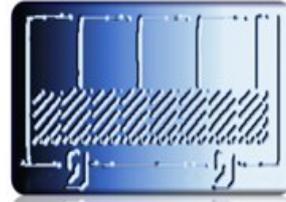


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“Transport with Safety & Care”

Leichhardt Marrickville Community Transport Group (LMCTG) Issue 7. October Quarterly Newsletter 2014

Introduction: We have had to scale down this newsletter due to costs associated with printing and mailing out. We are currently looking for a commercial printer so that we can reduce our costs. So the next newsletter in January will be back to the usual format.

LMCTG Website and Facebook Posts: We must firstly start by apologising for two things that we said would happen by the time this newsletter was sent out. Our new website is up and running and there is clearly an improvement. We have however not had time to post information on the Facebook section of our Website on activities in Leichhardt and Marrickville for over 65s. We will make sure that we start doing these weekly posts in November.

New Logo: We have also not been able to agree on a new Logo for the organisation yet. So the new Coaster vehicle does not carry the new livery of the organisation (as stated in the last newsletter) but has a temporary sign on it until something more permanent can be agreed.

Change to the Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party: It has been a tradition of Leichhardt Marrickville Community Transport to make the Annual General Meeting a large social event. We have held these events in Clubs, closed the service for the day so that members can be picked up and transported to the venue. We have also had catering on the day in the club. This has tended to be the major social event that the staff have with the customers.

At a recent Management Committee meeting the Executive Officer recommended that this way of doing things be changed. So instead of having a formal meeting of an Incorporated Association combined with a social event we separate out these two events. This has been agreed upon by the Management Committee.

So we will have our AGM in our Offices in Marrickville on the 14th November at 11.30. We will then have our Christmas Party where the staff and clients get together for a purely social event on the Thursday 18th December. All financial members of the association are welcome to attend the AGM but we can't provide transport as this will be a normal working day for the drivers and some office staff.

The Christmas party will be at the Tom Foster Community Centre in Newtown on Thursday 18th December. Lunch will be served on that day, normal services will not operate on that day and all the clients who are attending will be transported to the venue. There is no fee for the lunch and transport on the day. The seating at Tom Foster is limited to 60 clients, 30 from Marrickville and 30 from Leichhardt. So the first 30 RSVP slips from each LGA we get returned will be given a place. You can apply for yourself and your carer, one other person only. Please note that we will only accept RSVPs mailed to us as this gives everyone an equal chance. So don't give your RSVP to your driver. You will see the RSVP slip at the end of the newsletter. Those who were unsuccessful this year will get a place next year.

Staff at LMCTG: We would like to welcome Michael Frey and Ray Scour to LMCTG. Both of these drivers have received training and orientation to the different services that we deliver. Both have demonstrated a very supportive and caring attitude towards our clients. We are

looking forward to continuing to work with them.

New Transport Scheduler: We welcome Katherine Peers to our team in the role of Transport Scheduler. Katherine has had previous experience in working in the aged care field and understands the needs of the elderly. With the ever increasing volume of calls it is essential that we have more staff to answer the phone, do assessments, communicate with the drivers and staff at other workplaces and organise the transport. Katherine has hit the ground running and we are grateful for that.

New Accounts Manager: Our previous Accounts Manager Ray Carter has retired from employment. Our new Accounts Manager Carolyn Hua has had extensive experience in working with Not for Profit organisations previously. This makes it easier for her to work with the auditors and members of the Management Committee. Carolyn has initiated a number of changes to improve our financial systems, including payroll.

Changes in the Office: In the last newsletter we flagged that we were going to make some changes in the office. These changes have been necessary to create more workstations for new staff members. We have also created more phone lines so that clients have a better chance of getting through. We will however not always have enough staff members in the office to answer all the phone calls all the time.

Marrickville Shopping Outings: All our services have continued to be well patronized. There has however been one exception to this which is the Marrickville Shopping Outings. These shopping outings were introduced as Leichhardt clients have access to this service so we commenced this service to have equity between the two LGAs. We stated that we would trial the arrangement for 6 months to see if it is popular. Unfortunately it has proved to be unpopular, the numbers have always been low and we have had to cancel some of the trips. We have now decided to discontinue this service.

Please note that we are open to suggestions about new services and will try to get new services up and running but there is no point in flogging this particular dead horse.

The Fleet: We have recently purchased another Coaster Bus this brings

the number of buses in our fleet to five. We believe that this will provide us with the vehicles we need to conduct all our normal business, plus putting on extra buses for very popular social recreational trips. We also need a back-up vehicle when there are breakdowns. We have also traded in a Honda station wagon for the most recent model.

3 Bridges Community Centre Based Day Care at Addison Road, Marrickville: 3 Bridges Community provides a program that supports the needs of older people in the Inner West through companionship, gentle exercise, and diversional activities. Morning tea and lunch is provided. The program operates Monday to Thursday every week. LMCTG provides transport. Contact 3 Bridges Community on PH 8558 4000 for further details if you are interested in attending.

In Conclusion: We hope to see you at either the AGM of the Christmas Party or on one of our trips. We appreciate your patronage, it is our goal to assist you to continue to live independently at home for as long as possible. As this will be the last newsletter this year we at LMCTG wish you all a merry Christmas and happy new year.



LMCTG Christmas Party Attendance Return Slip

Please write your name below in the space provided if you wish to attend our Christmas Party. If you are going to attend with your carer add their name also
I.....wish to attend the Christmas Party at Tom Foster on Thursday 18th Dec. I will be accompanied by my carer whose name is.....

LMCTG is jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government, Home and Community Care (HACC) and the NSW Community Transport Program.

