



The Beyond Disability Story



This Document is for informational purposes to assist in determining if you wish to partner this non-profit program for Victoria's communities helping housebound physically mobility disabled. The contents of these pages are not to be reproduced without the express written consent from the Secretary of Beyond Disability Inc.

The Beyond Disability Story

Beyond Disability (formerly RPDS—*Rural & Peninsula Disability Support*) is unique in that it not only provides the equipment on loan but each person is assigned a volunteer helper. As most of our clients have illnesses such as MS, MND, Parkinson's and such like they have special needs so need individual attention. For someone who cannot use their voice any more email is their prime means of communication. We teach people who have limited use of their hands to use voice activated (speech recognition) programs. Some participants have had weekly help for over 18 years.

Beyond Disability included the ***Wheelie Kidz IT*** project in 2008. This part of the program supplies wheelchair schoolchildren with laptop computers, which are very expensive to buy.

Beyond Disability survives on funding and donations. Volunteers have contributed well over 100,000 unpaid volunteer hours helping in-home. The \$/commitment equates to in excess of \$2.0 Million returned to our community.

Beyond Disability is regarded by the Federal Dept. of Communications, IT & the Arts as the best example of a community assisted support program in Australia.

Beyond Disability has received many awards including:

****The Tattersall's Award for Enterprise and Achievement***—Honours life's unsung heroes. Ordinary people who either by personal courage or commitment to others achieve extraordinary things.*

****Rotary International Shine-On 2002 award***—focus on the abilities of those with disability.*

****Department of Human Services***—Best program in Victoria 2002 for including disabled into community.*

****City of Casey***—Best volunteer program—Most innovative—and Best family Community Services Award.* Richard Stubbs OAM—2002. Tricia McGill 2008.

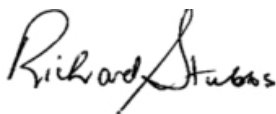
****The 2002 Leader Newspaper Community Club Award***.*

****Flinders Community Award***.*

****3MP Best Community Program 2006****

****Facsia "Inclusion" award 2007****

****MPs National Community Service Award 2013****



Richard Stubbs OAM, CEO Beyond Disability Inc.

BDI Web Page: www.bdi.org.au

Mob: 0417 786 087

Membership: Team Leader Tricia McGill: 0419 114 313 tmcgill@bdi.org.au

Equipment Donations and Technical inquiries: 0457 030 084 & 0481 678 104

Mail to: P.O. Box 1451 Pearcedale 3912

BDI Secretary: secretary@bdi.org.au

Community Partnerships:

Beyond Disability is linked with many community groups, past and present, whose support is essential to our success, these include:

- ♥ ParaQuad, Victorian contact Peter Turner, CEO
- ♥ Motor Neurone Disease Society CEO, Rod Harris
- ♥ Rotary Dromana
- ♥ GreyPath, Ray Lewis CEO
- ♥ InfoXchange GreenPC
- ♥ Cities of Casey, Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Frankston Hospital.
- ♥ Lord Mayor's Fund
- ♥ Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation
- ♥ Anglicare, Michael White, Team leader
- ♥ Support of the Catholic Church & Catholic Education Board
- ♥ Microsoft Community Initiatives (now called DonorTec)
- ♥ Capital Security Solutions
- ♥ Numerous individual volunteers
- ♥ Reichstein Foundation
- ♥ Community Support Fund/DHS.



***Richard Stubbs OAM,
Bruce Billson MP and
Colin Richmond
3/07/13
When Colin
received the Member
of Parliament
Volunteer award for
his long term
commitment to
community service***

The Beyond Disability Story

Colin Richmond 1953-2015 - taken too soon



One of the finest gentlemen I have ever had the pleasure to be associated with and a person I called friend passed away after a long illness.

Colin was the most innovative person I knew. He would adapt special equipment items for our clients and never let a problem get the better of him.

As a self-taught computer person he excelled in knowledge and skills to fix any computer problem we faced.

He was also the most frugal person I knew. He would not spend a cent if he could find a way to achieve our desired outcome.

He saved Beyond Disability many dollars over many years.

Colin lived with constant pain from a heavy lifting injury during his days as a crane/truck operator who moved very heavy items like printing machines and lathes.

He never complained once in my presence. He never complained at all as his aggressive cancer left him physically shattered.

Please remember this man for what he did for each of us.

Richard Stubbs OAM, Paul Harris Fellow



The Beyond Disability Story

Community Partner Testimonials:

“The outstanding success and achievements of the *Beyond Disability* program getting disabled online has added a new dimension to their lives. Clearly, it has provided a wonderful opportunity for people to express their desire to communicate with others and their poetry and stories indicate that whilst they have physical limitations – their ability to express themselves is not limited.”

Former ParaQuad President in the Foreword to BDI's 1st book “Thoughts and Feelings”

“It does give me more than the usual pleasure to nominate the Beyond Disability program to the Paul Newman Foundation for serious consideration.

This group was the brainchild of Mr. Richard Stubbs whose own working life was curtailed by a very serious car accident. With permanent back injuries Richard is confined to a wheel chair. There are many, many persons in this and worse situations that can achieve meaningful contact with the outside world through the wonderful world of computers as mentioned below. This takes a significant amount of effort by support volunteers. These fine people could do a lot more if they had financial support that is so difficult to achieve.

I speak as a *Mornington Peninsula Shire Councilor*, the first *Mayor of the amalgamated councils* and an involved member of this community. For a number of years I have been area chairperson of the *Salvos Red Shield Appeal*. Most are aware of the lifesaving and caring work they do and I see BDI as being just as deserving. They do require financial support. All the clients have extreme disabilities, being confined to their homes. Any help possible would make a huge difference to their lives and all go to building a better community. Yours Faithfully, *Cr. David Jarman*.

"I met Richard in 2001 and am amazed that all of his fantastic work has been voluntary. Since then I have had regular contact and been kept up-to-date with the excellent work of BDI." *Christa Momot, Executive Officer. Lance Reichstein Foundation, July 02*

"The BDI project achieved all that was set out and more. What has been achieved on relatively little funding is truly remarkable and a credit to the personal commitment and enthusiasm of Richard Stubbs and his team. Mr Stubbs leadership has motivated others in his team as well as the wider community to give time, money and in-kind support. Mr Stubbs claimed no credit for himself but pointed to the courage and persistence of his clients and the dedication of his volunteer team. Clearly Mr Stubbs indomitable spirit inspires others to overcome whatever obstacles are presented." *David Williamson, General Manager, Networking the Nation, letter 23/7/01*

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate BDI for the valuable outcomes achieved and the ongoing commitment to servicing the needs of the clients.

