



*Letters,
Recommendations,
Newspaper Articles
& Acknowledgements*



r.p.d.s.



BDI Awards and Newspaper Articles

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Richard Stubbs

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Community Partnerships

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Cyber joy for disabled

40 join computer program

by GEOFF EDWARDS

ACCIDENT victim Richard Stubbs' belief in computers and the Internet is transforming the quality of life for dozens of other house-bound ill, injured and dying people across Frankston and the peninsula.

His government-subsidised, ground-breaking campaign and team of volunteers have introduced about 40 aged or disabled people to recycled computers and the Internet over the past 2½ years.

They benefit from access to information, entertainment, education and low-cost communication with loved ones.

He now hopes to have the resources to introduce a further 50 to 60 people to computers and the Internet during the next six months.

Those who have benefited so far include:

■ a Rosebud boy, 6, who is



Internet help: a new program is improving life for 40 disabled people on the peninsula.

confined to a wheelchair indefinitely because of the debilitating disease, spinal muscular atrophy: ■ a Frankston woman, 76, given weeks to live because of cancer; ■ another Frankston woman, 89, with multiple sclerosis, and; ■ a Frankston man, in his 60s, who suffers chronic pain following an accident.

Mr Stubbs' innovative program Rural Peninsula Disability Support was recognised

on Friday by one of its supporters, Frankston council, which earlier this year delivered a mini-busload of used computers and parts to Mr Stubbs for recycling.

Mr Stubbs, 50, a father-of-four, lives with his wife in Pearcedale, where he tends the program's server.

A former bank executive, he was seriously injured in a car accident in 1991, and a son

introduced him to computers and the Internet.

"I was able to investigate my condition, and the medicine available for it," he said.

"When my daughter in Japan comes on-line on her computer, my computer honks to tell me, and I can talk to her for an hour for the cost of a local call.

"I've also written a 300-page book about organic gardening and companion planting.

"I've appreciated so much the change to my quality of life, and I wanted others to benefit too."

Mr Stubbs paid tribute to his helpers who set up and install computers in the homes of recipients.

They include Jayne Green, Peter Hyson and Debbie Conway, of Frankston, and peninsula residents Margaret Wilson, Sam Varghese and Marcus Rigby.

Mr Stubbs said housebound, disabled people who were unable to get to libraries received priority for computers.

Mayor David Dawn said: "The program will facilitate community participation, self-help education and employment-from-home opportunities by increasing knowledge and access to resources."

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'Inspirational' Richard in the spotlight

THE expansion of life that disabled people find through the Internet will be the subject of a national conference in Canberra this month.

And the star of the conference is Peninsula man, Richard Stubbs.

Mr Stubbs' baby, the Rural Peninsula Disability Support Inc., was judged "a role model for communities" to give Internet access to house-bound, mobility disabled people.

Project praise

In a preview of the conference, to run at the National Convention Centre in Canberra on May 14-15, Communications Minister, Senator Richard Alston said: "The RPDS has been one of our really successful and most satisfying projects."

"The support that Richard has been able to attract to get the project off the ground is inspirational."

Mr Stubbs, who now lives rural at Pearcevale, was knocked out of his

Frankston, Commonwealth Bank executive job by a motor accident on Karingal Drive in 1991 that left him with severe spinal damage.

He discovered the wide connections the net allows and decided to bring the e-world to others.

RPDS started in a horse stable, with donated used computers and seed funding from the Department of Communications.

"Responses from a large number of national and local companies were generally negative," Karen Greenfield of DoCITA (Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Aerial) said last week.

"But Mr Stubbs, defying constant pain, strove on ... and eventually RPDS received substantial support, while local volunteers were a keystone."

Richard Stubbs will deliver a big-screen presentation to the Canberra conference, with personal stories of some RPDS members.

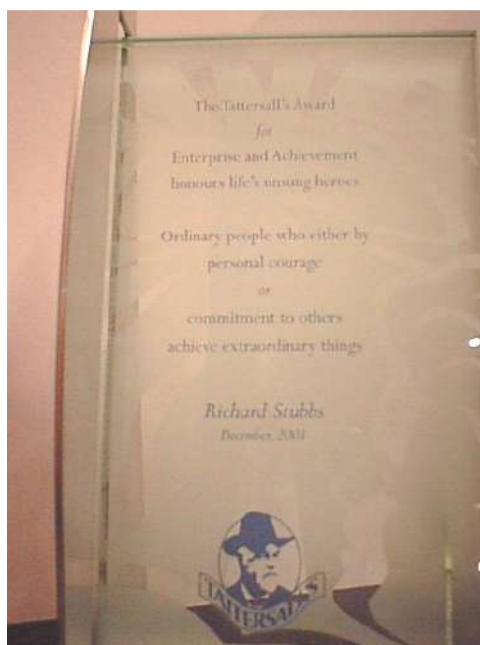


RICHARD Stubbs at home in Pearcevale with his dog Jake.

