 against a 2013-14 surplus of \$46,851.

In summary, the operating results for the year are as follows:

	2014-15	2013-14
Total Income	6,320,234	5,486,980
Total Expenditure	6,119,770	5,330,768
Surplus	200,464	156,212

Total income increased \$833,254, 15.2%, during the year due primarily to an increase in revenue from Government, related to the one-off funding for the Drought Assistance Initiative. The Organisation also changed the model for managing the finances within their group homes, which has resulted improved recovery on the cost of these properties. While expenditure increased during the year the majority of this related directly to the additional program, the Drought Assistance Initiative. Overall expenditure increased \$789,002, or 14.8%. The positive operating result positions the Organisation well for the changes that will be required under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which is due to be implemented within the Organisation from July 2016.

Financial Position

A summary of the Financial Position of the company as at 30 June 2015 is as follows:

	2014-15	2013-14
Current Assets	1,666,410	1,532,090
Non-Current Assets	2,254,498	2,278,019
Total Assets	3,920,908	3,810,109
Current Liabilities	1,050,387	1,123,970
Non-Current Liabilities	313,903	329,985
Total Liabilities	1,364,290	1,453,955
Net Assets	2,556,618	2,356,154

These results demonstrate that we remain in a sound financial position, with net assets of \$2,556,618 at financial year end. This includes Cash and Cash Equivalents of \$1,495,386 providing sufficient liquidity to cover the Company's current liabilities, including employee entitlements.

The Organisation has considered the merits of paying down the mortgage held on 4 Birch Cres. At this stage, with interest rates remaining low and the uncertainty surrounding the impact of the NDIS, the Board have determined that there are limited benefits to paying down this loan.

Cash Position

During 2014-15 cash increased by \$105,286 by the end of the financial year. Net cash from operating activities was \$230,494, driven by lower supplier and employees costs. Investment in capital activities exceeded the proceeds from the sale of assets by \$111,135.

The current ratio (that is current assets divided by current liabilities) provides an indicator of our ability to satisfy our obligations in the short term. During 2014-15 our current ratio improved to 1.59:1 from 1.36:1 in 2013-14, reinforcing that the organisation is in sound financial position.

Outlook

The uncertainty surrounding the NDIS has focussed the Board on ensuring the long term viability of the Organisation by continuing to build on our working capital and increasing our liquidity.

Management continue to look for ways to streamline our service delivery, improve revenue sources and contain expenditure.