Your personal commitment and enthusiasm for the project enabled it to achieve what few others would be able to achieve in much more generous circumstances."

Sybil free, accessibility DoCITA 27/3/02

"I manage the Victorian State Government's Skills.net program which provides seed funds to community organisations so they can provide Internet access and training for their communities, especially targeted at those in the community who would normally miss out on the chance to be part of the new online world.

Beyond Disability Inc. run one of the most unique Skills.net projects out of the 380 currently funded. They are providing Internet access and training for the housebound mobility disabled and elderly on the Mornington Peninsula and acting as a model for other regions and states on how to provide such services to the housebound mobility disabled.

The Beyond Disability Story

The Skills.net program provided an earlier seed fund of \$10,000 to the BDI group because we could see the potential of such a project in meeting the needs of a very marginalized group, and BDI have proven us right by running a highly successful project, so much so that in a later round of Skills.net we again awarded them a second \$10,000 grant.

But as much as these grants are useful, this project is attempting to tackle such a massive need that it requires much more than this.

If there ever was a group that deserved to gain a Community Support Fund grant then BDI is it.

These funds would enable them to continue and expand their important community work.

I cannot recommend the work of BDI and its CEO, Richard Stubbs highly enough.

Hence I fully support the submission by BDI.

Yours sincerely, Adrian Bates, Skills.net Coordinator

A Big thank you to some of our past and present sponsors:



*Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE
(Deceased)*

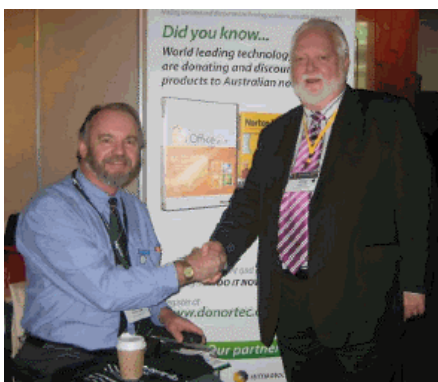


Yulgilbar Foundation

**Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation
Cities of Frankston, Casey & Mornington Peninsula
Maximum Data Solutions**

&

**Special thanks to:
Connecting Up**



*Richard Stubbs OAM thanks the
Chief Executive Officer of
Connecting Up Australia, Doug
Jacquier, for supporting Beyond
Disability Inc. Picture taken at the
Donor Tec Conference 2011.*

Participant Testimonials:

“Over a period of years I realise how dependent I am on my computer. It has opened up doors I could not imagine before without my PC. Sending e-mails to friends have not seen for 50 years scattered all over the world. We have formed a network exchanging e-mail addresses with other school friends. More recently Len and Mavis has got me interested in tracing my ancestry in England, it is very exciting all made possible via the internet! It is educational as well as learning where and how our great, great grandparents lived. Searching and finding long lost relatives is all consuming!

Being housebound most of time I listen to the radio and watch television avidly, I love current affairs and documentaries. I get on to the internet after watching a program and go into chat rooms or find out more about a subject showing, e.g. abc.net.au/catalyst, as am interested in science subjects amongst a few.

Also have always been interested in photography and cameras, now with my digital camera, scanner and printer can indulge in my favourite hobby to my heart's content, emailing prints to my friends overseas surprising them with our teenage years of the 1940's and 50's!!

Yes, I must say my BDI computer has completely changed my life in fun way and recently as with my progressive motor neurone disease having lost my speaking voice the computer is a necessity to communicate with people by emailing them or using a website tool for synthesized speech i.e. when I type in a sentence it is activated by an actual talking voice (loud and clear)! I could go on and on in praise of my computer which goes on changing my life for the better. Thank you, thank you BDI...

P.S. Previously enjoying social occasions, being with BDI have been able to meet such delightful people when attending morning teas with Dame Elisabeth Murdoch at Cruden Farm, launching books Tricia was instrumental in publishing at Hastings Library and attending the Offices of Greg Hunt with BDI when Richard was presented with the Flinders Award for Excellence, to name but a few events we as a BDI group attend.



From Mavis Hobbs (2008) (Mavis passed away 2017)

A most remarkable lady.....

Mavis Hobbs has actively participated in the Beyond Disability programme since its inception. She has attended every Annual General Meeting except the last one and has assisted in the promotion of our aims wherever possible. Mavis has Motor Neurone Disease which has significantly affected her physical abilities but not her sense of humour nor her mental agility.

She has many friends and can keep in touch via email – her email traffic is enormous (!), perhaps 20 or 30 emails received per day. It is becoming increasing difficult for Mavis to type so the responses are getting shorter – but you still always get one.

It's difficult to imagine the limitations Mavis faces – particularly her lack of speech – when it comes to day to day transactions. This is where the computer and internet has provided real benefit. Mavis was the first to go onto a broadband connection as she needed a connection 24 hour with rapid download. This enabled her to do all her banking, some share trading, conduct a lengthy legal settlement with solicitors in the UK, book holidays, sort out warranty claims and fight the

The Beyond Disability Story

bureaucracy of the companies who refuse to accept that there are people who can't speak! It is amazing what can be achieved with perseverance and a computer connected to the internet! Since her move into residential care it has been necessary to swap over to a laptop with a wireless broadband connection. This transition was relatively painless and the results very good.

It is a privilege to be able to assist Mavis. I am sure I have gained more from this experience than I have put back in. I find her attitude truly inspirational.....

(Only part of the letter printed here) **Malcolm Fowler – BDI Volunteer – October 2009**



Mavis Hobbs has been an active participant in Beyond Disability since its inception.

Mavis suffers from Motor Neurone Disease and as the condition worsened it was necessary for her to move from her home in Mount Eliza to Mercy Place, a residential care facility, in East Melbourne. Her laptop computer is her only means of communication.

When she lived in Mount Eliza I was able to visit her every week but now, because of the distance, visits are more difficult and we are very reliant on

remote management of her computer using *Team Viewer* software which allows me to take control of her computer from my home.

I did recently visit her to catch up and also to install some new software. I keep in regular contact with her two sons to ensure that we offer the necessary level of support. They are most appreciative of the work we do.

I came away from this visit in awe of her tenacity and feel honoured to be able to help her in a very small way – she still uses the laptop to communicate but it is an increasingly difficult process. Mavis is an inspiration to me and Beyond Disability.

