

# Our Services



## Kurrajong First Contact

Kurrajong First Contact staff are NDIS experts. They have a thorough understanding of the Scheme and are kept up-to-date with any changes made to the NDIS over time.

Our First Contact staff are located across the Riverina Murray region and can work one-on-one with people with disability and their families and carers to help them understand and implement their NDIS plans.



## Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices

Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices supports people with disability to develop the skills they need to work towards their goals, increase their independence, and participate as active contributing members of their community.

Its activities cover recreation, leisure, personal development and the pursuit of personal interests, community participation and group involvement, volunteering, art and building independent lifestyle skills.



## Kurrajong Supported Living

Kurrajong Supported Living provides accommodation and support services for children, adolescents and adults with disability to live safely and effectively in their community.

Types of accommodation and delivery of support can include group homes, flats and units within the community, assistance for people living at home with their carers or in their own home, and short-term accommodation (respite).

Kurrajong's support promotes the health and wellbeing of clients through programs aimed at developing their social and personal skills, household living skills and community participation and engagement skills.



## Kurrajong Therapy Plus

Kurrajong Therapy Plus provides support to children, young people and adults with disability and/or complex developmental delays. Kurrajong Therapy Plus is a unique multidisciplinary team of speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, educators and family support workers.

Kurrajong Therapy Plus is a "one-stop shop" for supporting people and their families/carers to assist with learning, development, inclusive community access, specific therapeutic supports and prescription of specialised equipment for all people with disability.



## Kurrajong Commercial Enterprises

Kurrajong owns and operates a number of Commercial Enterprise businesses that provide supported employment to adults with disability.

Kurrajong's Commercial Enterprises are located throughout the Riverina Murray region and help employees learn and develop employment skills across a range of areas including retail, hospitality and commercial services.



## Kurrajong Employment Preparation


Kurrajong Employment Preparation supports people with disability to transition from school to work. A classroom-based course coupled with on-the-job support in open employment or volunteer work placements helps students develop the skills they need to find suitable employment or connect to a Disability Enterprise Service (DES).

Kurrajong Employment Preparation teaches work skills, safety awareness, travel training, time management, résumé building, communication in the workplace, work health and safety and general life skills.



2019-2020 At a Glance

NDIS Planning Support

 **38,556**  
Hours spent assisting clients, families and carers through their yearly NDIS planning journey.

 **1058**  
NDIS plans implemented

 **6093**  
Hours of support coordination delivered

 **2287**  
Enquiries actioned including changes to clients plans

Clients

**1058**  
clients supported 

**276** **347**  
0 - 6 years 7 - 17 years

**281** **154**  
18 - 45 years 45 - 65+ years

Therapy Support

**19,881**  
hours of therapy support delivered 

Support to participate in the community

**254,729**   
hours of community access and drop-in support provided

Employment

**139** **6**  
supported employees commercial enterprises we operate 

Accommodation

**1659**   
number of nights STA

Remote supports

**1473**   
hours of support delivered remotely via Zoom

Kurrajong performers showcase a very successful 'Grease' musical production in 2019.





Thank you for your support

Despite the challenging year with all fundraising events cancelled due to COVID-19, we are appreciative of the following donations and support received from 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020.

\$80,000 +

Anonymous

\$20,000 - \$39,999

Mueller, Mr & Mrs J

\$5,000 - \$19,999

Combined Development Group Pty Ltd  
Fernon, Drs V & M  
Jones, Mrs J  
Kallewandra Pastoral Company  
Mamo, Dr V  
Thomas Bros Group  
Wantabadgery Picnic Races Committee

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous  
Austbrokers ABS  
Damasa Pty Ltd  
Hull AM, Mrs K  
Inland Rail  
Long, Mr C  
Payne-O'Brien, Mrs V  
The Law Socitey of New South Wales  
Town and Country Children's Centre  
Viewco  
Wagga Pipes

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Anonymous  
Bance Funeral Services  
Carroll, Mr & Mrs R  
CTARS  
Graffen, Dr & Mrs M  
Karcher Center, LTS equipment  
Lions Club of South Wagga Wagga  
Narrandera Ex-Servicemens Club Ltd  
Nu Concept Constructions  
Osborne, Mrs P  
Sanity, Mr R  
Scooters & Mobility Riverina  
Smith, Mr & Mrs N  
Trail Street Medical Centre  
Wagga Wagga Veterinary Hospital  
Watson, Mr & Mrs J  
Xeros Piccolo Consulting Engineers