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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.flinders2001.org



21 June 2002

The National Community Link Volunteer Awards
PO Box 3297 AA
NORTH BURNLEY VIC 3121

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write in support of the Rural and Peninsula Disability Support (RPDS) community programs application for a National Community Link Volunteer Award.

RPDS is an extraordinary community initiative, which assists some of the most physically disabled people within our community to overcome extreme isolation by providing them with both computer and internet resources and comprehensive training.

RPDS has helped over 100 families and put in over \$700,000 into community programs throughout the Mornington Peninsula and Southern Metropolitan region. Most importantly they have had a profound effect on the quality of life for both sufferers of physical disability and also their families. The principle disabilities include Paraplegia, Polio, Motor Neurone Disease, Stroke, MS, Parkinsons and other crippling disabilities such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy. The range of people helped by RPDS runs from age 7 to 83 years.

I have personally met many of those people who have been assisted by RPDS, all of whom have told me that their lives have been transformed and they have been reconnected with the community and the broader world.

I cannot recommend the work of RPDS and its CEO, Richard Stubbs highly enough. It is a volunteer organisation, which is however professionally run and has a profound effect on those who have a bright mind but physical limitation, to overcome isolation and participate in the community.

Finally, I believe that not only is this a unique program but that it has the capacity, if assisted, to transform lives throughout Australia. Both the organisers and the participants are genuine heroes in the best sense and deserve recognition and our strongest support.

Yours sincerely

GREG HUNT MP
Federal Member for Flinders

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Community Volunteering Awards Program

Presented to

Elderly Citizens Online

for

Innovation

This certificate is presented to community nominated organisations for innovative projects, programs or partnerships that encourage volunteering and community participation, and establish volunteer management practices, policies and procedures in the City of Casey.

Cr. Brian Oates
Mayor

15 May 2003

Elderly Citizens Online is part of
Rural & Peninsula Disability Support Inc.

R A e R /





**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
Russebud 3939
Phone 1300 850 606
Fax 03 5986 6696
DX 30059
ABN 51 159 890 143
www.mornpen.vic.gov.au





RURAL and Peninsula Disability Support group helps Betty Farnhill (seated) widen her world through her home computer, and recently the Australasian Order of Old Bastards chipped in to help the service continue its good work. Pictured at Betty's home are Richard Stubbs of the RPDS, Phil Davis, and Daryl Hazell, both of the ACOB.

'Old bastards' drive for charity

COMMUNITY organisations and charities on the Mornington Peninsula are in line to benefit from the new group based in Dromana.

Only the second branch of The Australasian Order of Old Bastards to open in Victoria, the Dromana group has already donated \$3000.

The money raised at a charity golf day was split between the Southern Peninsula Cancer Support Group and Rural and Peninsula Disability Support.

The Australasian Order of Old Bastards was first registered in Sydney 30 years ago and now has branches in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. The Dromana branch,

The Dromana branch, according to secretary Annette Hazell, will concentrate on helping organisations which rely solely on public donations rather than receiving government grants ...

according to secretary Annette Hazell, will concentrate on helping organisations which rely solely on public donations rather than receiving government grants.

The Rural and Peninsula Disability Support group, which benefited from the golf day, provides computers and internet

access to low income and elderly people who are housebound. This "internet empowerment" provides a "bridge" between participants and the wider community.

For details about The Australasian Order of Old Bastards phone 3084 5284 or for RPDS visit www.vicnet.net.au/~rpds or phone 5978 5055.

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Grant a gift for disabled

INTERNET services will be made more readily available to low-income people with disabilities, thanks to a \$150,000 State Government grant.

The cash boost to Pearcedale-based Rural and Peninsula Disability Support (RPDS) will be used to provide internet access to housebound people in Casey and along the Mornington Peninsula.

At RPDS, volunteers recycle and maintain computers and train people to access services many able-bodied people take for granted.

