

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018

Welcome to the first of Access Australia Groups (AAG) Quarterly newsletters, Winter edition. What a winter we have had in Victoria, cold and wet.

There have been many exciting changes happening at AAG, many highlighted in this newsletter. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is well underway in our region, creating many opportunities for AAG. Our social inclusion program has seen incredible growth with many people interested in becoming part of our activities. Thank you to our enthusiastic, professional staff who have been working hard to develop interesting, different and unique programs for our participants.

Underpinning everything with our person-centered approach, we work to develop confidence through personal development, skills development and the guidance of healthy friendships.

Congratulations to Access Creative Studios on their successful art exhibition, Behind the Curtain, held at Dudley House in July. We certainly have some great artists in our programs. A big thank you to the staff and mentors for your support.

AAG's Disability Employment Services have opened as a specialist youth provider in Melbourne, with a new office in Moorabbin and another in Narre Warren. Our team of staff, led by Angela Brown, are doing a great job working with the youth in these areas.

PepperGreen Farm was officially opened by the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo in July. What an exciting new social enterprise providing job opportunities and employability skills for supported employees. If you haven't already seen it, I encourage you to go for a visit to the Farm and enjoy a Devonshire tea or purchase your weekly produce.

Read through our newsletter and find out what has been happening this season at Access.

Dr. Michael Langdon
CEO

If you would like further information on any of these articles please give us a call on (03) 5445 9800



AAG are preparing for exciting times ahead. We will be relocating from our Head Office at 33 Mundy Street to our new premises in St Andrews Avenue. This move is planned to occur at by the end of 2018, early 2019. The move will allow AAG to continue to provide quality services to the community, plan for future growth and ensure we continue those most in need.

Keep a look out for an update in our quarterly newsletter or on our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/AccessAustraliaGroup

AAG Annual Report coming soon



Coming up:
AAG Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 30 October 2018
PepperGreen Farm
All welcome to attend

Access Creative Studios - Behind the Curtain Exhibition Great Success

ACCESS
CREATIVE
STUDIOS

A unique multi-platform exhibition which has been two years in the making was launched Friday 26 July at Dudley House.

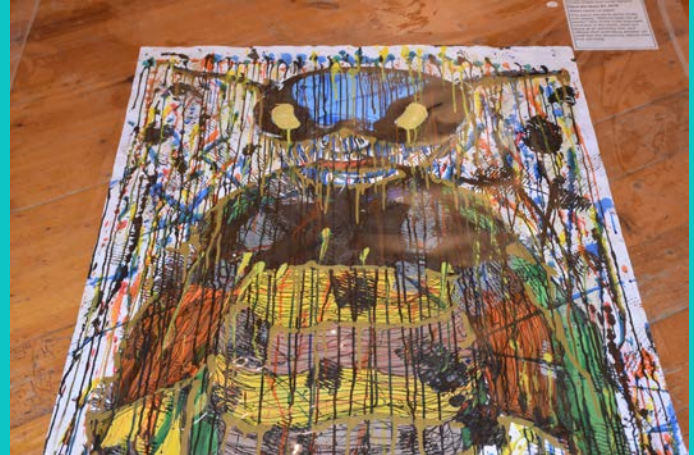
Based on environmental themes, Behind the Curtain is a collaborative event produced by Access Creative Studios.

During these past two years many artists have dedicated their work to telling stories of conservation, waste reduction and environmental issues.

Access Australia Group's Access Creative Studios is a social inclusion program providing individualised holistic support for participants of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and community members.

Access Creative Studios runs a range of programs and classes with professional instructors.

The programs and activities include art, ceramics, woodwork, cooking, relaxation, yoga, dance, singing, gardening as well as social activities.



AAG Disability Employment Services open in Moorabbin and Narre Warren

Access Australia Group have launched into Melbourne with AAG specialist youth Disability Employment Services now operating in Moorabbin and Narre Warren.

We had a wonderful open evening meeting young JobSeekers and their families at our fabulous new Moorabbin Office.

Call Access Australia Group to find out how we can help you on 1800 268 549

or email

info@accessaustralia.org.au



Is DES for you?

You can register with Access Australia Group if you answer **yes** to all of the following questions:

- Do you have a disability, injury, or health condition?
- Are you aged between 16 and retirement age?
- Are you an Australian Resident?

How we can help you

DES offers a **free comprehensive model of support and activities** designed to help you find a job and achieve your goals.

Ph: 1800 268 549

Email: info@accessaustralia.org.au

www.accessaustralia.org.au

Your Disability Employment Services

Discuss your employment goals

Help you prepare for work, such as resume development, training in interview skills and help looking for and applying for suitable jobs

Tap in to the hidden job market

On the job support and mentoring for yourself and your employer



AAG Disability Employment Services



**ACCESS
AUSTRALIA GROUP
HELPS EMPLOYERS
FIND AND RETAIN THE
STAFF THEY NEED**

- Targeted recruitment
- Wage subsidies and incentives
- Work place specific training

**We give more support
than employers usually
expect and it's FREE!**



**Access Australia Group (AAG)
is a not-for-profit organisation
serving the communities of
Central Victoria for over
twenty-five years.**

Our mission is to enable people with disadvantage or disability to enhance their life outcomes through open employment, training and other opportunities.

