



Isaac's Story.....

Happy at Work!

Isaac Brown, his Mum Vicki and his Local Area Coordinator Suzanne Kelly came in to Valley Industries this week to talk about Isaac's progress and his plans for the future. Vicki and Isaac sat down to talk to us about how much it means to both of them that Isaac has found work at Valley Industries.

Isaac is a truly gentle giant! He's tall, dark and handsome and has a quiet and kind presence that wins over everybody who comes in to contact with him.

Isaac spent his childhood living in the bush in Cape York, Queensland with his Mum. Their life was quite isolated and Isaac grew up in a small community of the Elders.



Isaac Brown with Suzanne Kelly, Local Area Coordinator with St Vincent De Pauls and Valley Industries' Graeme Shultz.

Isaac and his Mum moved to Manning Point, NSW 5 years ago, and heard about the school work experience programme at Valley Industries – Transition to Work & training.

Isaac expressed his interest in coming to try out work and Vicki was very encouraged and made contact to see how he could get involved.

He joined the TTW (Transition to Work & Training) team and spent time in several of the business units getting some experience. During that time, Isaac made great friends with Blake Gibbons and Dayne Fox. They worked together and socialised together. Isaac soon become more confident in himself and his self-esteem grew. Vicki says it was fantastic to see the transformation after being such a quiet and reserved child.

Along with Blake and Dayne, Isaac has now joined Valley Industries full-time. After his work experience, he decided that the Bees section was his favourite and that's where he now works with Nigel and his team.

Isaac, says "he really enjoys being part of the Valley Industries workforce. He loves putting on the uniform, he's proud to be a worker.

Vicki describes it as "a dream. Having access to Valley Industries is fantastic. They pull everything together and make everything so easy. When I tell my friends from Queensland they can't believe how lucky we are. There's nothing like it for them".

Isaac is going from strength to strength – trying more things, attending social events.... And ast week he passed his driving test and now has his L's!

Thanks to Isaac and Vicki for sharing your story with us.

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Skills for Daily Living



Dayne Fox at the wheel



Dayne about to go out on the road



Al & Rod at Valley Skills for Life

The NDIS has made it possible for people with disability to work towards their goal of obtaining a driver's licence. Driving is such an important part of a person's independence and has a very positive impact on community integration.

Valley Skills are running 1-1 lessons to support Participants through the assessment process and to take the Driver Knowledge Test (DKT) - a computer based road rules knowledge test.

The test includes 15 general

knowledge questions and 30 road safety questions - and you must answer 41 questions correctly to pass.

Once Participants have passed this test they are issued with their Ls and can start the 1-1 on-the-road driving lessons offered at Valley Skills.

Alan Campbell is at the start of the process, preparing to take the DKT. Dayne and Rory have passed the DKT and are now taking on-the-road lessons.



Rory about to have his 4th lesson

Tenpin Winners!

There were celebrations all round after the Special Olympics Tenpin team took part in the Central Coast games last weekend.

The winners were.....

Ben Green - 3rd in Singles & Doubles

Stephen Lambert - 3rd in Singles & Doubles

Emma Johnson - 1st in the Singles, 2nd in the Doubles

Kristy Muldoon - 1st in the Singles, 2nd in the Doubles

Adam Polley - 4th in the Singles, 1st in the Doubles

Beau Polley - 1st in the Singles, 1st in the Doubles

Peter Gyde - 3rd in the Singles, 1st in the Doubles

Marc Jeffress - 1st in the Singles, 1st in the Doubles

Congratulations! What a team!