Malcolm Fowler - BDI Volunteer--September 2012 (Sadly Mavis passed away)

This is a letter to explain what BDI has allowed me to do over the past years. I was lucky to be talking to one of my carers about buying a second-hand computer and she told me about BDI who she had read about in the local paper so I made some enquiries and found out more. I really do feel so lucky that I was told about them, they have supplied me with a computer that is voice activated which allows me to be able to use the computer as my hands no longer can use the keyboard, they also send around a volunteer helper which is really helpful because I had never used a computer before and luckily she has patience of a saint. I can send e-mails to my Aunt and Uncle overseas and I receive quite a few jokes which do amuse me. It has opened a new world to me. The learning has not been as easy as I thought but at least it has challenged my mind and also taught me more. I must also say that Richard Stubbs, the man in charge of BDI—I should probably say the founder, can't seem to do enough for me, this is why I feel so very lucky that I was able to find them. I'm so lucky to have Tricia McGill keeping her eyes open for anything that might help me, she found out about this company Comtec who was able to bring out a Penny and Giles joystick roller! Having this type of control makes it so much easier for me to control the mouse (less time correcting). **Lynn Roberts--2008**



I have been a member of the BDI for approx. 4 years. I joined out of the need to maintain a quality of life, since my health has deteriorated during the years and has left me home bound, and unable to do the outdoor activities I enjoyed so much.

The Beyond Disability Story

Being introduced to a computer and the internet, was something I thought I would never use. I have found a new interest. I've found that I can keep in touch with my friends and family as well as research all the topics I like.

BDI was introduced to me by a carer from the Brotherhood of St Laurence. Since being a member, I have been supplied with a computer and printer, and have also had the support and company of a volunteer from the BDI who has proven to not only be a whiz at computers, but a good friend. BDI help me keeps in touch with the world and has given me an opportunity I may never have considered, until I became unwell. Regards, **Barry K Anderson.(Deceased)**



Can you please pass on to the committee at Beyond Disability how much we appreciate the work they do. Our daughter Jasmine is very lucky to be able to access up to date, quality computer equipment.

Although she has a severe physical disability due to her muscular dystrophy, she does very well at school and we are so proud of her. Your organisation helps her so much by giving her the opportunity and the confidence to participate in computer activities for school and for social purposes. You can imagine the impact this has on someone with a lot of physical limitations. It opens up so many opportunities so she can look to the future

with enthusiasm and optimism.

Thank you all so much, **Linda Rigby. (2012)**

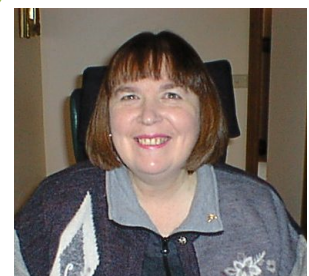
I wish to thank all involved who came up with the idea of suppling computers and very affordable broadband internet, and keeping up the support when needed. Knowing that you can contact quite a few people if/when you need any help/support/advice. Colin has been my volunteer for quite a few years and nothing seems to be a hassle to him. It is nice to know that you can contact him and others involved in BDI for advice when needed. I must also mention Tricia McGill she has also been very supportive and when I haven't been as punctual as usual e.g. making a payment for the internet on time etc. Tricia has contacted me either by email or phone to check in and see if all is ok with me and my husband.

I have really got a lot of use with the computer when I am not up to getting out and about. Let's face it, who wants to go out in this cold miserable weather? I have been able to stay in contact with family/friends so I don't feel isolated locked away from the big wide world which is a nice feeling.

Thank You BDI, Wendy Thompson. (Sept 2012)

I don't know what I would do without the Internet access. Although I mainly use it for the e-mail, it has been a wonderful way to stay in touch with friends and family. I have a son in London whom I couldn't afford to ring as often as I am able to e-mail. Also a brother in Canada, my parents who live locally are elderly and not in good health and I send a regular e-mail to Canada to let them know how we are going Down under. We also have friends in Florida who I would never dream of ringing as we wouldn't get off the phone and I can't write very well. Before I became ill, I was a really fast typist, although I have slowed down a lot it is so easy to type compared to writing which is almost impossible.

We also have friends in Chicago who became friends when I first became ill. In the beginning I became ill one day, went to casualty at Frankston Hospital, walked in and that was the last time I ever walked. Within 24 hours I was paralyzed up to my neck. I had a virus that nearly killed me. Was in intensive care at the Alfred for two weeks and spent 13 months in re-hab at Caulfield. A very close friend got on to the Internet to see if the world had heard of this virus and a young couple in Chicago answered as the husband had contracted the virus at about the same time. We have been communicating ever since through my friend. Now it is possible for me to e-mail directly



to them and it is so encouraging to hear that he is now walking and back at work.

I also have a friend who is going to Laos for two years so that will be another contact for me. As well as several friends on the other side of Melbourne who write me. Being literally housebound, except for medical appointments, this is a wonderful way to keep in touch. I have an interest in Astrology as well and can keep up with all the latest info from around the world.

Thank you so much for a chance to move outside my four walls... Regards, Carol Kidger. (2010)

BDI Volunteer letters.



It is hard to imagine that the global pandemic has not touched everyone. BDI is no exception, we have not been able to hold our regular weekly Workshops since late March '20 and following a suggestion from committee member Sarah we now hold regular Zoom video Workshops.

These restrictions have limited some of the services we can provide, from assisting new and existing clients face to face to collecting any donations of equipment. Fortunately, online help is available via Teamviewer and using Auspost to post out any smaller computer

equipment. As mentioned last year, it has been a year of looking after our existing clients.

Windows 7

Microsoft previously announced that support for Win 7 had ceased in Jan '20. It just seems like yesterday that BDI was changing over our clients from Win XP to 7 ... ahh. We are now confident that all our clients have now been upgraded to Windows 10. If we have missed you, please let us know.

We have a reasonable stock of machines with Windows 10 ready to go and easy to connect to the next generation of Telstra Mobile Broadband WiFi modems. We have completed the changeover to the new Telstra WiFi modems and retired all our aging Bigpond USB modems. Sarah has completed the work to update our Website and can organise changes as required. The NBN rollout is continuing and with NBNCO's target to be completed by the end of this year, this will mean more and more of our area will have access to the new network.

One of our longest clients has recently completed the changeover to the NBN and is now taking advantage of online streaming services such as Netflix, ABC iView and SBS On Demand.

To check out the status of the NBN in your area, go to www.nbnco.com.au and enter your address to see when it is planned for your area or if already available, see the next step to get the NBN connected. NBN is required if you have a home phone you want to keep and other things such as back to base alarm systems or emergency assistance such as MePACS. NBNCO states that once it is available in your area, the old copper network will be disconnected in most cases therefore no phone or home Internet.

Many thanks again to Peggy and John for offering their home on a weekly basis to host the Workshops up until the pandemic restrictions were introduced in late March '20.

I have enjoyed the year even with the challenges and the association with our committee at the Workshops and recently via the Zoom video conferences. Sadly, virtual Workshops are not the same as getting together but still have been most enjoyable.

