

September 2021



No Limits

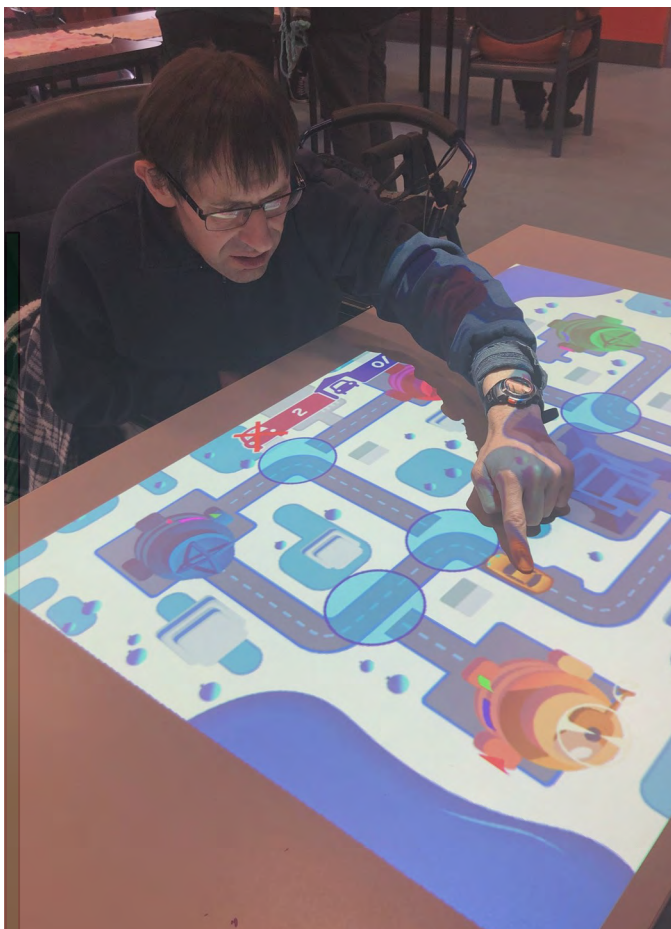


# NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the GGC Bumper edition

Newsletter 2021

NO LIMITS will be issued quarterly to keep you up to date with all the latest GGC news



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## IMPORTANT DATES:

Footy Day /Maffra and Sale campus	23/9/21
AFL Public Holiday	24/9/21
The Great Chase fundraising —zoom event	6/10/21
Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	2/11/21
Sensory garden construction	Sept/Oct / Nov



# CEO REPORT

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## Organisational Overview

So much has been happening this year. Our Pearson St building in Sale has sold which has meant a huge clean up and clear out across all campuses to accommodate the move. The GGC Board worked hard to make this happen and is committed to sourcing a new, fit for purpose facility in Sale.

I thank them all for the time and effort they have put into George Gray. I'd especially like to thank Jamie Rogers as he was instrumental in this project.

Jamie, John Howson and Deb Searle have retired from their positions as President, Treasurer and Secretary of the GGC Board, their time, effort and expertise was very much valued and appreciated. It is wonderful that they all continue to be a part of the GGC community.

GGC is very fortunate to now have David Anderson as President, Kaitlyn Abrahall as Treasurer and Leanne Jorgensen as Secretary, they have all hit the ground running as GGC continues to operate under the latest NDIS price guide and the ever changing COVID restrictions. A big welcome to these new Board members and much thanks to our long-standing members, Pam Stevens, Ann Wright and Nell Langley. Without our Board members who volunteer their time and expertise to GGC we could not continue to operate, providing the essential support services to our participants.

I would like to acknowledge Wendy McLaren for her amazing fundraising efforts which has enabled the purchase of the Obie Interactive Projector and the development and construction of the GGC Sensory Garden. Wendy has secured support and funding through various individuals and businesses including Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd and Esso/BHP. Work on the sensory garden is to commence in September 2021. Thanks to all participants, families and staff that have contributed to this success through your time and effort making and selling raffle tickets, purchasing raffle tickets and sourcing prizes, your help is very much appreciated.

## Participants and Programs

I am so very impressed with the adaptability and resilience of the participants and staff of GGC. For all the stress and disruption that comes along with this COVID pandemic, everyone at GGC has kept a smile on their face, supporting each other through the rough times and celebrating the freedom of movement out in the community when restrictions eased.

Throughout the year I have been in awe of the participants talents, with the great works produced in the Arts and Crafts programs and of those who exhibited their work at the Gippsland Art Gallery, which is such an achievement that many an artist would envy.