\$500 - \$999

Allen, Mr & Mrs J  
Andrews, Ms M  
Commings, Mrs L  
Crozier, Dr P  
Davis, Mrs N  
EML  
Estate of the late Joan Rigby  
Farmhouse Industries Inc  
Friedlieb Fox McLeod  
Gavin Fairman Homes  
Hartwigs Trucks Pty Ltd  
Kennedy, Mr M (OAM) & Mrs T  
Lamont, Mr & Mrs D

McCready, Dr M  
McMeekin, Mr & Mrs R  
Moon, Ms T  
Moses & Son  
Nash, Mrs L  
Riverina Crane Services Pty Ltd  
Riverina Safes & Locks  
Stoll Boomsprays  
Stutton, Mr & Mrs D  
Trotter, Mr & Mrs S  
Walker, Mr M

\$250 - \$499

Abraham, Mr A & Adapoor, Ms D  
Barnes, Dr & Mrs C  
Blue Ribbon Financial Services  
Crago, Dr R  
Cummins, Mrs J  
Des Damme Fencing  
Dr Neil Pinto Orthodontics Wagga  
Edwards, Mr & Mrs A  
Fletcher, Miss C  
Forde, Mr & Mrs G  
Giacca Partners  
Glass, Mr M  
Halley, Mrs J  
Hanrahan, Mr & Mrs J  
Johnson, Mr M  
Kalms, Mr R  
LCA Accounting  
Lowe, Mr & Mrs C  
Maginness, Mr & Mrs G  
Myer Stores Community Fund

Ness, Mr & Mrs T  
Nixons Engineering  
O'Brien, Mr & Mrs J  
R H Blake & Co  
Riordan, Mr & Mrs K  
Riverina Bobcat & Excavator Hire  
Saggers, Dr & Mrs G  
Stoll, Mrs S  
T J Hinchcliffe & Associates Pty Ltd

\$100 - \$249

Adams, Mr & Mrs H  
Anonymous  
Anderson, Mr & Mrs G  
Andracchio, Mr & Mrs A  
Barby, Ms S  
Bateman, Mrs J  
Begent, Rev J M  
Braid, Mrs S  
Bull, Mr & Mrs R  
Chambers Whyte Design & Print  
Clarke, Mrs P  
Coddington, Mrs E  
Cotterill, Dr & Mrs A  
Davis, Mrs P  
Dewar, Mr & Mrs D  
Duffy, Mr B  
Elliott, Mr & Mrs B  
Fellows, Mrs P  
Fernon, Mr & Mrs P  
Fletcher, Mr & Mrs S  
Franz, Mrs A  
Girling, Mrs J

Green, Mr & Mrs P  
Hardinge, Mr & Mrs L D  
Harris, Mr & Mrs B  
Heffernan, Mr & Mrs C  
Henderson, Ms S  
Howitt, Mr W (OAM) & Mrs F  
Hunt, Ms G  
Irons, Mr & Mrs J  
Izzard, Mr & Mrs D  
Jackson, Mr & Mrs I  
Koshemakin, Mrs J  
Lidden, Mr & Mrs M  
Lockhart Women's Bowling Club  
McCaig, Mrs C  
McCormack, Mr M  
Measday, Ms A  
Morris, Mrs S  
Narrandera Rodeo Committee Inc  
New, Mrs M  
Nixon, Ms J  
Perkins, Mr & Mrs W  
Priest, Mrs C  
Roache, Ms M  
Shaw, Ms D  
Sinclair, Mr & Mrs I  
Sorooptimist International of Narrandera  
Stephenson, Mrs C  
Talbingo Tourist Park  
Thompson, Ms L  
Westblade, Ms R  
Westpac Matching Gifts  
Wiencke, Mr & Mrs P  
Wittich, Mrs H  
Young, Mr & Mrs N

\$50 - \$99

Davey, Mr & Mrs G  
Davis, Mrs C  
Eldridge, Ms C  
Ferguson, Mrs E  
Haines, Mr & Mrs R  
Hughes, Mrs B  
Keogh, Mr & Mrs J  
Kok, Mr & Mrs L  
Lang, Mr & Mrs A  
Lewis, Mr & Mrs J  
Loudon, Mr & Mrs R  
Moon, Mr & Mrs J  
Reardon, Mr P  
West, Mr & Mrs B

