



Creative Opportunities

DISABILITY SERVICES *Brunswick Corps*



NDIS Readiness —Creative Opportunities Preparations are in Full Swing!



From the 1st of July 2016, the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will begin its roll out across Victoria. The NDIS will drastically change the way that services such as Creative Opportunities receive Government funding over the years to come. One of the first roll out locations in Australia will be the North Eastern Melbourne Area, impacting on those who live in the council zones of:

- * Banyule
- * Darebin
- * Whittlesea
- * Yarra
- * Nillumbik

Once the roll out begins, people with a disability living in those zones will be able to apply to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to have a plan to meet their support needs developed. When a comprehensive plan is developed—covering a range of services and supports such as daily living aids, support workers, mobility and communication aids—Creative Opportunities must be ready to change the way that we receive our funding. One important part of planning for many people, including those attending Creative Opportunities, will be to ensure that their plan covers supports to access suitable employment.

Creative Opportunities sits just outside of the North Eastern Melbourne area, however many of its employees live within the areas that will be effected. To ensure we are ready to meet the needs of these employees, and any potential new employees the NDIS may bring, preparations are well underway to ensure we are ready to go and will be a service of choice during the NDIS!

Steps currently being taken include:

- Registering to be a NDIS Service Provider with the National Disability Insurance Agency.
- A full review of our Information Technology Systems to ensure that Creative Opportunities is able to meet the reporting requirements of the NDIS.
- Upcoming training sessions to provide information to current employees on the process of applying for a National Disability Insurance Scheme Plan of Support.

We will continue to keep all informed as further information becomes available.

Creative Employee Focus

In each newsletter Creative Opportunities gives you the opportunity to get to know a few of it's employees a little better!

Saccha works at CO on Tuesdays and Thursdays

What was your first job?

I worked as a super-market cashier in Shop-rite. I was very young, 12 or 13!

What do you enjoy outside of work?

Cooking, watching movies. I like action and Si-Fi movies.

If they made a movie of your life, who would play you?

Meryl Streep—I'm almost in her age group these days (Ha!!). She has a lot of substance.

If you could have dinner with anyone who would you pick? Lenardo Di Vinci—to discuss all of his inventions.

Favourite place you've visited?

Nepal! I went there in my 20's and it was amazing! I did quite a bit of trekking. I met lots of really off beat characters and stayed in beautiful—but really cheap accommodation. Little villas were everywhere. It was an adventure.

Describe yourself in 3 words?

Helpful, resourceful and resilient.

Summer or Winter?

Winter—the cooler weather is good!

White, milk or dark chocolate?

White! But I can't eat too much without getting sick.

Favourite Food?

Spaghetti!

Biggest Achievement?

Having my Daughter :)



What do you like about working at CO?

The opportunities I have here. To learn and work. It's a chance to try new things. I also like all of the friendly faces!

Craig works at CO from Tuesdays to Friday

What was your first job?

Creative Opportunities is my first real job! Before starting here I had done some work experience at Bupa, AutoBarn and Bunnings.

If you could have dinner with someone (dead or alive), who would it be?

James Morrison—he'd my idol. We'd talk about music while eating our meal and then probably have a jam session after. It would be great!

Describe yourself?

Easy-going, nice and caring.

What do you enjoy out of work?

I'm usually pretty busy! I play my trumpet, go bowling once a week. I see friends and like going to sports events like the footy and soccer.

Who would play you in a movie of your life?

Leonardo Di Caprio—He plays characters with attitude!

Where is your favourite place you've visited?

Queensland—the weather was nice and the ladies were lovely!

Which team do you follow?

The Mighty Hawks!! (as if we even needed to ask!). I've been a member since 2010.

What do you like about CO? I love working here. I like being busy with all of the work and talking to the friends I've made. It's great!



Biggest Achievement?

Graduating from high school and going on to study performing arts at TAFE. I've passed a few music exams on my trumpet—Level 5 is next!

Christmas Karaoke at Creative!!

Lots of fun was had at Creative Opportunities Christmas party in December. Who knew we had such amazing talents in our midst?