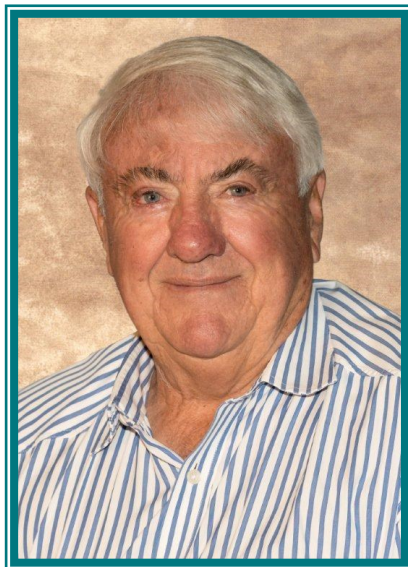
Will Warrick



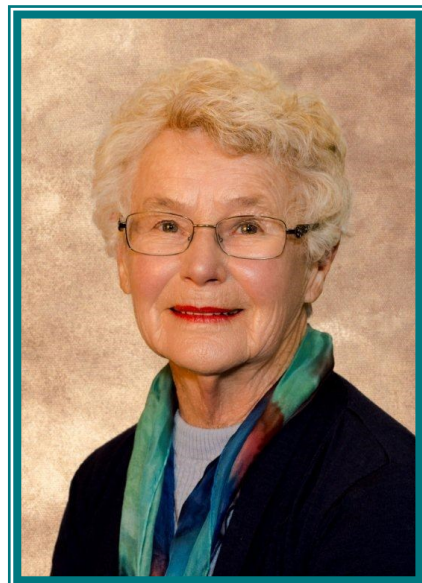
Treasurer



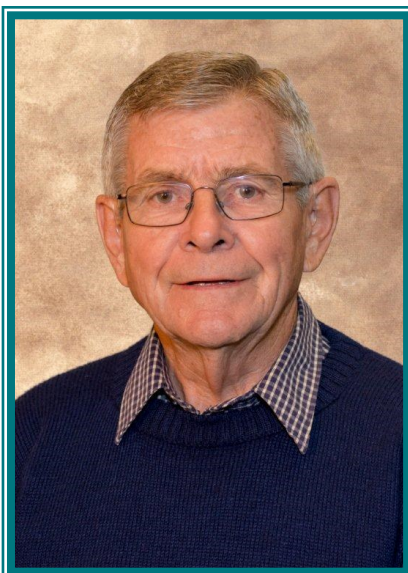
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



< **Huntly Gordon** accepted the role of **Chairman** of The Ascent Group in 2006. He has been a member of the Board since 1995, serving as Vice President also on the LifeSkills Participation Advisory Committee. He has a background in law, managed the family grazing property at Ben Lomond with his wife, Cath and has recently retired to Armidale. Their son Alasdair is a client of The Ascent Group



Ruth Blanch > has been a member of the Board since 1995 and has served on both the Supported Employment and Open Employment Committees. Ruth has been very active in the Armidale community and has held the positions of President of both Special Olympics and the CWA. Ruth's son Greg is a supported employee of The Ascent Group.



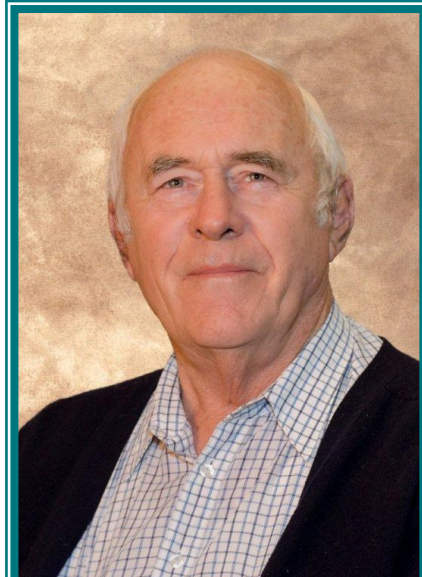
< **Rick Mills** joined the Board in December 2000 and has served on the Business Services Sub-Committee. A third generation Armidalian, Rick has strong ties to the business community, including as a former Director of Richardson's Hardware & Agriculture, also as former Director ABS Building Society for over 30 years and Chairman since 1993. Rick has been a member of Armidale North Rotary Club since 1971, and was previously a member of the Board of Rusden Enterprises from 1978 to 1982.



Caroline Coupland > Joined the Board in 2013, following a working career in the USA and Italy, but mostly as a private sector lawyer in Australia with Baker & Johnson, Deacons (now Norton Rose) Slater & Gordon and six years as a Lawyer in the Compliance Directorate and the Investment Management Team at ASIC. Raised in North Queensland, Caroline moved to Armidale in 2012 with her husband Sam and their three children. Their daughter Charlotte has Williams Syndrome and through providing her support Caroline has gained an immense understanding of the challenges experienced by people with disability and the issues currently facing the sector.



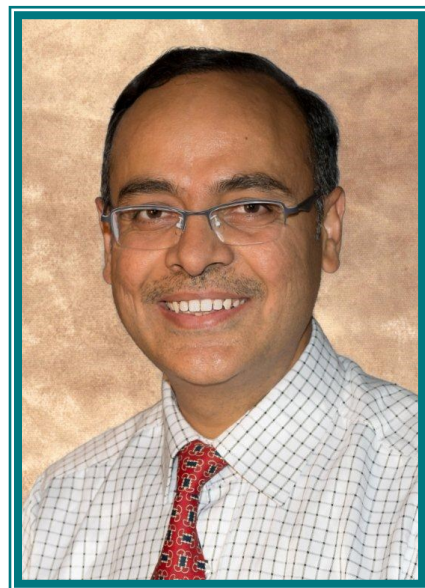
< **Will Warrick** joined the Board in January 2013. During the last few years Will has held the position of Treasurer. Will is a qualified Chartered Accountant (1985-2011) and has a Bachelor of Financial Administration. Will was a Partner with Roberts and Morrow retiring in 2011. Will is also on Ascent's Management, Planning and Finance Committee.