That includes medical and professional services, driving skills help, support groups, chat groups, online education, and leisure activities.

The money came from the Community Support Fund, drawn from state gambling tax revenue, and was announced by Hastings state Labor MP Rosy Buchanan.

Ms Buchanan said she congratulated "the tireless volunteers who have such a positive impact on the lives of the people they serve".



Richard Stubbs, with granddaughter Carlee, runs Rural and Peninsula Disability Support, which helps the disabled get computer access. N42FS412

RPDS chief executive Richard Stubbs said 160 families had been helped since the service began five years ago, and volunteers had given 35,000 hours of service.

Users had a range of disabilities, including motor neurone disease,

paraplegia, stroke and multiple sclerosis, meaning some computers had to be voice-activated.

"The people we help can't afford to buy a computer and it brings a total change to their lives," he said.

"It opens the door to the

rest of the world to people who are otherwise stuck within four walls."

Volunteers are still needed to help with the program. Training is provided, but volunteers will need their own car.

Phone 5977 6547 or 5995 2080 for details.



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Richard reaches beyond disability

LIFE was good for Richard Stubbs in 1991. As a Commonwealth Bank executive he had a great career and was an active member of his community.

But one day a car collided into the back of his vehicle, and life has never been the same since. Richard became a paraplegic and found himself without a job, and seemingly without a future.

Although Richard has had numerous operations since then and often he finds the pain barely tolerable, he now runs a thriving, award-winning organisation devoted to helping others who have physical disabilities.

Beyond Disability is located on the Mornington Peninsula and runs self-help programs to connect

A car crash could have smashed his life, but instead he made it a turning point

housebound people who have disabilities with their families and their communities by using computer and internet technology.

Participants are provided with affordable computers and internet access. Interactive online communication enables people isolated by their disability to engage with others in a meaningful way every day. For many it is their lifeline to the outside world.

Beyond Disability is a community organisation in every sense, and relies on the support of its local community in particular to help the

organisation survive and thrive. Major supporters such as the Lord Mayor's Fund, local councils, Microsoft and Newman's Own Foundation have enabled the organisation to support an increasing number of people.

Volunteers play an enormous role in the success of the organisation by transporting equipment and training people to use the internet, email and chat forums.

Since 1997 the organisation has assisted more than 250 families and individuals, and is now calling on community groups and individuals

to help expand into other areas of Victoria — thanks to support from Newman's Own Foundation.

So what now for Richard Stubbs? He has built a new, successful and fulfilling life, and along the way has been awarded the Rotary International and Tattersall's Enterprise Awards for assisting people with disabilities.

"I've been pretty busy over the years and really need a holiday" Richard says with a wink.

To become involved with Beyond Disability call Richard Stubbs on 59776547 or email tmcgill@bdi.org.au. To find out more about the organisation visit: www.bdi.org.au

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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 004 979 827)
208 Wellington Street Collingwood Vic 3066 Australia (PO Box 1188) Web: www.paraquad.vic.au
Email: theforum@paraquad.vic.au Telephone: (03) 9415 1200 / 1800 805 384 Facsimile (03) 9415 1222

Patron Governor of Victoria



GreyPath

a wiser way

Greypath Pty Ltd
ACN 006 540 727
302 / 9 Claremont Street
South Yarra, Victoria, 3141
Australia
Tel +61 3 9826 9688
Fax +61 3 9826 8965

The Online Seniors Community

Newmans' Own Foundation
c/- Beyond disability
PO Box 1451
Pearcedale 3912

To Whom It May Concern

I have been a supporter of Beyond Disability since its inception as The Rural and Peninsula Disability Service.

I have seen its reach and the demands for its services grow steadily with the years, and have been proud of my advisory and promotional involvement despite its occasional and limited nature.

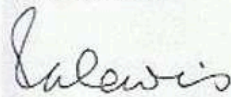
It's team of volunteers have done a splendid job in helping the disadvantaged disabled, others who had, until Beyond Disability appeared been largely neglected. A formal study on its positive impact on so many peoples lives, is well overdue.

My business, Greypath, is one of the leading elders, (and also disabled), internet sites in the world, and we have many times made mention of Beyond Disability, and will continue to do so into the future.

As a simple example, I have an upcoming lecture at Swinburne University, here in Victoria, Australia, directed to Master Students in Media and IT and on the subject of mental health and broadband. My speech notes include the role of Beyond Disability in its empowerment of the disabled, both young and old.