Footy Tipping

Creative Opportunities footy tipping competition is about to take off! Make sure you let Lauren know if you'd like to participate. Round One of the season proper begins on Thursday the 24th of March.



Welcome to New Employees

Since our last newsletter in November, Creative has had the opportunity to welcome on board 3 new employees, Dez, Jonathan and Philip. We hope that everyone takes the time to make you feel welcome over the coming weeks. We wish you success as you start your career at Creative!



Welcome
Glad you're here!

Training



Individual training has kicked off with a bang for 2016. Phil Skipper is busy inducting new employees and ensuring others achieve their IEP goals. Recent competencies achieved include:

- * Cheryl —Heat Gun
- * Michael B—Heat Cutter
- * Saccha—Pop Up Docker
- * Michael L—Pedestal Drill
- * Paul B—Hinge onto Lid
- * Rob W—Pop Up Docker
- * Kenny B—Panel Saw
- * Andrew Mc—Nail Gun
- * Bradley—Thicknesser
- * David R—Box Sander
- * Greg—Wide Belt Sander
- * Paul N—Clutch Components
- * Scott—Thicknesser
- * Stephen M—Heat Cutter
- * Trevor—Hinge Cutter
- * Craig—Panel Saw Trial

Congratulations go to Beau and Alex who recently completed their induction periods and have had their employment at Creative Opportunities confirmed.

Group training began in February with a review of the 6 National Standards for Disability Service. We also investigated what makes a good committee and voted in our new Employee Representative and Occupational Health and Safety committees.

I didn't know that!

- * Everyone has a unique tongue print—just like everyone has unique fingerprints.
- * The top of the Eiffel tower moves away from the sun as it heats up—it can move up to 7 inches!
- * A bee keeper in China covered his body with 331,000 bees! These weighed about 35kgs, breaking the previous world record of 26kgs.
- * There is a glacier in Antarctica that pours out red liquid when it melts—it's called 'Blood Falls Glacier'.
- * France is the most visited country in the world—Approx 84.7 million people go there each year!
- * More than 2,000 varieties of cheese exist in the world!
- * In 2008 scientists discovered a type of bacteria that only lives in Hair Spray.
- * The biggest school in the world is in India. It has 32,000 students who attend each day!
- * More than 6,00 different shapes of pasta exist in the world!



OH&S—Committee Meeting

Our first Occupational Health and Safety meeting for 2016 was held on Thursday the 18th of February. Items discussed included:

- New committee members welcomed—for 2016: Trevor, Tony, Paul, Cheryl and Jonathan.
- A factory clean up will take place to ensure trip hazards around machinery are minimised.
- No staff or employees to climb in the DumpMaster.
- Ask for supervisors help—don't attempt to fix things yourself.

Our next Occupational Health & Safety Committee meeting will take place on: Thursday the 17th of March.



ERC — Committee Meeting

Our first Employee Representative meeting for 2016 was held on Monday the 20th of February. Items discussed included:

- New committee members welcomed—for 2016: Lyle, Greg, Tony, Bronwyn and Peter B.
- The footy tipping competition will start in March.
- The pool and wii competitions were fun last year. They may run again in 2016.
- Thoughts have started for our next social event—lawn bowls and a pancake afternoon were discussed.

Our next Employee Representative Committee meeting will take place on: Monday the 22nd of April.



And finally....

What a great start to the year!

Healthy levels of work, the return of a valued customer that will add to our variety and increase production capabilities, and a waiting list of potential employees seeking employment.

Our major challenge so far this year, and most likely for the remainder of this year, will be to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Our focus is two fold at this time —ensuring we have the capability and effective tools to work within the “new” system and to assist and support our employees to maximise individual supports and outcomes offered by the National Disability Insurance Agency - NDIA.

The Salvation Army's internal support services ie. Information Technology Services, Human Resources and the Finance Department will be required to work efficiently and effectively together with us if we are to continue providing quality services in this “new” arena and to capitalise on opportunities that will improve the our service and support to people with disabilities.