Brian McRae > joined the Board in November 2011. Brian has practiced as a Veterinarian and Business Manager. Brian's son Matthew is a client of The Ascent Group. Brian has also been a Director of Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Homes.



< Dr Jane Habib joined the Ascent board in 2013. Jane completed a degree in Naturopathy at Southern Cross University in 1999 and then went on to study medicine, graduating from Queensland University in 2004. Jane worked at the Cairns Base Hospital as an Intern for 6 years. Jane is currently a GP at Integral Health here in Armidale. She loves general practice, and her special interests are preventive health, chronic disease management, women's health and tropical medicine.



Dr Ashfaq Khan > joined the Ascent board in mid-2013. Dr Ashfaq Ahmad Khan is a Senior Lecturer in Accounting at the UNE Business School, University of New England. He teaches and researches in the areas of financial and management accounting. Dr Khan completed his Masters and Bachelors in Pakistan and started off his professional career as a commercial banker in 1995. He served Pakistan's commercial banking sector for eight plus years before coming to Australia in February 2003. He completed his Doctorate degree from University of Wollongong in 2008 and worked at a university in Oman as Assistant Professor before joining the University of New England in early 2010. He is also a CPA.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM



< Peter Westbrook was appointed to the position of CEO in July 2014 and has extensive Executive Management experience gained over 27 years working in Senior positions with prominent Disability Organisations, also in Public administration and small business. Peter has an outstanding record in delivering strategic change with project outcomes that have ensured customer's requirements have been satisfied and relationships with Government agencies established and developed.



Michelle Cooper > joined The Ascent Group in April 2010 as the Finance and Corporate Services Manager and prior to this was the Finance Manager for another local not-for profit. Michelle has extensive experience in Commonwealth Government, working for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for 11 years and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for 4 years. At the ABS Michelle was the Assistant Director for Corporate Planning before moving to head up the International Trade in Services compilation section. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Graduate Diploma in Financial Management from the University of New England, a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and is an Member of CPA Australia.

TRIBUTE TO LEONE BLACKMAN

20/4/1949 to 18/6/2015

The last few months have been a difficult and sad time for Leone's family and all those close to her. Its at times like this that you can reflect on Leone's remarkable life journey and take the time to recall and share some of the happy memories.

Let's think back to 1955,.....60 years ago,

Two major things happened in that year which had a significant impact on Leone's life, one of far greater importance than the other, but I am not sure what priority Leone would have given.

Firstly Johnny Cash wrote "I walk the Line"

Secondly and perhaps more importantly Leone's parents started the journey of establishing long term support for Leone's education, employment and lifestyle. This was the beginning of The Ascent Group which has survived through many changes over the years, but has remained true to mission and has fulfilled for Leone through her life the original vision created.

We have asked the people who have known and worked with Leone to recall some of their memories.

I would like share some of these with you.



Linda remembered a trip to Coffs Harbour to go Whale watching. When it was time to get onto the boat Leone stated that she would not walk on the wharf, where you could see the water between the boards, as the sharks could get her. No amount of convincing her it would be ok worked. The tour left without Leone but not before Tour Company provided a chair in which Leone sat at the dock until the boat with the rest of the group returned.

On another trip to the Porpoise pool Leone was expecting to be able to get a ride on a Sea Lion. She was disappointed when a ride was not possible but was delighted when she got that kiss that sealed the relationship.

Leone once played the role of Snow White and then developed her "Snow White alter ego" which often gave staff some interesting and amusing moments one in particular was reading Snow White to Leone when suddenly Leone fell to the floor grasping her chest in pain. Cheryl panicked thinking she had collapsed and began to check her out only to realise as Leone pursed her lips waiting for a kiss, that her collapse had coincided with the poisoned apple part of the story and all that was needed was the Handsome Prince not first aid.