It is my intention to continue to assist Beyond Disability in its most praiseworthy activities.

Yours sincerely



Raymond Lewis
CEO
Greypath Pty Ltd
302/9 Claremont St
South Yarra Victoria 3141
Email ray.lewis@greypath.com
Tel + 61 3 9826 9688
Fax + 61 3 9826 8965

Tuesday, January 29, 2008





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

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@fahcsia.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

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

BILL SHORTEN
Parliamentary Secretary for
Disabilities and Children's Services



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a global voice
for women

Soroptimist  International

Soroptimist International of the Mornington Peninsula Inc
PO Box 1164
Mornington, 3931

27th March 2008-03-27

Newman's Own Foundation
C/- Beyond Disability
"Girrahween House"
PO Box 1451
Pearcedale 3912

To Whom It May Concern:

Soroptimist International of the Mornington Peninsula Inc (S.I.M.P) first became aware of Beyond Disability when Richard Stubbs, the CEO accompanied by a young member of their "Wheelie Kids" program spoke at our meeting in October 2007.

The club unanimously voted to give whatever assistance we could to the ongoing growth and support of the programs provided by Beyond Disability. To this end, we have a core group of 10 ladies that have volunteered to assist in a hands-on capacity in our local area as one of our 2008 projects. Other members have provided donations to the program as direct result of the initial meeting.

As S.I.M.P is a part of a much larger organisation, we also see this as being a "pilot" program in 2008 that we intend to use as a blueprint for other Soroptimist groups throughout Victoria, enabling Beyond Disability to grow their volunteer base substantially. We are also working with Richard in increasing awareness of the programs offered and "spreading the word" among our community.

We are profoundly inspired by the impact the services provided by Beyond Disability can have on the recipients. We intend to do anything we can to support the organisation and assist in their ongoing growth.

Please feel free to call me on 1300 885 483 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Pauline Bignell
Convenor – Program and Projects
Soroptimist International of Mornington Peninsula Inc



27 June 2008



Letter of Support – Beyond Disability

The City of Casey has long been aware of the excellent service provided to the community by Beyond Disability.

The organisation aims:

- To assist housebound and elderly mobility less-abled to get online with dignity in their own home using recycled computers and Beyond Disability's low cost Internet service and the support of local volunteers.
- To help the participants to have affordable online access so they can be better informed about support groups, tele-health, Government and Business, self-education, leisure, library, living and financial skills, disability services and communication with e-mail and chat.
- "Internet Empowerment" as a bridge for participants to a better perspective of community. The Beyond Disability program facilitates community participation.

Beyond Disability continually strives to achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes for housebound disabled and elderly people in Casey, Cardinia and the Mornington Peninsula. Beyond Disability's band of loyal and dedicated volunteers open doors for the members of the community and have contributed over 80,000 hours of service.

The Community recognised Richard Stubbs, CEO of Beyond Disability by nominating him for the 2000 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards. In 2003 the City of Casey had the opportunity to acknowledge his work when he was presented with the award for "Family and Community Support Volunteer" as well as the Award for Innovation for the "Elderly Citizens on Line". Richard also received a Tattersalls Award for Enterprise and Achievement.

More recently, Richard has received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in recognition of his work with Beyond Disability.

The work of Beyond Disability within the City of Casey is recognised and supported.

Yours sincerely

Sophia Petrov
Acting Director Community Services

Victoria's Largest and Most Vibrant Municipality

Magid Drive
PO Box 1000
Narre Warren Vic 3805

Telephone 03 9705 5200
Facsimile 03 9704 9544
Ausdoc DX 30460 Berwick

Email caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au
Website www.casey.vic.gov.au
ABN 43 320 295 742





**Brotherhood
of St Laurence**

Working for an Australia free of poverty

ABN 24 603 467 024

**Brotherhood
Community Care
(Southern)**

Tel: (03) 9782 1000

Email: communitycare@bsl.org.au

Website: www.bsl.org.au

30th June 2008

Richard Stubbs
Beyond Disability
c/- "Girrahween House"
PO Box 1451 Pearcedale
Vic 3912

Dear Richard,

It is with great pleasure that I provide this letter of support for the Beyond Disability service.

Brotherhood Community Care is committed to reducing people with disabilities social isolation and feelings of loneliness. The Internet and having access to a PC is critical in achieving these goals. Therefore Beyond Disability is an important service within the Mornington Peninsula Region.

