



**BATHURST
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

Freedom to Travel

Winter Newsletter 2023

1 June 2023 | Issue 2, 2023



LATEST NEWS

Ensuring the future of Bathurst Community Transport

I'm sure I say it every newsletter but where has the year gone? How is it so cold again so quickly? I hope that you are keeping warm. There have been some spectacular sunny days – the days that make it worthwhile living in Bathurst. I enjoy the seasons, although winter is my least favourite.

As always there is lots going on here. Our new premises are wonderful and we feel like we have been here forever. You will notice we have been trialing some different social trips and some new approaches such as boarding at McDonalds. Please remember if you need transport to get to McDonald's let us know when you book. The changes are in response to your feedback and trying to ease the load on our bus drivers. By departing from a central point we can travel a little further in the day. Let us know how you are finding these changes. These trips are about you.

I need to thank our very dedicated volunteer drivers. Without their support it would be impossible to do what we do.

I wanted to take a moment to explain a tough decision we've had to make at Bathurst Community Transport.(cont'd over page)

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1. Kings Birthday Public Holiday:
Monday 12 June**
- 2. Bathurst Winter Festival & NSW
School Holidays: 1-16 July**
- 3. NAIDOC Week: 2-9 July**
- 4. Bank Holiday: Monday 7 August**



Ensuring the future of Bathurst Community Transport cont'd

We've always worked hard to offer affordable transport and to keep the prices down however, recent challenges have forced us to have to increase our client contributions from 1 July 2023. Raising prices is never an easy decision. I understand the impact it can have on you, and I want you to know that the Board and I deliberated the long term effects. We will continue to provide reliable, safe and high-quality transport, and unfortunately this step is necessary to ensure the sustainability of our services.

One of the major factors behind this decision is the significant rise in fuel prices, insurance and maintenance. We've seen a 35% increase in fuel costs over last few years. Despite our efforts to cut expenses, the sustained surge in these costs have left us with limited options. Adjusting our pricing is a means to attempt to keep pace with these rising costs.

Unfortunately, our funding hasn't kept up with the price hikes. We rely on government support, grants, and generous community donations to keep our services running. However, the funding landscape hasn't matched the escalating costs we face. The cost of a trip is not just a tank of fuel, its tyres, tolls, parking, phone costs, staff costs, maintenance, insurance the list goes on.

Please know this decision was not made lightly, however this step is crucial for the future of Bathurst Community Transport. If you have any concerns, please contact me to discuss confidentially. Thank you for your support

Kathryn Akre CEO

SOCIAL OUTINGS

The departure and return point for our social outings is the McDonald's on Durham St rear carpark . If you do not drive locally or cannot get to the departure point please let us know at time of booking and we will organise for you to get there in the morning and back in the afternoon at an additional cost.

Many of the venues that you have requested require payment in advance to confirm our booking. These trips are **identified by a ticket icon**. In cases where a meal is included we will request your dietary requirements at time of booking.

Unfortunately we have had lots of late cancellations. This often means others have missed out on a trip. At short notice it is often not possible to refill the seat. **We will now be taking full payment for each trip at time of booking**. If you cancel a ticketed trip after payment has been received you will be refunded only if we can refill your seat. For non-ticketed trips a \$10 cancellation fee per trip will be levied if we cannot refill your seat.


It is important to note the mobility requirements for each trip and choose trips which suit your mobility. Your safety and comfort is our priority.


Important Information

Bookings are essential. Prices listed are for those subsidised through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) or Community Transport Program (CTP)


Calendar Key

Walking Alerts


 You may need to walk more than 100m

 You may need to navigate stairs.


Not advisable for frames or wheelie walkers

 Uneven Ground: This includes unfinished driveways, gravel pathways or grass. Unsuitable for those with wheelie walkers or walking frames

 Wheelchair accessible

 Lunch at own expense

***Please choose outings that suit your mobility.
Your safety & comfort is our priority**

 Ticketed Event: Payment must be made at time of booking as ticketed events require deposits and full payment to suppliers in advance.

No refunds will be available unless your booked space can be filled from someone from the waitlist.

Bookings are contingent on Government and venue Covid-19 guidelines. The onus is, and always will be, on the client to supply any certification requested by a venue.