Leone was the embodiment of the heart and purpose of The Ascent Group, not only has she been supported by the Organisation throughout her life, her passions and aspirations have been at the forefront of change and service growth of the Organisation for over six decades. R.I.P Leone.



TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN BEAN

6/01/1956 to 11/8/2015

The past few months have been a difficult and sad time for Stephens family and all those close to him . Its at times like this that you can reflect on Stephens time spent with the Ascent Group and how special he was.

Stephen was born in Sydney on January 6th 1956 he was a baby brother to his 3 older sisters and an only son to Heather and Gil Bean. Stephen was born with Downs Syndrome and his parent were advised by one of the top paediatric doctors in Sydney to put him in an institution.

His parent did the only thing they knew how, they took him home and raised him the same way they raised his sisters, with love and compassion. They chastised him when it was needed and praised him when he did something good. The most special day his sisters recall was while living in Maitland when Stephen was 3 and he walked by himself for the first time. The family then moved to Newcastle where Stephen soon learned to undo the latch on a 6 foot fence and went in search of horses, the whole neighbourhood was out searching for him and he was found safe and well, the trouble Stephen was in from his mother was another story.



Stephen parents retired to Armidale in 1978 when Stephen was 22, he had the support of his parents and 3 sisters his entire life. Stephen started his support with The Ascent Group and joined the workshop at Acacia Park in the woodwork section. He was persuaded to "get his hands dirty" and helped make dog kennels, he painted survey pegs, made wooden plant stand and other things. When that section closed he was moved into the day services program where they did all sorts of activities he enjoyed and learned important living skills. When Stephen's parent both passed away Stephen lived with his sister Lorraine for quite awhile and then moved to Bupa. Stephen enjoyed life and loved his Ten Pin Bowling, swimming, golf, bingo, cricket & football.

Stephen liked to be his own person and thought he was more than capable of making his own decision, Stephen was loved by his family, friends and the staff at The Ascent Group and is very dearly missed.

R.I.P Stephen



60 YEARS ON...

The Way we were



The milestone at 60 years of providing support for People with Disability in the Armidale Region has been recognised with a Formal function held at NERAM and celebrated with an outstanding exhibition of artworks completed in workshops conducted over the year with the support of professional Artist Kerry Gulliver.



Co-Founder of the Ascent Group Gwen Blackman, assisted by her daughter Lynette Hicks, performing the "Official Opening" at the Anniversary Art Exhibition.



John Forrester

John is an enthusiastic and focused artist. John shows a passion for art exploration, by using different mediums and colour. He is a creative soul with many interests, especially travel. One of John's favourite topics is trains, a favourite pastime is to plan his next train adventure. John sources his inspirations from his travels, his brochures and the music he listens too.



Rocking out on the train !!

He's a rocker and a traveller ... a storyteller's heart

A dreamers destination, doesn't end at the station

60th Anniversary 1955—2015



Claire Conlon

I really enjoy doing art. The colours are good.
My favourite colour is blue. I like black too. I like doing art
with my friends. My niece 'Leah' lives in Goulburn and
loves me.



A understanding and wonderful sister
Could swim the English channel ... and back
A brilliant singer, and angels' voice
My dad's gorgeous girl, and my mum's darling choice

60th Anniversary 1955—2015

ACACIA PARK ENTERPRISES

Acacia Park Enterprises currently employs thirty seven people who are living with disability, offering a variety of choice in developing workplace skills. Government funding provides training support for our supported employees. Wages and salaries for our employees are paid from revenue generated from business activities. Our supported employees are paid in accordance with the Supported Employment Services Award and receive a productivity based wage which is a little higher than the national average for supported employees.

Recycling

Our recycling contract with the University of New England was renewed this year until 2017. Due to the fluctuating world market and to remain competitive, recycling has undergone some streamlining to improve productivity. Savings have also been made by selling some of our cardboard to an Armidale based company eliminating transport costs to Sydney, however we are still sending one truck to Sydney per month for our white paper.

Ascent Digital Print

The re branding campaign of Ascent Digital Print was launched through the year, to better represent the business we undertake in an ever changing market. Our brand has been promoted with a new logo and signage, and we have enjoyed increased enquiry through advertising supported by 2AD radio and in print with FOCUS magazine.



