



Community Living Association

Community Matters

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2025



Together we thrive

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Share your stories with us!
We'd love to hear from you.
Email your photos and news to:
Newsletter@mycla.org.au
Next edition: Nov 2025





CEO UPDATE

I'm delighted to welcome you to this latest edition of Community Matters, filled with some fantastic stories, reflections and a glimpse of what's ahead at CLA.

Over the past few months of rather chilly days, we've continued to see the strength of our community in action whether through the growth of our Drive Forward program, the vibrant energy at our Social Sports sessions, or the joy of seeing SingAbility preparing for its big-screen debut. These programs don't just exist they flourish because of the passion, ideas and effort each of you brings every day.

One of the most exciting recent developments is the successful grant we received for a new shade sail to be installed over the rear right outdoor space at our 56 Cockburn Road site. This initiative will help us transform that area into a more welcoming, accessible and functional space for participants, families, and staff. It's another step in our ongoing effort to reimagine how we use our facilities to maximise inclusion, comfort and creativity.

We are also continuing to recover from the severe weather event earlier this year that impacted both our 36 and 56 Cockburn Road sites. While the cleanup was swift thanks to the efforts of our incredible team, the longer-term repairs and insurance claims have taken time. We are now finalising settlement with our insurers and taking the opportunity to not just restore but improve key parts of our facilities. It's been a complex process, but one that reflects our ongoing commitment to resilience, quality and future readiness.

Our Drive Forward program continues to gather momentum. With a full schedule of learner drivers, a state-of-the-art simulator, and a dedicated crew of instructors and coaches (yes, we see you, Erica & Kelli and our fearless external provider Jay!), we're proving that regional innovation in disability support is not just possible it's powerful. A special thanks to the Department of Transport for their support, and to Shannon for engineering a simulator that has truly set a new benchmark.

I want to take a moment to again thank everyone who helped us bounce back so quickly after the recent storms. The damage to both our sites was a challenge, but the unity and resilience across our team were remarkable. If nothing else, it reminded me just how much heart lives within this organisation.

Looking forward, our team is continuing to focus on long-term sustainability, expanding programs, and building more regional partnerships because strong community links are at the centre of everything we do.

Thank you all for the work you do. Enjoy this edition and keep being proud of what you're part of because I certainly am.

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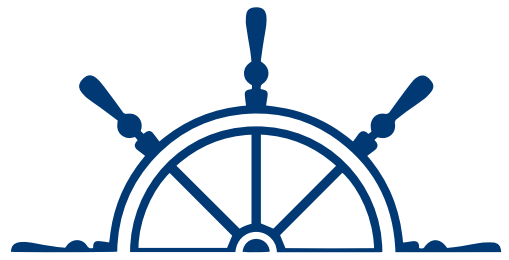
Thank you to our dedicated crew of instructors and coaches.

Yes, we see you, Erica, Kelli and our fearless external provider Jay!

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SINGABILITY AT THE SHANTY FESTIVAL



The Albany International Folk and Shanty Festival is a celebration of music, song and community spirit. It brings together performers and audiences to share the joy of folk traditions and the lively rhythms of sea shanties. The festival offers a vibrant program of local and visiting acts, creating a welcoming atmosphere for all. SingAbility were for the third year in a row proudly part of the talented line-up.

Their performance on Saturday 5 July 2025 at the Albany Club was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience and participants.

A highlight was our participant Rowan McAllister performing a solo in a shanty. He did an incredible job and the audience even joined in the singing.

Everyone dressed in maritime attire and gained a wonderful experience from being part of this community celebration.

Being part of the SingAbility choir gives participants the chance to share their talents, connect with others and take an active role in community life. Performing builds confidence and allows participants to be involved in events that bring people together through the joy of music.





Lego Club launch.

ALL ABOUT LEGO

Our July launch of the brand new CLA Lego Room was a great success, attracting participants of all ages who embraced the chance to be creative and let their imaginations run wild.

The creations on display were wonderfully varied, including intricate structures, playful designs and many imaginative ideas. Each build reflected the unique creativity and skills of our participants, showcasing their talent and originality.

We look forward to seeing many more creations in the months ahead and to providing this space as a place where imagination can continue to thrive. To book our Lego Club please contact reception.



Hunter, one of our master builders.



Hunter and Isaac
at Lego Club



Amazing Lego creations in our Lego room.



Baking competition winners: Gary, Jack, Kynon.

BIGGEST MORNING TEA



In May, we hosted our Biggest Morning Tea to raise funds for the Cancer Council. This annual community event is held across Australia to support cancer research, prevention and support services. It brings people together over a cuppa to help make a difference for those affected by cancer.