Ian George BDI Volunteer. (2020)

The Beyond Disability Story

This year has been an unusual, not to say horrible, one for most people in the community. First came the fires, then the floods and then this pandemic. The volunteers here at Beyond Disability, as always, found a solution to most problems caused by this previously unknown virus. Our meetings, as our Annual General Meeting will be, have been conducted via Zoom. Thanks to Ian George for setting this up and providing us with the necessary skills to cope with a new, for me especially, means of communication. The worst difficulty brought about by the pandemic has been the no contact and self-isolation part, for the main crux of our programme has always been the service provided to our clients in their own homes. Nevertheless, with a little ingenuity by Ian and Klaus most that has cropped up has been dealt with. Thank goodness for trusty Team Viewer that allows access to the client's technical equipment be it a PC or laptop. We all pray that next year is a better one than this—surely it cannot be any worse.

Tricia McGill BDI Team Leader (August 2020)



This year has certainly been a challenging one but with the help & friendliness of the Committee I have realised what a wonderful organisation we are. The signs are that this coming year we will have a bit more freedom. My wishes are that we will be able to expand and socialise more. ***Peggy Stocks (BDI Secretary 2021)***

Hi All, I agree with everyone that this year has been tough for all. With Colin's departure to a better place, and Glen, his replacement on the sick list, it has left a big hole in BDI. But everyone now needs to pull together and help each other get through these tough times.

East Gippsland has been a tough area to crack, but gradually people are hearing about BDI's services and things may improve. Please keep up the great work and help all involved with the BDI Service. ***Regards Gary Bogaart (2015)***



2020 is turning out to be a hell of a year and its not over yet!

My adventures began after the bushfires early this year when I volunteered to help rebuild farm fences with the Blazeaid group in the Bruthen and Buchan areas of gippsland.

While there, sharing experiences with locals, it became apparent that one of the needs of those affected, and indeed also some local non-profit organisations, was computer equipment to allow better processing of details and applications mainly associated with claims and recovery aspects.

As a result I made several contacts with organisations directly involved in bushfire recovery efforts. This in turn led to contact with a Gippsland

The Beyond Disability Story

representative of GIVIT (the Victorian Government's official charity donation partner). Ian George and I then went to work, and by careful juggling of resources, we managed to prepare and fully programme 20 refurbished desktop computers plus associated equipment. I then delivered them as a BDI donation to GIVIT's Gippsland base in Boisdale, some 200km from Frankston. The computers were distributed within days to grateful recipients including a community centre in hard hit Mallacoota. All this was done just before the corona virus pandemic fully hit Victoria. Now, almost housebound, but nevertheless I have still been able to offer help our clients via team viewer and the phone.

I don't know when things will get back to normal but suspect it will be many months yet. At the same time, with constantly evolving computer and internet industry, I see desktop computers being gradually phased out in favour of laptops, tablets ,iPhones and the like. However we at BDI are determined to meet this challenge by adapting and updating our resources accordingly. ***Klaus Jungling (2020)***

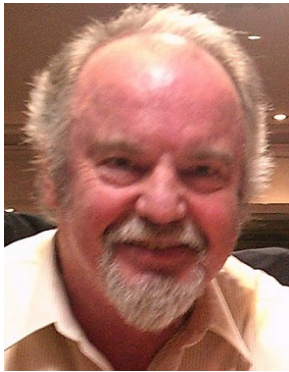


Klaus Jungling, technical BDI team member, does a final check on one of twenty desktop computers donated to bushfire affected communities of East Gippsland.



Donated desktops being put to good use in bushfire affected areas of East gippsland. Lisa Herbert from GIVIT and Brodie Gaudion from the Sanctuary Mallacoota Youth Group.

Beyond Disability Committee &Volunteers 2021/22



**Richard Stubbs OAM
Chief Executive Officer**



**Peggy Stocks
Secretary**



**Amanda Lewis
Treasurer**



**Tricia McGill
Membership/Funding**



**Ian George
Technical**



**Klaus Jungling
Technical**



**Malcolm Fowler
Consultant**



**Rob Davidson
IT Technician**



Gary Bogaart



**Cindy Reed
General Committee**



Chris Mills

The Beyond Disability Story



BDI Volunteers celebrate National Volunteer Week 2019



2019 AGM



AGM 2020 Held via Zoom



**The Hon Bill Shorten MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services**

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: (02) 6277 4778
Facsimile: (02) 6277 8554

MC08-000834

29 APR 2008

Mr Richard Stubbs
Chief Executive Officer
Beyond Disability
Girrahween House
PO Box 1451
PEARCEDALE VIC 3912

Dear Mr Stubbs

Thank you for your letter of 11 December 2007 about recruiting volunteers for Beyond Disability.

I appreciate the work you and your volunteers are doing to enable people with disabilities to remain in their home through facilitating access to the internet. The Government recognises the valuable contribution that volunteers make to many community services. It supports the work of volunteers through the Volunteer Management and Volunteer Grants Programs.

The Department of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs funds a number of Volunteer Resource Centres (VRCs) in Victoria to help individuals wishing to volunteer with not-for-profit organisations. The VRCs also provide training to assist community organisations with their management of volunteers. If this service would be of assistance to Beyond Disability, Volunteering Victoria can help you find the closest Volunteer Resource Centre. You can contact Volunteering Victoria on 03 9642 5266.

In my discussions with the States and Territories about the future of disability services, I will be happy to draw their attention to the work that your organisation is doing and encourage them to look for ways of developing partnerships at the local level.

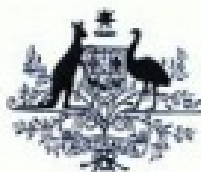
I have also forwarded your letter to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, who has responsibility for interactive communication. I have referred your letter to his office for consideration, and asked for him to keep me up to date as to initiatives in this area.

Once again, thank you for writing. I trust my comments are of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Shorten', written in a cursive style.

Bill Shorten



Mr Richard Stubbs
PO BOX 1451
PEARCEDALE VIC 3912

National Disability Awards 2007 - Inclusion Award

Dear Mr Stubbs *Richard*

We are writing to extend our personal congratulations to you as a finalist of the inaugural National Disability Awards 2007.

We were thrilled to be able to attend the gala award ceremony as our first official function and we both enjoyed meeting you during the ceremony.

All of the nominations received were of a high calibre and the stories and achievements presented were inspirational. Your contribution to improving the lives of people with disability through the Beyond Disability and Wheelie Kidz IT programs has been outstanding.

We encourage you to nominate someone you know for future awards. For more information, visit the website at www.idpwd.com.au or email disability@fabcsia.gov.au. Nominations for the National Disability Awards will open in early 2008.

We would like to wish you well in all your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Jenny Macklin in blue ink.