# It's about working together

**This year has undoubtedly been the most challenging over the last 30 years for raising funds to support our work. While we had great plans to raise funds and feature two major events at our Hildasid Farm, that wasn't to be as we too, felt the impact of Covid-19.**

## Committees

Three fundraising committees had begun working on their respective events and all shared our disappointment and concern when our Sunday on the Green was cancelled in March, followed by the Race Day to be held in May and Long Lunch scheduled for August.

## Wagga Wagga Takes Two

Many months go into the planning for any event and we all felt the let down when Sunday on the Green, established as part of Brett Hull's Wagga Wagga Takes Two fundraising for Kurrajong was cancelled when COVID-19 crowd restrictions were announced, just days out from the event.

Brett had practiced for months, singing with his mentor Kylie Daly in readiness for the finale of Wagga Wagga Takes Two. Brett was following in the footsteps of his mother Kay Hull who entered the event for Kurrajong some years ago and has been a longtime supporter of Kurrajong.

Kylie had sought a great line up of local talent for Sunday on the Green, all wonderful people willing to give their time without charge, to make this event a success. Sadly, that wasn't to be. Brett and Kylie have committed to line up again in 2021 when we all hope Wagga Wagga Takes Two can go ahead. This will allow the Hildasid Hayshed Stage to be utilised in a formal way.



Pictured rehearsing for their part in Wagga Wagga Takes Two are Kylie Daly (Mentor) and Brett Hull (celebrity) who were hosting Sunday on the Green as one of their fundraising activities.

Gary Morrison of Creative Outdoors and More had worked hard building and preparing the stage for events such as this. Suffice to say the stage is regularly used by clients of Lifestyle Choices as they dance and perform, regularly bringing the community green at the farm to life.

## Kurrajong Race Day

Given the long preparation time for such an event, planning had already begun before the impact of COVID-19 was felt. We were fortunate that a number of our race day supporters allowed us to retain the funds they had donated, despite the event not able to go ahead.

We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful committee and supporters for their efforts to achieve the result we did.

## Supporters

To our many donors who are highlighted in this report, and those who chose not to be included, we extend our sincere thanks on behalf of people with a disability, their families and those who share our goal to support people with a disability to live a life of their choice in an inclusive community.

## Volunteers

To our volunteers throughout the organisation, I cannot thank you enough for what you do. In the coming year there will be many more opportunities for volunteers, particularly at Hildasid Farm. Once the sensory garden is complete, we will form a group called Friends of the Sensory Garden where people passionate about gardening and their community can spend as little or as much time as they wish keeping the garden looking its best for the enjoyment of the entire community.

We have big plans for our Community Gardens and with the support of Riverina Water, we will increase the number of beds in the near future and have opportunities for volunteers to become involved. We will be looking for a range of skills, gardeners and handymen who can help construct our raised wicking beds.

## A final gift

We are always humbled by the people who choose to donate to Kurrajong through their Will. In some cases, we do not have the opportunity to thank people personally but there are times when a supporter shares their decision with us in confidence. It's an incredibly special conversation when people share their reasons for giving in this way.

## Thank you

To everyone who has contributed to our work, committees, volunteers, staff, our families, we are incredibly grateful for the part you play.

We recognise we can do some things alone, but we can change lives and create an inclusive community by working together.

**Cathie Smith**  
Manager  
Community Engagement





# Our Stories

## Christopher Clarke



Kurrajong has been supporting Christopher for sixteen years. Currently, Christopher receives Lifestyle Choices and Supported Living services where he accesses short-term accommodation.

Christopher also volunteers at Kurrajong Recycling in the e-waste department to learn new skills. Happy-go-lucky Christopher loves all of the activities he does at Lifestyle Choices, but has some clear favourites. 'I like to go to art, drama classes, performing arts, Karaoke and doing lunch runs.' A keen singer and dancer, he has participated in many performances at Kurrajong.