Cleaning and Car Detailing

Our cleaning crew has had a busy year maintaining our service facilities and motor vehicle fleet. Contract cleaning activity has been undertaken at PCYC and NSW Government department fleet vehicles.

Transition To Work & Community Participation

Our Transition to Work (TTW) and Community Participation (CP) program currently has 7 participants who are undertaking activities such as, work trials in the community as well as at Acacia Park Enterprises, shopping, budgeting, cooking, TAFE literacy, computer work, and multimedia.

This year Central Rotary has been hosting an employee each week at their meetings giving the employees a chance to be involved in a community organisation, and develop public speaking skills. Some of our employees also helped out at the Rotary book sale and are hoping to help out in future activities. A big thanks to Ken for all his help. Central Rotary also have kindly donated \$4000 to allow 5 of our employee to receive qualified training for their forklift licences.

The dedicated staff at Acacia Park Enterprises continually strive to provide quality employment opportunities that support positive outcomes for all supported employees and once again over the last year have demonstrated the results that can be achieved by a great team.



COMMUNITY LIVING SUPPORT

Our homes in Armidale have continued to provide caring and supportive lifestyle environments for 17 people with disability who need full time support to enjoy a healthy, happy and active life.

Well-being and safety is managed with a balance of motivation to achieve the best of the residents abilities through inclusive community activity and participation.

The year was busy with local community involvement in activities of choice which included horse riding at Harlow Park, sailing at Malpas Dam and music therapy at NECOM the New England Conservatorium Of Music.

Other activities include drama classes and Art and Craft workshops. Several participants entered art works and craft items into the Armidale Show with excellent results, taking out prizes in all areas as well as several highly commended awards.



DROP IN SERVICES

During the year we have provided "Drop In" support to 15 people with disability who are living independently in the Armidale Community.

A range of flexible and individualised services, which are delivered to their home, continue to ensure personal needs are met and they can be active participating members of the community. Help with everyday tasks like shopping and cleaning are also a part of our drop in support service.

LIFESKILLS PARTICIPATION

The Life Skills participation program has had a busy year developing new programs and extending existing activities to meet increased demand. All the usual programs continue to be popular such as swimming, bowling, cooking, numeracy and literacy skills, the train, gardening, exploring the New England and surrounds, accessing picnic spaces and bushland, Gym, Horse riding, Brain Gym, Work Experience, Bike Riding, Library & Pet therapy just to name a few.

ART

The Art Program has increased from one day a week to 4 days a week. We commenced Thursday's Art in the Kelly Room and on Friday we run Active Ageing Art at Leones Place as well as Art at PCYC.

Our Artists have been very busy this year entering works into competitions such as the Imagine Challenge Art Competition with several Artists making the finals and prizes being awarded to Bevan Ellis and Matthew Devenish Meres. The Artists also had great success in the Armidale Show receiving various 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings with many other works receiving commendations. Artists have also entered works in the Arts North West Project, Art in a Box, these works have been completed and will be exhibited at various venues throughout the region. Extensive preparation and effort has been involved during the year to prepare works for the 60th Anniversary celebration Art Exhibition. Great support has been provided by local Artist Kerry Gulliver to produce works for this exhibition.



ACTIVITY DAYS

We have had two successful activity days during the year including "our end of year Bash" in December at Leones place. We celebrated the year with a wonderful BBQ, we also had a Fairy floss machine, Craft activities including a visit by 2 beautifully made up ponies.



We celebrated Autism Awareness day at Leones place by coming together to share a meal, work in the garden and laying pavers previously made by the participants. We had face painting and during the day we also celebrated the opening of the "Chook House". Were we are now getting a regular, fresh supply of eggs for us to use in the cooking program.

TECHNOLOGY

During the year we purchased 4 new ipads, a smart TV, DVD player and an Apple TV adaptor for Leones Place. This technology has been appreciated by the participants and has enhanced our programs. We have also been able to utilise the equipment for staff training. We have also had access to a "Go Pro" and we have been able to film activities and watch them back with participants. This proves to be a really worthwhile tool for both the participants and us as we all like to watch back the adventures we have been involved in.



