



VOICE

Quarter 3, 2023

From the CEO:

As the weather warms up, so too does our social calendar with many daytime activities, and weekend excursions, planned in the coming months.

We are delighted to partner with CLRS to offer our community an evening of high-octane entertainment with remarkable motivational speakers this month. More information on the Blind Speed Fundraising dinner is on page two.

Our Oaks Day Fundraising luncheon is on Thursday, 9 November at Junction, Moama. After a two year hiatus due to COVID and floods, we are excited to be bringing this sellout event back to the community. It's a great afternoon of fun, food and fashion so save the date! Ticket sales will open soon.

Scott Alexander
CEO

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Flash mob hits again

Part of Vivid Living's Culture and Art stream, the performing arts group fondly naming themselves 'High End Riff Raff' recently made a flash mob appearance at Woolworths, Echuca West.

Always a crowd pleaser, the group of 30 played, with much excitement and pride, to beat of the drum (and tambourine) in front of an appreciative crowd.

Vivid Living's Day Programs give adults living with disability choice and control about the life they want to live.

Program choices are structured around key themes - Culture & Arts, Communication & Technology, Healthy Living, Adventure & Recreation, Work Skills and Life Skills.



Presenting... 'Blind Speed'



Vivid has partnered with Community Living & Respite Services (CLRS) to co-host a fundraising dinner proudly supported by Rich River Golf Club on Friday 13 October from 6pm.

Be prepared for the ride of your life as special guests Ben Felten (the world's fastest blind man on a motorcycle) and Kevin Magee (former 500cc Grand Prix motorcycle racer) tell the story of lifelong friends and their pursuit of the Guinness Book of Records' fastest speed on a motorcycle ridden blindfolded.

Imagine riding a motorcycle in darkness with only a voice telling you where to go, what direction to turn, and when to stop. Now imagine how you would think of doing this scary but amazing feat at speeds of over 270km per hour.

As a teenager, Ben was diagnosed with a degenerative eye condition that left him completely blind in his 30s. But that hasn't stopped him as he now aims to go one step further by becoming the fastest blind man in Australia on four wheels.

Kevin Magee raced in 36 500cc Grand Prix events and took his first win at the 1988 Spanish Grand Prix. He also raced a few Superbike World Championship races, winning twice at Phillip Island in 1991 and 1992.

Their story is one of power, courage, laughter, frustration, achievement and inspiration.

Proceeds from the event will support both Vivid and CLRS to ensure people with disability have access to essential programs and services.

Tickets are on sale until Friday 6 October and can be purchased via the Rich River Golf Club website - www.richriver.com.au/

Raising funds for

BlindSPEED

Friday 13 October
Rich River Golf Club
6.30pm

Kevin Magee
Former Grand Prix motorcycle road racer

Ben Felten
The fastest blind motorcycle rider on earth!

TICKETS \$75 pp
\$700 table (10)
Includes 2 course dinner

Proudly supported by

Echuca Toyota



Volunteering at Vivid

Did you know you can volunteer at Vivid?

From involvement in major events to being a Christmas helper, you could assist us in raising funds to support adults living with disability to lead great lives.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Vivid gets into the Christmas spirit, spreading Christmas cheer with local Echuca retailer Under the Gable, by offering a gift wrapping station for customers. Last year \$2,720 was raised and a target of \$3000 has been set for this year. If you have a spare hour or two throughout the month of December, we'd love to have you onboard with our team of volunteers.

Another way you can volunteer with Vivid is through community events. Over the past few years, Vivid clients, staff and FUNraisers have volunteered their time at the Pop and Pour Festival. A range of roles were actioned on the day including ticket exchange, meet and greet, direction and information provider. The Festival is an important, and growing, part of Vivid's engagement in community events.

Not only does Vivid help with community events, they create their own. One of the big events on the annual FUNraiser's calendar is the annual Oaks Day Luncheon with all proceeds going back into supporting Vivid Participants.

Sadly, after many years support, the Loddon FUNraisers have retired their service and are spending time travelling our beautiful country with family and friends. As we say bon voyage and many thanks to Bronwyn Barlow, Helen Clyne, Janice Collins, Jan Donchi, Sandra Escott, Jan Grant, Wendy Long, Marg O'Brien, Elaine Roberts, Jenni Stephenson and Clare Umbers, it also presents an exciting opportunity to create a new band of Loddon FUNraisers.

Vivid FUNraisers work to create a calendar of events each year to raise much needed funds for improved infrastructure and services. Events can include movie nights, trivia nights, luncheons, dinners and more. If you'd like to be part of the new Loddon FUNraiser committee, please reach out.

FUNraising committees have also expand into the Mallee. If you'd like to be part of the Swan Hill region team of FUNraisers joining Carmel Patti, Tony Frazzica and Sue Trotter, again, please reach out.

For all volunteering enquiries or registration, whether that be event specific or part of a committee, please get in touch with our Volunteer Coordinator, Megan Dehne on 5480 6611 or Megan.Dehne@wearevivid.org.au.



