



Welcome to our  
'new look' newsletter

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**CLASS**  
our doors open worlds

COMMUNITY  
LIVING  
AUSTRALIA

COMMUNITY  
LIFESTYLES

# A WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Mark Kulinski, Chief Executive

*'The year in review and the year ahead', was the title of our recent annual information sessions for both CLASS and Community Lifestyles – and what a year 2015 was and 2016 will be!*

Reflection at this time of year is common and I can't help but think it perfectly coincides with the title of our recent information sessions and where we are at as an organisation.

The holiday period for me is about reflection, anticipation, planning and goal setting - reflecting on the year past, the great moments, the successes, the trials, the learning opportunities and my plans and aspirations for the year ahead.

This really is the same for CLASS, Community Lifestyles who are now part of - Community Living Australia.

We achieved much in the second half of the year, with some things highlighted in this newsletter. I continue to be inspired by the achievements of our clients and staff. This inspiration is what drives me and all who work here to deliver quality services.

I have no doubt that this time next year, I will again be reflecting on what a productive, innovative and successful year it has been.

2016 will be an important year for us as the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) draws close. I have asked Sue Horsnell to provide an update within this newsletter. We are preparing for the full implementation of the NDIS with the support of a dedicated project team. Activities we are undertaking include:

- reviewing our serviced delivery models to reflect the needs of clients
- reviewing our processes to ensure they are aligned to NDIS requirements

- developing new services that support clients live a great life

- working with government and other stakeholders to support a smooth transition for clients

Most importantly, we are developing many ways to support clients' transition to the NDIS. We will provide regular updates through a variety of mediums including meetings, social media, forums, and written updates. I can assure clients and families we will provide all necessary support and information to help you plan and choose your services through the NDIS.

I am truly looking forward to 2016 and the opportunities it will bring.

Wishing everyone a joyous and peaceful Holiday Season.

Kind Regards,

**Mark Kulinski**  
*Chief Executive*



Paralympian Ahmed Kelly with client Gary Chadwick

## HORSHAM 2015 TRI STATE GAMES

### *A Success on Many Fronts*

On 8 November an excited group of 15 clients – named The Murray Magpies left for the 2015 Tri State Games in Horsham, Victoria.

The Tri State Games are a week long sporting carnival which attracts well over 300 athletes living with disability from all over Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

All the athletes had a great week competing and enjoying the atmosphere with there being a great mixture of athletics and



Travis Kluge, Adam Thomas and Josh Qualman



The Murray Magpies

social events. The athletes expressed how it was a great opportunity to make new friends as well as catch up with the friends made at the previous events.

Our Murray Magpies had a very successful year this year coming third in the 'Best Athletics Team A Category' and just missing out on the podium for the 'Best Overall Team' finishing 4th overall - 1 point behind 3rd. The Team also won 19 Bronze Medals, 21 Silver Medals and 13 Gold Medals.

Roslyn Thomas and Brian Pilmore won the two most prestigious and respected awards given by the Murray Magpies internally - the Nat Bont Sportsmanship Award (Roslyn Thomas) and the Arlene Deleeuw Sportsmanship Award (Brian Pilmore).

Not only did our Murray Magpies compete fiercely, with great skill, commitment and dedication, they did this in

an extremely sportsmanlike manner. This is a great achievement and a show of great character, as an organisation we could not be prouder of our athletes.

All of the athletes, their families and our staff should be extremely proud. Well done to all!



Travis Kluge in full flight

# COUNTRY COTTAGE COLLECTIONS



Welcome sign at Country Cottage Collections Grand Opening

## *A group of friends setup shop at Community Lifestyles*

On 26 November Country Cottage Collections open its doors to the public for the first time – just in time for the Christmas rush!

Located in The Cottage at 451 Maurice Road Murray Bridge, and open on Thursdays from 11am – 2pm, Country Cottage Collections, the brainchild of a group of our Day Options clients and support staff sells a great variety of items and produce to the general public. Some of these

items are donated by local people and businesses but a large amount are actually produced by clients – such as jam, cakes and biscuits, vegetables from the vege patch and various pieces of craft/art work.

