



What's been happening



Lunch at the Tea Gardens Hotel



Paul Blanch



Sharon Griffis



Peter, Zac, Sarah & Maddie



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Ferry Trip to Tea Gardens

It was a bit of a chilly start but 3 bus loads of happy day trippers had a wonderful day out on Saturday 1st July as they took a ferry trip from Nelson's Bay to Tea Gardens.

No dolphins were spotted in this trip, but they did see turtles and swans and pelicans.

After a stroll along the waterfront, everybody had a delicious lunch at the Tea Gardens Hotel.



Keo Bayes



Save the Date

Saturday 15th July



Booti Booti National Park
Come & enjoy the walk - to the top of the lookout if you dare!

Bring or buy your own lunch
Depart Taree 9am



Hub Markets
Browse the stalls and choose what you'll enjoy for lunch.

Buy your own lunch
Meet at the Showground
9.30am

Saturday 22nd July



Gloucester Chill Out
Come and see the snow!
It will be cold so wrap up warm!

Bring or buy your own lunch
Depart Taree 8.30am



Time for some 1-1 activity of your Choice!

Saturday 29th July



Bulahdelah Courthouse
Delve into the history of the town. See relics and movies and the original lock up.

\$6 entry fee
Buy your own lunch
Depart Taree 8.30am

Saturday 4th August



Volkswagon Spectacular - Macksville
Check out all the classic VW's and see if you can find 'Herbie'. Bring a camera.

\$5 entry fee
Bring or buy your own lunch
Depart Taree 8.30am - return 3.30pm
Names in by 20th July

Saturday 11th August



Seal Rocks Lighthouse
Do the hike to the lighthouse and enjoy the views. We might even spot a whale!
Bring your camera.

Bring or buy your own lunch
Depart Taree 9am - return 3pm

Names in by 27th July

Check that you have NDIS support hours for Saturdays in your plan.

To put your name down and for more info - call Rhonda on 0427 512605

Bus pick ups are from: Primrose St, Wingham; Coinda at Valley Industries; Caltex Taree South



What's been happening



John Reddie wins a badge for his frist 'three strikes in a row'!



Following the fun morning of tenpin and golf at Forster Entertainment Centre, it was off to the Golf Club for lunch with David Isbel and his family.



After Sophie Powick won first place in the Ritz & Glitz Easter Dance Challenge, the NDIA came to Valley Cafe to see her at work and interview her. Here are some of the photographs taken on the afternoon. Congratulations Sophie!



Emma, Peter, Ben, Kristy, Marc and Beau at the Special Olympics Tenpin championships in Coffs Harbour



Ben & David show off their Gold medals!!



Mitch on stage with Guy Sebastian at his 'Then & Now' show at the Manning Entertainment Centre



- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Darren Wilson | Isaac Brown |
| Michael Honeyman | Kaye Knowles |
| Beverley Yates | Graeme Shultz |
| William Roberts | Renee Gilbert |
| Jack Shelton | Tracey Grisold |
| Raymond Bidner | Todd Green |
| Samantha Pyne | Carol Healy |
| Haleigh Gillett | Michael Gowers |
| Ken Watts | Tania Hall |
| Cathy Lord | James Bush |
| Daniel Shields | |



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Who's Who at Valley Skills for Life

This month we talk to Sue Payton at Valley Skills for Life.



Sue Payton NDIS Support Co-ordinator

When did you join Valley Industries?

I joined on the 7th July 2007 as a Support Worker.

What is your current role at Valley Skills for Life?

I am the NDIS Support Co-ordinator. I am responsible for supporting families in their NDIS planning meetings, assisting participants with choices of supports that are available, ensure that each individual gets the supports they need to achieve their goals in their NDIS plans.

I'm a firm believer that everybody should get the supports that they need and as such, I go into battle with the NDIS at times to make sure all our Participants get a fair chance. I have made THOUSANDS of calls to the NDIS in the last 18 months!

Who do you work alongside at Valley Skills?

I work alongside Amanda Varty – Disability Services Co-ordinator at Valley Skills for Life, Emma Lakeman – Accommodation Co-Ordinator for our Accommodation & Living Services, Rhonda Annesley who is responsible for all Social Activities.

As a leadership team we meet weekly to review plans and activities and staffing requirements and make sure that everybody knows the priorities for the coming week.

