



It's a Bumper issue this month with lots going on in the run up to Christmas - and don't forget it's the end of year Spectacular at Valley Skills for Life on Thursday 13th December!

## What's been happening



### Bridge Climb

After months in the planning and a successful Trivia Quiz fundraiser the Bridge Climbers had an amazing experience on Friday 23rd November. On a very windy day, these brave climbers made it to the top and got to take in the views across Sydney.

Congratulations to.....

Mick, Blake, Theresa, Jack, Geoff, Becky, Gwen, Dainer, Doug, Adrian, Tracey, Jess, Maddi and Ian

### In this Issue

What's been happening

Our teams in Sydney 1

What's been happening

Awards & events 3

Birthdays

3

Looking after  
your teeth

4

Father's Day Raffle

4

Contact us

4



### NSW State Finals

Also in Sydney on Friday 23rd November were the team representing Valley Linen as finalists in the NSW State Business Chamber Awards -

Mal & Jan Shultz, Dearne Minett, Tamsin Atkins, Shane Minett, Julie Townsend, Carolyn Orr, Rob Gander, Damon Minett & Amanda Scott all attended the gala event at Luna Park.

Unfortunately we didn't win the State prize this time - but we did get a special CEO Highly Commended Certificate of Excellence.

Congratulations to everybody in the Linen team!





## What's been happening



Valley Industries received another award last month - celebrating 30 years of service with the National Disability Service



Doug, Adrian, Darren and Jay hanging out with Jamie Whincup, all-time record holder Supercars Champion!



Brady, Chris and Greg take their place on the Podium at the Newcastle Supercars



All dressed up for the Melbourne Cup day at the races are Sophie, Maddi, Cess, Michelle and Lee.



Mark Willis was one happy man at the Taylor Swift concert recently!



Sharon Griffis celebrated her 50th Birthday with a party for family and friends at Valley Cafe. It was a beautiful occasion and great fun was had by all



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# Valley People



It was a beautiful day for the trip out to Yippin Creek Railway recently - big smiles all round from Raymond, Margaret, Gwen and Marc.



Greg Looking very proud of his veggie garden at Potoroo



Trent taking good care of 'Tiny'



The Celebrating Abilities Ball was held on Saturday 1st December at Club Taree. This year's theme was 'Carnival' and Brooke and Steven both looked fantastic in their costumes for the night!



Peter Stemp	Sharon Gordon
Josh Duncan	Denis McKay
Phillip Hanshaw	Chelsea Staff
Jill Toshack	Jayden Boorer
Allison Avery	Heather Cochrane
Mark Davidson	Darren Varty
Ian Porter	Harley Magennis
Mark Willis	Michael Nicholson
Becky Lloyd	Jake Hardy
Sarah Green	Allen Howard
Rob Gander	Terry Halstead
Joy McDonald	Jacob Hunter
Alistair McArthur	Mitchell Osbourne
Maddalyn Rogers	Scott McKenzie
Tamita Victoria-Guzman	Gavin Andersen
Mal Shultz	Stephen Rouse
Gilbert Hicks	John Cameron
Craig Batsch	Lincoln Willcocks
Kerryn Bell	
Sophie Powick	
Lindsay Mogg	



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# Valley Vibes

## Meet the Directors



**Gilbert Hicks**

*Gilbert has been the treasurer of the Valley Industries Board for over 12 years. He joined in 2006 and is our longest standing Board Member.*

*You have been a Valley Industries Board member for a long time. You must have seen some major changes?*

Yes, by far the biggest change has occurred in the last twelve months with the introduction of NDIS, which has resulted in a huge increase in activity for Valley, not only in disability services provided but the appointment of extra staff to deliver these services. Prior to NDIS I've witnessed a gradual increase in all DAE activities, and also the addition of new units such as the op shop, bees, laundry, café and Intalink. I've also seen day care services develop from being delivered within a small cottage to where it is today in Elizabeth Ave.

*Tell us a little about your background.*

I was raised on a family cattle property at Nowendoc and worked with my parents until I was 21, when a car accident resulted in me becoming a paraplegic and wheelchair confined. In 2017 I moved to Taree with my wife Val, and worked as a bookkeeper before becoming involved in retail shops over several years. I also served as secretary manager of Taree Leagues Sports Club from 2000 to 2006 before going back to "school" becoming qualified in accountancy. Presently I have my own business as a bookkeeper and accountant.

Val & I have three grown children and five grandchildren, the youngest being seven year twin boys.

*What are your interests outside of work?*

My main interest is sport and particularly lawn bowls. My club is Taree Leagues and I play both in able bodied competition and disabled through Wheelchair Sports NSW. I find bowling from a wheelchair is fantastic because I can be competitive at all levels of competition.