It has been a joy working from the Sale campus listening to the music, drama and choir groups practice and witnessing the development of each individual, to then work so well together.

I have been lucky enough to actively participate in the Swimming and Dance programs on a number of occasions and have seen firsthand the improvements in individual's health, coordination and concentration through involvement in these programs. I have also been very spoilt and had my lunch made for me by the Lunch Prep participants who always make a lunch that tastes so much better than anything I make myself.

I would like to congratulate all participants and staff on their amazing achievements so far this year. Well Done!!!

## Supported Employment

Glenn, Frank and Adrian have all been working hard with their crews making sure all jobs are up to date and completed to the highest standard. They are preparing for Spring, the busiest time of year, with the two newest members of the Gardening Crew, Connor and Josh now well equipped to cope with the workload of Spring time. The team are also looking forward to the commencement of our new Supported Employment Supervisor, Robert.

Keep up the great work!

Sonya Dunn

# PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

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With our dedicated team of staff and participant's adaptability we have overcome many obstacles this year with the cancellation of several events.

Through this COVID pandemic and the challenges it brings, staff have shown great initiative and resourcefulness through the disruptions keeping our activities & programs alive & running.

Our participants are to be commended for their flexibility and resilience, arriving each day full of enthusiasm and smiles whilst dealing with the various alterations to their normal routines. This should also be reflected on the parents and carers for their continued support through these challenges.

I would also like to commend & acknowledge Sonya our acting CEO for her wonderful leadership and commitment to our Centre.

She has been instrumental in leading us through this difficult period with her positive manner and professionalism.

It is a real pleasure working alongside a wonderful team and look forward to our new developments going forward.

Di Gieschen

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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### President

#### David Anderson

George Gray Centre welcomes David Anderson to the position of President of the Board of Management.

David was born and raised in Sale and is now retired, after a long career in the oil and gas industry with ExxonMobil. David now lives in Briagolong and enjoys working on his 100-acre property, clay target shooting and all things mechanical.

As Chairman for the Committee of Wellington, David fulfils his interest in giving back to the community and working with people.

David's goal as President of the GGC is:

***"To continue the good work of past president Jamie Rogers, and the current board, in ensuring we build a transparent and engaged board, that supports its staff, clients and the parents, while delivering high level of care and participation for the clients."***



## ART EXHIBITION 2021

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Congratulations to all of our artists



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## CONGRATULATIONS 25 YEARS SERVICE

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A big congratulations to Di Wain on reaching 25 years service at George Gray Centre.

What a wonderful achievement!

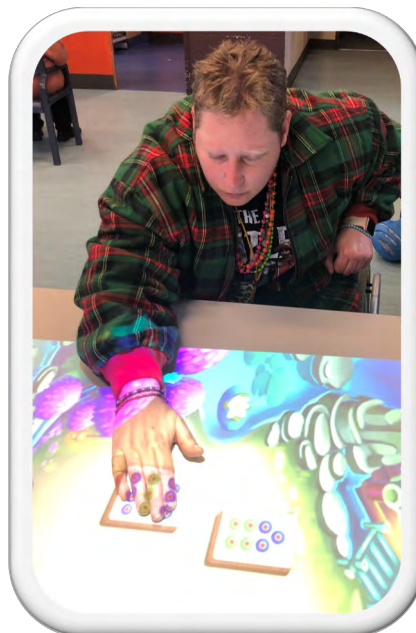
All of us here at George Gray are thankful for your dedicated service to the participants, the organisation and your fellow staff members.



## THE OBIE HAS LANDED



Participants of the Voice program were instrumental in the purchase of the Obie projector. After watching a zoom demonstration from the Eye click team in Israel the participants were hooked and decided we should have an Obie at the Centre, especially during COVID lockdowns. The Voice group put together a proposal and assisted in applying for a grant through Kalbar Resources which was successful. The group also approached the George Gray Auxiliary for assistance with funds. EyeClick also assisted with the purchase and were extremely helpful in getting the Obie to us as quickly as possible. The Obie has proven to be a great addition for all abilities. It can be used on the floor, walls and table, it has a range of games, encouraging movement, hand eye coordination, gross motor skills, whilst also being a lot of fun for both participants and staff.



## SOCIAL AND FRIENDSHIPS

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*Having friendships develop is an important part of our every day lives especially in the current COVID environment.*



## ‘DRAMA

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The participants have been enjoying lots of new role play and focussing games, honing in on there memory recall and listening for cues skills. We are still exploring Shakespeare and the group has done a brilliant job at painting some big props and making crowns ready for dress rehearsals.

