



Annual Report
2019 - 2020

OUR VISION IS TO CREATE
OPEN, ACCESSIBLE AND
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES
FOR ALL PEOPLE.

Kurrajong* Lord Baden Powell Drive Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Phone (02) 6932 6000 www.kurrajong.com.au ACN 002 407 294 ABN 55 002 407 294
Fundraising Authority CFN 10754 © Kurrajong 2020
Certified Disability Service Provider NSDS:2014 Certificate No. NSDS 641582
Certified Environmental Management System ISO 14001:2015
Certificate No. EMS 569444 Certified Quality Management System ISO 9001:2015
Certificate No. FS 674308
Certified E-Waste Scheme AS/NZS 5377:2013 Certificate No. 617084
Third Party Verification against the Department of Family and Community Services
Funding Agreement 2015 - 2018 Certificate No. TPVNS 682570
Registered NDIS Provider No. 405 000 8171
*Kurrajong Waratah
Front Cover: Gillian Judd at Kurrajong Recycling West Wyalong

We would like to thank our service partners:

- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and partner organisation Intereach
 - National Disability Services (NDS) our industry association
 - NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS)
 - NSW Department of Education
 - NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
 - Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
 - Local Government Councils in the Riverina and Murray regions
 - Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)
 - Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils (RAMROC)
 - Department of Social Services (DSS)

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Our Communities

We began over 60 years ago with the aim of meeting the needs of people with disability so they can lead a life of their choice.

Today, we are a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider and reach all communities across the Riverina Murray region, offering local access to creative and social programs, therapies, accommodation and respite, community access, employment readiness and supported employment.

We engage communities with what we do so that together we can change lives. Our services are completely focused on the needs of the individual person with disability and their families. The heart and soul of our organisation is in the communities we serve. Our staff don't just work in a community they are part of it.


We create connections and support in the community so our clients can live as they choose. We work to develop open, accessible and inclusive communities.

This is the essence of Kurrajong.




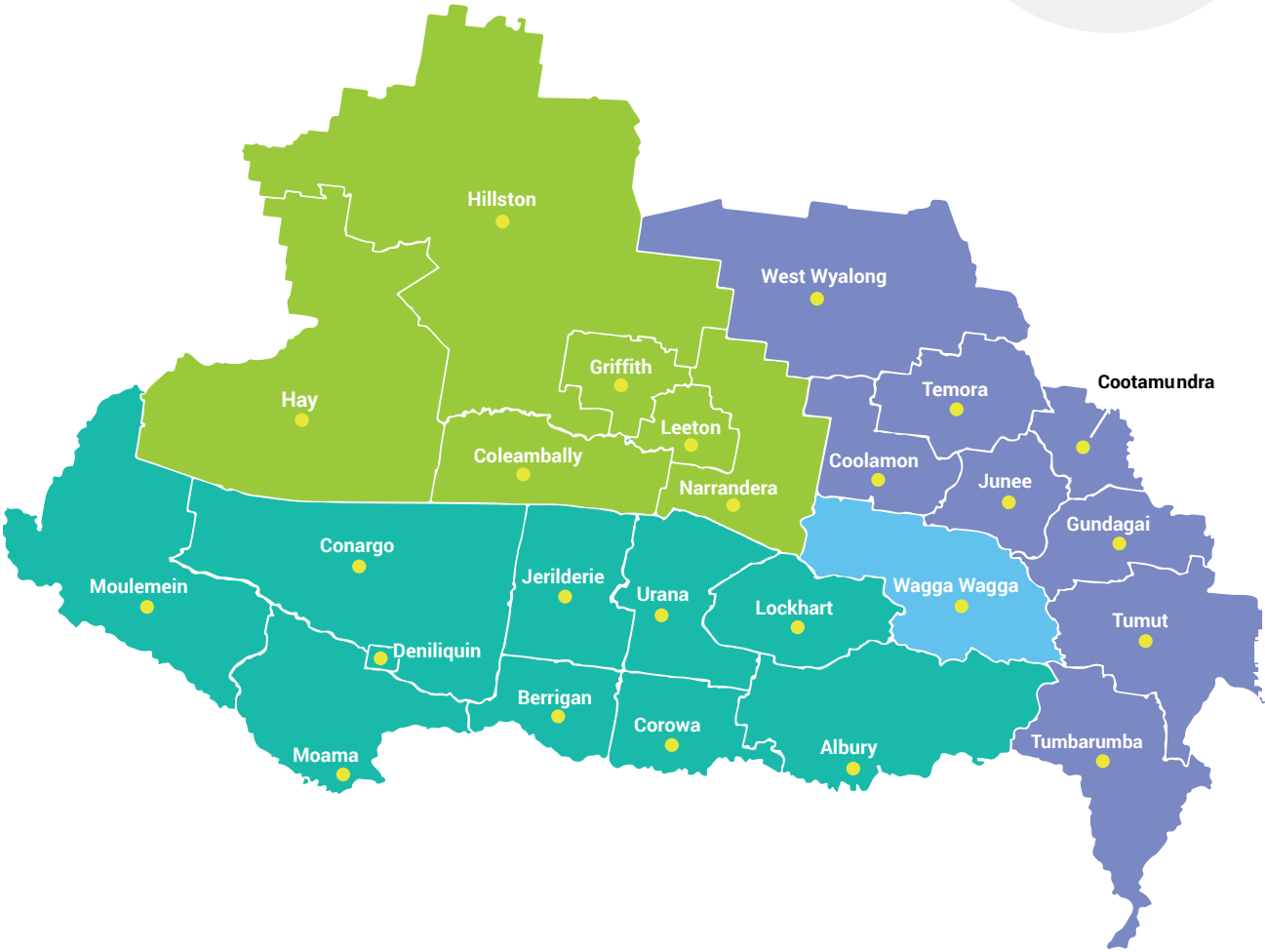
Our Locations

Connect with us



@kurrajongwaratah





Our communities span an area twice the size of Tasmania!

