

Convenors Report



Peter Willcocks



Shirley Glance OAM

Shirley and I have begun the application process for the 2019-2021 Disability Self Help Grants. We found the process extremely onerous and engaged with the Department of Health and Human Services to complete our application on behalf of the Bayside Polio Group. We have applied for less funding than previously. We were concerned that we do not wish to put our members through a destructive 'wait time' such as the last transfer of funds to our bank account of the 2017-19 disability self-help grants that did not take place until the 23 March 2019. This 21 months of uncertain funding truly tested the endurance of all groups like ours.

We reminded the Department of Human Services that self-help groups are a good and wholesome ingredient of a caring society. Groups like ours tend to be managed by open forum supported by ad hoc input from those able to contribute at the time. We do not manage large amounts of money, we do not have an ABN, gift status, minuted meetings and people able to dedicate significant time to ensure compliance. Disability groups like ours are managed by those with a common condition and just need a bit of help with the costs of venue, set up and someone physically able work with us to ensure our safety.

Over the last two years the Bayside Polio Group was left no choice but to reduce help and support to our most isolated members. Our financial survival left us no choice but to deplete our reserves. We survived, a far less active group, but fortunately with volunteers and the goodwill of many we were able to continue our meetings to a reduced core of 20 or so of our most physically able members.

The Bayside Polio Group is at its heart a self-help group. We provide a place of understanding to those who had polio and welcome others in the community managing aging and disability. Our group was formed in 1993, 25 years ago and we are proud to acknowledge that we still have members from the beginning. When times were financially tough Shirley and I were delighted to see attendances continue at our meetings regardless of whether speakers or public forums were organized. But sadly we have had to sacrifice the some of platforms which supported new members and those of us who are able to support those platforms are aging and are in need of greater support for our own needs. We hope over the next few months we will be able to stimulate some of our group's prior activities - but we need your help and ideas to make things happen.

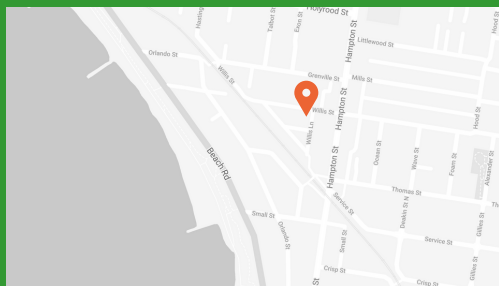
Shirley and I would really appreciate any help that you can offer

- by organizing a speaker
- 100 words or so that we can use in our newsletter
- by phoning one of group who has not been able to join us recently
- by helping make something happen that you think would be a good and fun thing to do.

Looking forward to your help and lots of meetings where the unexpected will then become the norm.

BAYSIDE POLIO GROUP MEETINGS

First Tuesday of the Month
Hampton Community Centre
14 Willis Street, Hampton
12.30 – 2.30 pm
Lunch: Gold coin donation
Convenors: Shirley Glance OAM
& Peter Willcocks



Tuesday August 6
Jo's Bigg Travels in the
UK and Europe



Tuesday September 3
Speaker TBC -
We are taking requests



Tuesday October 1
Speaker TBC -
Could this be you?

No meeting in November



Tuesday December 3
Xmas Lunch end of year
break-up @Milano's

Thanks to our supporters



Health
and Human
Services



OFF THE BEATEN TRAXX

Wanting to get off the road and down to the beach, polio survivor Huy Nguyen invented a portable and affordable wheelchair accessory that enables off-road access for manual wheelchair users. The tires clip on over the standard wheelchair tires, like snow chains but for the beach! We haven't tried them out yet, is anyone keen to give them a spin?

www.geckotraxx.com



HOW FAST IS TOO FAST?

In other news, Alice Springs man Colin Dawson was pulled over for driving too fast in his hotted up wheelchair! NT Police say that vehicles that can travel over 10km per hour must be registered. Its great the NT have finally put a speed limit on their highways, but do wheelchairs really need a speed limit?

OFF ROAD CRUTCHES

For those getting around on crutches or walking sticks, we can highly recommend *Flexyfoot* - a flexible foot replacement that fits on your existing sticks. Like shock absorbers on a car, they are great for getting off road but also for everyday use around the house.

www.flexifoot.com.au

WHEEL CHAIRIOT?

Kathleen Robertson in Scotland invented her own unique way to get to the beach...

