

GIVIT – Beyond Disability Inc A working community group

To Jack Doonar National Media Officer media@givit.org.au | 0444 503 759

Hello Jack

27/2/21

How we started

Richard Stubbs OAM, Paul Harris Fellow

After a car accident in 1991, major spinal surgery in 1993 then premature retirement, my son set me up on his pc and internet. I found I could while away time doing research in the early hours despite crippling pain. I looked to join an organisation. There wasn't one. So I started one. Big problem with ATO getting DGR as some thought helping housebound get a pc was not a charitable act. Took 3 years. In 1996 started seeking support. Dame Elisabeth Murdoch gave me \$10,000 a year (for many years) to get going. We have helped several hundred families over several decades. Many pass away while a client. All the local councils help, local businesses and local volunteers.

What we do, and why -

Disabled of all ages, vets with ptsd, carers, the technology “less abled”, kids from low income families who can't afford a laptop. We now help most with broadband technology issues.

It's the old story – the digital divide, broke, no idea how to use tech. Some get a computer dropped off and 12 months later it's still in the box.

The benefit (and the difference we make) is that we provide and maintain the equipment, provide the software including dragon, special adaptive aids. More importantly our volunteers have the patience of saints and will go over processes time and time again in the client's home. The benefit is no financial outlay except our modest \$11 a month. We heavily subsidise mobile broadband if they don't have nbn.

The benefit of being a bdi member is we will help you in your home for as long as necessary. We are coming up to 25 years, some have been helped regularly over this time. Some children have had up to 5 voice activated laptops. We helped a large group with Motor Neurone disease to manage their last year. All now gone.

Why did we register with GIVIT?

Answer: At BDI we had been experiencing a dip in membership, COVID has not helped, and following the bushfires last year we felt that, rather than keeping a stock of computers for potential clients, we could better help the community by donating some computers.

To this end we did quite a bit of research including a number of enquires with various councils and nonprofit organisations. Out of this GIVIT seemed to be the best run (and most genuine) organisation.

This belief has since been vindicated many times over through our donations and we are most impressed by the genuine (and infectious) enthusiasm shown by the GIVIT's team.

How does GIVIT help us:

Answer: Through GIVIT we have been able to donate some computers, laptops and printers to those in genuine need through GIVIT's extensive and vetted data base of folks in need. We would have found it very difficult to find these people if it had not been for GIVIT.

A further side benefit has been that working with GIVIT has also provided the opportunity for us to make several new contacts that we hope we may help in the future as clients of BDI.

Some background:

Connecting People with Technologies

Have a read of Mavis' story on page 6 <http://www.bdi.org.au/PDFs/BDIStory2021.pdf>
Young Jasmine (Jas) on page 8 is now at uni with a bdi mac and special pen.

BDI was the first NFP mentioned in federal parliament with the NBN.

From our website:

Finding it difficult to keep up with technology in this fast changing world of computers, tablets and phones? Our volunteers are here to help you with all forms of technology. We help school age children, adults, carers and veterans. For a very minimal cost, our volunteers will give you all the advice you need to meet your technical problems, whether you have your own laptop, tablet or desktop computer, or would like our equipment. If you go with Beyond Disability equipment (the better option) if it needs repairing or replacing we will see to it. We offer subsidised internet access but if you are already on the NBN then we can still offer you our service and advice. If you have special needs (such as hand, eye and mobility problems), we can offer you specialised equipment to suit your requirements, Our current focus is in the south eastern suburbs or where our volunteers are situated.

From our techie and thorough gentleman Klaus Jungling

First heard about GIVIT while helping build fences in Gippsland after the 2020 bushfires.

Subsequently made contact with GIVIT's gippsland representative Lisa Herbert and arranged a donation of **20 desktop PC's** from BDI stock that could be spared for distribution to mainly bushfire victims in the Gippsland region.

Early this year BDI found that a further 20 desktop PC's plus 7 laptops could be spared.

Our contact Lisa Herbert put us in touch with Solange Ardiles, Victorian manager for GIVIT, who kindly attended one of BDI's regular meeting to expand on GIVIT's operations. This resulted in BDI registering with GIVIT and lead to the donation of further equipment as follows:

5 desktop PC's to Oliviasplace. A non profit organisation that supports and encourages families in the Warragul area during pregnancy and early parenting through community engagement and the provision of resources, education and professional services.

15 Desktop PC's to Wellsprings for women : A Dandenong community group that

- Is established by women, for women
- Respects the dignity and rights of each person and is committed to the principles of social justice
- Celebrates diversity and welcomes women from all cultures and faith backgrounds and abilities
- Encourages women to fulfil their potential
- Provides a welcoming and supportive environment, particularly for isolated women

- Is committed to life-long learning
- Responds to community needs and embraces innovation and change, working in partnership with many other local agencies
- Is driven by community development principles and practice
- Advocates for women's rights to self-determination, education, safety, employment and economic independence

2 laptops to Blue ridge nursing home in Cranbourne (arranged through the Cranbourne Lions club)

3 laptops to Casey aged care (arranged through the Cranbourne Lions club)

1 laptop to Lions Cranbourne for teaching folks how to use laptops.

1 laptop for northside community group in Canberra that is a community-based, not for profit organisation established in 1976 through the efforts of concerned people wanting to provide and develop support and services for residents of North Canberra.

2 laser printers intended for a small bushfire affected community group in Bendoc.

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