The early signs are very positive, with a large amount of interest and support being shown by the wider community.

The benefits of starting this small business, aside from the clients wanting to and having a passion to do so, are that it provides a platform for skills development and community involvement.

The clients have learnt all that is required to setup a shop, including budgeting and selling skills and they have enjoyed greater exposure and interaction with the broader community.

Congratulations and thanks must go out to all involved particularly our staff and the local community who have purchased from and donated to Country Cottage Collections. Without the support of the local community and the commitment of our great staff, programs and initiatives such as this simply would not be possible.



Martin Scott completes a sale to an appreciative customer



Gemma Bradbrook and Martin Scott seal a multitude of sales

# MICRO-ENTERPRISE PROJECT



Lisa Pascall's Business logo



A centre piece ready for sale



Ready for sale

## New businesses coming to life

CLASS, in partnership with Community Living Project (CLP), is currently delivering a Micro-Enterprise Project whereby clients are supported to start their own small businesses.

Being 1 of only 11 projects funded throughout Australia, the outcomes of this project will be informing national best practice for the co-design of services with people with disability as well as using this as a basis for the enhancement of our own services.

The Micro-Enterprises are progressing steadily with client and staff sentiment regarding the experience being extremely positive. This is obvious after speaking with Lisa Pascall one of the clients involved in the project and in the process of creating her own business.

“It’s one of the best things I have done,” stated Lisa, “It’s got me back out into the community engaging

with people, doing something positive.”

Lisa added, “It’s great because it’s something I want to do and I can do it in my own time at home. I am excited to grow my business. I will take it all around Strathalbyn first, then expand into neighbouring towns.”

Lisa is starting a business called ‘Flowers by Lisa Marie’ where she makes table centre pieces to go on restaurant tables and tables at home.

Four clients are setting up their own Micro-Enterprise like Lisa. Of the remaining three one is focussed on growing vegetables which

will then be sold in the local community, another is based on collecting towels from local businesses and washing and returning them. The final one involves canvassing local businesses for their interest in purchasing access ramps and organising the sale/acquisition of such products.

Still in their setup phase the businesses are showing great potential. We wish our business owners the best of luck and we will keep you all updated as the projects continue to develop.



Lisa Pascall hard at work developing her business - ‘Flowers by Lisa Marie’

# THE BREAKFAST CLUB EXPANSION

*More students  
achieving outcomes in  
our community thanks  
to our clients*



The Breakfast Club in action

As many people would be aware the CLASS Hills Day Services have been running a program called The Breakfast Club for the best part of the past 2 years.

Consisting of a dedicated group of clients from the weekly cooking program the Breakfast Club bakes healthy breakfast bars which are then supplied to the local Eastern Fleurieu R-6 School for students who come to school without having breakfast.

The impact of nutrition on the overall performance of students at school is well documented and the

breakfast bars help the students to perform at their best both academically and socially throughout the day.

The program in the Hills has been supported by local business man Peter Minervini and his business IGA Strathalbyn, has just recently committed to supporting the program for another year - thanks Peter!

The clients involved enjoy the program immensely as they are contributing to the community and providing a service of value to others.

The clients also benefit in terms of skills development; they are learning how to shop, follow recipes, budget, work as a team and use cooking appliances safely, all the while giving them a valued role in their community and increasing their level of community engagement. These are important skills that can increase independence and assist in potentially acquiring future employment.

Due to the ongoing success of the Breakfast Club program in the Adelaide Hills it is now being expanded to the



South Coast. The program in the South Coast is being supported by OPAL a local Alexandrina Council initiative and the Goolwa Foodland, with the bars being provided to the local Goolwa Primary School.

The program in the South Coast is only in its infancy but initial sentiment is extremely positive from the clients who, like in the Adelaide Hills, are cherishing the opportunity to learn new skills and perform a valued

role in their local community. Everything is indicating a long and prosperous future for the South Coast Breakfast Club!