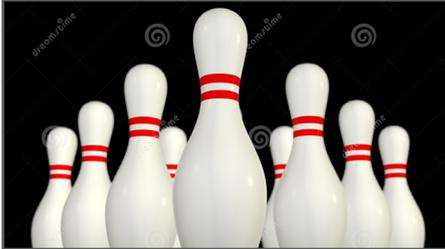




Save the Date



Activities for June & July



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



Saturday 30th June

Tea Gardens Ferry & Lunch

Come for an early drive to Nelson's Bay, hop on the ferry, looking out for dolphins on the ride across to Tea Gardens. Lunch at the hotel and a walk along the waterfront. **Departs 8am-return 3pm**
 Names in by 11th June



Saturday 7th July

Riccardoes

Fancy some Strawberries in Winter? Come and pick your own and take some home
 Bring or buy your own lunch
 Names in by 22nd June



Saturday 14th July

Tmbertown, Wauchope

\$45 inc entrance & lunch
 Ride the train or the horse & carriage
 Lunch at the Copper's Grill
 Names in by 29th June



Saturday 21st July

Hub & Pub

Check out what's new at the Market then enjoy lunch on the bank of the river at Cooperbrook
 Bring or buy your own lunch
 Names in by 6th July

Events run from 9am - 3pm unless shown differently above

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

Kristin Hancock	John Collins
Peter Osmond	Samantha Berridge
April Christie	Ben Walsh
Michael Keyzer	Robert McKenzie
Leanne Anable	Elaine Cruse
Samantha Case	Joshua Polley
Tyran Cox	Scott Charters
Chloe Jones	Loretta Alexander
Alan Cooper	Jane Mackenzie
Jackson Crick	Nigel Powell
Rachael Hanshaw	Claire King
Jessica Blundell	Jeremy Heaslip
Nathan Boorer	Darlene Patterson
Kelvin Manewell	Heather Bramble
Brady Carney	Rimmilin Scott
Dianne Roberts	Derinda Davies
Samuel Geddes	Rosanna White
Ryce Bland	Samuel Bayliss
Natasha Szymanski	Peter Nixon
Jay Saar	Amanda Varty
Stacey Rushdale	Derek Weekes
Jasmine Hardy	Max McCarthy
Danielle Smith	Gary Heaton
Bronwyn Jobson	Ryce Bland



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What's been happening

Trip to Nabcac Motorcycle Museum

The trip to the National Motorcycle Museum at Nabcac took place on a bright Saturday morning. The Valley Social team had a good wander around looking at some of the 800 motorbikes from all over the world

- from vintage classics to modern superbikes.

After a couple of hours exploration, there was time for a quick look at the toys, models and memorabilia before

heading off for lunch at the Nabcac Hotel

Another great day out with the Valley Social Crew!



Sharon eyes up a classic



Margaret and Victor admire the racers



Chris and a Triumph



Audrey and vintage car

Valley Linen gets Solar Power!

Valley Linen Services has completed the installation of a 60KW solar system.

210 panels have been fitted to the roof of the commercial laundry in Elizabeth St and are already producing over 39KW of power.

That's more than enough to power at least 2 of our industrial sized machines every day!

Even with the odd cloudy or rainy day, this system should produce over 85,000KW each year, saving tens of thousands of dollars in energy costs..... that can all go back in to funding far more important things for Participants at Valley Industries.

Clean, renewable energy that saves money and reduces maintenance - what's not to love!



5 Stars! *****



Valley Cafe and the Valley Canteen have recently just been through their council audits - and both maintained their 5 star ratings for excellent standards.

Valley Linen Service was also audited by a third party specialist company and the auditor made a point of saying "this is the cleanest commercial laundry I've ever seen!"

Congratulations to Monique, Heather, Damon and their teams for the fantastic results!



Who's Who at Valley Skills for Life



Amanda Varty **Disability Services Co-ordinator**

When did you join Valley Industries? And what is your role?

I joined last November as the Disability Services Co-ordinator at Valley Skills for Life.

What is your work background?

I have had a varied career – I started in disability services with Taree Council, working for 'Links to Learning' – teaching kids with disability. We taught Maths, English, Computer Skills and Social Skills at the PCYC.

I have also managed a transport company, worked in Media at Manning River Times and been a music teacher.