About Kurrajong

Our Patrons



Sir William Deane
Patron in Chief



Mr Michael Kennedy OAM
Life Member and Patron



Mr Peter Perkins
Life Member and Patron

Our Life Members

- Mrs Marjorie Anslow OAM
 - Mr John Cosier
 - Mrs Nell Davis
 - Mrs Marcia Fife
 - Mr Garry Forde
 - Mr Bill Howitt OAM
 - Mr Michael Kennedy OAM
- Mr Tony Kew
 - Mr Malcolm Nixon
 - Mr Peter Perkins
 - Mrs Joyce Reynolds
 - Mr Ken Reynolds
 - Mr Allen Thomas

Life member Mr Allan Davis passed away 23.05.20. See page 8 and 9.

Our Corporate Life Members

- Myer, Wagga Wagga
 - Wagga Daily Advertiser
- PRIME7
 - Southern Cross Austereo

Our Board of Directors



Dr Max Graffen
Chairman



Hamish Cullenward
Treasurer



Pam Green
Director



Geoff Breust
Director



Louise Lotz
Director



Casey O'Mahony
Director



Collin Duff
Director



Phillip Roy
Director



Kingsley Ireland
Director



Ray Carroll
Executive Officer &
Chief Executive Officer

Vale

Allan Joseph Davis

Allan cherished the opportunity to contribute to The First Fifty Years publication about Kurrajong's history.

9.5.1923 – 23.5.2020

Longstanding Life Member, former Patron, Chairman, Director and supporter of Kurrajong, Alan Davis passed away after a short illness on 23 May 2020.

Allan was an incredibly committed man. He was proud of his wonderful wife Nell, his children and their families, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As well as being a proud businessman, returned serviceman and friend, Allan was particularly proud to have celebrated his 97th birthday.

Along with wife Nell, Allan became actively involved with Kurrajong and remained interested and supportive from then until his passing. He loved to recall the challenges and successes and kept written and mental notes of Kurrajong's journey.

Allan cherished the opportunity to contribute to The First Fifty Years publication about Kurrajong's history.

Kurrajong is indebted to Allan for the contribution he (and Nell) made to the lives of people with a disability through their passionate involvement and years of dedication and support.

Vale AJD

Life Member (1991- 2020)

Patron (1996-2015)

Chairman (1981-1987 & 1989-1991)

Secretary (1979-1981)

Treasurer (1972-1979)

Director (1971-1992)



Allan Davis, Steve Jacques and Michael Kennedy (OAM) pictured at the AGM and Steve's 20 year milestone as CEO.



The Davis family, organising the Pesca Stall at the Kurrajong fair.

Chairman’s Report

Dr Max Graffen
Chairman of the Board



2020 has proven to be a challenging year for the organisation (and for you all) with the advent of the COVID - 19 pandemic and the associated threat and restrictions it has imposed on us.

We have seen a negative impact on our Commercial Enterprises and we have had to ensure that Kurrajong was proactive in its response to this deadly virus, especially as many of our clients are at high risk. Fortunately, so far, we haven’t seen community transmission locally. Also pleasingly is that the organisation remains in a financially sound position overall.

This year we sadly see the resignation of 2 of our Directors, Pam Green and Geoff Breust. They have both been fantastic contributors on the Board and their absence will be felt greatly. Pam, our Vice-Chairman, employed her high-level management skills and forensic approach to ensuring we have kept to our Strategic Plan timelines as well as supported me in my role as Chairman. Geoff used his considerable commercial acumen to help guide us in developing thoughts for potential new enterprises as well as structuring and chairing our Risk Sub-Committee. They were both strong contributors to our Strategic Plan. We will miss them both and wish them a long and happy retirement.

This year we welcomed the participation of our newest Director, Kingsley Ireland. Kingsley brings to the Board superb educational skills and, importantly, the experience of living with a disabled family member. He is proving to be a valuable contributor already.

The Board has had another busy year with the formation of a further 2 Sub-Committees; the Hildasid Farm and the Coronavirus Response Sub- Committee. We saw the need for more oversight and direction for Hildasid as both a community engagement hub as well as a potential site for new commercial enterprises and have co-opted two skilled independent members to help. As mentioned above, the COVID - 19 threat demanded our attention, so we formed a temporary (hopefully) group to anticipate and respond to possible scenarios, ensure adequate supplies of personal protection equipment and to keep our clients and staff safe.

As I mentioned in my previous report, we planned to establish a formal Client / Carer Reference Group this year. Unfortunately, this has proven difficult to recruit due to lack of interest in our Expression of Interest process. We are currently seeking suitable candidates through our staff connections and I would urge any interested parties to contact our CEO Ray Carroll directly. The Board sees this as a vital part of gaining feedback and suggestions for further service improvement.

