Welcome

Greetings and welcome to the very first edition of *eDIN, electronic Disability Information Network* monthly newsletter. Specifically designed for the Disability Education and Employment Community of Northern Victoria.

It is with great honour and respect that I move into the position of NDCO on behalf of Northern Victoria and know that working together, the program will continue to flourish and deliver for all involved. I heartfelt thanks to those I have met and their considered efforts in welcoming me to the role.

After careful consideration I have created *eDIN* to collate the various latest news, hints and trends into a single access point for anyone interested. As such, it primarily consists of hyperlinks with a brief summary as to what it contains and who it may interest.

Also note that I see *eDIN* as a living breathing concept, constantly changing to meet the reason it exists. So if you have any feedback, suggestions, or would very much like to contribute please feel free to reply contact.

Yours Sincerely, Mark Cottee
**NDCO Overview**

The National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) program works to:

- **Establish or participate** in cross sectoral networks & similar forums.
- **Collaborate** with local stakeholders to identify and address barriers to transitions and participation.
- **Improve knowledge** and build capability of stakeholders and service providers.
- **Inform** people with disability and families about provider obligations, individuals’ rights, support services and options for post school pathways, and increase aspirations.

NDCO’s work at a strategic level with stakeholders to assist working age people with disability access, and participate in, tertiary education and subsequent employment. Or summarized in my own words, NDCO’s seek to promote LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY, EXPERTISE and HOPE. For a full overview of the NDCO program please visit,


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**Area 15 Northern Victoria** - to see if your town is part of area 15 click on the link — page 35 of that document:

The Picture My Future is a new online training course designed to teach you how to support people with disability as they explore their goals for the future.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria in partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services is excited to launch the Epilepsy: Know me, support me suite of resources targeted to the Australian disability sector, as part of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Interesting article from Dr. George Taleporos on the issues surrounding employment of people with disability.

Fifield Cuts Red Tape for Disability Employment Services
The Federal Government says it has made its first changes to lessen the administrative burden on Disability Employment Services providers.

The employment rate of people with a disability in the Australian Public Service (APS) has continued to fall while Indigenous Australians continue to leave at higher rates than non-Indigenous public servants.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is delighted to announce the launch of the Aspect Autism in Education Conference to be held on 31 July - 1 August 2014 – the first national conference specifically focusing on improving outcomes for children and young people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in schools and further education.
Tech tools to assist learners with disability

Padagogy Wheel available from this sight gives a visual overview of useful assistive apps incorporating the SAMR model

Regional Autism Awareness Support Network, regional seminar in Albury Wodonga February 10,11,12

The Practical Design Fund - initiatives and resources that would identify practical ways to prepare people with disability, their families and carers, the disability sector and workforce for the transition to an NDIS.

Nominations are open for the 2014 Victorian Disability Sector Awards

Looking for more? I highly recommend subscribing to the Australian Network on Disability (AND) newsletter. The Australian Network on Disability (AND) is a not-for-profit organisation resourced by its members to advance the inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of business.


http://rde.nsw.edu.au/apps-for-learning#

http://www.humeautismcop.com/


http://www.and.org.au/
**NDCO AMBASSODORS**

Are you a parent, carer or person with a disability interested in the NDCO program?

Area 15 is currently looking for dedicated individuals or groups to act as ambassador’s for the NDCO program.

Expand your skills, give a voice to your group or community, access resource and information —

Contact the NDCO for further information

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**RIVER 2 RECOVERY** (mental health project)

**BACKGROUND:** St Lukes in conjunction with Wodonga Institute of TAFE. An inclusive project that builds skills, builds lives and builds boats! It’s a team-focused venture that brings together people living with mental health challenges, with a shared purpose: to build five rowboats and journey down a stretch of the Murray River, from Albury to Yarrawonga/Mulwala.

This two year project commenced in February 2012 and will run until the end of 2013 – culminating in a 10 day (225km) Murray River journey from Albury to Yarrawonga/Mulwala. Some team members will row the boats whilst other members will act as an ‘on-ground’ support team.

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**2014 ‘The red carpet launch’. River 2 Recovery THE MOVIE !**

Students from last years River 2 Recovery class have been engaged in filming conversations about mental health issues and their recent river trip with Suzi Taylor from ABC Open. The Launch for the move is at Wodonga TAFE on the 6th of Feb 2014 5pm. What a great idea and what a great way to end the project. Suzi has been working with the crew now for several months and has followed the projects progress and individual personal development. The work on the film, story boards etc., and the effort from the small film crew has been a pleasure to watch. The film evening should be a fitting way to celebrate the students achievements. For more information check out:


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For Subscription details or any other information please contact me directly via your preferred method as per details below:

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