JENNY MACKLIN
Minister for Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Handwritten signature of Bill Shorten in blue ink.

BILL SHORTEN
Parliamentary Secretary for
Disabilities and Children's Services

The Beyond Disability Story



Richard Stubbs OAM, Beyond Disability CEO at the inaugural National Inclusion Awards 2007 in Canberra. He met Hon. Jenny Macklin MP and Hon. Bill Shorten MP who were fresh from being sworn in as Community Services Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for Disability and Children's Services. Richard was nominated for the award for his tireless work in founding Beyond Disability.



Richard Stubbs OAM with Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Beyond Disability supporter, when he visited the old workshop in 2006



Hon Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

Shop 4, 184 Salmon Street (PO Box 274), Hastings Vic 3915

Telephone: (03) 5979 3188 Fax: (03) 5979 3034

Email: Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au

Website: www.greghunt.org



5 July 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Mr Richard Stubbs in the *2007 Personal Achievement Award*.

Mr Stubbs is a highly regarded member of the community who acts above and beyond the call of duty. In spite of his own severe injuries, he has focussed his time and energy to found and develop a unique program called Beyond Disability Inc. Through this program, he has helped severely disabled members of the community to access interactive communication which brings the outside world into their own homes.

There are 2 million adults and three quarters of a million children who are disabled in Australia. Through the tireless efforts of Mr Stubbs and the Beyond Disability Inc program, these people have been given a new lease of life as they learn new computer skills and become fully interactive with family and friends and the wider community.

The latest venture that Richard Stubbs has undertaken is 'Wheelie Kidz IT'. By providing laptops to school children in wheelchairs, he believes that disabled children can be given the opportunity to compete with their peers without feeling they have an enormous disadvantage.

Mr Stubbs selfless commitment to this and other elements of the program has been a major reason for its success. With the assistance of volunteers, government funding and media coverage, which he has sourced, he has ensured that the disabled members of our society can fully participate in all areas of the community using technology as a medium. He has been an innovative leader, who has inspired everyone who has joined his crusade.

I cannot speak highly enough of Mr Stubbs and his dedication to the disabled community. His commitment and compassion towards disabled members of the wider community should be recognised and I would appreciate your favourable consideration of his nomination in the *2007 Personal Achievement Award*.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Yours sincerely

GREG HUNT MP



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA**
Shire

0320/070

2 December, 2005

COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA



Mr Richard Stubbs
Rural & Peninsula Disability Support Inc.
P O Box 1541
PEARCEDALE 3912

Dear Mr Stubbs

RE: MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME 2005/06

Thank you for your application to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Community Grant Scheme 2005/06. Council considered applications for this program at its Council meeting on 21 November 2005.

Council acknowledges the valuable contribution undertaken by your organisation and has recommended that R.P.D.A receive a recurring grant of \$3,000 to assist with the costs of this service.

You do not therefore need to make any further application to the Community Grant Scheme as this item will be assessed based on the information already provided.

I have enclosed an 'acceptance of conditions of grant' form for your signature. I ask that you return this form to me as soon as possible. Following receipt of the completed acceptance of grant form, payment will be forwarded directly to your organisation.

Feel free to contact me should you require any further information or assistance.

Thank you for your interest in this scheme and I wish your organisation well in its future endeavours.

Yours sincerely

Robin Adams
Manager, Child Youth & Family Care

Private Bag 1000
Beechgrove Street
Rosebud 3919
Phone 1300 850 600
Fax 03 5986 6696
DX 30059
ABN 53 159 890 143
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

MND

Peninsula Support Group

**MOTOR NEUROE DISEASE
ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.**

A.B.N. 44113484160
.265 Canterbury Road
Canterbury 3126

Tel: + 613 9830 2122
Tel: + 613 9830 2122
Fax: + 61-39830 2228

Email: mndvic@vicnet.net.au

Postal Address
PO Box 23
Canterbury 3126

1-Sep-07

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf the Motor Neurone Disease Association Peninsula Support Group we would like to recommend that the Beyond Disability (BDI) program be given serious consideration for philanthropic and other required assistance.

Our Support Group has been involved with BDI for quite a few years now and cannot praise highly enough their efforts in the disabled and disadvantaged. We along with other disabled Support Groups know how hard it is to obtain funding, but have witnessed first hand how difficult it is for BDI to keep going with their wonderful work, especially since the introduction of the GST.

MND is a progressive and permanent degeneration of the nerve cells controlling the muscles that enable us to move around, speak, breathe, and swallow. The patterns of weakness vary from person to person, 85% of my members are wheelchair and housebound and mostly cannot speak, this is where BDI has been and continues to be a lifeline for my members. This group has opened up lines of communication between our members to their friends and loved ones.

They are able to chat to one another via e-mail, keep in touch via internet in regards to the on going trials of various experiments in hope day there will be a cure for this deadly disease.

Richard Stubbs, CEO of BDI and his group of volunteers are absolutely wonderful. The time they give to teaching our members the operations of a computer, many of whom have never sat down at one before, their care, understanding, patience and availability for assistance is amazing.

Yours sincerely,


Rhonda Brown
MND Peninsula Support Group President

Patrons: Hon Dr H Jenkins AM, Mr Lou Richards, Hon Mr Justice John Winneke
Member of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Australia



29 August 2007

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in support of the **"beyond disability"** programme.

The outstanding success and achievements of the **"beyond disability"** programme for providing housebound and elderly mobility disabled people with on-line access by using recycled computers has added a new dimension to the lives of many people.

Clearly, it has provided a wonderful opportunity for people to express their deep desire to communicate with others, and participate in the community

The **"beyond disability"** programme is an outstanding success, and ParaQuad Victoria is proud to have been able to assist in some small way since its inception.

ParaQuad has publicised this wonderful programme to its members and has provided funds to assist with previous worthwhile projects.

We commend the geographical expansion of the programme to ensure its continuing success – especially in the area of low income families with a school child in a wheelchair, and the elderly who have a physical disability, who have no spending power – wishing to remain independent in their own homes.

Yours sincerely,

PETER TURNER,
Chief Executive Officer

ParaQuad Victoria (ACN 004 979 837)
208 Wellington Street Collingwood Vic 3066 Australia (PO Box 1189) Web: www.paraquad.org.au
Email: theteam@paraquad.org.au Telephone: (03) 9415 1200 / 1800 805 384 Facsimile (03) 9415 1222

Patron Governor of Victoria



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA**
Shire

COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA



3-Sep-07

**Beyond Disability Inc
PO Box 1451
PEARCEDALE 3912**

To whom it may concern,

It is with great pleasure that I provide this letter of support for Beyond Disability Inc. This group, enthusiastically led by Mr. Richard Stubbs, despite his own personal injury, provides unique and creative support to many isolated and housebound residents of the Mornington Peninsula. This support and the provision of appropriate computer software and hardware enables these people to remain connected with each other, their friends and the broader community. This, in essence, is a wonderful example of community building in practice!