Thank you to my fellow Directors and as a Board we again look forward to assisting Kurrajong to achieve its vision and goals over the coming year. We thank all Managers and staff for their unstinting efforts at a difficult time and trust our clients and families feel well supported and remain safe throughout 2021.



We thank all
Managers and
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unstinting efforts
at a difficult time

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr Ray Carroll
Chief Executive Officer



I am pleased to provide my report for the year which has been a heartbreaking and anxious time for those people affected by firstly, the bushfires in the second half of 2019 and secondly, the start of the pandemic in the first half of 2020.

Kurrajong has not been immune to the threat of COVID-19 and 2019/2020 has been a year in which our organisation has demonstrated through the hard work, commitment, innovation and resilience of Managers and staff, a remarkable capacity to continue to support people with disability and their families in the face of the worst pandemic in Australia's history.

More than this, Managers and staff have embraced the opportunity presented by the pandemic to try new ways of doing things. In doing so, we have enhanced the lives of people with disability in ways which they (and often their families) had not imagined would be possible.

As a result of COVID-19, we needed to progress very quickly with our plans to enable clients to access services more flexibly and this saw the introduction of Technology Huddle Rooms in a number of locations. This technology now enables the delivery of sessions remotely via Microsoft Teams or Zoom to give clients the option to access these services remotely from their own homes.

The huddle room technology has been installed in our services in Wagga Wagga, Tumut, Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera and Deniliquin. This has enabled us to deliver supports online such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Education sessions, programs for clients to participate in drama, art, talk fest, music lessons and Employment Preparation where we have delivered our School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES) program to clients remotely.

This technology also enabled us to connect more virtually for Board, Sub Committee and staff meetings and provide support and supervision in our regional areas, especially for our new graduates in the Therapy Plus areas.

When the pandemic hit earlier this year people with disabilities were identified correctly as being a high-risk group. As such Kurrajong's response was positive, effective and without delay by adopting the recommendations and protocols of NSW Health and developing our own COVID-19 Preparedness, Response Recovery Plan which continues to be updated as circumstances change.

A major component of our 2019-2022 Strategic Plan has been the development of a Digital Growth and Retention Strategy for Kurrajong. I am pleased to say that we have continued to expedite this very important objective in the Plan which will see the selection and installation of a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system by early next year.

“
Making information
more accessible has
also been a focus
”

Another important aspect of the Strategic Plan that has been completed is the successful reorganisation of our Management structure to better align with our Strategic Objectives, current day to day activities and our significant growth since we entered the NDIS in 2017.

We have continued to focus on our workforce and where possible automate and streamline processes to support our staff to enable them to focus more on supporting our clients. In 2020, Kurrajong secured funding to enable the implementation of a Learning Management System to support the ongoing skill development of our staff and improve internal communications.

Making information more accessible has also been a focus and recently Kurrajong have expanded its presence on Social Media with the launch of a Kurrajong Facebook page as well as increasing our communication and connectivity with clients and families through newsletter updates and other initiatives.

Our Compliance and Quality Assurance section has again been instrumental in ensuring that our compliance and quality assurance obligations continue to be met to a high standard. We were successfully recertified for our ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (Kurrajong Recyclers) and ISO14001:2015 Environmental Management System (Kurrajong Recyclers) accreditations. We completed Stages One and Two audits of our NDIS practices resulting in being highly recommended for NDIS re-registration which is a great outcome.

Operationally we have continued to provide quality support and care to around 1,100 people with disabilities and their families.

Lifestyle Choices in Wagga Wagga have settled into their new Hildasid location very well. The facility and setting is wonderful, with many activities taking place including drumming workshops, shopping

and cooking, karaoke, art, swimming, bowling, gym, woodwork, fitness, sport and rec, walking, volunteer work, drama, puzzles and games, bike riding, men's shed, RDA, relationship support and the attending the community garden.

A major highlight for Leeton/ Narrandera Lifestyle Choices was the Grease performance with a message of support from Olivia Newton John and attended by around 1,000 people.

Lifestyle Choices in West Wyalong continued improving the life skills of our clients with activities such as cooking, budgeting, numeracy and literacy, shopping and crafts. The SLES program continues to be a success and we had high school students integrating into our service through work experience placements.

Lifestyle Choices in Deniliquin have continued to expand with three new clients accessing our Finley service, with a further request to support two new clients in Hay. To cater for this growth we are using the Deniliquin Stadium as a third site for our activities. We have also added two new vehicles to the fleet. Our clients are loving the new activities, such as Friday discos, our own gym on Napier Street and the choir group.

Our Short Term Accommodation (Respite), Drop in Support, Social Connections and Temora services have continued to provide flexible quality and person centred supports to our clients and families. These are all excellent services and our staff do a great job providing our clients with the support they need.

Our Therapy Plus services have continued to thrive and grow. The onset of COVID-19 presented many challenges, however, we quickly changed our service delivery by suspending home and school visits, centre groups and outreach and replacing this with delivering many of our services online. Staff and families embraced this new way of service delivery.

