

# CITIZEN ADVOCACY - SUNBURY & DISTRICTS Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2012

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### Co-ordinator's Report

As promised last year, our website is up and running. If you haven't had the chance to see it yet, please go to [casunbury.net](http://casunbury.net) – any contributions or comments would be most welcomed as Melita and Elizabeth continue to develop and finalise areas. We look forward to the launch of the site (see notice) this will be a great opportunity to catch up with each other and meet new people involved in this program or various other programs and services in the area.

As people reading this newsletter realise, this program relies not only on funding from Government and other sources, but most importantly people coming forward to voluntarily give their time and knowledge and in some cases their expertise. This program could have all the money in the world, but would still not function if we do not have people willing to become Advocates and/or Committee of Management members. We have a small group of hard working dedicated and loyal C.O.M members, but we also need some 'new blood', people with fresh ideas, good networks with energy and motivation. We need people not only to support the staff to do their job but also to help ensure we meet the contractual requirements of our funding body. For instance FaHCSIA (our major funders) are introducing a new Quality Assurance process to help ensure Advocacy programs are meeting Service Standards and the needs of the people we are here to serve. There is a great opportunity here for someone starting off or further along in a profession such as accounting or management, to help develop their skills in policy development, accountancy or marketing to mention just a few. At the same time this enables giving something back to the community and people that have been disadvantaged in our society. Please think of people that you may know amongst your network of friends, colleagues and family, and encourage them to become involved in this valuable community program.

Best Wishes,

David Abela

Co-ordinator



## LINK Community Transport

LINK Community Transport is a non-profit organization providing community transport for people in various areas of Melbourne (Victoria, Australia). The current services are focused on assisting older people and people with a disability (and their carers) in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, including the local government areas of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra. They also run the community transport service for the City of Melbourne and the Craigieburn Community Transport Service.

Do you know an older person or a person with a disability who lives at home but has difficulty getting out and about to do their shopping or meeting up with friends? These are the people the program assist through the Out and About Community Transport Service.

For more information on the service provided in the Hume area, please contact LINK Community Transport, on Phone: (03) 9355 8484 or Email: [admin@lct.org.au](mailto:admin@lct.org.au)

### SAVE THE DATE...

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts Inc.

Looks forward to celebrating with you

Our program's **WEBSITE LAUNCH**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2012

Location : 'The Nook Cafe' in Sunbury

Invitation to follow soon!

### **Advocates Required**

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts Inc. is currently recruiting an advocate for a 63 yo woman who has a mild intellectual disability living in a Supported Residential Accommodation Facility in Sydenham. This woman requires someone to visit and to talk to her occasionally about issues that she finds difficult to understand such as, budgeting and financial administration. This woman also needs someone to encourage her to become more involved in her community and to participate in programs and club, in which she shows an interest in. She has a friendly personality but has been institutionalized most of her adult life.

We are also recruiting an advocate for a 28 y o woman who has a mild intellectual disability living at home with her family in Greenvale. This young woman requires someone to be a mentor and friend, and to help her gain confidence in social situations outside of the family unit and make friends and connection in the wider community.

If you or someone you know may be a suitable advocate, please contact the Co-ordinator, David Abela on, phone - 9744 7378 or email [dabela@citizenadvocacysunbury.com.au](mailto:dabela@citizenadvocacysunbury.com.au)



*In the News...*

## **Supporting Decision Making**

The Department of Human Services have developed a guide '*Supporting Decision Making - A guide to support people with a disability to make their own decisions*' to assist support workers and supporters of people with a disability to understand rights and responsibilities with regard to decision making.

The freedom to make decisions which affect our lives is a fundamental right that each of us should enjoy. People with a disability are no different in this regard however, some people may require some additional assistance in order to be able to make and express choices. People with a disability may also be excluded from the decision making processes that affect them because others make incorrect assumptions or believe they know what is best for them.

For more information or to request a copy of the guide please contact the Department of Human Services - Disability information and support - 1800 783 783.

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### VAIL

***CAROLE FORSTER***

***2.10.1965 - 13.2.2012***



Carole was a Caloola client and was in F.3 (children's ward) when I first met her. She was about 12 years old. Some years later she was transferred to F.6, which was a locked unit for ladies with behavioural issues.

She was known affectionately to a lot of staff at Caloola as Flossie or Floss. When Caloola was closing, I asked David if I could be Carole's advocate, as she was unable to speak for herself, and I knew that she had no contact with parents or siblings etc. He made me her relocation advocate and later her advocate.

Carole was transferred to Pleasant Creek training centre to a Unit with 5 other clients where she lived until the closure of Pleasant Creek, and was then transferred into a specially built CRU for these same 6 clients. Approximately 3 years ago, Carole's health started to deteriorate as she became non ambulant and was having a lot of falls and was also losing her eyesight.

She was transferred to Oriental Street Stawell, who were better able to care for her. Carole attended day placement on a daily basis and was also taken on some 24 hour holidays and given community access while living at Stawell.

Sadly she passed away at the Stawell hospital on the 13th of February this year. Staff from both Oriental Street and the day placement she attended, stayed with her throughout the day.

R.I.P Carole ( Flossie)

Mary Buchanan

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