



What's Happening

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022!

What interesting times we are living in. With multiple changes to COVID-19 rules and regulations over the past few months it is often hard to keep up with the changes. As of Friday 25 February 2022 the relaxing of a number of rules come into place. You are no longer required to QR Code into our vehicles, however as we are classed as Public Transport the wearing of face masks is still mandatory. We continue to prioritise your and our drivers health and safety by following these protocols.

Staying COVID safe while travelling

- Travellers are required to hand sanitise
- Masks must be worn by the driver & passengers unless a medical exemption can be produced.
- Vehicles are cleaned regularly throughout the day to reduce the risk of spread.
- Social distancing wherever possible
- We will continue to monitor the Covid situation and adhere to relevant advice from NSW Government.

With the relaxation of these rules and more face to face appointments being scheduled as well as postponed surgeries being rescheduled at short notice we will do our best to accommodate your transport needs. Please understand due to limited resources, both vehicles and drivers, we will sometimes need you to be flexible with sharing vehicles, pick up and drop off times so we can ensure all clients get to appointments on time and back home again.

Social Outings We have planned most of our 2022 social trips. Thank you to those who have provided suggestions. If you found yourself enjoying particular outings in the past or have suggestions on any new locations or activities, don't be shy and share your thoughts by calling 02 6331 3322 or emailing coordinator@bctg.com.au

March's Social Outing will be a trip to Hassan's Walls and then to Lithgow Workies for lunch. These trips are scheduled for Tuesday March 8 and 22. The bus will be \$10pp, Meals start from \$17.

April's Social Outing will be a trip to Chifley Dam and then to Paddy's Hotel Kelso for lunch. These trips are scheduled for Tuesday April 12 and 26. The bus will be \$10pp, Meals start from \$17.

May's Social Outing will be a scenic drive through Blackheath taking in the colourful autumn leaves and then to Gardners Inn Hotel for lunch. These trips are scheduled for Tuesday May 10 & 24. The bus will be \$15pp, Meals start from \$20.

To book your spot call us on 6331 3322

We Are Covid Safe

- *Sanitised vehicles
- *Drivers wear masks and are fully vaccinated

BCTG –SOCIAL TRIPS

March 8 & 22: Scenic Drive Hassan's Walls & Lithgow Workies

Bus \$10pp
Meals from \$17
(own expense)

April 12 & 26 Scenic Drive Chifley Dam & Paddy's Hotel Kelso

Bus \$10pp
Meals from \$17
(own expense)

May 10 & 24: Scenic Drive Blackheath & Gardners Inn Hotel

Bus \$15pp
Meals from \$20
(own expense)

**prices correct at time of
printing. Blackboard
specials available*

DATES TO REMEMBER

NSW School Holidays

April 9-26

Thursday 14 April:

Combined Hill End and
Sofala to Bathurst Run

EASTER: Public Holidays

Friday 15 April
Sunday 17 April
Monday 18 April

ANZAC DAY: MONDAY

25 April



New Services for 2022

As many of you know we run a fortnightly service from Hill End and Sofala into Bathurst and return for people in those communities to do their shopping or attend appointments. We will be extending that service to people in **Rock Forest and Dunkeld commencing on Monday 21 March 2022** and then continuing each fortnight (except public holidays) and for those from **Meadow Flat, Yetholme, Walang, Napoleon Reef and Raglan commencing Monday 28 March 2022** and then continuing each fortnight (except public holidays). This will be a prebooked service with bookings required by midday on the Friday prior to each Monday departure. The client contribution is \$12 return. Feel free to share with friends and family living in these areas who may need assistance with transport. Please call us on 02 6331 3322 to register and book.

We will also be running a weekly shopping bus for our clients who reside in **Rosemont Ave and Ilumba Gardens to Big W Rank, Bathurst each Friday morning**. Pick up will be at 8:45am from Rosemont Ave and 8:55am from Ilumba Gardens. Return departure from BIG W rank at 11:15am. The client contribution will be \$5 for the trip. To express your interest or book this service please call us on 02 6331 3322.

Volunteers

Do you know someone who would love to become a volunteer with us? They might have recently retired or someone who's looking to give back to the community? Our volunteers are



an integral part of what we do, and we ensure that they are trained in all the necessary requirements such as wheelchair training, and safe practices training as well as in-house training sessions with the team! Anyone interested in volunteering can call our office on 02 6331 3322 or email us via coordinator@bctg.com.au for more information

Senior Travel Cards

2022 Senior Travel Cards are now available! We accept the Regional Senior Travel Card, which provides eligible seniors in regional, rural and remote areas with a \$250 prepaid card.

This card can then be used with many of the services that we offer, such as: Individual transport to medical appointments, essential shopping trips and more

If you don't have a regional seniors travel card, you can apply online; service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-regional-seniors-travel-card or call 13 77 88 or visit Service NSW at corner of Bradwardine Rd & Mitchell Hwy.