Chief Executive Officer's Report continued

Mr Ray Carroll
Chief Executive Officer

The establishment of our First Contact offices has been an outstanding success

Our seven new graduate therapists had a very unusual introduction to their careers with this type of service delivery and, pleasingly, all adapted well. Much of our service has now returned to face to face delivery, however, some of our outreach clients have chosen to continue with online sessions which is fantastic.

Another area of significant growth has been Supported Living where we have opened six new group homes in recent times. We now have a total of 19 group homes in Deniliquin, Leeton, Wagga Wagga and West Wyalong plus four residential units in Narrandera, providing supported living to 60 clients across our service area in the Riverina and Murray regions of NSW. We see real growth opportunities in Supported Living and Short Term Accommodation which will provide much needed additional supported living options for clients and their families.

Our facility in Forsyth Street in Wagga Wagga has really established itself over the past year, enabling people who receive Supported Living day supports to be more engaged in and connected to the community.

The establishment of our First Contact offices has been an outstanding success and is certainly one of the reasons why we have transitioned so well into the NDIS environment. These offices based in Deniliquin, Griffith and Wagga Wagga provide quality support and positive outcomes for our clients and families from Planning meetings, Plan implementation, Support Coordination and Plan Management.

For the past two years Kurrajong has been delivering a peer program called Community Connect Program, aimed at creating social inclusion within local schools. The program enabled us to engage with 12 schools and 196 students across the Riverina.

This program created great outcomes for the schools, their students and Kurrajong with the establishment of strong relationships enabling Kurrajong to become one of the preferred choices for the students with their post school decisions. Due to the ongoing success of this program, it will continue to be delivered by Kurrajong Employment Preparation.

Our Kurrajong Employment Preparation service reached record numbers in both School Leavers Employment Supports (SLES) and individual training supports with 54 clients now receiving these services. Eight of our SLES clients successfully transitioned to open or supported employment in the last year which is a fantastic achievement.

This year has also seen the launch of our new office in Griffith where SLES and many other supports will be delivered. The strong relationships formed with the Griffith Schools through the Community Connect Program enabled us to successfully engage with five Griffith SLES clients this year, with another five ready to engage over the next twelve months.

Our Commercial Enterprises have had a difficult year financially as a result of a downturn in consumer confidence, reduced selling prices and dealing with the effects of the pandemic in the second half of the year. Whilst the financial rewards haven't materialised this year we have still seen many positive social outcomes and personal achievements for the 140 people with disabilities we employ throughout the various Commercial Enterprises.

In a tough environment, Kurrajong Timber secured two new customers delivering product into the Melbourne and Sydney markets and additional contract docking. New equipment purchases have allowed us to produce twice the volume and a broader range of product at a much better quality.



Kurrajong Recycling endured falling commodity prices throughout the year, however, we were able to find new and regular markets for our glass cullet, HDPE and aluminium cans to local and overseas markets. In addition, we secured a new contract for our cardboard which provides a level of comfort knowing we can consistently on sell our product during these times.

West Wyalong Recycling received funding to build a new female/disabled toilet and upgrade the air conditioning at the shed. The lawn mowing business has been expanded to grow our customer base which is pleasing.

Narrandera Recycling again did not have a good year financially, however, all employees made significant improvements in their skill levels with a strong focus on Work, Health and Safety in the workplace.

The Narrandera Laundry and Leeton Ironing was, and continues to be, dramatically affected by the pandemic, however staff and employees have kept busy with activities such as cooking, arts and crafts, improving numeracy and literacy skills, bush walking, yoga and more.

It has been business as usual for Wagga Property Services keeping Kurrajong's buildings in good condition and the grounds neat and tidy. Employees are becoming more confident in using their own initiative to start and complete tasks unassisted which is another great outcome.

Wagga Catering saw an increase in demand for biscuits, supplying local supermarkets, and lunches have been very popular with weekly specials and coffee and cake specials.



New supported employees have joined the busy team and one existing supported employee has obtained her licence and is now achieving her long term goal of carrying out deliveries unassisted.

In Deniliquin, Kurrajong Catering, Kurrajong Café and Kurrajong Property have had a steady year with the highlight being the receipt of funding under the NSW Government's 2019 Community Building Partnership program for a much needed upgrade to our Napier Street Building.

Our Corporate support services such as Finance and Administration, Compliance and Quality Assurance, Information Technology, Marketing & Communications, People & Culture and Community Engagement again were outstanding and contributed greatly to the achievement of strong financial accountability, adherence to the NDIS Practice Standards, the latest technology, internal and external communications, industrial relations and the continued development of our Hildasid Farm.

It is vitally important that we continue to achieve our Strategic objectives that will enable us to capitalise on opportunities to grow and continually improve the capacity of Kurrajong to provide safe, high quality and innovative supports to people with disability and their families.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman, Dr Max Graffen and fellow Directors for their advice and support during the year. Also my thanks and appreciation to our two new General Managers, Christine Priest and Mat Bertram, our Managers and staff who continue to work very hard to improve the quality of life for those people with disability and their families that we support.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr Hamish Cullenward
CA, GAICD, BComm, BActStud (ANU)
Treasurer



Kurrajong continues to be in excellent financial shape having just completed 3 very successful years in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Total revenue for the year was \$44M representing an increase of 10% on the previous year that was attributed mostly to increases in NDIS and other Government funding. The net operating result for this year is a pleasing surplus of \$3.6M. This surplus has been placed in our reserves to assist Kurrajong to fund future capital expenditure, maintenance of our assets and other expenditure that is not funded under the NDIS. Our reserves also enable Kurrajong to build a ‘buffer’ for any future unexpected business costs.