I have liked each of my jobs but have always wanted to return to the disability sector. The skills I've learnt in my previous roles are extremely valuable and those experiences have given me the opportunity to now work in an organisation that supports and improves the lives of people who need it.

What is your main role at Valley Industries?

As the Disability Services Co-ordinator I am responsible for the day-to-day operation of all disability programs at Valley Skills for Life (VSFL).

I manage all the support staff at VSFL to deliver comprehensive participant-centred care and services.

I work with Sue Payton, families, carers, other service providers and the NDIS to develop a wide range of programs to meet the needs of our Participants and help them achieve their goals.

I am the direct point of contact for all families who want to discuss the Programs, Participants' requirements, Participants' issues and care needs.

Who do you work alongside at VSFL?

The team at VSFL is made up of: Emma Lakeman who is responsible for co-ordinating all the Accommodation & Living Services, Sue Payton who is responsible for co-ordination of NDIS Supports with Clients and families, Rhonda Annesley who is responsible for all Social and Community Activities Promotion & Activity and myself looking after the Programs we offer at VSFL.

What else should we know about you?

I have always had a great deal of respect for Valley Industries. I think the breadth of services and support that we offer is unique and I'm really proud to be a part of it. I have a family connection as my aunt works in the shredding division at Whitbread St. I have a passion for nurturing people, taking care of them and keeping them safe. That's why I joined Valley Industries.

Thank you Amanda. We will be talking to Emma and Sue in future issues to see how you all work alongside each other to offer the best services and care at Valley Skills for Life.



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Meet the Directors

This month we talked to Morgan Stewart and he shared a bit about his background and passions in life.



How long have you been a Valley Board Director?

I'm fairly new to Valley Industries Board - I joined in 2017 after I was inspired by listening to Mal & Jan Shultz talk about the great work that is done at Valley Industries.

Tell us a little about yourself:

I am a husband to Annette and a father to Molly

I grew up in New Zealand and moved to Australia in 1990 when I was 21.

I have spent most of my career in the Hospitality Industry - Casino's and Registered Clubs and am now the CEO of Club Taree.

I understand you are a White Ribbon Ambassador. What does that entail?

I am very proud to be a White Ribbon Ambassador. The White Ribbon organisation promotes the prevention of violence against women. Our vision is 'to build a nation that respects women, in which every woman lives in safety, free from all forms of men's abuse'.

In my role as Ambassador I do everything in my power, in my personal life and at work, to promote gender equality and primary prevention.

I am particularly passionate about trying to engage men to be part of the solution - to challenge old habits, to stand up, speak out and act.

At Club Taree we have adopted a zero tolerance policy on any form of violence or aggression towards women. It starts with me, but every employee at Club Taree has made a commitment to standing up and speaking out if they see or hear any signs of abuse.

The Club is an accredited White Ribbon Workplace, which recognises

organisations that are taking active steps to stop violence against women.

I spend a lot of my time talking to companies, schools, sports clubs and community groups to encourage positive action to create the change we need to see.

Do you have time for any other interests?

I am an instructor with 28 Australian Army Cadet Unit in Muldoon St here in Taree - and working for Club Taree means I can play Golf regularly!

What led to your involvement in Valley Industries?

I knew of Valley Industries and the amazing work they do with people and when the chance came to be considered for the Board I was very interested, because I also run a community based business and believe that having other business people in the community involved together is a positive thing.

Morgan Stewart

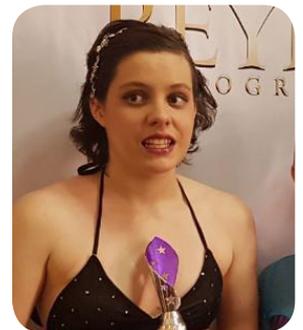
Thank you for talking to us Morgan!

Congratulations

Jess Blundell was very proud to receive a medal for her 'top score of the night' at Taree Tenpin recently.

And Sophie Powick was delighted to win 1st Place in the Ritz and Glitz Easter Dance Championships.

Well done to both of you!



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