Taking part in this community fundraising event gave our participants the opportunity to feel connected, contribute to an important cause and support others in need. It was a wonderful way to be part of something bigger while enjoying time together. Our event featured a baking competition, and a raffle with lovely prizes donated by our Coordinator Kirsty Martin.

Our Baking Competition Winners were Jack in first place, followed by Kynon and third place went to Gary.

Thanks to everyone's generosity and enthusiasm, we raised \$287 to help the Cancer Council continue their vital work.



Kynon baking at 56.

Kirsty and Russell
presenting Lena with a
raffle prize.



Josh busy
baking at 56.



Kynon baking
at 56.



Kynon baking at 56.



Stephen taking in the stunning view.

STEPHEN COOPER'S BEACH DAY

Stephen Cooper has always enjoyed the beach. After a long break from swimming with encouragement from his wonderful support Alan, he enjoyed a splash in the water while they visited a local beach.

As the weather warms up Stephen looks forward to enjoying more sunny days in the surf and continuing to progress to getting back to swimming regularly.

Stephen with his support Alan
enjoy the beach.





Erica - Drive Forward Coach

DRIVE FORWARD NEWS

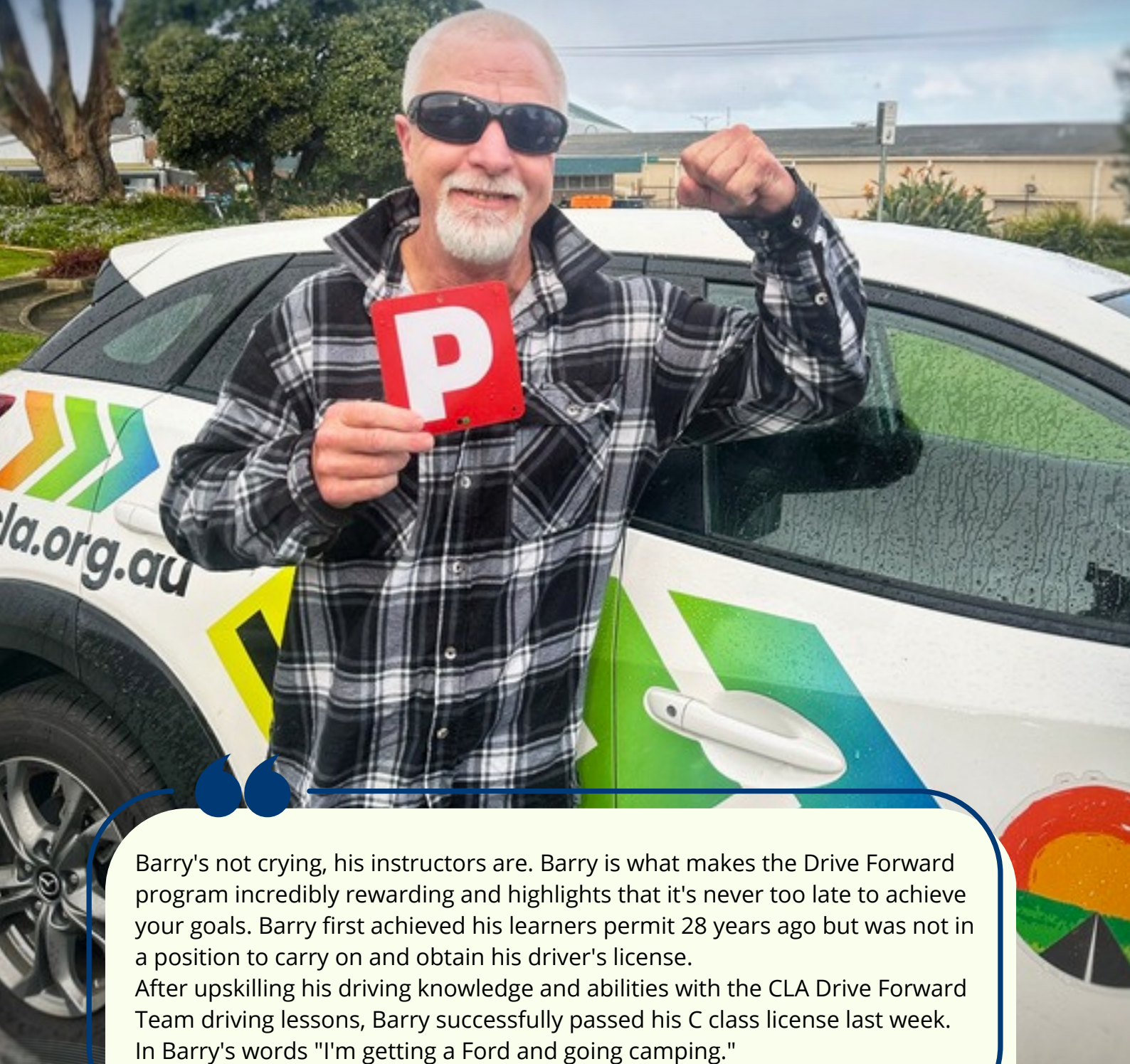
TRUST
the
PROCESS

Ethan snapped up a cancelled PDA booking and successfully passed his test. Time to reverse roles and be his mum's taxi driver.