A full copy of the audited financial statements for Year Ended 30th June 2020 is available to paid up members of the organisation upon request.

NDIS and other Government funding was 78% of our total revenue. Our Commercial Enterprises providing supported employment to 140 adults with disability contributed 18% of the total revenue.

Total expenditure increased by 7% which was mainly due to the employment of additional staff as demand for our services continued to grow. This increase in salary related expenditure not only provides benefits to people with disability and their families, but also has a positive flow on effect (or the multiplier effect) within the communities in the local government areas we service through our employment of staff who live locally and spend locally.

We have continued to invest in technology and training as well as strengthening our management team with the employment of two General Managers, which necessitated the replacement of the Marketing & Communications Manager and People & Culture Manager positions during the financial year.

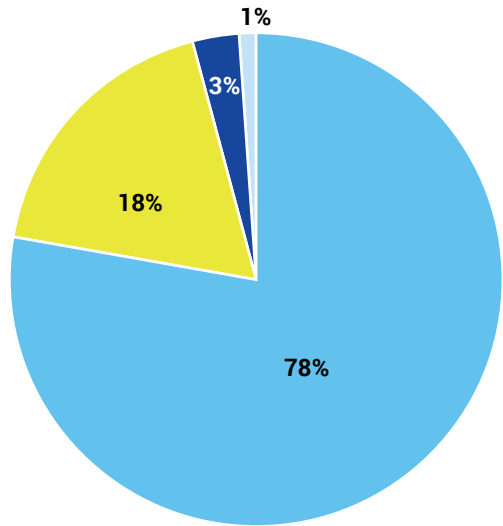
The recent appointment of a General Manager Commercial Enterprises completes the management restructure which has been aligned with the significant growth of the organisation over the last three years.

A special mention and thank you is extended to those people and businesses that provided financial or in kind assistance, particularly while dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic themselves. In Kurrajong’s situation, COVID-19 certainly disrupted our Commercial Enterprises plus we had to deal with the unprecedented situation of all our fundraising events being cancelled. We are extremely hopeful that these events can occur again when life returns to some normality in 2021. COVID-19 has created many challenges for Kurrajong this year, however, having a strong asset base and reserves, plus good leadership across the organisation has enable us to meet these challenges head on and be a better organisation because of it.

Through Kurrajong’s prudent financial management, good governance and strong investment in our staff and technology, we have maintained our very strong position to grow and take advantage of new opportunities as they emerge. There are exciting times ahead for Kurrajong and I look forward to seeing the organisation go from strength to strength as we continue to provide quality services to people with disabilities and their families.

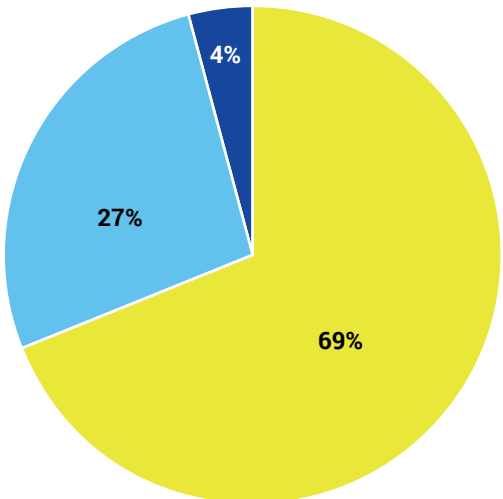
In closing, I extend my thanks to the CEO and my fellow Directors for their support and for the role they undertake in monitoring and maintaining the financial health and viability of the organisation. My special thanks go to Mrs Sharyn Atherton, Finance and Administration Manager, for her co-operation, dedication and efficiency.

Financial Results
2019-2020



INCOME

- 78% NDIS Government Subsidies
- 18% Income from Business Operations
- 3% Fees/Other income
- 1% Fundraising



EXPENDITURE

- 69% Staff Costs
- 27% Operating Costs
- 4% Equipment Costs

INCOME STATEMENT

Income	\$,000
Sale of Goods and Provision of Services	7,720
NDIS & Government Subsidies	34,075
Interest	258
Rent and Contribution Investment Properties	978
Fees, Fundraising, Donations and Other Income	639
Gain on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment	133
TOTAL REVENUE	43,803
Expense	\$,000
Staff costs	27,712
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	1,801
Cost of Sales	1,454
Operating Expenses	9,247
TOTAL COSTS	40,214
Surplus for year	\$3,589

Assets	\$,000
Property, Plant and Equipment	26,178
Investment properties	1,823
Cash and Cash Equivalents	27,128
Debtors	1,932
Stock on Hand	713
Other	601
TOTAL ASSETS	58,375
Liability	\$,000
Creditors	8,294
Rosebank Occupancy Deposits	4,343
Provisions	2,553
Lease Liabilities	1,621
TOTAL LIABILITIES	16,811
Equity	\$41,564

Our People



TAYLA BEGG

Traineeships

Wagga local Tayla Begg started with Kurrajong as a trainee in 2017. During her three years with Kurrajong, Tayla has completed her Certificate III and IV in Business. ‘Kurrajong has helped me to build and develop the skills I have needed to grow within the Administration and Finance department. I like working with Kurrajong as it has given me the opportunity to build my knowledge and learn many diverse skills around the organisation.’