MUSIC THERAPY

We had a change with music therapy during the year with the resignation from NECOM from Natalie Nugent our former music therapist. NECOM were fortunate to find a replacement in Hannah Rowland. She has been provided Music Therapy to Ascent Participants since March 2015. Hannah has been able to extend the program and with her flexible approach is able to conduct sessions either at NECOM or in a participant's home. Hannah has settled into the role well and is forging ahead with the new timetable.

PROMOTION AND PARTICIPATION

We continue to promote and engage with the Community through supporting and participating in events such as the Duval High Careers Expo, the My futures My Choice Expo, Services Expo Town Hall, NAIDOC events at Minimabah School and Doody Park, and Arts North West Forum.

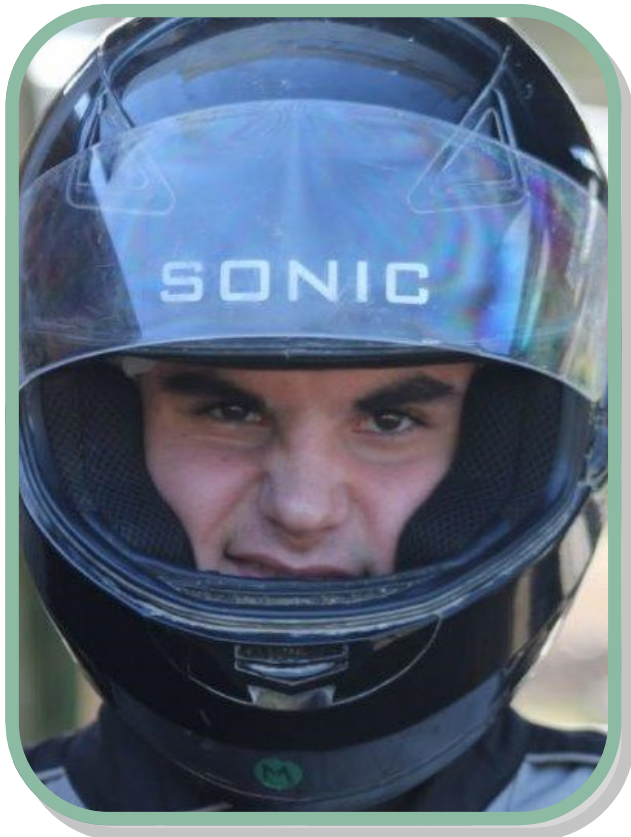


RESPITE

Throughout the year our Carer Respite Services provided planned short term breaks for families and other unpaid carers of people with disability and for people with mental health issues.

Flexible Respite services were offered through the year to Older Carers, over 60 years, or for indigenous carers, over 45 years. Support has been provided for planned short term breaks and delivered across the following diverse range of options to suit individual needs:

- **Centre based**
- **Overnight stays in our purpose designed cottage**
- **Day activity**
- **In home support**
- **Peer support**
- **Group or recreational holidays**
- **Community support**



Mental Health Respite services are available to primary carers of people with mental health issues and or disability

Leisure Link offers individual and group programs including art, sport and social activities for children between the ages of 12 and 18 living with disability for:

- **Weekend support**
- **Holidays**
- **After school support**
- **Evening and leisure activity**

All respite recipients received a tailored and focused support program to best suit individual needs. We also try where possible to satisfy carer requests.

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

Uralla HACC has continued to conduct its four funded programs during the 2014-2015 financial year, Centre Based Day Care, Social Support, Community Transport and the Minor Home Maintenance and Gardening Service. As usual with the assistance of our valued volunteers we have met all required outputs and have provided exceptional service delivery to our service users.

Centre Based Day Care has an average of 18 participants each week and a team of 5 volunteers that organise activities including gardening, theme days, outings and the provision of freshly prepared morning tea and lunch each week. It's a fun day with a lot of service user input about the type of activities they would like to do.

Social Support focuses on individual support and can cover a wide range of activities from assistance to complete forms or to attend appointments, social outings or shopping trips.

Two exercises class are run each week, one within the Centre Based Day Care group and the other a standalone class later in the week.