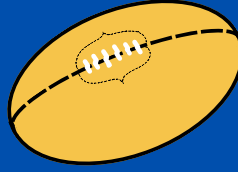
Rain, hail or shine, Zoe will no longer be walking to school. Zoe joined the Drive Forward program to complete her required hours and passed first time.





Barry's not crying, his instructors are. Barry is what makes the Drive Forward program incredibly rewarding and highlights that it's never too late to achieve your goals. Barry first achieved his learners permit 28 years ago but was not in a position to carry on and obtain his driver's license. After upskilling his driving knowledge and abilities with the CLA Drive Forward Team driving lessons, Barry successfully passed his C class license last week. In Barry's words "I'm getting a Ford and going camping."

ACTIVITIES NEWS



Kit enjoying the game.



Scott and Brody top umpires.



Term 3 at social sports is all about footy. Participants will engage in walking footy lead by Country Football WA and West Coast Eagles representatives Harry and Brad. It is a great time to join in and practice your footy skills.

To register for our Lifeskills activities visit our website.

Josh and Milan





Facilitator
Carol



Jarrod displays
his creation



Lisa is all smiles



Nat busy creating

HAND CRAFTING

Our participants and staff enjoyed a making session with Carol from Bunnings. Everyone was delighted to take home a handmade trinket box. Thanks to Bunnings for their ongoing support. We look forward to Carol's next visit.



DRIVING SIMULATOR ENTERTAINMENT DAYS NOW AVAILABLE



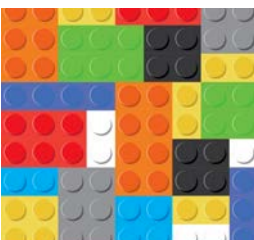
UPCOMING EVENTS



Our driving simulator is available for entertainment fun!
To schedule a session contact your Mentor.



Join us for the opening of our **Art Circle Great Southern Art Trail Exhibition 'Four Seasons'** on Thursday 25 September 1-2pm at 56. Light refreshments provided. RSVP at reception.



Our Lego Club is open to all CLA participants Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Please book your spot at reception and enjoy this quiet creative space.



The Mad Hatter Tea Party is on again on Friday 3 October 10am to 1pm, at the Town Square. Get your hats ready!



CLA CONTACT LIST

Patrick Kerr - Customer Relations Officer	0448 104 333
Cameron Crane - Coordinator	0490 513 930
Amanda Dawson - Coordinator	0419 175 784
Corey Grossman - Coordinator	0428 679 419
Kirsty Martin - Coordinator	0419 474 203
Amanda Glover - Mentor	0448 423 128
Gemma Podlich - Mentor	0429 682 599
Marisol Santiago - Mentor	0490 513 930
Kelli Thornton - Mentor	0438 305 384
Erica Gardiner - Drive Forward Coach	0492 844 796

To make a complaint:

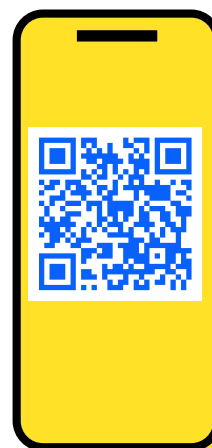
We manage complaints fairly. We will provide you with updates as we resolve your complaint.

You can submit a complaint online by scanning this code.

Phone: 9842 3855.

Email: reception@mycla.org.au

or visit us at our administration centre.

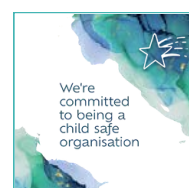


Need to make a complaint?

SCAN ME!



Registered
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Provider





BEEP BEEP
BOOKED OUT
JOIN OUR WAITLIST

SCAN
ME!



Due to the popularity of our Drive Forward program, we are currently at capacity for participants with a newly acquired Learners permit.

New enrolments will now join our waitlist as we endeavour to continue to support participants to get their license.

For further info, please phone us 9842 3855.



Registered
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Provider