Beyond Disability to date has supported a number of Brotherhood Community Care clients and family carers by providing computer software, training and hardware. This has made a significant difference to these people's lives.

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

Best Wishes

Michael Hillier
Social Inclusion Project Manager
Brotherhood Community Care

ADMIN & MANAGEMENT
8 Anderson Drive,
Carrum Downs VIC 3201
Fax: (03) 9782 0493

MORNINGTON OFFICE
352 Main Street,
Mornington VIC 3931
Fax: (03) 5977 0425

CARRUM DOWNS
1 Tuxen Avenue,
Carrum Downs VIC 3201
Fax: (03) 9782 8762



benchmark
IN QUALITY
AS/NZS ISO 9001



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.

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

FACSIA, Canberra, 1 of only 4 in Australia nominated for inclusion award 2008.



MND

Peninsula Support Group

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

A.B.N. 44113484160
.285 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



3-Sep-07

Beyond Disability Inc
PO Box 1451
PEARCEDALE 3912



COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Cauchi".

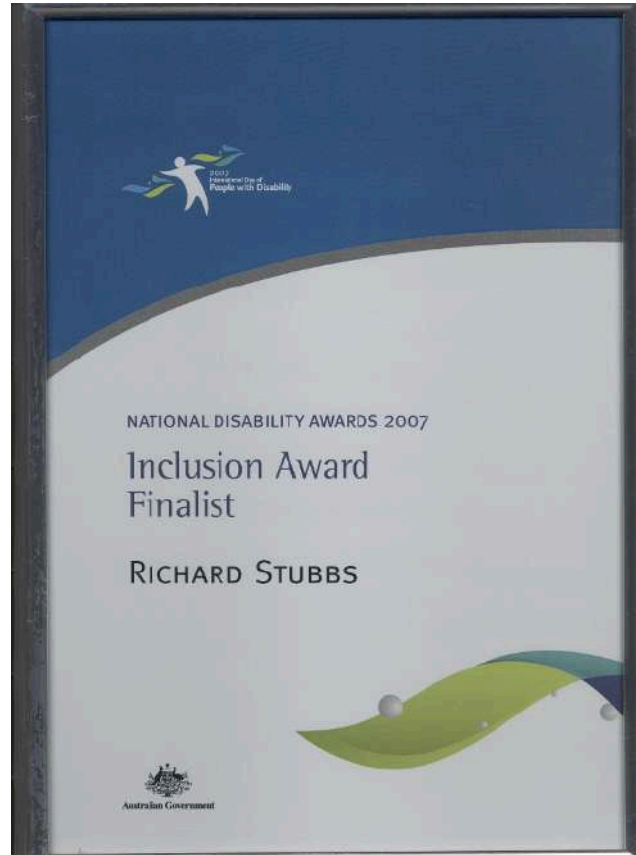
Joe Cauchi
Director - Sustainable Communities

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





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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





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News

Thursday, 12 June, 2008, Page 5

Brainwave leads to help and honour

By Glen Atwell

BRAVE, selfless, dedicated. Friends and associates of Richard Stubbs, a Pearcedale 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 housebound 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 housebound disabled people should have the same opportunity."

In that moment, Beyond Disability was born.

Australian Governor-General Michael Jeffrey named Mr Stubbs as an OAM recipient for tackling problems associated with housebound 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, Pearcedale resident Richard Stubbs, was honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on Monday.

Picture: Meagan Rogers.

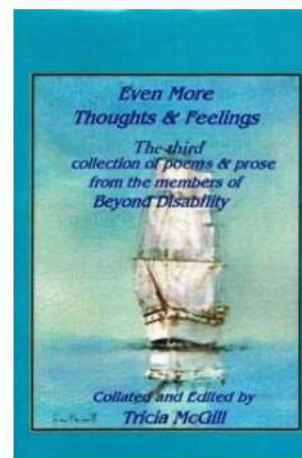
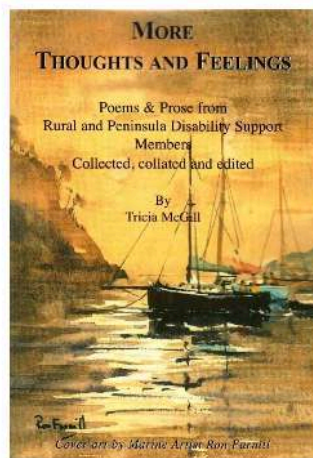
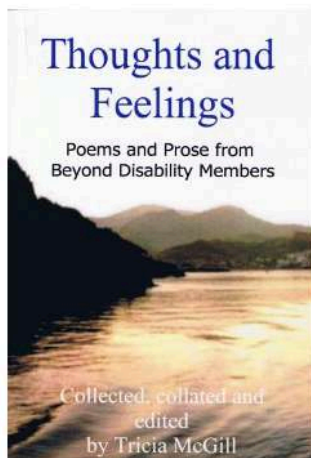


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Book 2 & 3 Cover art by marine artist Ron Farnill.