Changes to outings may be made in order to comply with Government directives. Where an outing has been altered by such Government directives, clients will be entitled to a full refund on cancellation. Refunds for ticketed events, are contingent on the refund policy of the venue.



SOCIAL OUTINGS

Parkes - The Dish

Visit the world famous "Dish" at Parkes. Explore the astronomy and space exhibition, take in the views and see the dish move. Lunch in the cafe. Option to see a variety of short 3D films (cost of \$8pp)
Departing Bathurst at **9:00am** and departing Parkes at **2:00pm**

Book & Pay by Wednesday June 7 or June 21

Tuesday June 13 & 27



Pick Up from McDonald's
Durham St, Rear Carpark
\$20pp transport only

Shopping Trip - Penrith

Travel over the Blue Mountains to Penrith for a shopping day. Make the most of the SALES! Discover a multitude of lunch options all in one place. Departing Bathurst at **8:00am** and Departing Penrith at **2:30pm**

Wednesday June 21



Pick Up from McDonald's
Durham St, Rear Carpark
\$20pp transport only

Discover Bathurst

How well do you know Bathurst? Where are the hidden gems? Who designed our most significant buildings? Discover it all with us! Plus a visit to and lunch at the Perthville Convent Heritage Centre
Departing at **9:30am** and returning at approx **3:00pm**

Book & Pay by Wednesday June 28 and July 12

Tuesday July 11 & 25



Pick Up from McDonald's
Durham St, Rear Carpark
\$35pp all inclusive.

Shopping Trip - Molong

Travel to Molong for a day of boutique shopping and lunch with friends. Help support this community as they recover from the devastating floods. Departing Bathurst at **9:00am** and departing Molong at **2:30pm**

Friday July 21



Pick Up from McDonald's
Durham St, Rear Carpark
\$15pp transport only

Blue Mountains & Leura

The cliffs of the Blue Mountains are stunning in winter. Enjoy a scenic drive to Leura. Visit Josphan's Fine Chocolates or The Candy Store you may even want to pop into Bygone Beautys Treasured Teapot Museum, home to the world's largest private collection of teawares! Enjoy lunch in one of the many fine cafe's. Departing Bathurst at **9:00am**, departing Leura at **2:30pm**

Tuesday August 8 & 22



Pick Up from McDonald's
Durham St, Rear Carpark
\$15pp transport only

Shopping Trip - Castle Hill

Visit Castle Towers Shopping Centre. With 14 restaurants to choose from and 300 retail stores there's lots to see and shop! Departing Bathurst at **8:00am** and departing Castle Towers at **2:00pm**

Wednesday August 16



Pick Up from McDonald's
Durham St, Rear Carpark
\$20pp transport only

Mystery Morning Tea

Come along for morning tea at a mystery location. Enjoy a tea or coffee with fellow BCTG clients. Morning tea at your own expense

Every Friday morning first pick ups at 8:30am

Pick Up from your home
\$10pp



Computer Coffee Club

Meets Monthly at Bathurst Library 2pm to 4pm.

Get Tech Tips: Gain new skills and confidence with easy hands on activities

Friendly Fun: Meet new people and learn in a fun environment

Free Afternoon Tea: afterwards relax and enjoy a cuppa and a chat

BOOK YOUR SPOT DIRECTLY WITH BATHURST LIBRARY ON 6333 6281

June 28

Call BCTG on 6331 3322 to discuss transport options





If you have eight or more friends, you can have your own bus for socials! Have a destination in mind? Call our office and we can work with you or your lifestyle village to accommodate your social outing ideas

Social Outings 2023 - In review

We would love your feedback!

Let us know what you loved about the trip! Tell us where do you want to go next?

February - Mudgee



April - Nepean Belle





Vale Danny Clayton

We were so sad to hear of Danny Clayton's death on the 15 of May. Danny was a New Horizons volunteer who became a huge part of our life at the old office. Danny was a cook extraordinaire and kept us in cakes and cookies year round, he was the volunteer caretaker of the building, the resident wit and the kindest fellow you ever would meet. He will be very missed by the BCT team.

Keeping You Safe

There are lots of things our drivers and volunteers do behind the scenes to keep you safe. We are very grateful for everyone's commitment over the last few months in updating their First Aid training, completing a safer driving course and a wheelchair management course. This is a huge commitment of many days and I am so very grateful to our volunteers and staff for completing that.



