



Lunch Break Interview.....

David Isbel Chief Financial Officer and Deputy CEO



In the morning, David finds himself on the beach, going for a run with his dog, before driving to Valley Industries Head Office from Forster. The day is spent working in Accounts for Valley Industries where he says “there’s nothing exciting about accounting”, before heading home for a bike ride with his kids.

I asked David what gets him out of bed in the mornings. He replied “my dog and my kids.”

Professionally, David’s greatest achievement has been to fix up a business in the UK, while personally, it is raising two good kids.

On his wish list is to get to know everyone at Valley Industries, and possibly, a trip to the UK.

When asked “if you could pick anyone, who would you pick for your mentor,” David answered, without any hesitation, “My father”. And he hasn’t met anyone to better him.

And when asked which three words he would use to describe his role, he answered “numbers, numbers, numbers.”

The NDIS remains the biggest challenge that David can see facing the industry, and learning the systems involved.

Advice that David would like to give to new recruits is that Valley Industries is a good employer. “The more you put in the more you get back,” he said to me when I asked him.

David has no personal motto, although if given the chance, he would definitely like to captain the Canberra Raiders to a Grand Final victory. His guilty pleasure remains playing Devil’s Ten Pin, after work, once a week, and what we don’t know about him yet is that he once learnt Spanish.

He used this second language when he backpacked around Central and Southern America. This was because it was cheap, nice, and great fun.

And lastly, when asked “what keeps you up at night,” David said “Nothing. Because at the end of the day I’m stuffed.”

Thanks for talking to us David!

David was interviewed by Elizabeth Kempers as part of her goal to get back in to journalism.

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Skills for Daily Living



Emma Blizzard



Cameron Holland



Alan Cooper



Michael Bromley

The range of Programs at Valley Skills for Life is constantly growing, in response to the list of activities that Participants have identified in their NDIS Plans.

Amanda Varty and her team provide classes in everything from Skill Development to assist with Living Independently, how to get and stay healthy, getting prepared for work, learning computer skills and keeping safe on Social Media, basic maintenance tasks - and a broad range of workshops in the Arts including photography, painting, sculpture, music, drama and singing.

Here are some of the amazing artworks that have been created by the Participants at Valley Skills for Life



Rachael, Peter, Rebecca, Dougie & Adrian getting hands on in their cookery class with Heather

There was much laughter in the kitchen in this week's cookery class. Heather was teaching her students to make Ham, Cheese & Potato croquets.

And Jess made another tasty feast for her family, taking home this yummy cheesy bake.



Jess proudly showing off her delicious Cheese & potato bake



Save the Date

Activities for May & June



Saturday 19th May

Dunbogan Picnic on the River
Explore the town or chill on a blanket by the waters edge looking out for dolphins
Bring or buy your own lunch
Names in by 4th May



Saturday 26th May

Port Maritime Museum
Tour the 2 historical museums and have morning tea overlooking the beach.
Followed by lunch
\$30 for entry fee, morning tea & lunch
Names in by 11th May



Saturday 2nd June

Wingham Scottish Festival
Check out the kilts, the bagpipes and all things tartan
Bring or buy your own lunch
Names in by 20th May



Saturday 9th June

Taree Envirofair
Come and check out the stalls and latest ideas. Followed by lunch in the park
Bring or buy your own lunch
Names in by 26th May



Saturday 16th June

Chocolate Factory visit
Come and visit the chocolate and fudge shop at Wauchope and choose some sweet treats
Bring or buy your own lunch
Names in by 4th June



Saturday 23rd June

Forster Ten Pin
Work up a hunger with a couple of games of Ten Pin and Putt Putt before enjoying lunch at Forster Bowling Club
\$30 includes game fees & lunch
Names in by 11th June



Peter Gyde	Peter Barber
Neil Chapman	Kerry George
Wayne Bult	Alex Murray
Matthew Fraser	Max McCarthy
Jeremy Wing	Michael O'Connor
Denise Richards	Todd Minett
Peter Bobbin	Anna Eggink
Dennis Blackhall	June Melville
Carl Hinton	Michael Radburn
Adam Polley	Amanda Bicknell
Beau Polley	Zacharias Schaad
Dushka Winkley	Tearoa Auora
Jason Beer	Brooke Taylor
Chriss McGillvray	Joanne Vakaahi
Audrey Thornton	

Call Rhonda on 0427 512605 by the due date to book your place on any of these events. Check that you have NDIS support hours for Saturday's in your plan



Valley Industries Ltd
Helping people to help themselves

Valley Vibes

Meet the Directors

Each month we ask one of our Valley Industries Board Members to tell us a bit about themselves. This month we feature Don Phillips – Deputy Chairman.



How long have you been a Valley Board Director?

I joined the Board in 2008 and became Deputy Chairman in 2011.

Tell us a little about your background

I consider myself ‘almost a local’ after living here for 35 years! My Grandfather and Mother were born in Taree. The family owned a dairy farm on Mitchell’s Island.

In 1930, the family moved to Canberra and took over the newsagency there. During the war my Dad went to Duntroon Military College and that’s where he met my Mum. But Dad was a farm lad too and it was obviously in my blood as after completing my Higher School Certificate in Canberra I went off to Wagga Agricultural College for 3 years. My first job after leaving college was for a Veterinary company in WA – which is where I met my wife Marjorie – we got married in 1976. We had two sons while living in WA before relocating to Sydney, where we had our first daughter. By 1982, we decided we’d had enough of the City and we moved up to Taree, where we had our fourth child, another daughter. I started a business called Office Data Systems – supplying office furniture and equipment across the mid-north coast. In 1987, Marjorie and I opened two Angus and Robertson bookstores in Taree – one on Manning St and one in the Manning Mall. We sold our businesses in 2006 and 2007 and we

are now happily retired!

What are your interests in your retirement?

I am very interested and involved in the Classic Car movement. I belong to the local Classic Car Club, which has 160 Members and is very active, with events, rallies and excursions throughout the year.

What led to your involvement with Valley Industries?

Les Griffis was Chairman of the Board ten years ago and he invited me to join. I was a great admirer of what Valley Industries was doing in the community and was very happy and proud to become a member of the Board. I am very supportive of all that has been achieved in the last 6 years – with the diversification of the business, the increase in turnover and the reinvestment in to helping people with disabilities to help themselves.

Thank you for talking to us Don!

Congratulations!



Mitch Hoppe had a very successful time at the recent Special Olympics Games in Adelaide. He swam 3 Personal Bests in all his races and picked up medals for two 4th places. Congratulations Mitch!

Zee is our (quite) new Revenue Officer, working at the Whitbread St offices.

On 13th April, Zee attended his graduation ceremony at the University of Newcastle.

Zee received his Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting.



Valley Industries Ltd
Helping people to help themselves

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Valley Skills of Life

Valley Cafe

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Nature’s Care Nursery

Work Skills and Joblinks

Intalink Therapy Solutions

Complete Grounds Care

Valley Vintage

Valley Secure Document Services

Timber Products

Valley Bee Keeping Supplies

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