With the continued COVID restrictions we have decided to make our play into a film. This will be an exciting way to ensure we are able to showcase all the skills we have been learning in Drama.



## MUSIC EXPRESSION

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The music expression groups have been learning to keep the beat with percussion instruments. All participants have had a go at leading the group. We are able to follow single, double and rest beats, whilst keeping together in time.

We also found this amazing piano accordion whilst doing some cleaning up over the lockdown period. We all had lots of fun having a go at playing this amazing instrument.

What a treasure!!

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## DANCE

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Dancing is a great way to express ourselves.

The Leaps and bounds dance crew are busting out some amazing moves.

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## CHOIR

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### 3 WISE MONKEYS

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The choir have been learning lots of new songs this semester.

Their favourite would have to be 'Oh Happy Day' from Sister Act which they worked very hard on as they have to sing it in two groups.

Participants also learnt 'True Blue' which they sing in sign language for the chorus.

We continue to practice our percussion to which teaches us a lot about timing and beats.

Next we are tackling 'Man In The Mirror' by Michael Jackson.

## CREATIVE STYLES

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So many ways our participants have expressed themselves through creativity and art.

We are so proud of all the amazing works that have been completed.



## SEWING

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The ability of the sewing groups continue to amaze!!!



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## CRAFT

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So many beautiful crafts been made during the year, some of these items will be for sale at a planned twilight market later in the year or when COVID restrictions allow.



## SWIMMING

Swimming groups have continued to develop their skills and enjoy the freedom of being in the water.



## GYMNASTICS



Gymnastics continues to be popular , participants have shown huge improvements in confidence, fitness and agility.

## Low impact basketball Heyfield - 2021



The guys have been working hard, practicing their basketball skills. We've enjoyed some friendly competition with some games of around the world with Josh Campbell winning Steve Bradbury style!

We've practiced catching, throwing, different types of passes and shooting into the goals.

A great start to the semester



## Out and about

Whilst we haven't had a lot of opportunity to be out and about, groups have made the most of local areas when ever restrictions allow



## Sensory and Leisure

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Lots of hands on experiences with our sensory and leisure programs and activities



## Cooking with style



Our master chefs have scored 10 out of 10 for there amazing meals. Well done all !!



## GETTING BACK TO NATURE

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Plenty of work in the garden keeping us in touch with nature. Green thumbs group have visited the botanical gardens for inspiration

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## TEN PIN BOWLING

Plenty of action in the Ten pin bowling group.



## RDA

The RDA group are truly awesome we love to see the relationships between horse and rider develop as well as confidence and abilities.



## MARTIAL ARTS

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The Martial Arts group continue to develop their skills, working on fitness, balance and strength .



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## FOOTY DAY .....



The footy tipping competition has been going strong this season. With the results being given in a secret ballot on Footy day.

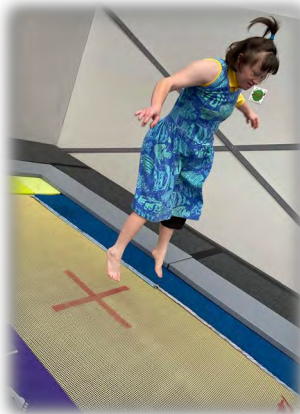
This has created great excitement and we cant wait for the official results on September 23rd



## 1: 1 SUPPORT ACTIVITIES



Michael really enjoys a walk around both Lake Guyatt and Lake Guthridge ,seeing the different birds always sparks his attention. When we are out for our walk around Sale CBD , we often run into people that know Mikey. He gets great pleasure from saying hello . Mikey really enjoys joining up with the Music / Choir program , he is very vocal and loves to show off the fact that his ability to sing is better than mine .



This is Susie , as part of her 1:1 support Susie has participated in gymnastics, cooking and for the last three Tuesday's we have been building our fine motor skills by doing some beading and threading buttons . We have also worked on sewing with wool , and practising using sign , Susie has really enjoyed this and led all the activities with confidence



Luke has a love of cars and was super happy to have a visit at Turnbolls Toyota



Brian loves to go out and about



Jacob always enjoys cooking up a storm.