What were you doing in life before Valley?

I had my AIN and was working in Aged Care. I'd also had 3 children, so for a while I was a check-out chick, fitting work around parenting.

When the kids were old enough, I was looking for a role with purpose, something where I could make a difference, and I saw the Support Worker role advertised at Valley Industries and was lucky enough to get the job.

You must have seen a lot of changes over the last 11 years?

I sure have! At Valley Industries and in the industry as a whole.

The organisation has grown enormously, the number of businesses units has grown, the number of supports we offer has grown and the number of staff has grown!

The introduction of the NDIS has also had a massive impact on everybody in the disability sector. It's been particularly hard for some of the families to get used to the change and there were hiccups along the way, but after 18 months you can really start to see the positive changes coming through.

Valley Industries has changed since the introduction of the NDIS too. We are much more flexible in how we provide supports to meet individual needs. The NDIS has enabled us to offer more 1-1 supports to help people with their everyday living – from shopping, banking, going to the doctors, financial planning – all skills that we take for granted but which might be quite new for some people. This is one of the real benefits – enabling people with disability to be much more independent, getting out in the community as an equal and seeing real improvements in their quality of life.

What else should we know about you?

I'm the mother of 2 children with disability – both are profoundly deaf – so I have been through many of the experiences that families I see at Valley Industries are going through. I think it does give me an empathy and an understanding and families relate to that.

I am passionate about my job as I want to see everybody get a fair chance in life. It drives me to see the benefits that families and individuals get out of the supports we help them to fight for.

I'm also a keen gardener and have a very eclectic range of gardens - there is a little bit of everything going on!

And at the end of every week, I think if I've helped people at Valley Industries and my family are safe and sound, then I count my blessings!

Thanks Sue, it was great talking to you.



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Meet the Directors

Frances Barberie is our newest Board Member at Valley Industries. What a great opportunity to get to know a bit about her – if you see her around, say hello!



How long have you been a member of the Valley Industries Board?

I'm a newbie! I joined the Board in April this year.

Tell us about your background.

I'm a Taree local, I went to school at Chatham High and finished my education there in 1970. I then did what many teenagers do, left for the big City! I went to Sydney to study law but halfway through decided I wanted to change direction and went to work in Publishing!

I then got the travel bug and went on an around the world trip – via Japan and over the North Pole to UK and Europe and back via Alaska. When I got home I was 25 with \$2.50 to my name!

I have worked in several companies in the area, my last employer was Dr Alan Hopcroft, Orthopaedic Specialist.

I met my husband, Ian, in 1989. We had a twelve year courtship before getting married in 2001. Ian had suffered with ill health for many years and died just before Christmas 2017 and I still miss him dreadfully.

I am a full-time volunteer for 'Operation Christmas Child' – one of the major fundraising initiatives of Samaritan's Purse. Every year we put together gift boxes to be distributed to children in poverty across the globe.

I am also the treasurer of the Wingham Schools Ministry, supporting the scripture teacher at Wingham High School and the treasurer and secretary of the Wingham Anglican Parish.

That must keep your pretty busy! Do you have time for any other interests?

I do, I am a life member and treasurer of the Taree Historic Motor Club and I enjoy both the social aspect and the fundraising of the Club very much. I am also a keen patchworker – sometimes described as a person who buys fabric to cut it into small pieces and sew it back together again!

What led you to become involved with Valley Industries?

I have been aware of Valley Industries since I was a student at Chatham High School, as we used to travel on the same bus as some of the Valley Industries Participants. I think the work done by the team at Valley Industries is fantastic and we are blessed to have such a valuable organisation in our community.

Thank you for talking to us Frances, we look forward to getting to know you.

Supported Employment Wage Review

The Fair Work Commission has announced a 3.5% increase in minimum wages. This increase applies from the first full pay period starting on or after 1st July 2018.

For all Participants in our Australian Disability Enterprise on the Supported Wage System the Board of Valley Industries has agreed to increase the minimum wage paid by Valley Industries by 20%.

If you are in receipt of the Centrelink benefits your change in income will need to be reported. This can be done at the Centrelink Office or your Centrelink online account through MyGov.



Valley Industries Ltd

Helping people to help themselves

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Valley Skills of Life

Nature's Care Nursery

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Valley Vintage

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