In ten years of service to the community, Richard and his Committee have helped over two hundred and thirty families, provide over 63,000 volunteer hours and provided over 60,000 on-line access hours. If one were to quantify in dollar terms the value to this community it would be well over \$2 million.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire has supported Richard over a number of years through its Grant Program. However, in recognition of his outstanding success and achievements, Council has now decided to provide the group with a recurrent Grant.

Any support you would be willing to provide this group would be most appreciated and well deserved.

Yours sincerely,

**Joe Cauchi
Director - Sustainable Communities**

Private Bag 1000
Bessgrove Street
Rosebud 3939
Phone 1300 850 600
Fax 03 5986 6696
DX 30059
ABN 53 159 890 143
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

The Beyond Disability Story

The NBN presents the nation with a once in a generation opportunity through the delivery of world leading technology that will bind the nation together as never before.

The Beyond Disability programme was the first mentioned Not-for-Profit at the National digital Inclusion Summit Canberra 17/08/2011 by Hon senator Stephen Conroy MP.

http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/speeches/2011_minister_speeches/022

Sen. Conroy said: I'd like to point out there are already many organisations doing inspiring work to advance digital inclusion... and let me, by way of example, mention a few.

Beyond Disability, led by OAM recipient Richard Stubbs, is a team of local volunteers who assist people who are physically disabled and housebound to connect with the world by using online technologies. Beyond Disability has provided access to computer equipment and volunteer assistance to more than three hundred people, including to some of them for more than a decade continuously.



Senator the Hon. Stephen Conroy
Minister for Broadband, Communications
and the Digital Economy
Deputy Leader of the Government in the
Senate
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on
Digital Productivity



The Government of South Australia in their paper – Strong Voices, a blue print for life 2012-2020

www.socialinclusion.sa.gov.au

Quote “The Social Inclusion Board acknowledges the work of Beyond Disability Inc. led by Mr Richard Stubbs OAM, a not-for-profit organisation where a team of local volunteers in Mornington Peninsula, Victoria assist housebound people with a physical disability to connect to the world by using online technologies. Digital technology presents exciting opportunities for generating inclusion, connection and access. This is the kind of initiative that would be well supported by the proposed Local Disability Innovation Fund”. Published by Government of South Australia Oct 2011.



South Australia's Social Inclusion Initiative

The South Australian Social Inclusion Initiative aims to assist in the creation of a society where all people feel valued, their differences are respected and their basic needs - both physical and emotional - are met.

South Australia's cutting edge social inclusion method delivers results through developing innovative solutions to pressing social problems. Read more about this method in [People and Community at the Heart of Systems and Bureaucracy: South Australia's Social Inclusion Initiative, February 2009 \(PDF 739kb\)](#).

Department of Human Services “Best program in Victoria 2002 for including disabled into community.
City of Casey “Best Volunteers 2003, 2008, Most innovative” & “Best Family program”
The Tattersall's Award for Enterprise and achievement Honours life's unsung heroes
Ordinary people who either by personal courage or commitment to others achieve extraordinary things
Rotary International Shine-On 2002 award focus on the abilities of those with disability
FACISIA, Canberra, 1 of only 4 in Australia nominated for inclusion award 2008.

The Beyond Disability Story

Richard Stubbs OAM Awards



Community Spirit Finalist 2006



Tattersall's Award 2008



Order of Australia Medal 2008



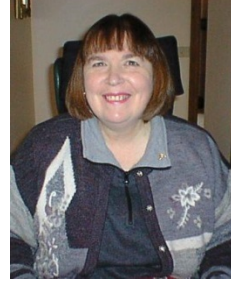
Rotary Paul Harris Fellow 2008



Canberra Inclusion Award Finalist 2007

The Beyond Disability Story

A few past and present Beyond Disability Members



Betty(deceased) & Ron Farnill Bob Sharp (deceased) Candice(deceased) & Fiona Fulstow Carol Kidger



Cobi Hoekstra



Violet Meddicks(Deceased)



Lynette Hook



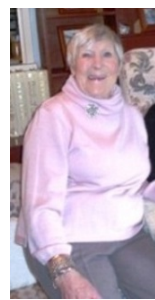
Kerrie Weller



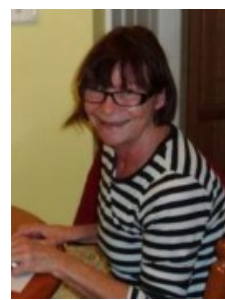
Leonie Medlyn-White



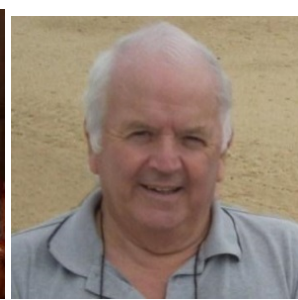
Lynn Roberts



Queenie Edwards



Moir Egan



Graeme Johnson



Louise Cooper



Merle Watson



Jasmine Rigby-Smith



David Cuffe

Visits to Cruden Farm, home of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC. DBE.



2002



2003



2007

The Beyond Disability Story



2008



2008



2009



2009



2010

Visits to Elgee Park (Yulqilbar)



2009

The Beyond Disability Story



2012

BDI Volunteer lunches



2007



2008



2009



2010



2011

Christmas



2011



2012



2013

The Beyond Disability Story



2014



2015



2017



2021 Christmas in July



Pakenham vs Primary School Kianna age 5 with BDI long term member Carlee Lewis with one of three laptops donated to school kids without laptops

Good Afternoon,

Firstly I just want to thank Beyond Disability for their donation of 3 laptops.

These laptops will be very useful to our Out of School Hours Service in many different ways. One way will be in helping our senior students to complete their homework whilst they are attending the service. Our homework club is a big relief for parents, as it ensures their children are doing their homework and getting adequate support whilst completing it. The laptop will allow our senior students to complete their homework in a more efficient manner and allow them to learn new I.T skills at the same time.

Another way in which the devices will be utilised is in our calm down space as well as our rest and recover time. Some of the children who attend our service have behavioural issues and these devices will be utilised in their calm down kits as something that can be used in a quiet space and all them to re-enter the green.