James Harris preparing the mixture



The Delicious Breakfast Bar Mix

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## HOME-ABILITY SURVEY

We are committed to ensuring people with disability live the best life possible. We do this in a number of ways including working in partnership with likeminded organisations to support sector-wide changes that benefit our clients and families.

In partnership with Junction Australia and other disability organisations, we are conducting a survey on present and future housing needs for people with disability.

Junction Australia is an organisation that provides housing and support to the community.

You are invited to take part in the survey to help us to gather information on the housing needs, wishes and dreams of people with a disability and their parents, carers, family and friends.

The online survey will take 15 minutes to complete.

To complete the survey please visit ([www.junctionaustralia.org.au/home-ability-surveys](http://www.junctionaustralia.org.au/home-ability-surveys)). It would be appreciated if this could be completed by 31 January 2016.



# 2016 CL FOUNDATION GOLF DAY



A group from the 2015 Golf Day watch on as a contestant makes their putt

On 26 February 2016 the CL Foundation Golf Day will Tee Off for the 6th time at the Murray Bridge Golf Course.

We are seeking expressions of interest from people with a good drive who are interested to volunteer on the day or be a sponsor of the event.

Registration for the event opens now! If you are interested in being a part of this great day make sure you organise four friends or work colleagues to be a part of your team and register.

All monies raised on the day will support people with disability to live

fulfilling and inclusive lives in their community.

For further information regarding registration, sponsorship or volunteering please do not hesitate to contact Soula Dagas - Executive Manager Business Development on 8536 5888.



Travis Kluge pulls his Golf Bag to the next hole



Participants socialising before the contest heats up!



Teeing off with a big swing



# NDIS UPDATE - FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Sue Horsnell Deputy  
Chief Executive

## *Continuing our support as we transition to the NDIS*

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing individualised support for eligible people with permanent and significant disability, their families and carers. The NDIS supports people with a permanent and significant disability that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities.

The agency administering the scheme, referred to as the National Disability Insurance Agency, or NDIA, works with eligible individuals to identify supports they need to live their life. Supports may help them achieve goals in many aspects of their life,

including independence, involvement in their community, education, employment and health and wellbeing.

The NDIS will provide people with more choice and control over how, when and where their supports are provided, and gives them certainty they will receive the support they need over their lifetime.

It also focuses on early intervention where getting early supports can reduce the impact of disability.

The NDIS was launched in July 2013 with trial sites being setup in the various states and territories.

The trial in South Australia was focussed on children from the ages of 0-14 – this is still as far as it has rolled out. As at 30 June this year, 5,521 participants were registered in SA with 4,660 receiving supports under an individualised plan.

Nationally, as at 30 June this year, 19,817 people have become participants in the Scheme (which exceeds the government target) and 17,303 of these participants have an approved plan.

## NDIS rollout details for SA announced!

The South Australian Government has signed an agreement with the Commonwealth announcing the timetable for the full roll out of the NDIS in SA.

This is great for South Australians living with disability and is vitally important as it enables them to plan and prepare themselves for their life changing transition to the NDIS.

Between February 2016 and June 2017 the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) will work with service providers to reach all eligible children in the 0-14 age group, and then commence the inclusion of young people from 15 to 17 as part of full scheme roll out from July 1 2017.