Do you use our Town Car?

We have a number of spots opened up in the town car!

Many of our clients who travel to a weekly appointment or activity book a regular trip in the town car. We have recently had a few changes in these bookings and a few spaces have opened both up earlier and later in the day. We try and accommodate as many people as possible each day. Our town car can be busy on some days, booking as far in advance as possible is advisable. When you are scheduling an appointment you may like to speak with us first to see what times we have available to get you there and back before confirming a time with your practitioner.

What is the town car?

Our Town Car is a Kia Carnival which can accommodate wheelchair users which takes our clients around Bathurst each day. The car operates 8:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday. Our friendly drivers Melinda & Scott look forward to helping use.



Who can use it?

Anyone who is registered as a client of Bathurst Community Transport can use the car. Our driver collects clients from their homes, for those who reside within the 80km/h speed limit zones, and delivers them to their appointments, shopping or social engagements within Bathurst. If you live outside the 80km/h speed limit zones but are in Bathurst CBD you can still book the Town Car to get from one place to another within the CBD.

Friends?

Do you have friends who need help with transport? Please encourage them to get in touch. We would love to help them.

Client Testimonial

I highly recommend Bathurst Community Transport's town car service. It is truly wonderful! The vehicles are always impeccably clean, creating a comfortable and safe atmosphere. The drivers are not only helpful and courteous but also possess excellent knowledge of the area, ensuring smooth navigation. They always know exactly where they are going. From start to finish, the professionalism and reliability of this service is outstanding. I have complete confidence in their expertise and have consistently had positive experiences. If you're in need of reliable transportation, I can't recommend this service enough. Bathurst Community Transport consistently delivers exceptional customer service, making every journey a pleasant one.

Thank you, Bathurst Community Transport, for your outstanding service!

Elizabeth R



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Meet Phillip

Many of you have met Phillip as your friendly driver. Phillip has another secret superpower, he is the magician that keeps our cars sparkling clean! A job made much harder with rain, dirt roads and roadworks. Thanks Phillip

Seniors Travel Card

2023 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.



bathurttours.com.au



1300 728 321

We are thrilled to introduce you to Bathurst Tours, the premier tour and transfer company that caters to the needs of both visitors and adventurous locals in Bathurst. As the sister company of Bathurst Community Transport, our mission goes beyond providing exceptional service—we are committed to reinvesting our profits back into Bathurst Community Transport, ensuring a sustainable future for this vital service. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved!



Unparalleled Tour and Transfer Services

At Bathurst Tours, we pride ourselves on being your one-stop shop for all your tour and transfer needs. Whether you're a wine connoisseur seeking to indulge in the finest wines and produce from Bathurst and beyond, a history enthusiast eager to immerse yourself in the fascinating local heritage and culture, or simply looking for a comfortable and convenient way to travel from point A to point B, Bathurst Tours has got you covered.

A Fleet Designed for Comfort and Convenience

Our tour fleet consists of three modern, comfortable, and well-maintained Toyota Coaster Charter buses, each with a seating capacity of 20 guests. We also offer a beautiful Mercedes-Benz minibus, ideal for smaller tours accommodating up to 7 guests. With our well-equipped vehicles and experienced drivers, you can relax and enjoy your journey in air-conditioned comfort, knowing that your safety and satisfaction are our top priorities.

Explore Bathurst and Beyond

While our focus is on local tours throughout the Bathurst area, we also offer a range of exciting options for those looking to explore beyond our heritage city. Our services extend to Sydney airport transfers and cruise terminal transfers, making your travel experience seamless and stress-free. Whether you're organizing a corporate event, a group function, or a private winery tour, we have the expertise and flexibility to cater to your specific needs.

Spread the Word: Share with Family and Friends!

Spread the news about Bathurst Tours! Share with your loved ones, and together, support Bathurst Community Transport. It's a choice that benefits everyone.

Book Your Adventure Today!

Embark on unforgettable journeys and explore Bathurst's hidden gems. Visit our website or call us to learn more about our tours and transfers.

Choose Bathurst Tours—for exceptional service, lasting memories, and a thriving community.

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