Another of Christopher's favourite activities at Kurrajong is visiting the Wagga Men's Shed where he is a member. Sharee, Christopher's mum says that he enjoys his time at Lifestyle Choices. 'Christopher has told us he likes the routine at Lifestyle Choices, he enjoys the flexibility of making his own choices, he likes the relaxed atmosphere and the friendships he has formed with his peers and staff.' Christopher has made lots of friends at Kurrajong and says Kurrajong is his favourite place to be.

**'I want to say thank you to the people at Kurrajong who help me. I love coming to Kurrajong.'**

## David Cain

David has told staff that going to Hildasid Farm in Wagga to access Lifestyle Choices is the highlight of his week.

Since 2018, David has attended Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices and also works at Kurrajong Recycling. David is a keen and accomplished artist and takes great pride in his art.

'I like doing different things in art like making stepping stones and painting. Sometimes my art doesn't work but I always try again.' The staff at Kurrajong love having a laugh and joke with David, who's always up for a chat and for making new friends.

David thinks that Kurrajong feels like a family and is the perfect place to spend time working towards his goals in a way that suits him. 'I want to stay at Kurrajong until I retire. Even when I retire I won't leave. **I just love doing the things that I want to do in the way that I want to do them.'**



## Tom Dunn



Tom Dunn has been accessing Speech and Occupational Therapy with Kurrajong Therapy plus and day support in Temora through Kurrajong Supported Living since 2018.

Previously, Tom accessed therapy services with Kurrajong from 2006 to 2010 when he started school. Throughout the first outbreak of COVID-19, Tom was able to access his therapy sessions through online telehealth. As restrictions eased, Tom and his mum Babette decided that rather than travelling to Wagga weekly, they would continue accessing Tom's sessions online. **'I like the staff at Kurrajong because they understand me and I learn things from them and they learn things from me. They're good to get along with.'**

Tom's mum Babette has enjoyed being able to access Kurrajong telehealth services to continue Tom's development. 'When Tom was younger, we did a lot of fine and gross motor skill work with Kurrajong so that was pretty amazing. They also taught me so I could do the exercises at home. The staff are very engaging and happy for me as a parent to be involved in the sessions.'

## Ben Morgan

Ben Morgan has been supported by Kurrajong for 30 years. Ben is a clever and astute gentleman who loves to help others and will always go out of his way to introduce himself to someone new and remember their name. Ben really enjoys getting to know someone and will always remember his conversations with whoever he meets. Ben currently attends Lifestyle Choices, Therapy Plus and has First Contact take care of his plan management. 'I've been coming here for a long time. I still love coming to Kurrajong and the people here. I like going to Hildasid Farm and doing activities.'

Ben has become a member of the Wagga Men's Shed with Kurrajong's assistance and attends once a week with his support staff from Lifestyle Choices. Ben's favourite thing about Kurrajong is getting to socialise with staff and make new friends, especially when he can chat about cars. Ben has a remarkable memory, especially when it comes to cars and has an extensive knowledge because of this. **'I've got good friends here and there's good staff. I enjoy talking to everyone and I have fun.'**





## Airlie Cutler

Airlie Cutler is an active, sassy and friendly 4-year-old who keeps her mum Ange on her toes. Airlie has been receiving Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy from Kurrajong since 2017 which her mum Ange says has opened their world and been key for Airlie's progression.

**'We are so blessed to have an organisation like this in Wagga – if we didn't, Airlie would have to access these services from Sydney or Melbourne which would be to the detriment of her health'.**

'Every single staff member that Airlie has dealt with at Kurrajong has been hands down amazing, from the front counter to the therapists. I've not had a bad experience or situation here.' Ange says Airlie loves her sessions at Kurrajong Therapy Plus because 'the staff are helping her, but also making it fun'.

Airlie has progressed by leaps and bounds in her physical capabilities since starting with Kurrajong and Ange is looking forward to seeing how Kurrajong continues to assist Airlie's progression in the future.



## Cody Manning

Cheeky and lively Cody Manning has received Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy since August 2017 with Kurrajong Therapy Plus.

Before Cody started school, he accessed therapy services with Kurrajong from 2006 to 2011. Cody's mum Cathy Manning says Cody loves being the centre of attention and the time he spends with Kurrajong staff.

'He likes the games and playing with staff, but he's also learning a lot. It's increasing his independence at home which is everything to us. The Speech and Occupational Therapists that work with Cody have been focussing on growing his skills in articulation and clarity of speech and hand manipulation for things like dressing himself and putting on shoes. Kurrajong's helping him to gain his independence which is important as he gets older.'