Pipa and Jacob getting to know each other

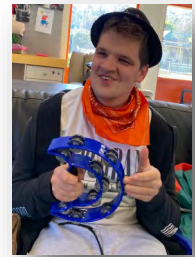


Catching up with his friends is an important part of Brian's social development

## Participant blog: Clancie Davis

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1. My horses name is Oscar I like horse riding I like trotting.
- 2 . My other horses names were Duke, Dudley, Gus, and Apollo.
- 3 . I like giving Oscar pats on his neck.
4. I do gymnastics on Tuesday, Martial arts on Wednesday and bowling on Thursday.
5. At gymnastics I like the rings, the air mat, doing exercises on my back. At martial arts I like doing some exercises kicking and punching. At bowling I like getting strikes



## Participant blog: Luke Pagram

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I also do low impact basketball at Heyfield basketball stadium. We do warm ups before we start and shoot some practice goals. We then play a game and have a break and play another game.

I am a part of the Choir group. We play instruments and then sing a number of songs we have in our Choir book.

I join the Martial arts program. We do a bit of exercise, practicing our balance whilst we do kicking and punching.

I like doing men's shed we have made wooden cars, Making Wind chimes out of beads, spoons and bells. We also work on my remote control cars when they need fixing, using a soldering iron.

I finish my week with computers. Where I look up car wreckers , listen to music, and different kites and wind chimes.



## Participant blog: Ainsley Mann

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I come to the GGC 3 days a week. I go to the Sale campus. I do choir, drama & music expression

Drama is my favourite day. I like acting in the plays.

I am Mac Beth and Shakespeare in the next play called "Queen Elizabeth & her players"

My favourite song is "This is me" from the movie the Greatest Show Man. I practice at home, writing out the words of the songs making my own song book. I love performing and using the microphone was really good .



## Participant blog: Deborah Kleefsman

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I come to GGC 4 days a week

My favourite program is dancing but I love all of them really

George Gray is great fun because I get to be with all my friends just hanging out do fun things together

My art work I did at GGC was in an exhibition – it made me feel very proud. Lots of people saw it

I am happy when I am joking and laughing at staff being goofy



## Participant blog: Lachlan Boswell

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I love to be creative and like to make my own Pokémon figurines in sculpture art.

I also love to cook!



## FUNDRAISING.....

A great effort by our participants and staff in fundraising efforts this year.

With donations of a court from Sports courts Victoria, raised garden beds from Bunnings, Raffle nights at the Sports club. And generous donations from the Commonwealth bank, Donalda Motors and Wilmour motors.

A big thanks to Gavin Dobson and Kylie and Luke Higgins for awesome donation of raffle prizes

Thankyou to families, parents and carers for supporting GGC!

## SPECIAL NEWS REPORT:

Our fundraising efforts have had some profound impacts over the year. When Jason from Sports Courts Victoria got in touch with us to say he would like to donate a court., we were over the moon! Little did we know of the impact GGC would have on Jason and his team. The guys arrived to install the court, Jason was unable to attend, but he enjoyed a FaceTime with Robbie who was super excited. Mark and Dale installed the court with a lot of help and supervision from Rob and GGC participants. Lots of laughs and smiles were enjoyed during the time the team were here. GGC have made a few videos and Facebook posts to say thankyou to Sports Courts Vic who travelled four hours to be here.

I received a message just recently from Jason to say how much all of the team loved the smiling faces and interactions with our participants., so much so, that he has created a new position on his staff for a person with a disability. He wanted to pass on the below message....

### Jason's message:

Thanks Wendy , you and your guys have inspired me to get more involved with those with disabilities.

Jason you are a star!!!!



## SENSORY GARDEN NEWS



Fantastic news for our Sensory Garden Fundraising, which has been running for the past few months. We have received some amazing support from local business and clubs. We were all incredibly excited when Esso/BHP generously offered to get us underway with the payment of all landscaping for the project!

We are extremely grateful to the support that Esso has given to George Gray over the years. A big thankyou to Jarrod Byham (Esso) for taking an interest in our Centre and supporting this great cause.

A Huge Thankyou to Anthony Booker from All Round Landscapes for jumping on board, drawing up the design and putting together a quote for us to submit to Esso for the project.

Funding will enable us to make a start with work All Round Landscapes beginning work in October! Great news for these ongoing lockdowns we are all enduring. Keep up to date with the progress on our Website [www.georgegray.org.au](http://www.georgegray.org.au)



## IN MEMORY OF JOHN HADLAND MILLAR

The George Gray community is deeply saddened by the sudden passing of our much loved participant and friend John Hadland Millar

We would like to offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to John's family, carers and friends.

John attended GGC for over 15 years, he will be sadly missed by all of us – we will all remember his cheeky grin and gentle nature.

Rest in peace Johnny



## GEORGE GRAY WOULD LIKE TO THANK.....