Community Transport has a team of 9 volunteers that provides a great service getting our service users from place to place, again our volunteers do a great job, mainly using their own vehicles.

Minor Home Maintenance and Garden Service is the only service that is not provided by volunteers but is contracted out to a local gentleman that continues to do a great job.

Our team of about 12 volunteers give many hours of service, in many different capacities from office work to driving, leading exercise classes or shopping duties, many of the volunteers take on several different roles. A conservative estimate of volunteer hours for the year is 26,000 hours.

Thank you to all who contribute to providing an outstanding service.

If you would like to become a volunteer or receive services please call our coordinator Catherine Mead on 6778 3503 or 0437900 044 Monday to Wednesday.



DROUGHT ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE

Social and Community Support

Following the Prime Ministers announcement in February 2014 of a number of Drought Assistance measures from the Australian Government for communities in the New England and North West of NSW, The Ascent Group was allocated funding under the initiatives Social and Community Support component for the period June-December 2014. Due to the ongoing drought conditions being experienced in the region, the initiative was extended in December 2014, with Ascent being funded for a further six months to 30 June 2015.

Over the twelve month period, Ascent was involved in the delivery of 84 community events around the region, which had a combined total attendance of more than twenty two thousand people. The community events varied from family-friendly bush dances, field days, community fun days, existing community events, Agricultural Shows, workshops, women's events and men's events. An average satisfaction rating of 95% was maintained for community events.

During the twelve months, individual support was provided to a total of 1192 individuals. Over 60% of support was mostly the provision of relevant information, with a further 36% of support relating to referral to other services. Of these referrals, 80% were for family and individual support services, which include counselling.

A community development approach was utilised for this project which supported communities to lead the design and delivery of events. This largely enabled communities to take ownership of the events, which has led to greater community engagement with the initiative. At the grassroots level, this meant developing relationships with community groups such as progress associations, Landcare groups, hall committees, CWA branches, community trusts and sports clubs. At an organisational level, this has been partnerships with agencies such as Centacare New England North West, Anglicare Northern Inland, Carers NSW, Landcare New England North West, Walcha and Tenterfield Shire Councils.





The Ascent Group provides a range of services across New England and North West for people with a disability or who are socially disadvantaged.

We are... a Not for Profit, non-government, community organisation with a charitable status.

Altogether about 300 people with a disability are receiving a direct service.

We Provide

Employment at Acacia Park Enterprises:

Recycling and Shredding of office paper and cardboard collection

Ascent Digital Printing – Printing, mailing and packaging service

Accommodation – The aim of accommodation support is to enable our residents to live inclusively within their local community with support designed to meet specific needs and to maximize independence.

Day Programs and YPIRAC – We assist people with moderate to very high support needs to achieve their goals, increase their independence and participate as a valued member of their community.

Respite – We offer a diverse range of service options according to people's needs. We can provide overnight respite stays in a cottage setting, day activities such as art and craft, music programs, community social activities and in home support to care for recipients where the carers wish to take some time away.

Uralla Home and Community Care - We provide services for older people living in their own homes. Services include: Social support group, Individual social support, Community transport, Garden and Home maintenance.

HOW CAN YOU HELP ??

Direct payments can be paid to

NAB Armidale NSW 2350

BSB—082 407 Account # - 64111 8228

Account Name - The Ascent Group Australia

Please use your name & DONATION as a reference

Cheques can be sent to

The Ascent Group Australia

P.O Box 18

Armidale NSW 2350

Donate Now – Your gift will ensure we are able to continue providing that “extra” support for people with a disability to lead the life they choose. If you require more information on making a donation please call our Reception on 02 6776 8977

Therapy is the best medicine.....



Acacia Park Enterprises

Ascent Digital Print

Secure Document Shredding and Recycling

Transition to Work

Located at 13 Myrtle Drive, Acacia Park—Armidale

Disability & Community Care Services

CLS Community Living Services

RCS Respite Care Services

HACC Home and Community Care

LPP Lifeskills Participation Programs

YPIRAC Young people in Residential Aged Care

DAI Drought Assistance Initiative

www.ascentgroup.org.au