Plan your own adventure—Local Escapes:

We are offering trips of up to a maximum of 3 hrs in one of our vehicles, to visit destinations within our local government area. You may want to visit somewhere that holds a special place in your memory or go to a café that is slightly further afield. Maybe you just want a drive around Bathurst for an hour. Trips are limited to a maximum of 3 or 4 clients per vehicle at a rate of \$10pp for clients residing within the 80km/hr limits.

New Faces

The Bathurst Community Transport team is growing!



We would love you to welcome our newest team member, Danielle.

Danielle joins us in the fulltime Coordinators role. Many of you will have already got to know her voice over the last two months. She is a valuable addition to our team, and is learning the ropes very quickly and even more importantly understands our quirky sense of humour!

Danielle has previously worked in aged care and community transport and enjoys interacting with the senior members of our community. She looks forward to speaking with and meeting you over the coming months.

She has two children and 3 Chihuahuas and is coming to terms with her eldest child entering high school this year.

#Dosomethinggood & go paperless!

We aim to have a positive impact, not only for our clients but also on our environment. So, if you are able, join us in going paper free and receive your accounts and newsletter electronically by registering your email with the office.

Do you use social media? To keep updated with all things new and what's happening at BCTG follow us on Facebook @Bathurst Community Transport



Feel free to share our Newsletter with a friend or if you have any questions, please give us a call on - 02 6331 3322

IMAGE CREDIT: APEX MEDIA



2/369 Stewart Street
Bathurst NSW 2795

PO BOX 9011
West Bathurst NSW 2795
Phone: 02 6331 3322

Email: coordinator@bctg.com.au
OFFICE HOURS 8:15AM to 4:15PM
MONDAY to FRIDAY



Taking the Bathurst Community
where they want to be,
when they want to be there.

www.bctg.com.au



Services We Offer

It is so exciting to be allowed out and about again after what has been a very strange couple of years. At BCTG we becoming very busy very quickly. Whilst we would love to be able to transport everyone every day we have limited cars and limited drivers. **Please book** as soon as you know about your appointments. Sometimes if you can be a bit flexible we can help you out.

At the time of writing we can have 75% capacity in our vehicles. So you may be sharing a vehicle with someone else. All vehicles are thoroughly cleaned before and after each shift. At this stage everyone in the vehicle must wear a mask at all times (unless a medical exemption can be produced). All drivers are double vaccinated (and soon to be triple). Remember you must not travel if you are sick.

Town Car: Our Town Car is a wheelchair converted Kia Carnival which services the Bathurst township. Our driver collects clients from their homes and delivers them where they need to go. Our town car is very busy and can be booked out in advance so we appreciate as much notice as possible for your appointments. You may also book a regular scheduled trip in the town car. The car operates 8:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday. The Town Car is not a taxi service. It is one car and one driver. We have a long list of clients wanting to use the car so you will need to book ahead. We try and accommodate as many people as possible each day. Your flexibility is appreciated.

Out of Town Transport: Transport is available in BCT cars driven by our volunteers. These trips may be for medical or social appointments. For the safety of our drivers and clients, the earliest our cars can leave Bathurst is 7.00 am and they must be back in Bathurst by 6.00 pm. Therefore, we request that you book appointments between the following times.

Orange	Dubbo	Lithgow	Katoomba	Penrith Nepean	Parramatta Westmead	Hornsby North Shore
9:00am -3:00pm	10:00am – 3:00pm	9:00am-3:00pm	9:30 am-2:30 pm	10:00 am -2:30 pm	10:30 am -2:00 pm	11:00 am -1:00 pm

Transport for clients living outside the Bathurst Regional Council 80 km/hr limits: Clients residing within the Bathurst LGA but outside the Bathurst town limits are eligible for transport to all locations covered by BCT. The contribution for travel to Bathurst is determined by the distance from your home to Bathurst Post Office. Depending upon where you reside, an additional contribution may be added to the cost of travel to Orange, Lithgow, Katoomba or Sydney.

Social Trips for CHSP Clients: Social trips are only for CHSP clients referred by MAC. Therefore, if only one partner is registered, then they are the only person able to attend the social trip. The partner must be separately registered with MAC. In order to attend social trips, clients need to be able to get on and off the buses without assistance. They also require the mobility to be able to walk short distances. This is to ensure the safety of clients and volunteers.

Bus from Hill End & Sofala to Bathurst: Each **Pension Week Thursday**, leaving **Hill End** at 9.00 am and each **Pension Week Friday** leaving **Sofala** at 9.00 am. The return bus to Hill End (Thursday) and Sofala (Friday) departs Bathurst by no later than 1:30pm May-Sept & 2:30pm Oct-Apr. Bookings are essential for travel and must be received by BCTG by 4.00 pm on the Tuesday for Hill End travellers and Wednesday for Sofala of each Pension Week.

Other destinations: Please contact BCTG to discuss any other travel requirements within a 200km radius of Bathurst.

Some Tips for our Trips

*Please be ready 10 minutes before your appointed pick up time.

*Please wait for instructions from your driver before entering and alighting from the vehicle. Generally your driver will open the door for you.

*Unless prior arrangements have been made client contributions are paid to the driver.

*Our drivers don't carry change so please have the correct money.