

Genuine Support Services Australia

#### Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter,

Summer is here, and it's a wonderful time to let in the fresh air—it's finally warm enough to let the outside in. This issue we celebrate the Murraylands Sunflower project and I hope that the few paragraphs below will help inspire you to consider growing some beautiful Sunflowers of your own – please feel free to visit our website to read more about this inspirational story.

Like Sunflowers, with their vibrant colourful petals and towering strong stems, despite knowing they won't be here for long, they still choose to look to the sun and live their brightest lives. Celia Thaxter, an American author of poetry and stories, writes "There shall be eter-

## Newsletter december – January 2024

nal summer in the grateful heart," I'm so grateful for all the warm, generous and compassionate hearts we have in our GSSA family.

As your local registered NDIS provider, I hope our newsletters continue to help you stay informed of our approaching activities and inspire you to consider

sharing your thoughts and stories in future newsletters.

With love from your GSSA Family,

Gabrielle Mackenzie

Managing Director



### Facing The Sun GSSA joins the Sunflower project

After sharing an optimistic story with a class of students about a small Sunflower seed growing in a student's garden pot, Pauline Linke of Meningie has taken her passion of helping people with mental illness to an immeasurably sunnier space.

With over 30 years working in Mental Health, Pauline continues to help people keep their faces in the sunshine and less in the shadows, "After all, that's what sunflowers do – they follow the sun!" Pauline says.

Pauline became involved with the Suicide Prevention Network (SPN) part of Coorong Conversations Matter Inc. in 2017.

The district's Suicide Prevention Network is a voluntary community group working to improve mental health and wellbeing, it helps to reduce the stigma associated with suicide and increases community understanding about where to access help when needed.

The service includes support services for people bereaved by suicide, with the group's focus being on reducing the impact of suicide by educating the community and empowering others to seek help and give hope.

(Go to genuinesupportservicesaustralia.com.au for full story)



Up-Lifting Story



Pauline Linke of Meningie relaxing with a hot cup of tea after delivering Sunflower Seeds to Genuine Support Services Australia.

## SAVE THE DATE International day of people with disability

FRIDAY I DECEMBER 2023 - IDAM - IPM Murray Bridge Regional Rowing Centre Sturt Reserve (Between Whart Road & Murray Cods Drive) COME ALONG AND BE A PART OF THE EXCITEMENT! Free Events, New Activities, Modified Sports & Activities, Recognition Awards, Petting Zoo, Face Painting and Free Healthy BBQ Lunch











#### **Cooking Classes**

#### Every Monday & Wednesday

Held in the commercial kitchen of the Ability Café at 5 Seventh St, Murray Bridge – classes run from 4 pm to 6 pm. You'll be involved in team planning, shopping, preparing, cooking, and even eating or taking home your own meal from the class – RSVP by phoning 8166 7577 the Friday prior, to book your spot.



#### Walking Group

#### Every Wednesday

This is a free activity, so come for the complimentary BBQ, meet new people, catch up with friends and enjoy the health benefits of a short walk. Starting every Wednesday from 11 am until 1 pm, please phone the office on 8166 7577 to get the latest meeting spot.

#### Eight Ball Night

#### **Every Thursday**

Do you like meeting new people and having fun? Bring along \$5 for games and join in the entertainment every Thursday night from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Swanport Hotel, 3166 Jervois Rd, Murray Bridge. All levels welcome – please phone Shane on 8166 7577 at GSSA to book your spot.

#### Pamper Night

#### Every Thursday Fortnight

Connect with other locals over a few nibbles while being pampered in the GSSA Activities Centre, 6 Seventh St, Murray Bridge. Held every Thursday fortnight from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm, there's always something new and interesting – phone 8166 7577 to book your spot for a night of pampering and interactive mindfulness.

#### Music Group

#### Every Friday

A wonderful place to meet people and have a lot of fun! A casual drop-in activity for everyone, no need to book, just follow the sounds of music and make yourself at home. Every Friday morning from 10.30 am to 11.45 am in the GSSA Activities Centre, 6 Seventh St, Murray Bridge.



#### GSSA Community Hub



#### Every Friday

Why not join us for our regular low cost weekly lunch specials – or just drop in for a refreshment and a casual chat from 12 noon to 2.30 pm at 5 Seventh St, Murray Bridge – everyone is welcome.

#### Arts & Crafts

#### Every Friday afternoon

Wanting to meet people, and discover new creative skills? Bring along \$10 and join in all the colourful enjoyment. Every Friday afternoon from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm next to the GSSA Community Hub in the GSSA Activities Centre, 6 Seventh St, Murray Bridge. All levels are welcome, please phone 8166 7577 to book your spot.

#### Photography Group

#### Monday to Sunday

Providing personal support and mentoring, entry-level tools with access to an inhouse studio and all the creative processing facilities required. GSSA's Fresh Perspective Photography enjoys providing one-on-one or group photography lessons, day or night for NDIS participants. The \$80 membership fee includes a 50-page personalised lesson plan folder, personal portfolio folder and a group t-shirt. Members progress at their own pace. Limited places, bookings essential phone 8166 7577.



Ben took this photograph during his Shutter Priority Sports Photography Lesson at the Dragway at The Bend on October 20, at the 2023 Spring Nationals.



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# MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING EXPO





## Our TEAM



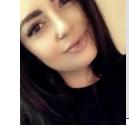
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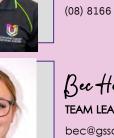
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Would you like to meet our team call us on (08) 8166

## **FIND-A-WORD**

#### **Positive Affirmations**

INDEPENDENT IMAGINATIVE MEANINGFUL WONDERFUL CONFIDENT BEAUTIFUL VALUABLE RELIABLE POSITIVE HANDSOME GENEROUS FRIENDLY CREATIVE ADMIRED STRONG LOVING LEADER CLEVER CARING SMART HAPPY FUNNY BRAVE GOOD

COMPASSIONATE



**CONNECT GROW** 



www.gssa.org.au

# Calendar of COMING EVENTS



2	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
EMBE		~~~	International Day of People with Disa	bility	1 International Day for People with Disability & a BBQ Diamond Park	2	<b>3*</b> Coffee & Cars, Murray Bridge
CEN	4 Cooking Class	5	6 Walking Group & Cooking Class & Archery @ Lenswood	7 Eight Ball Night	8 Music, Hub Lunch, Arts & Crafts	<b>9</b> Staff Christmas Party	10
DE	11 Cooking Class	12	13 Walking Group & Cooking Class	14 Pamper & Eight Ball Night	15 BBQ Diamond Park	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30	* Photography by arrangement

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
1	2	3	4	5	6	<b>7*</b> Coffee & Cars, Murray Bridge	
8 Cooking Class	9	<b>10</b> Walking Group & Cooking Class	11 Pamper & Eight Ball Night	<b>12</b> Music, Hub Lunch, Arts & Crafts	13	14	
15 Cooking Class	16	<b>17</b> Walking Group & Cooking Class	18 Eight Ball Night	<b>19</b> Music, Hub Lunch, Arts & Crafts	20	21	
22 Cooking Class & SIB Works Program	23 SIB Works Pro- gram	24 Walking Group, Cooking Class & SIB Works Program	25 Pamper & Eight Ball Night	26 Music, Hub Lunch, Arts & Crafts	27	28	
29 Cooking Class	30	<b>31</b> Walking Group & Cooking Class				* Photography by arrangement	

Genuine Support Services Australia



MAIN OFFICE
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COMMUNITY HUB & ACTIVITES CENTRE

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