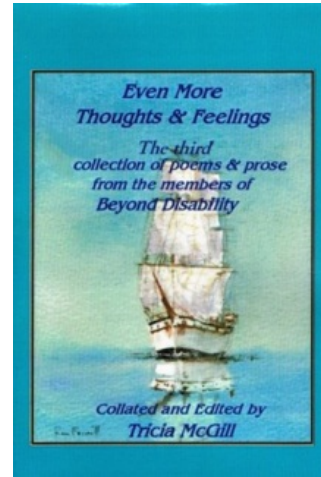
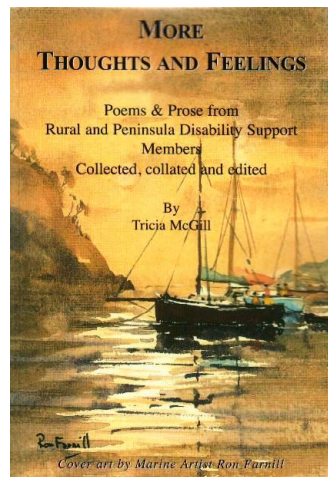
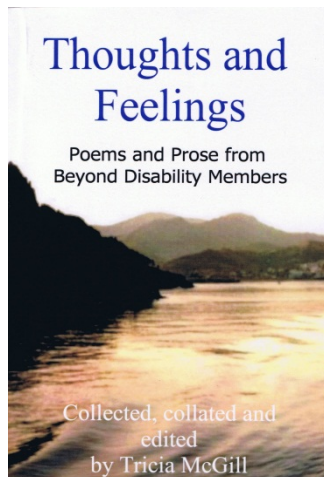
Thanks again for the donation of the devices, we are extremely grateful for the support from Beyond Disability. Kind Regards,



Carlee Lewis
Centre Manager
Big Childcare Pty Ltd

 Pakenham Primary School
 50 Atlantic Drive, Pakenham 3810
 04 78 013 852
 bigchildcare.com





Book 2 & 3 Cover art by marine artist Ron Farnill.

Foreword to Even More Thoughts & Feelings by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE

Reading once again about the wonderful work done by Richard Stubbs is very touching. It is very inspiring to learn how much **Beyond Disability** has meant to so many lonely, housebound, disabled people; so much of it is done voluntarily, but of course it is very necessary for the community to give financial support to Richard and his volunteers. They are all splendid people and I admire them tremendously.

~***~

Foreword to Even More Thoughts & Feelings by Richard Stubbs OAM. BDI C.E.O.

Many of us go through each day of our life without much thought about why it is until catastrophe in the form of a lifelong disability strikes home. The people in the **Beyond Disability** program are our participants, volunteers, supporters and partners; they are the members of this great community program which has helped so many people in the past 10 years.

I take great pleasure in recommending you to take some time to read the thoughts and feelings of our contributors. **Beyond Disability** is primarily an interactive communication program using online access and mainly recycled computers as the vehicle. Without our truly wonderful volunteers we simply do not have a program. We help people of all ages whose physical disability keeps them housebound and we also help wheelchair schoolchildren.

Some special people have been with us from the outset and this includes my personal hero who I try to emulate; Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE. Dame Elisabeth once said, "One's chief obligation is to think about other people, and how we can help them".

If we all worked to this life principle imagine how much better our world would be. I commend our third collection of writings to you.

~***~

**Any profit drawn from these three publications goes to *Beyond Disability Inc.*
To purchase copies of these books please contact Tricia McGill on 0419 114 313
or email: tmcgill@bdi.org.au**

Brainwave leads to help and honour

By Glen Atwell

BRAVE, selfless, dedicated. Friends and associates of Richard Stubbs, a Pearce Dale resident honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on Monday, speak of the Beyond Disability founder in the most glowing terms.

After a car accident in 1991 forced Mr Stubbs into early retirement with severe spinal injuries, he spent a year in bed, seemingly without a future.

Mr Stubbs was cut down in the prime of his career as a Commonwealth Bank executive and was left unable to walk.

Despite his often intolerable pain, Mr Stubbs decided against a lifetime of frustration, and used his disability as motivation and the catalyst in his decision to found Beyond Disability, a non-profit volunteer organisation devoted to helping others who have physical disabilities.

Beyond Disability provides household people with computer and Internet access, training and support for \$11 a month.

The Internet technology allows those people to talk and communicate with family and

friends via chat rooms and forums.

Mr Stubbs said a father-son moment sparked the brainwave for the program.

"After the accident I was spending a lot of time in bed, I couldn't walk," he said.

"My son set up a computer for me, hooked it up to the Internet and all of a sudden I had a window to the world.

"I instantly realised other household people should have the same opportunity."

In that moment, Beyond Disability was born.

Australian Governor-General Michael Jeffery named Mr Stubbs as an OAM recipient for tackling problems associated with household disabled social communication.

"I was staggered to be recognised alongside such an elite group of community-minded people," Mr Stubbs said.

"All this because I have such wonderful support from local people, especially our volunteers."

With vital help from a 32-strong army of passionate vol-

unteers, Mr Stubbs has given disabled residents in the Mornington Peninsula area access to innovative home technologies.

Cranbourne team leader Tricia McGill has been a Beyond Disability volunteer for nine years and nominated Mr Stubbs for the OAM.

"Richard is great role model and an inspiration to so many people," she said.

"He lives in pain. With his disability, you wouldn't blame Richard for sitting back and letting life go by."

"But instead, he perseveres against the odds and helps as many people as he can."

This year, Beyond Disability celebrates 10 years of community assistance and has helped more than 250 families in the region.

Mr Stubbs said with additional funding, the program could reach many more people.

"I saw last week's \$58 million lottery jackpot and thought just one per cent of that, or \$580,000, would fund the program for five years," he said.

"Many people rely on this program for online access,

training and home visits from volunteers.

"We'd prefer to be able to get on with delivering the program, and not fundraising."

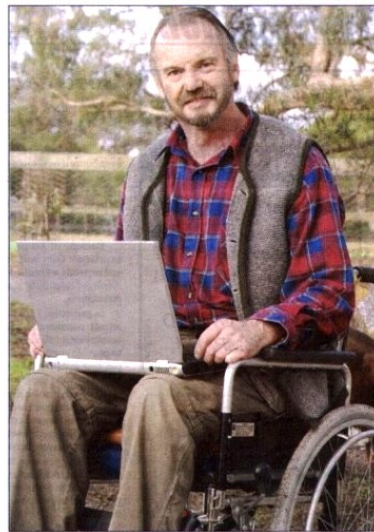
Last week Beyond Disability received its first online donation, a major milestone considering the facilities had been available for the past two years.

"It has been a long time coming, but the community is beginning to take notice of what we do," Mr Stubbs said.

To become involved with Beyond Disability, or to make a tax-deductible online donation, visit www.bdi.org.au.

Right: Founder of Beyond Disability, Pearce Dale resident Richard Stubbs, was honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on Monday.

Picture: Meagan Rogers.