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.



**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

Bill Shorten





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Star

Vets get help

By Lia Bichel

HUNDREDS of veterans affected by horrific memories of war will receive a helping hand from local volunteers.

The Dandenong-Cranbourne RSL has teamed up with Beyond Disability, a not-for-profit organisation, to help local veterans suffering from depression and post-traumatic disorder brought on from war.

Beyond Disability chief executive officer Richard Stubbs, OAM, said there were many veterans who would only speak about their feelings with veterans they served with.

In an attempt to encourage veterans to speak about their feelings and communicate with friends or family, volunteers with Beyond Disability will go into their homes and set up a laptop with wireless broadband and teach them how to use networking tools like MSN messenger.

"Many (veterans) are bullied or branded as malingerers," he said.

"In the army, you are either very brave, or if you crack, you are a coward. Veterans don't want to speak out about it because they feel they will be called cowards. But the truth is they are genuinely ill and many have seen a lot of horrific things.

"The whole point (of teaching veterans to communicate on laptops) is to move them away from depression. Hopefully, when they are lonely, they can grab a beer and speak with a friend in Queensland."

Mr Stubbs said his father was one example of a veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress or depression caused by the war.

His father served in WW II in the air force, and volunteered as a spotter on a pacific island with a radio, two Gurkhas and some natives in support.

"He was not supplied with any provisions for 18 months,"

matic stress in the Cranbourne area, and over 1000 around Dandenong.

"We have veterans from all over, including Somalia, Korea, Vietnam, Timor, and (now soldiers who are serving) in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said.

"About 30 per cent of them show signs of depression and post-traumatic stress."

Mr Stubbs said he had a long list of veterans who have committed suicide, and hoped teaching veterans to network via the internet would prevent similar incidents from occurring.

Dandenong RSL welfare co-ordinator John Filmer said he believed the program would make a huge difference in the lives of many ex-servicemen and their widows.

"I think this is one of the best programs we have come across, and I believe there are already about five people signed up to receive a laptop," he said.

"To have the communication in the physical sense with the volunteer and though the laptop, it's beautiful."

Mr Filmer also credited Mr Stubbs with the project.

"He is an incredible person and very dedicated," he said.

Anyone wanting further information can contact the welfare co-ordinator at either the Dandenong RSL on 9792 1535 or the Cranbourne RSL on 5996 2769.

Richard Stubbs, left, and John Richardson from the Cranbourne RSL on laptops similar to the ones being donated by a joint partnership.

Picture: Stewart Chambers

Mr Stubbs said.

"Japanese occupied the island and tried to kill him every night during the same period. He received no support when he returned, only spoke about the war when he was drunk, and took it out on my mother and me."

Mr Stubb's best friend, a Vietnam veteran, also suffered depression after returning from war.

Mr Stubbs said he believed there were about 250 veterans with depression or post-trau-





The 2016 Casey Cardinia Grant Recipients with members of the Foundation and community representatives. Peggy Stocks (Beyond Disability), Therese Howell (EO Casey Cardinia Foundation), Dennis Vernon (Cranbourne Casey Men's Shed), Cr Amanda Stapledon (City of Casey), Paul Thomas (Chairman Casey Cardinia Foundation), Elisa Moysey (St John Ambulance), Carolyn Dimech (St John Ambulance), Adam Khan (Director Casey Cardinia Foundation), Amy Moore (Communities that Care), Olive Elston (Garfield Scouts), Wayne Collins (ECHO), Kirrilee Torney (Uniting Care Connections), Cr Brett Owen (Cardinia Shire Council), Kristine Ash (Director Casey Cardinia Foundation) and Christine Marsh (Cranbourne Food Truck). 162463

Grants cash is essential

By Victoria Stone-Meadows

THE Casey Cardinia Foundation presented grants to nine worthy community groups across the two municipalities at an event in Narre Warren on Thursday 1 December.