# NDIS UPDATE - CONTINUED

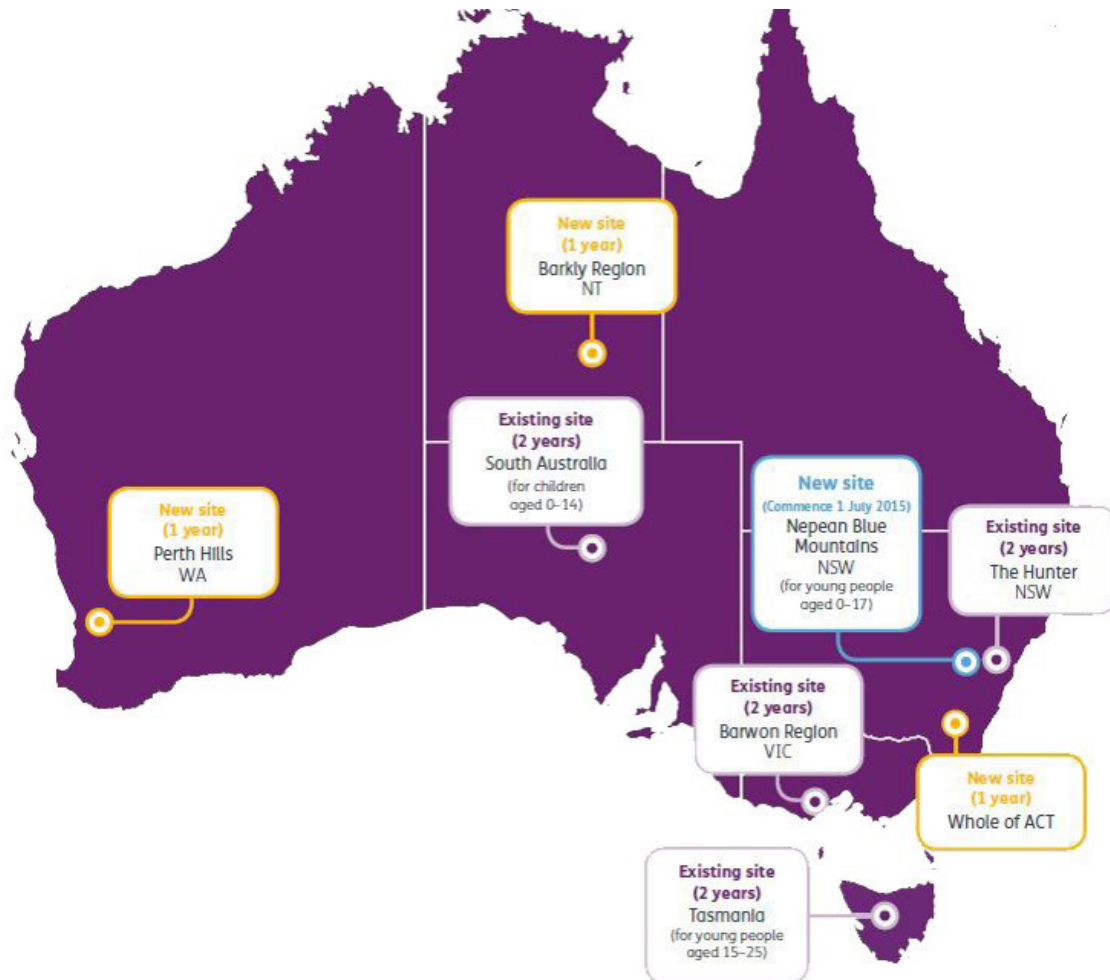


Image of trial sites courtesy of the NDIS

## Timeline for regional rollout for adults:

- July 2017 - Barossa Light and Lower North, Playford, Salisbury, Port Adelaide, Enfield will enter the scheme with all eligible participants expected to be in the scheme by April 2018;
- October 2017 - Tea Tree Gully, Limestone Coast and Murray Mallee will enter the scheme with all eligible participants expected to be in the scheme by January 2018;
- January 2018 - The Fleurieu, Kangaroo Island, Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, Onkaparinga, Eyre and Western, Far North, York and Mid North will enter the scheme with all eligible participants expected to be in the scheme by April 2018, and;
- May 2018 - Adelaide Hills, Eastern and Western Adelaide and any other areas will commence entry into the scheme and are expected to be fully incorporated into the scheme by June 2018.



Image of regional rollout locations

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# ndis National Disability Insurance Scheme

The full scheme is expected to have completed full national rollout by 2020. Until then people living outside of a trial site or who are in a trial site but do not meet the age requirements will continue to receive their existing national and state-based services.