Work for disabled wins Rotary award

By Liz Bell

PEARCE DALE resident Richard Stubbs has been honoured by the Rotary Club of Dromana for his work with disabled people on the peninsula.

Mr Stubbs, who received an Order of Australia Medal this year for his dedication to helping others, was recently awarded the Rotarians' highest international award — The Paul Harris Fellow.

His program, Beyond Disability, provides computer and internet access to people with disabilities living on and around the peninsula.

Incapacitated following a horrendous car accident in 1991 that forced his early retirement, Mr Stubbs has dedicated the past 12 years to establishing Beyond Disability.

Friend and Beyond Disability volunteer Tricia McGill, who received Casey's Family and Community Support Award in May, said Mr Stubbs was a "selfless dedicated motivator", who had helped hundreds of people connect with the world through the World Wide Web.

"When you consider his



Tireless helper: Despite his own health needs problems Richard Stubbs is determined to help others.

personal state of health Richard's long-term efforts to keep the program together and motivate the committee and volunteers are incredible.

"His significant commitment to the disabled, his long-term vision and his ability to overlook his own severe disabilities, together with chronic fatigue, depression and the severe side effects of powerful pain killing medication, are remarkable."

Last year Mr Stubbs was an Award finalist at the FaCSIA National Disability Awards, which recognise the achievements of people who have contributed to the disability sector.

"Richard's ability to rise above his own disadvantages to see an opportunity to help others and make it come to fruition sets him apart from other community volunteers," Ms McGill said.



Connected: Tom McGinn, 14, with his computer, provided by Beyond Disability. Picture: BILL McAULEY

A window to the world

FOR Melbourne's disabled community, the internet provides access to a world they may otherwise never enter.

Thanks to the volunteer organisation Beyond Disability, not being able to walk, talk or leave the house hasn't stop the disabled from blogging, podcasting and talking over the internet.

Tom McGinn, 14, has a neuromuscular disorder that restricts him to his wheelchair. His muscles are so weak, he struggles to hold a pen or feed himself and can't go out to play with his friends.

But with a modified, voice-activated laptop given to him by Beyond Disability, Tom's life has changed.

He can now get online, has his own webpage and is connected with children across the world — many also in wheelchairs.

"I don't know what my life would be like without this," Tom said. "I guess I would be watching TV."

The Mornington teenager is so tech-savvy, he is looking forward to a career as a web designer.

Georgie Pilcher

Generously supported by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, Beyond Disability provides specialised computers for the physically disabled and household.

Chief executive Richard Stubbs said the organisation allowed the disabled to shop, bank, socialise and find support groups.

Mr Stubbs said Beyond Disability relied on generous, direct donations but specialised equipment was expensive and public support was needed.

"There are a lot more people we could help," he said. "We have had an online donation site with ourcommunity.com.au for two years, and never had one online donation."

"I'd like someone to be the first."

Beyond Disability is the only program in Australia providing computers, software and volunteer tutorials to the disabled.

For more information or to volunteer with Beyond Disability, contact Tricia McGill on 9695 2899 or go to www.bdi.org.au

NEWS

Volunteers lend a hand

By Brendan Rees

Casey's Beyond Disability volunteers have lent a helping hand to people of the bushfire-ravaged town of Mallacoota.

The not-for-profit group, which helps people stay connected in the community, recently donated 20 desktop computers to a youth community centre, families and high school students in the Mallacoota area, which had succumbed to flames in January after the sky turned a blazing red.

Beyond Disability secretary Peggy Stocks said the idea came about after one of their volunteers spent a week with Blizard repairing fences at towns ravaged by fire in Gippsland.

"Sharing experiences with locals it became apparent that one of the needs of victims, and indeed also some local non-profit

organisations, was computer equipment to allow better processing of details and applications mainly associated with claims and recovery aspects," she said.

"As a result, several contacts were made with organisations directly involved in bushfire recovery efforts."

This led to volunteers making contact with a Gippsland representative of Givit, which is the Victorian Government's official charity donation partner.

Ms Stocks said the 20 desktop computers plus associated equipment were fully refurbished and prepared for donation.

"The donation was very well received by Ms Lisa Herbert of Givit who will arrange for distribution to those victims and community centres Givit determines to be in need."

The computers were initially gifted to Be-



At 93, Ron is one Beyond Disability's oldest clients.

yond Disability thanks to the generosity of companies and educational organisations.

Beyond Disability are volunteers who assist to bring household mobility disabled back into the community.

Lisa Herbert of online charity Givit, with the donated computers.

The Beyond Disability Story

Article that appeared in the STAR NEWS on 14/04/21 after visit by Givit's Victorian Manager Solange Ardiles



Pearcedale-based Beyond Disability Inc (BDI) has teamed up with not-for-profit Givit to distribute computers to those in need, to help them get online and reconnect with the world.

BDI was incorporated in 1997, with the aim of helping those with an active brain but who may be stuck in their body to access the internet.

The organisation supplies computers and related equipment to people in need, along with guidance in how to use the technology – from things as simple as turning the computer on and off, to more complex topics like keeping safe online and backing up files.

BDI volunteers in regions across Victoria and even interstate will provide and maintain the equipment, including special adaptive aids for people with disabilities.

After almost 25 years in the business, BDI has helped several hundred families with thousands of dollars in computing equipment, according to founder Richard Stubbs OAM.

BDI can assist people with disabilities, veterans with PTSD and carers.

During Covid, BDI provided assistance to children learning from home who lacked the resources and know-how to conduct their schooling.

The organisation has also broadened its constitution to allow it to work with those with little to no tech literacy.

Seeking a way to reach out to even more people in future, BDI approached Givit for assistance in donating computers and laptops.

In early 2020 as bushfires wreaked havoc across the eastern seaboard, BDI volunteer Klaus restored around 50 old models and donated 20 of these through Givit to fire-affected victims.

In January 2021, BDI again contacted Givit for assistance with donating more PCs. With help from Givit's Victorian manager Solange Ardiles, BDI registered with Givit to use its online 'virtual warehouse' to offer donations to the public. As well as providing computers and equipment, BDI offers full servicing and repair as needed.

As a result of the partnership, Givit has donated a further 30 PCs and laptops to multiple organisations, including 15 desktop PCs to Wellsprings for Women in Dandenong, six laptops for the Cranbourne Lions Club to better support nursing and aged care homes, and five desktop PCs to Olivia's Place, who support vulnerable mums near Warragul.

They've even donated a laptop to a Northside Community Group in Canberra through Givit.

Ms Ardiles encouraged anyone in need of computing assistance to visit Givit's website, www.givit.org.au, to find out how BDI can assist.

Alternatively, for more information visit www.bdi.org.au