



**BATHURST
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**
Freedom to Travel

Summer Newsletter 2023/24

1 December 2023 | Issue 4, 2023



LATEST NEWS

Greetings from the Desk of the CEO: 2023 in review

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible year it has been. The last few months have been nothing short of a whirlwind, filled with achievements, recognitions, and most importantly, a deepened sense of community. In the spirit of the season, I am looking forward to our Clients Christmas Lunch on Friday, December 15th. It promises to be a wonderful celebration, bringing us all together to celebrate the year that was and the new year to come.

Awards! I was delighted to receive three awards at the recent Bathurst Business Awards, a testament to the outstanding contributions each member of our team has made. In addition to this, we've received Volunteer Awards and Community Transport awards, highlighting the efforts of those who go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of our clients. See the photos later in this newsletter.

Our winning streak continued, winning \$1000 from Fully Promoted. We will use this prize money towards new uniforms for our drivers. We have also received numerous donations, both large and small. These contributions play a vital role in sustaining the Radiation Bus Service, ensuring that we can continue to provide support for those going through cancer treatment. We are so grateful to the community for their wonderful support.

IMPORTANT DATES

1. Shopping trips every week until Christmas!
2. Friday 15 Dec
BCTG Christmas Luncheon
3. Christmas Lights
Wednesday 20 Dec
4. BCTG Closes Fri 22 Dec 2023
BCTG Reopens Tues 2 Jan 2024



Christmas Shopping As we head into the “silly” season, I am pleased to announce a series of shopping trips scheduled every week leading up to Christmas. Additionally, we have exciting new group outing destinations planned for January and February, offering opportunities to explore further afield and enjoy new experiences together.

Dispelling Myths I would also like to take this opportunity to dispel a common misconception about Community Transport. It is not just for medical appointments. Our service is here to empower you to remain independent and engaged in all aspects of life. Whether it's a shopping excursion, hairdresser, bingo, meeting friends for coffee or lunch, enjoying a movie, visiting family, or attending a reunion, our service is here for you. Your needs are just as important as any of our clients, please don't feel that you are taking away transport from someone else if you use our service for activities other than a medical appointment.

It's essential that you embrace the full spectrum of possibilities our community transport service offers. If we have more regular users of the service and demand continues to grow steadily we can ensure the sustainability and future of the service for everyone.

In closing, I would like to thank each member of our community – clients, volunteers, and staff alike – for making this year a truly memorable one. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year and looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas Luncheon!

Kathryn Akre CEO

GROUP OUTINGS

The departure and return point for our group 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, this is 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 trip after payment has been received you will be refunded only if we can refill your seat.

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

Advanced bookings are essential. Clients who are part of the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) or the Community Transport Program (CTP) are eligible for special subsidised rates. These clients are given priority with securing their spots for all advertised outings.

For those who are not registered under the CHSP or CTP programs, the regular full rate is applicable. While we warmly welcome your participation, it is important to note that available seats are dependent on remaining spaces after priority bookings are fulfilled.

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.



GROUP OUTINGS

Lithgow Christmas Shopping

Ho Ho Ho! Christmas is drawing nearer and many of us haven't started our Christmas shopping! Travel with us to Lithgow for shopping and make the most of the day with lunch out with friends before returning to Bathurst with some Christmas shopping done!

Departing Bathurst at **9:30am** and departing Lithgow at **2:30pm**

Wednesday Dec 6



Pick Up from McDonald's Durham St, Rear Carpark
CHSP/CTP \$15 bus
OTHERS \$40 bus



Spotlight/Bunnings Shopping

Lots of little jobs to do around the house? Looking for some crafty inspiration for the grandkids? Let us take you to the Spotlight precinct and then the Bunnings precinct so you can get all those things you need (or want before Christmas!)

Bathurst pick ups from **9:00am** and drop offs from **1:30pm**

Friday Dec 8



Pick Ups from home Eglinton-Bathurst-Kelso - Raglan
CHSP/CTP \$10 bus
OTHERS \$25 bus

IKEA Christmas Shopping

Who doesn't love IKEA? Visit IKEA Marsden Park for a day of shopping for Christmas items, homewares and just about anything Scandinavian you can think of! IKEA also has a cafe where you can take a lunch break before continuing your shopping!