Kurrajong have supported staff to complete studies in the following areas as part of a traineeship program:

- Certificate III in Individual Support
- Certificate IV in Disability Support
- Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance
- Certificate III & IV in Business Administration



GRACE GIBSON

ALLIED HEALTH GRADUATE PROGRAM

In 2018 Kurrajong launched the Allied Health Graduate Program and has since been successfully recruiting graduates from the Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology disciplines.

Originally from Sydney, Grace Gibson is an Occupational Therapist who started with Kurrajong Therapy Plus as part of the Allied Health Graduate Program in January 2020 after graduating from The University Of Sydney. Grace was interested in the Allied Health Graduate program due to Kurrajong’s reputation as a local industry leader as well as the opportunity for continued learning. ‘The variety of clients we see, all the great staff we have and all of the support we get. There’s never a dull moment and never a day without learning opportunities. There’s a wealth of knowledge for me to learn from.’

For more information on the program, visit www.kurrajong.com.au/careers



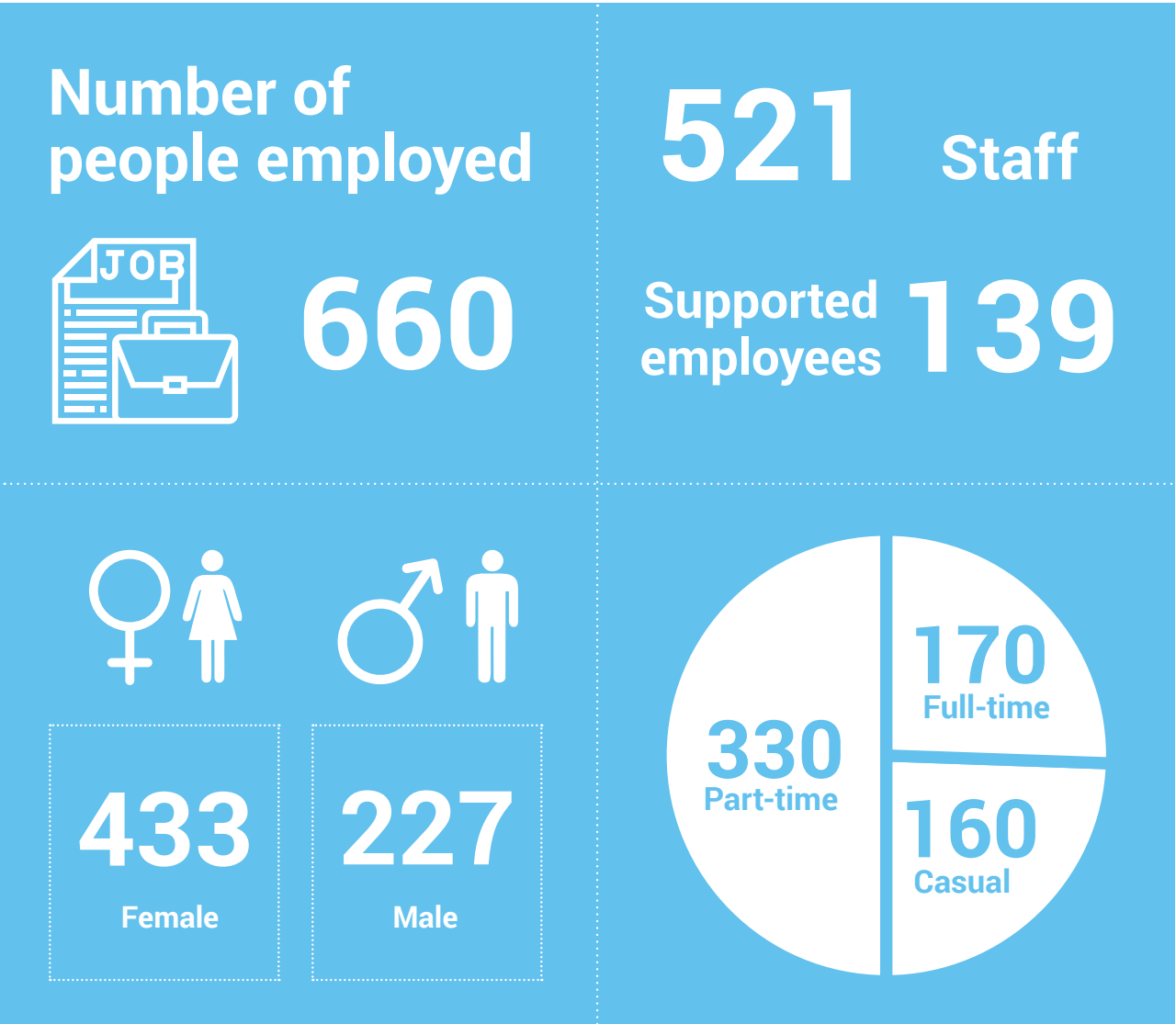
MATT JOHNSON

Career Spotlight

Matt moved to Deniliquin from Melbourne and started working as a Team Leader for day programs in 2011.