Casey based community groups that received a boost in funding included The Cranbourne Uniting Church Food Truck, The Cranbourne-Casey Men's Shed, Connections Uniting Care in Doveton, and Pearceedale based Beyond Disability.

Representatives from the Uniting Church said the grant money they received will go towards operational costs of the food truck such as registration, fuel and disposable cutlery.

The Cranbourne-Casey Men's Shed has flagged its grant money for the installation of a kitchenette and dust extractors for its workshop.

Beyond Disability, which supplies computers and an internet connection to Vietnam veterans, said its grant money

will allow it to keep more veterans connected through travel reimbursement, internet subsidies and the purchase of more laptops.

Connections Uniting Care runs a service called the Enhanced Therapeutic Contact Service that allows children who live in out of home care and biological parents to re-connect and learn valuable skills.

Kirrilee Torney from the program said the grant from the Casey Cardinia Foundation will be used to buy toys and sensory items which enrich the contact between parents and children.

The grants were awarded to groups across the two municipalities that provide essential services and community strengthening.

The 2016 Casey Cardinia Foundation Grant recipients work to improve the lives of residents across the south-east.

Representatives from the organisations and board members of the foundation converged on the Waterman Business Centre in Narre Warren to participate

in the event.

Foundation chairman Paul Thomas reflected on the work the charity has done over 13 years in supporting local groups and enhancing the communities of the Casey and Cardinia regions.

Recipients of the grants included church groups, council backed organisations, scout troops and other groups that are working hard for their local communities.

Each grant recipient spoke to how the grants from the foundation will improve their ability to serve, help and protect their communities through their ongoing work.

The other 2016 Casey Cardinia Community Grants recipients were Pakenham Scouts, Garfield Scouts, Emerald Centre for Hope and Outreach, Communities That Care and St John Ambulance.

Over 13 years, The Casey Cardinia Foundation has allocated about \$443,000 to community groups in the Casey and Cardinia regions.



Cranbourne NEWS 16.2.17

By Victoria Stone-Meadows

Casey-based charity group Beyond Disability has put its 2016 Casey Cardinia Foundation Spring Grants money to good use assisting elderly and housebound people to stay connected. The group was awarded a \$2500 grant from the foundation in December last year and has used the money to increase their client basis.

The money supplied by the Casey Cardinia Foundation has mostly been spent on operational costs such as the purchase of laptops, broadband subsidies, and volunteer travel reimbursements.

Beyond Disability Secretary Peggy Stocks said the grant money had helped keep their services alive.

"It is very much appreciated and we wouldn't survive without it," she said.

"These grants are how we survive as we get hardly any Federal Government funding so we rely on funding and what we get is very much appreciated."

Beyond Disability has been supplying laptops, desktop computers, and specialised equipment to elderly, disabled, and housebound people as well as their carers in the south-east for 19 years.

What sets Beyond Disability apart from other similar charities is they provide ongoing support from volunteers to make sure their equipment works and users are comfortable operating it.

"Our techs go out and set up the computers then volunteers show the client how to work it, mostly email and skype," team leader Trisha McGill said.

"If there are any problems our techs or volunteers will go out and we will replace the computer."

"Also, if their disability gets worse we can offer different forms of computer equipment such as a bigger keyboard with large keys if their sight is failing."

Beyond Disability have more recently launched their Victorian Vets Wellness Project, aimed at getting war veterans online to stay connected with friends and family.

"We started helping out veterans about three years ago and want to encourage more vets come on board the program," Mrs Stocks said.

"We find a lot of veterans have PTSD and it helps them to be able to communicate with their mates who may be experiencing the same thing."

"They are the ones who benefit from our program and it really helps to keep in touch with mates."

Beyond Disability provide all their services to their clients for just \$11 a month, or \$23 a month with a wireless modem.

The team is hoping they can attract more clients this year and expand their help to more people in the community who need it.

To find out more about Beyond Disability or to become a client or volunteer, visit www.bdi.org.au.



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 fire-ravaged repairing fences at towns ravaged by fire in Gippsland.

"In 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 six Lisa Herberts of Givit who will arrange its 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.



Beyond Disability thanks to the generosity of computer and educational organisations. Beyond Disability are volunteers who assist in bringing housebound mobility disabled back into the community.

The following article regarding the visits and BDI's involvement with [Givit](#) appeared in the STAR NEWS on 14/04/21

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 have 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