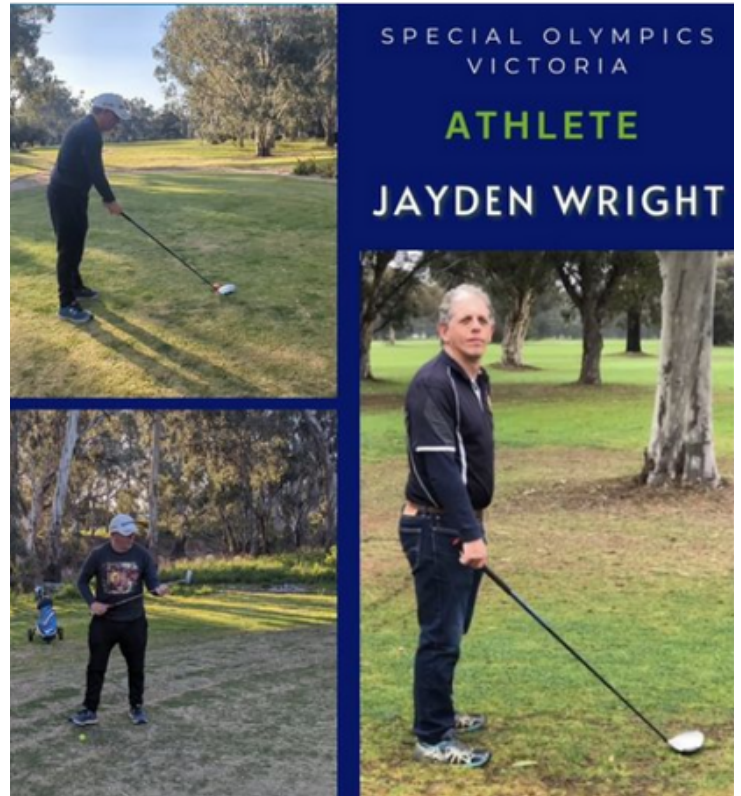
Go Jayden!

Congratulations to Vivid Participant, Jayden Wright, who this month will be heading off to the Special Olympics Australia National Golf Tournament.

Coached by Ben Patten, Jayden will be part of the Victoria Golf Team.

Jayden plays every week at the Lockington Golf Club and has been working hard in preparation for the event.

Well done Jayden, and good luck! We're all behind you!



Project updates

High Street South, Echuca

Works to replace the ceiling and hall floor at Vivid Living's High Street South (HSS) site have been completed.

Whilst works were in progress HSS program Participants relocated next door to Vivid's HUB site.

Thank you to all our staff, Participants, families and carers who embraced the temporary changes to enable works to be carried out.



Vivid Kerang site

Renovations works at 16 Scoresby Street are now complete, with Day Services and Work Crew now operating from the one site.

Thank you to all who helped in the move.



Our Life Skills group attended a free activity provided by Let's Play Sports Focus. Matt and the team at Wickham's Martial Arts Centre put our guys through their paces and everyone had a blast!



Participants and staff had a ball on a weekend trip away to attend the Royal Melbourne Show.



R U OK? Day was celebrated at Vivid Living in Echuca and Swan Hill.



Vivid Learning and the Sensational Smoothie team learning about healthy and not so healthy eating.



In the news

RIVERINE HERALD

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023 9

Vivid flash mob hits right note

By Michael Lloyd

A Vivid flash mob delighted the crowd at Echuca West Woolworths on Wednesday, August 9.

Vivid business manager Sue Green ensured the event went without a hitch, with the crowd having as much fun as the participants.

"The group of around 30 participants formed in 2020, but due to COVID restrictions, have not been able to perform within the community until this year," Mrs Green said.

Members of the dance crew can be spotted easily due to their distinctive T-shirts with the letters HERR, standing for High End Riff Raff.

The rehearsals took place over the past six months, with the dancers learning new moves while also gaining more confidence.

"Vivid Living's day programs give adults living with disability choice and control about the life they want to live," Mrs Green said.

"The programs are designed to help participants achieve their NDIS goals while providing positive and inclusive experiences within the community.

"Program choices are structured around key themes — culture and arts, communication and technology, healthy living, adventure and recreation, work skills and life skills."



We are Vivid: Vivid's performing arts group from the culture and art day program. Photos: Michael Lloyd

The most recent outing for the group was its second, after the first in February when the dance crew performed out the front of Jay Jay's Echuca.

Another performance is scheduled for later this year, possibly in late November.

The team at Vivid would like to thank the crowd who enjoyed the show along with Echuca West Woolworths, which kindly provided the space for the performance.



Flash mob: Vivid dance crew members.

Partnership races to fundraising dinner

By Gregor Mactaggart

The world's fastest blind man on a motorcycle and the man known as the Horsham Hurricane are heading to the twin towns for a night to remember next month.

Ben Felten and Kevin Magee will be the guest speakers at a fundraising dinner co-hosted by Community Living & Respite Service and Vivid.

The dinner, also proudly supported by the Rich River Golf Club, will be on Friday, October 13 from 6pm.

As a teenager, Mr Felten was diagnosed with a degenerative eye condition that left him completely blind in his 30s.

Imagine riding a motorcycle in darkness with only a voice telling you where to go, what direction to do and when to stop at speeds of over 270km/h.

Mr Magee raced in 36 Grand Prix events and won his first 500cc race at the 1988 Spanish Grand Prix.

He also raced in the Superbike World Championship before transitioning to a successful career as a television commentator.

CLRS chief executive officer Leah Taaffe said the partnership between the two organisations would deliver an unique experience.

"Partnering with Vivid for this fundraising event is exciting," she said.

"We are pleased to be co-hosting this event and look forward to a really great night of entertainment and education for our community."

Vivid chief executive officer Scott Alexander said the pair's story is one of power, courage, laughter, frustration, achievement and inspiration.



Winning partnership: Vivid chief executive officer Scott Alexander, Rich River Golf Club marketing and event manager Deanne Armstrong and CLRS chief executive officer Leah Taaffe are looking forward to the fundraising dinner. Photo: Aidan Briggs

"We are delighted to partner with CLRS to offer our community an evening of high-octane entertainment with remarkable motivational speakers," he said.

Tickets for the dinner are \$75 each or \$700 for a table of ten, which includes a two-course meal.

You can purchase tickets via www.richriver.com.au

Proceeds from the event will support CLRS and Vivid as they continue their fundraising efforts to ensure people with disability have access to essential progress and services to help them thrive.