Due to the organisation’s growth and his commitment to our clients, Matt was promoted to the role of Coordinator of Kurrajong Lifestyle Choices Deniliquin, Finley and Balranald. Matt’s role as Coordinator sees him work with clients to achieve their goals and mentor and support team members in their service to our clients. During his time at Kurrajong, Matt has participated in the Kurrajong Person Centred Trainer Program and delivered this training to all local staff members. Matt continuously uses these principles and methodology to upskill staff members and provide quality supports to clients. When asked what Matt likes most about his role he said, ‘seeing the growth and positive changes in the people we support. Coming to work is like hanging out with friends having a great time.’

Our Workplace Profile



As part of this program staff can participate in an online Kurrajong Orientation Program, Zero Tolerance training programs and can access other Kurrajong specific training programs.



Our Commitment to Learning



Above: Kurrajong Learning Framework

Equipping our staff with the skills and qualifications required to competently perform their role is something that Kurrajong is very committed to.

During the past 12 months, Kurrajong worked in partnership with State Training NSW and Riverina Institute of TAFE to receive funding for and deliver the following programs to our staff:

- Senior First Aid
- Introduction to Computers
- Working and Communicating with people with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Provide Sexual and Reproductive Health Information to Clients

This system consolidated and combined previous systems to make it easier for staff to access both training and policy information in the one central location.

As part of this program staff can participate in an online Kurrajong Orientation Program, Zero Tolerance training programs and can access other Kurrajong specific training programs. All of these training programs link through to the Kurrajong Learning Framework.

Participants came from Wagga Wagga, Deniliquin, Narrandera, Leeton and West Wyalong.

During 2020 Kurrajong was also fortunate to obtain funding as part of the Federal Governments Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program which enabled Kurrajong to implement a Learning Management System – The Nest.

Significant Years of Service

Staff and Supported Employees

Congratulations to our staff and supported employees on achieving significant milestone years of service to Kurrajong. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We look forward to your ongoing contributions and a bright and successful future together.

10 YEARS

- Laura Birchall
- David Cain
- Robyn Chattaway
- Nicole Davis
- Ann Flanigan
- Rachael Frechette
- Darren Johnston
- Janine Tout
- Joshua Townsend
- *Catherine Anderson
- *Alicia Dahlenburg
- *Simon Doss
- *Nancye Heath
- *David Hessel
- *Naomi Kelvy
- *Susan Lee-Cooper
- *Margaret McCurdy
- *Barry Pickering
- *Coral Richter
- *Jim Seymour
- *Natalie Tilden

11 YEARS

- Christopher Wishart
- Lorna Barber
- Susan Cronin
- Judith Gabriel
- Jodie Granger
- Joshua Hann
- Janat Hussell
- Tamlin Jones

11 YEARS

- Carolyn Lehman
- Sarah Lilburne
- Vicki Manwaring
- Kuai Mayen
- Jessica Mohr
- David Oakman
- Julie Preston
- Len Robinson
- Nicole Smith

12 YEARS

- Melissa Crain
- Carolyn Black
- Christopher Blyth
- Jackson Carroll
- Christopher Chilton
- Gary Flanigan
- Julie Girling
- Debra Howard
- Gary Imrie
- Thomas Lawlor
- Laura Le
- Suzanne Lewis
- Lisa-Jane McNiven
- Jacqui Meyers
- Tania Pascoe
- Victoria White
- Timothy Wood
- Debbie Young

13 YEARS

- Martin Frechette
- Margaret Loudon
- Sabrina McDonald
- Phillip Pumpa
- Simon Russell
- Michelle Sandow
- Margaret Seaman
- Karin Thompson
- Tanya Van Wel
- Francis Vella
- Daniel Weathers

14 YEARS

- Kylie Anderson
- Michael Anderson
- Hilary Crane
- Tracey Durnan
- Phillip James
- Chloe Lidden
- Col Neyland
- Kimberley Rowatt
- Justin Stokes
- Karen Salabert
- Addrenia Taig

15 YEARS

- Florence Edwards
- Fernando Whittaker-Roa
- Zena Wahanui
- Nicole Prior
- Brenton Howard
- Tracy Evans
- Sharyn Atherton
- Christopher Davies

15 YEARS

- *Cathy Boyton
- *Sue Brady
- *Shane Gall
- *Gillian Judd
- *Dianne Phelps

16 YEARS

- Barry Armstrong
- Deanne Bolesta
- John Gledhill
- Donalee Gregory
- Barbara Grigg
- Joshua Himsley
- Sue Honey
- Rachael Hyde
- Paul Perkins
- Jason Post
- Leila Sly
- Debbie Shaw

17 YEARS

- Steven Chapple
- Steven Davis
- Michael Eggleton
- Sandra Grintell
- Sheree Hardie
- Justin Keane
- Nat Klein
- Terry Ness



18 YEARS

- Cannon Banks
- Cheryl Brown
- Mareeka New
- Kerryl Pannowitz
- James Payne
- Julie Watson
- Leonie McLean

19 YEARS

- David Chalmers
- Nathan Collins
- Peter Flaskas
- Dorothy McCaskie
- Joanne Teagle

20 YEARS

- Alistair McLean
- *Veronica Foley
- *Veronica Keogh

21 YEARS

- Roger Baker
- Denise Imber

22 YEARS

- Jennifer Howe
- Lyndal Ross
- Crispin Lowe
- Jane Pottie
- Michelle Thorton
- Darryl White