'The staff are wonderful. They're really part of our extended family.'



## Ashley Wilson



Ashley Wilson is a fun-loving member of our Kurrajong Recycling team in Wagga, where he commenced work in 2018.

For the last two years, Ashley has helped to sort out all the different recyclable products that Kurrajong Recycling processes.

'I like to keep busy so working in the Material Recycling Building is a good place to be. This position is fast and you have to be fit to keep up with the work. When I work in this section I see lots of cardboard, plastic and recyclable items come up the conveyor belt. Each day I have to be careful as people throw many of the wrong products in their bins and that is dangerous to me. I especially do not like the needles when they come up the conveyor belt.'

Recently, Ashley has been working with the Employment Preparation team to meet his goal of obtaining his drivers licence. **'Kurrajong is a happy place to be. It feels like Friday every day I am at work.'**

“  
The staff are wonderful.  
They're really part of our  
extended family.  
”

## Oliver Hawkins

Oliver is busy, smart, has a great sense of humour and has been accessing Kurrajong services since he finished high school in 2018.

Oliver currently attends Lifestyle Choices day programs and Therapy Plus where he accesses Speech Pathology. Jane, Oliver's mum is extremely grateful for the way the staff at Kurrajong are so understanding and accommodating to Oliver's needs. 'The staff at Kurrajong are wonderful. They put so much thought and effort into making Oliver's days as productive as possible and making sure he is learning all the time which is very important to us. They have his best interests at heart. We feel incredibly grateful that Oliver is part of the Kurrajong family.'

When it was nearing the end of Oliver's schooling, Jane and her husband Rob, as well as Oliver's four brothers were anxious about what the future would hold for Oliver and how he would cope with the transition into new routines.

'When Ollie was at Willans Hill School, I just wanted him to stay there. We were very anxious about where he would go from there but Kurrajong made it as seamless as it could possibly be and that was such a delightful thing for us all. **Kurrajong has given Oliver a place where he feels wanted, appreciated and productive.**

Since starting at Kurrajong, Oliver's communication skills have continued to improve, he's learning to be more flexible, he's developing better understanding of appropriate behaviours and he has grown his knowledge of the Wagga community. 'With Kurrajong, Oliver is learning to become more content and less anxious about his place in the world.'



With Kurrajong, Oliver is learning to become more content and less anxious about his place in the world.

## Cooper Hille

Since the beginning of 2020, Cooper Hille has received Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology and Physiotherapy with Therapy Plus and day support with Lifestyle Choices since August 2020.

Cooper previously accessed therapy services from Kurrajong from 2003 to 2008 when he started school. Since starting back with Kurrajong this year, Stacey Hille, Coopers mum has seen lots of advancements in Cooper's abilities and is looking forward to his continued growth with the help of the Therapy Plus team.

**'Coming to Kurrajong has been the best progress we've made with Cooper. The therapists here are unreal. The staff are so impressive – all of Cooper's services are now through Kurrajong.'**

Cooper is finishing high school this year and has started to transition into the Lifestyle Choices program at Hildasid in Wagga which has given Stacey peace of mind for Cooper's future.

'Lifestyle Choices have been great. They have been letting us pick days that suit us to go out and have been teaming up a staff member with our carer so they can get to know Cooper personally. They're going above and beyond and doing this out of good faith which has been amazing.'



## Prue Besley

Prue is a caring, happy and outgoing Junee local who began receiving services from Kurrajong 25 years ago when she was accessing Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy as a baby.

Prue now accesses Kurrajong Supported Living short-term accommodation and has been able to secure a volunteer placement, followed by paid employment at Coles through her work with the Employment Preparation team.

Prue began volunteering at Coles in Wagga seven years ago. Over the years, Prue's commitment and hard work made a great impression on the team at Coles who this year, offered Prue ongoing paid employment.

Graham and Elizabeth, Prue's parents are extremely proud of her efforts and thankful for the role Kurrajong has played in her success. 'The staff at Kurrajong have been absolutely lovely, we can't fault them whatsoever.'