*What led you to become involved with Valley Industries?*

Former CEO, Murray Relf approached me in 2006 and I gladly accepted the offer to be a board member of Valley, because being a disabled person myself I've had a long time interest in the well being and advancement of all people with a disability. It's given me the opportunity to serve alongside great people.

*Thanks Gilbert, it's been great to hear from you!*



## Save the Date - January 2019!



Saturday 12th Jan  
9.30-2.30  
Nabiatic Motorcycle Museum  
\$30 including lunch



Saturday 19th Jan  
2-7pm  
Weber's Circus, Forster  
\$35

**Let Rhonda know before Christmas if you would like to attend either event - 0427 512605  
No events over the Australia Day long weekend**



## What's New

### Valley Industries expands into Forster



*Laura joined Valley Industries on 18th September 2018, to run the new Valley Industries support centre in Forster.*

I was born and brought up in Wales. By the time I was 15 I had started work in Aged Care and was studying for a Diploma in Health & Social Care. I then got a job in Social Services in Wales and did several NVQ programs. I decided I should take a break as I'd always wanted to travel the world. I came to Australia – and never looked back! My first role in Australia was working for the Cerebral Palsy League in

Queensland and I then moved to Sydney and worked down there for 8 months.

By this time I had met my Partner and we had a beautiful daughter, Ffion, who is now 2 ½ years old. We decided to move out of Sydney and came to live in Forster in early 2017, where I ran the Lifestyle Solutions office in Forster.

I joined Valley Industries in September 2018 to help set up the Hub in Forster, to extend our support services to Participants living in this area.

Our centre in Enterprise Court hosts office space, a training room, a chill-out space, a small gym and we will soon have an Exercise Physiologist who will offer custom made programs for Participants to help them achieve their physical goals. We are currently putting together our range of Programs to offer Participants to help them achieve their life goals and learn new skills.

We already have 4 houses in the Forster area and there's another one on the way. We have been

able to offer accommodation to new and existing Participants who currently work at Valley Industries in Taree.

I am a firm believer in active management and we involve Participants in all the decisions regarding their welfare and accommodation needs and encourage them to take an active part in shopping and meal planning for their home.

I'm very excited to be part of Valley Industries and working with such a dedicated team of people who are committed to helping Participants achieve their goals and dreams.

Steve Hurrell and Clare Lewis have recently moved in to a gorgeous house in Cross St, Forster and are very happy and excited to be making the transition to independent living.



The beautiful house in Cross Street, Forster



Clare and Steve looking very happy as they move in to their new home



Clare is looking forward to making her transition to independent living



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# Valley Vibes

## Christmas Party



Steve enjoying the day!



Sarah looking good!



Raymond on good form

The Participant Christmas Funday was a great success at Old Bar Bowling Club on Friday 7th December. We started the day with barefoot bowls, followed by Awards and Christmas lunch then finished with a fabulous disco! Thank you to everybody who came along!



Sophie & Zar enjoying lunch



Ashley & Marc are all smiles



It was a packed out Christmas party!

## Wishing you a very Happy Christmas



As another year comes to a close, I would like to take this time to express my sincere thanks to all the parents and carers of all the Participants at Valley Industries. It has been another busy year and, after listening to your requirements and feedback, we have expanded our services and activities yet again. Thank you to all our staff

for your commitment and dedication over the year- it is much appreciated! I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to working with you again in 2019 for yet another successful year!

Trent



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### Christmas Trading hours

Admin Closed Public Holidays

Vintage Closed Public Holidays

VSFL Closed 22nd Dec- 7th Jan

Intalink Closed 22nd Dec- 7th Jan

Cafe Closed 25th Dec- 2nd Jan

Mowing Closed 22nd Dec- 2nd Jan

Timber Closed 22nd Dec - 2nd Jan

Shredding Closed 22nd Dec- 7th Jan

Nursery Closed 22nd-26th Dec

& Bees and 30th/31st Dec

Registered Charity Number: CFN 12131

ABN 69 001 578 301 • ACN 001 578 301

[www.valley-industries.com.au](http://www.valley-industries.com.au)





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# Valley Vibes

## Christmas Party





## Participant Awards

It is always a special occasion when it is time to give out the Awards to Participants. This year was no exception and it was with great delight that David, Mal and Trent recognised a group of Participants who had achieved exceptional outcomes this year. Congratulations to all these Award winners - and to every Participant for all they have achieved this year.

### Outstanding Achievement Personal Development



Brooke Ross



Amy Markham



Haleigh Gillet



Pheobe Dillon

### Skill Development



Sophie Powick



Zac Ashley



Mark Barlin



Audrey Thornton

### Encouragement



John Cameron



Zar Watters



Stephen Lambert

Awards also went to the following Participants who weren't at the Funday...

- Cameron Holland
- Dennis McKay
- Craig Priestly
- Peter Barber
- Dayne Fox