23 YEARS

24 YEARS

- Peter Hardie

25 YEARS

- Dianne Byrne
- *Leonie Schack
- *Kane Meyers
- *Ronald Salan

26 YEARS

- Arthur Kelly
- Daniel Smith

27 YEARS

- John Condron
- Megan Everitt

27 YEARS

- Janet Laws
- Lindy Maginness
- Craig McWhinnie
- Kaye Whittaker

28 YEARS

- Ray Carroll

29 YEARS

- Carolyn Eckersall
- Christopher Loneragan

30 YEARS

- Jason Harrison
- *John Howitt

32 YEARS

- Andrew Perkins
- Cathie Smith
- Wendy Umback

33 YEARS

- Stephen Gould
- Lisa Rae

34 YEARS

- James Kitney
- Peter Smith
- Dean Stapleton
- Stephanie Warren

35 YEARS

- *Geoffrey Pitman

37 YEARS

- Lesley Daniels
- David Perkins
- Mary Heffernan

38 YEARS

- Paul Duck

41 YEARS

- Robert Wiencke

42 YEARS

- Tony Arrowsmith

43 YEARS

- Nicholas Fletcher

48 YEARS

- Kevin Ritzau

*The criteria for the presentation of the awards has changed this year to recognise years of service reached up until the AGM date. Previously, staff who had anniversaries which fell into the five months after the AGM were included in that year's awards. All staff listed with an asterisk received their awards in line with the old criteria, at the 2019 AGM.

Milestone Years of Service

2019 Award Recipients



Geoff Breust, Kurrajong Director pictured with 10 Year Award recipients David Oakman, Christopher Wishart, Jim Seymour, Joshua Hann with Chairman Dr Max Graffen.



Winner of the prestigious John Reid Memorial Award is Jodie Stephen (centre) with Patrons and Life Members Mr Michael Kennedy OAM (on left) and Mr Peter Perkins (right). Michael and Peter were both friends of John Reid and his family.



Pictured at the Deniliquin AGM Update and Presentation Evening are Denise Imber recognised for 20 Years with Colin Duff, Kurrajong Director.



Kurrajong Director Geoff Breust pictured with 10 Year Award recipients Meg McCurdy, Natelie Tilden, Janet Hassell, Tamlin Jones, Nancye Heath, Catherine Anderson, Alicia Dahlenburg, Judith Gabriel and Chairman Dr Max Graffen.



Narrandera Years of Service Award presenters and recipients are back row Dr Max Graffen, Chairman, Simon Doss (10 years), Deanne Bolesta (15 years), Jodie Granger (10 years), Ray Carroll CEO, front row Jessica Mohr (10 years), Veronica Foley (20 years) and Carolyn Lehman (10 years).



Pictured with presenters (l) Colin Duff, Kurrajong Director and Dr Max Graffen, Chairman (far right) at the Annual General Meeting following receipt of plaques recognising 15 years' service are Jason Post, Cathy Boyton, Barbara Grigg, Sue Honey, Leila Sly, Debbie Shaw, Sue Brady and Dianne Phelps.



Proud Achievement and Years of Service Award recipients pictured at Deniliquin AGM Update and Presentation Evening are back row Naomi Kelvy (10 years), David Hessel (10 years), Daniel Weathers and Peter Hardie (Achievement Awards) and Ray Carroll CEO. Front row Denise Imber (20 years), Leonnie Schack (25 Year and Achievement Award), Faye Jones (Achievement Award), Shane Gall (15 years) and Kurrajong Director Colin Duff.

Milestone Years of Service

2019 Award Recipients



Roger Baker, 20 Year Award recipient pictured with Ray Carroll CEO, Veronica Keogh (also recognised for 20 Years) with Dr Max Graffen



Beaming with pride is Ron Salan (centre) with his 25 Year Award pictured with Casey O'Mahony, Kurrajong Director and Dr Max Graffen, Chairman



Parents Bill Howitt OAM and Life Member and Fae Howitt pictured at Narrandera with son John who received 30 Years Award.



Proud recipients of the West Wyalong Achievement Awards for 2019 are pictured with Outreach Manager Nicole Prior (on left), Ray Carroll CEO and Phil Roy, Kurrajong Director (on right). The award recipients are Andrew Schmidt and Troy Godde. Photograph provided by West Wyalong Advocate



Achievement Award recipients pictured at the Narrandera AGM Update and Presentation Evening are back row Nicole Prior Kurrajong Outreach Manager, Bill Howitt OAM, Life Member, Tracey Durnham, Jennifer Howe and front row Caitlin Andracchio, Nanette Walsh, Sabrina McDonald and Gary Flanigan.



A highlight of every Kurrajong Annual General Meeting is people being recognised for their years of service. Pictured at the West Wyalong AGM Update and Presentation evening are Nicole Prior, Kurrajong Outreach Manager, Susan Cronin (10 years), Gillian Judd (15 years) together with Ray Carroll, CEO and Kurrajong Director Phil Roy (on right). Photograph provided by West Wyalong Advocate.

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.



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.'**

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.'



“
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 to 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.



Christopher Veenstra showing off his toolbox at Kurrajong Deniliquin.



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



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

Together we can improve lives by creating inclusive communities.

www.kurrajong.com.au



Annual Report
2019 - 2020