**Access Australia Group recruitment
services are cost-free to employers.**

We are funded by the Victorian and Australian Governments to assist businesses under the Disability Employment Services program, Transition to Work, and Jobs Victoria Employment Network programs.



The Disability Employment Team support you to find and keep the job you want. Our extensive business and community networks provide opportunities you didn't know were there. We provide ongoing support until you feel confident and independent in your new role.

Eligibility: Have a disability, injury or health condition, be between 16 and retirement age and be an Australian resident.

What's happening at PepperGreen Farm

PepperGreen Farm is open to the public six days a week with an open market every Saturday between 10am and 2pm. You can come along and purchase fresh produce on sale to the public, straight from the garden, enjoy something to eat from the Farm Kitchen who have an assortment of yummy meals to choose from, or maybe have a catch up and a coffee in the old tram.

The Sowing Seeds Growing People Program has places available for anyone interested.

PepperGreen Farm

Where food & heritage collide



WE ARE OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY

Bendigo's original market garden still operates today, 150 years later, within PepperGreen Farm's social enterprise.

COME & EXPERIENCE OUR DIVERSE HIVE OF ACTIVITY

- Indulge yourself in our farm kitchen
- Pick & pay from our market garden
- Purchase from our plant nursery
- Meet the artists at our studios
- Enjoy a Devonshire tea on our tram
- Meet the makers at our community market
- Take a tour throughout unique history on site

**2018
COMMUNITY
MARKETS EACH
SATURDAY
10AM - 2PM**

A market for local talent and all things hand grown & handmade

PepperGreen Farm

44 Thunder Street, North Bendigo

Phone: 5445 9888

info@peppergreenfarm.com.au

www.peppergreenfarm.com.au

PepperGreen Farm is a social enterprise, not-for-profit business providing training and employment for people with a disability or experiencing disadvantage. Various unique opportunities exist for skill development across a range of areas including micro business, horticulture, retail, tourism, hospitality and creative manufacturing.



What's happening at PepperGreen Farm



PepperGreen Farm
Where food & heritage collide



THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE

Connecting people with nature, the land and each other

SOWING SEEDS GROWING PEOPLE IS A SOCIAL AND THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE PROGRAM OPERATING FROM PEPPERGREEN FARM, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, WELLBEING, AND SOCIAL OUTCOMES OF PARTICIPANTS.

This program aims to create social gardening activities that will provide participants an outlet for better health, stimulation, learning, relaxation and community engagement.

This program provides opportunities for participants in a range of areas including:

- Improved physical health through exercise
- Improved cognitive and perceptual abilities including planning, sequencing and memory via structured activities
- Improved mental health through a sense of belonging, meaning and achievement (in increasing body of research supports the premise that green activities such as gardening have a significant positive impact on mental health, particularly depression)
- The acquisition of new skills that can enhance prospects of meaningful civic participation including employment or community volunteering roles

Bookings available on Wednesday and Thursdays

2-hour Group Sessions: \$40pp Group size participants 5-8

1-hour Individual Sessions: \$65/hour

Please call 5445 9888 to book

Our goal is to establish a thriving and ongoing participatory program of garden and horticulture related activities – in pursuit of cultivating an evolving therapeutic space.

PepperGreen Farm
44 Thunder Street, North Bendigo
Phone: 5445 9888
info@peppergreenfarm.com.au
www.peppergreenfarm.com.au



What's on offer at AST



Head Office:
33 Mundy Street
Bendigo, VIC 3550
PO Box 276, Bendigo, VIC 3552
Email: info@ast.org.au
Webpage: www.ast.org.au

Certificate I Skills for Vocational Pathways - FSK10213



◀ POSSIBILITY • CAPABILITY • INDEPENDENCE ▶



Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways - FSK10213

Learn the practical skills and knowledge to prepare you for further training and employment

This qualification is designed for individuals who need skills to prepare for a vocational pathway qualification or further foundation skills development.

It is designed to assist students into a prevocational pathway to employment and vocational training and help with reading, writing, numeracy, oral communication and learning skills.

It will assist with entry level digital technology and employability skills and education, training and employment goals.

For further details on information sessions and intake dates, Please call: 5445 9880 www.ast.org.au

This training is delivered with Victoria and Commonwealth funding. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply for government subsidised training. Access Australia Group LTD.Trading as AST / T01D 4603.

Access Contractors have been a busy maintaining gardens and lawns, cleaning fleet and personal vehicles and working away at the many Supported Work positions within the social enterprise.



You should have recently received your Council green waste bags thanks to AAG Access Contractors who delivered them to your home and workplace. Excellent job team

Purchasing from Access Contractors makes good business sense, we:

- have competitive pricing
- are reliable - on time, every time
- are committed – Australian Disability Enterprises are committed to working with you to provide the best solution to your business
- provide real employment opportunities for people with disability in a supportive environment
- enhance the cooperate social responsibility of your business

Access Contractor Services include:

- Business tasks
- Car washing
- Land care
- Light manufacturing

If you have work you would like to subcontract to Access Contractors give us a call on (03) 5445 9800