**'If we've got a problem or need to know something, Kurrajong staff are always there to help us. It's consistently been a positive experience over the years.'**





## Christopher Bennett

Adventurous, active and always busy, Christopher has been making our Supported Living Narrandera and Lifestyle Choices Leeton teams smile with his outgoing personality for ten years.

Chris is supported by Kurrajong in his volunteer work placement at Shady Gum Nursery where he enjoys replanting seedlings, customer service and keeping everything clean. Chris is a keen musician and practices his guitar weekly which is one of his favourite activities in which he is supported.

‘My favourite skills to learn at Kurrajong are guitar lessons and learning how to keep safe in my unit. ‘During Chris’s time at Kurrajong, he has worked towards becoming more independent. **‘I’ve learnt how to increase my independence. Kurrajong staff provide drop in support to my unit and support me to go to my medical appointments. They are great.’**

‘I would recommend Kurrajong to everyone, I have grown a lot in my 10 years. I get support to hang with my friends and have fun. Thank you Kurrajong.’



## Deon Henry



Deon Henry’s infectious smile brightens the day of all that see her while she volunteers at Terry White Chemmart in Narrandera.

Deon has been receiving support from Supported Living and Lifestyle Choices for the past year which has helped her secure volunteer work placements. Deon also volunteers at the Narrandera Ex Servicemen’s Club (Exies) in the kitchen where she helps do the cooking. Deon is regularly seen cooking up a storm or practicing her great dance moves at Supported Living and says her favourite things about Kurrajong are, ‘making friends, the support workers and trying new foods.’

Deon’s is a quiet achiever, always keen to give new tasks a go and has grown her self-confidence since starting with Kurrajong. ‘I’ve learnt a lot, especially to try new foods and learn how to cook these foods to take home. I’ve learnt how to make new friends and join in activities with them. I’ve made lots of new friends. **I don’t feel left out and I feel part of a group now.’**

## Gillian Judd

This year, after over fifteen years working with and accessing supports from Kurrajong, animal lover Gillian has purchased her first home in West Wyalong.

Gillian started her journey with Kurrajong while she was at school, doing work experience to transition from school to employment with Kurrajong. Gillian currently works at Kurrajong Recycling in West Wyalong and accesses Lifestyle Choices Services every Wednesday. Gillian’s favourite activity at Lifestyle Choices is arts and crafts, where she has created many gifts for her family.

Gillian also looks forward to her cooking classes and excursions out of town. Gillian’s mum Jan describes her as kind and reliable and says Gillian wouldn’t be where she is today without the help of Kurrajong.

**‘I can see huge improvements in Gillian’s independence, ability to manage money and her confidence. I don’t know where we’d be without Kurrajong.’** They’ve always supported Gillian so well and they take both mine and her opinions into account. We’re so happy with Gillian’s progress and the brilliant Kurrajong staff who have helped her.’



## Jacinta



Jacinta is a friendly and outgoing young woman who has regularly been referred to by our other clients as a leader and positive role model.

In Jacinta’s spare time she volunteers at the Coolamon Boarding Kennels, rides horses and loves being around animals, especially dogs. Jacinta has been working with our Employment Preparation team for two and a half years. During this time, the Employment Preparation team were able to help Jacinta prepare for and secure a work placement at Jardine’s Café in Wagga. Jacinta impressed the team at Jardine’s Café with her friendly nature and work ethic and was offered employment.

‘I make muffins, help with the washing up, read out orders for the chefs, help prepare food such as toast and banana bread, wait tables, serve food and clear the tables when the customers leave.’ **‘Kurrajong has supported me in my employment and have assisted in my transport to and from work.’** Jacinta’s favourite things about her job are ‘talking to the customers and other staff, helping with the orders and making the muffins.’



## Leonie Mclean

Leonie McLean commenced work with Kurrajong 2002, initially being employed at the Clothes Basket.

Since 2005, Leonie has been employed by Kurrajong Recycling Wagga where she helps her co-workers, sorts, shreds paper products and moves bins. **‘I like seeing my friends and I enjoy earning money and learning new skills.’** Leonie has learnt and grown a lot during her 18 years working at Kurrajong. ‘I have learnt how to stand up for my rights, recycle different products, keep our environment clean, respect each other, understand personal hygiene, understand privacy and confidentiality and to follow work rules to keep us safe.’