Departing Bathurst at **8:30am** and departing Marsden Park at **2:00pm**

Tuesday Dec 12



Pick Up from McDonald's Durham St, Rear Carpark
CHSP/CTP \$20 bus
OTHERS \$60 bus



Christmas Luncheon

SPECIAL EVENT

Join us for a Christmas Luncheon at the Bathurst Harness Racing Club. 2 Course lunch, soft drinks, raffles and entertainment

Pick ups from home from 10:30am - Departures from Harness Racing Club from 2:00pm

Friday December 15

Payment for lunch must be received no later than December 1, 2023



CHSP/CTP \$45pp meal & bus

OTHERS \$75 meal & bus



Christmas Lights

Our annual scenic tour of the Christmas Lights of Bathurst. Come along and vote for who you think has the best lights and sing a few Christmas Songs along the way.

View the lights between **8:30pm and 9:30pm** - pick ups prior to 8:30pm and drop offs from 9:30pm

Wednesday December 20

(bring a torch for getting from your house to the bus & back again)

CHSP/CTP \$5pp bus

OTHERS \$15pp bus

Orange Christmas Shopping

Last shopping trip before Christmas! Still looking for that little something for that special person or maybe for yourself? Jump on board as we head off to Orange for a day of retail therapy and lunch out with friends.

Departing Bathurst at **9:30am** and departing Orange at **2:30pm**

Mon Dec 18



Pick Up from McDonald's Durham St, Rear Carpark
CHSP/CTP \$15 bus
OTHERS \$40 bus



Young

Make the most of the longer summer days, travel with us to the Cherry Capital, Young. Making a short comfort stop in Cowra on the way. Arriving in Young you have time at leisure to visit the town. Don't miss highlights like Mad Harry's Collectables and The Wool Room. Choose one of the many cafes or pubs for lunch

Departing Bathurst at **8:30am** and departing Young at **2:00pm**

Wednesday Jan 17



Pick Up from McDonald's Durham St, Rear Carpark
CHSP/CTP \$20 bus
OTHERS \$60 bus

Taralga

Enjoy a scenic drive via Tuena & Crookwell to the small town of Taralga in the Southern Tablelands

Visit Taralga Historical Society Museum for a tour and morning tea and learn about the lives of early settlers. Wander the town before lunch at one of the cafes or pubs

Departing Bathurst at **8:30am** and departing Taralga at **2:00pm**

Tuesday Feb 6

(bookings by 29 Jan)



Pick Up from McDonald's Durham St, Rear Carpark
CHSP/CTP \$40 bus & museum, m/tea
OTHERS \$70 bus & museum, m/tea



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

Group 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?

September - Kandos & Rylstone



October - Cowra



November - Carcoar





2024 - Permanent Bookings

For those who have had permanent bookings in 2023 and those looking for permanent bookings in 2024 please contact us on 02 6331 3322 to request days and times. To accommodate as many of you as possible we appreciate your flexibility.

AWARD WINNERS





**BATHURST
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DONATIONS & PRIZES



Vale Paul Haysom

As many of you will know Paul passed away on the 29th September. Paul served on our Management Committee for 44 years. He was one of the men who invented Community Transport and he worked tirelessly for Community Transport over the years. He did everything from selling raffle tickets to lobbying Prime Minister's.

In early September I was delighted to accompany his wife Judy Haysom to Orange to accept, on Paul's behalf, the awards for Senior Volunteer of the Year Central West and Volunteer of the Year Central West. A wonderful honour for an amazing, humble man. It was lovely

to be able to take the awards to Paul and thank him for all his work. In his usual humble way Paul said the award wasn't for him but for every volunteer who has made BCT the wonderful organisation it is.

In October Paul post humously received the Community Transport Volunteer of the Year at our annual Community Transport Organisation Conference. That evening many people in the Community Transport industry stopped me to tell me of their memories of Paul and his work in establishing our peak body. Paul recognised early the value of a united voice for Community Transport and we have never needed that more than now.

Paul was a very generous man. I appreciated his wise, calm and considered counsel and his encouragement to aim high and to flourish.

Paul will be very missed, he has left big shoes to fill.