Once the rollout reaches your area or includes your age range in order to access the NDIS you need to; have a permanent and significant disability, be aged less than 65 when you first access the scheme and be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or New Zealand citizen who holds a Protected Special Category Visa.

Once the NDIS has confirmed you can access the scheme, a planner meets with you. Together, you discuss your needs, goals and aspirations and the supports you currently receive.

This may take more than one meeting and you can bring someone with you for support.

The NDIS will fund reasonable and necessary supports that help you achieve your goals such as therapies, equipment, home modifications, mobility

equipment, taking part in community activities or assistance with employment.

Under the NDIS, participants may request who manages the funding for reasonable and necessary supports provided in their plan.

The funding can be managed by the Agency, by a plan management provider, by the participant choosing to self-manage, or through a combination of all three options for various funded supports. Using this information, your planner will then develop a plan of supports that best meets your needs and your goals.

Pre-planning and significant thought is essential prior to this meeting to ensure you receive a support plan that truly meets your needs. We strongly advise for you to start thinking now about what you want to do, see and be in life – now and in your future, be specific about your goals and the support you need to achieve them, gather all the information you can about your disability, document a typical day or week in your life, understand and detail the barriers you encounter.

The more prepared you are the better your package will be.

Also, don't be limited by what you currently receive, aspire for more and demand more. After-all the NDIS is about providing choice and control to you.

We understand that undergoing a change this big can be challenging, so we will work with clients and families to ensure that the transition to the NDIS is tailored to their needs.

During the transition you can be assured that we will maintain our commitment to our vision to support clients and their family. We will provide all necessary support to ensure you are well prepared to transition to the NDIS, ensuring the plans developed for you meet your needs and aspirations.

We will continue to provide updates through various communication channels to ensure that clients receive all the support they require.

If you would like some further information on the NDIS please visit our websites or contact me at [sue.horsnell@claustralia.com.au](mailto:sue.horsnell@claustralia.com.au).

# OFFICE AND DAY OPTIONS CLOSURES OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

Our offices will be closing down over the Festive Season.

Clients and families would have received an informational flyer detailing relevant closures and contact phone numbers.

Our Strathalbyn, Mount Barker, Murray Bridge and Mount Gambier offices will be closed from 12:30pm Thursday 24 December 2015 until 9:00am Monday 4 January 2016.

Telephone lines at all of these locations will be diverted to message bank with detailed messaging on closure dates, emergency numbers and local after hour on-call arrangements. Staff will be coordinated at a local level to ensure adequate

coverage for client services, rostering, payroll and other critical office based functions.

Day Options in the Hills, Southern Metro, South Coast, Riverland, Kangaroo Island and South East will all be closed from Wednesday 23 December 2015 until Tuesday 12 January 2016.

Murray Bridge Day Options is closed from Monday 21 December 2015 until Tuesday 12 January 2016.



George Rowe and Daniel (DJ) Stone enjoy the photo booth at last years Christmas event



Staff member Dianne Mathie and her grandson enjoy a cuddle at a Christmas event last year

COMMUNITY  
LIVING  
AUSTRALIA

Cnr Sandergrove Rd  
& Milnes Rd  
Strathalbyn SA 5255

P. 08 8536 5888

E. [info@cloust.com.au](mailto:info@cloust.com.au)

[cloust.com.au](http://cloust.com.au)



## CLASS

Cnr Sandergrove Rd  
& Milnes Rd  
Strathalbyn SA 5255

P. 08 8536 5800

E. [info@classinc.com.au](mailto:info@classinc.com.au)

[classinc.com.au](http://classinc.com.au)



## COMMUNITY LIFESTYLES

6 Third St  
Murray Bridge SA 5253

P. 08 8531 0815

E. [admin@comlife.org.au](mailto:admin@comlife.org.au)

[comlife.org.au](http://comlife.org.au)



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CLASS and Community Lifestyles are now  
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