In 2018 Leonie was approached by the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability to become a casual project worker. In this role, Leonie has presented many workshops to school leavers (SLES), school classrooms, adults with a disability and their advocates on topics like scams, consumers rights, health issues, hiring a service and making complaints. Leonie’s team and supervisors describe her as a polite, social and hard-working team member who is an absolute pleasure to have as a part of the Kurrajong Recycling team.



## Rebekah O’Callaghan

Rebekah has been with Kurrajong for over five years. During that time, Jody, Rebekah’s mum says, ‘Bek’s social skills have improved 200% because of Kurrajong. Everyone around her has noticed the change. She’s a lot more positive within herself.’

Clever, funny and adored by everyone around her for her kind heart, Rebekah attends Lifestyle Choices in Wagga twice a week and Supported Living through her monthly visit to our respite house. Some of her favourite activities to do while she’s at Kurrajong are bowling, cooking, getting her nails done and going out for lunch. Jody says the most important thing about the activities that Rebekah does is the fact she has complete choice and treated as an individual with individual needs and goals. ‘I just love that the staff know Bek’s situation and are accommodating to her as an individual. They’re just beautiful people.

Sonia from respite is part of mine and Bek’s little family. I can relax when she’s at respite because I know she’s in amazingly capable hands. What Kurrajong have done and continue to do for Bek means the world to us. When I see her come home happy every time she’s at Kurrajong, that makes me happy.’ **‘Anybody that has a child, family member or cares for someone with disability, I encourage them to go to Kurrajong. They really care.’**



## Bailey Gannon

Twenty-two year old Bailey Gannon has been living in a Kurrajong Wagga group home since early 2020 where he is assisted by Supported Living services.

Bailey also attends Lifestyle Choices twice a week where his ‘favourite things to do are cooking and art.’ Bailey is a gentle soul who is very in tune with his feelings and likes ‘everything’ about living in his new Kurrajong supported home, especially having somewhere safe to store his impressive fan collection. ‘I just love everything about fans like the motor and capacitor, they’re my passion.’

Bailey has been improving his independence through learning about household chores and day to day activities.

**‘I’ve learnt a lot here, like doing washing.’**

As well as increasing his independence and doing activities that he loves, Bailey has enjoyed the social connections he has made. **‘I’ve made lots of friends at Kurrajong.’**



## Mathew Kelton

Mathew Kelton is our local creative in Deniliquin at the Kurrajong Catering kitchen.

Matt is always behind a new and adventurous recipe idea; he will always be the first to tinker and experiment. ‘I like the variety of biscuits and meals that I can make. I have grown my cooking skills and like being able to freely express myself in the kitchen.’

Since completing our transition to work program in 2016 at Kurrajong Catering, Matt has grown both his confidence and his creativity. Matt works two and a half days a week in the kitchen preparing a range of biscuits and slices for Kurrajong Catering, as well as meals and deserts for our local Meals on Wheels branch. As well as working for Kurrajong Catering, Matt also accesses Kurrajong Supported Living services through short term accommodation and capacity building.

**‘I have noticed a change in my attitude for the better since I started. I enjoy being able to relax and talk freely when I’m at Kurrajong.’**





## A Sensory Smorgasbord

### Another milestone in the Hildasid Farm story is almost complete.

When planning for the farm was in its infancy, Hildasid Farm plan designer Vince Hunt could see the benefit for people with a disability in spending time among nature where amazing sensory opportunities and experiences are available.

The idea of a Sensory Garden also supported our goal to create an inclusive community for people with a disability, farm users and the wider community. With a plan and dreams in hand, we knew the greatest challenge would be securing the funds needed for such an ambitious project.

Passionate gardener and Wagga community member, Jan, was also looking for a project to become involved with and contribute towards. Upon learning about the Sensory Garden project and all of the amazing work happening at Hildasid Farm, a shared passion soon formed between Jan and the team at the farm. Jan regularly visits the farm to catch up with Vince and the other volunteers and is absolutely delighted with the Sensory Garden's progress.

'It has given me so much pleasure to see how beautifully my donations to Kurrajong are being used, and by such a special group of people working so happily together.' We are confident that Jan's next visit will be her most rewarding, when she can enjoy the Sensory Garden with people with a disability, her friends and the wider community.

As Hildasid Farm takes shape there are many projects, small and large, which will only be possible through partnerships with our supporters.

If you would like to know more about how you can help, Cathie Smith, our Community Engagement Manager will be only too happy to speak with you.

**Cathie can be contacted on 0438 219 487 to arrange a visit to the farm or a chat.**

Jan and Vince admiring the progress in the Sensory Garden.

It has given me so much pleasure to see how beautifully my donations to Kurrajong are being used, and by such a special group of people working so happily together.









# Our Purpose

Supporting people with disability to live the life they choose in open, accessible and inclusive communities.

Connect with us



@kurrajongwaratah





Annabeth Haszara in an art class at Lifestyle Choices, West Wyalong.



Arthur Webster and his teacup in an art class at Lifestyle Choices Wagga.



Chris Vella stirring the pot in a cooking class at Lifestyle Choices Wagga.



Barry Armstrong with Darren from Kurrajong Employment Preparation and the Mick Humphries team, receiving his Confined Spaces Certificate.



'Beauty School Drop Out' at Kurrajong's Grease musical in Leeton.



Christopher Veenstra showing off his toolbox at Kurrajong Deniliquin.



Lisa Gorden enjoying her day at Kurrajong Finley.



Sam, Charlie, Paul and Scott having fun swimming in Wagga.



Sam Cord and Aaron Boyd strawberry picking in Wagga.



Scott Lea in a woodwork class working on a birdhouse in Wagga.



Wayne Emerson and Stephanie Warren celebrating Wayne's retirement after 42 years' service at Kurrajong Timber.



Chris Lonergan being congratulated by Bruce Limpy for becoming a member of the Wagga Men's Shed the COVID-safe way.



Jason Duffus enjoying a shopping trip in Wagga.



Kadi Mills proudly displaying her awarded artwork at Kurrajong Deniliquin.



Noel Raymond working hard at Kurrajong Recycling, West Wyalong.





Adrian Long and Chris Howard strawberry picking in Wagga.



A great work of art in progress at Lifestyle Choices Wagga.



Jake Smith, Nathan McGrath, Darryl White and Nathaniel Klein from the Property Services team in Wagga, ready for a day of facilities maintenance.



Clients Danni Flory, Jessica Bennett, Aaron Boyd, Jancarlo Rubio and Alarna Eggleton, Vince Hunt the designer of Hildasid Farm and crew Lincoln Bartlett, Joseph Stapleton and Tareq Sorial from Works For You, and volunteers Andrew Lee and John Lane.



Oliver McFarlane cleaning the dog wash in West Wyalong.



Deon Henry cooking up a storm at Kurrajong Catering, Narrandera.



Danni Flory making paper at Lifestyle Choices, Wagga.



Nathan Lemech and Veronica Keogh having a great time working at Kurrajong Catering, Wagga.



Jeff Pitman, Employee of the year as voted by staff at Kurrajong Timber.



Tracey Kelly painting pots in an art class at Lifestyle Choices Wagga.



Stephen Holmes (centre) shows off his great dance moves at Lifestyle Choices Wagga in a drama class.



Nanette Willis in a Graffiti art class for our Leeton and Narrandera clients.



Noel Roberts being congratulated for joining the Wagga Men's Shed the COVID-safe way, by Men's Shed President Tony Mason and former president Peter Quinane.



Tracey Evans, Ann Flanigan and Jennifer Howe from Kurrajong Laundry in Leeton, making the most of the quiet time during COVID-19 by working on their cooking skills.



# Help us Improve Lives

There are endless ways we can improve peoples lives:

Make a  
donation to  
Kurrajong  
today

Make a  
gift in memory  
of a loved one

Become  
one of our  
regular givers

Become a  
member  
of Kurrajong

Consider  
being a  
sponsor of  
one of our  
events

Leave a  
gift in your  
Will towards  
our work

Fundraise  
for us

Become a  
volunteer in  
our services  
or at Hildasid  
Farm



For further information on how you can help or get involved call our  
Kurrajong Community Engagement Manager Cathie Smith

M. 0438 219 487 T. 02 6932 6010 E. [csmith@kurrajong.com.au](mailto:csmith@kurrajong.com.au)

Together we can improve lives by creating inclusive communities.

[www.kurrajong.com.au](http://www.kurrajong.com.au)





**Annual Report**  
2019 - 2020