

nexus INK



Winter 2021



Welcome back to NexusInk. This newsletter has shared the stories of our clients, families and staff for over 15 years and we will continue this tradition with four, new-look newsletters a year.

Despite the challenges of COVID19, Nexus clients and staff have continued to achieve great things.

We have seen clients get their drivers' licenses, gain employment, and engage with local community groups, whilst our staff have continued training in a wide range of areas with 70 staff members are now doing formal certificate training.

Our cover story of workers in the orchard at Franklin is truly a good news story. We have been working with a local orchardist to create opportunities for clients to learn about orcharding and earn award wages picking apples. This has been great for the seven clients working at the orchard and great for the orchardist who got his apples picked. These apples are now on sale at Salamanca Market, where clients are also learning retail skills.

In the last twelve months we have worked with the Nexus Board to make our strategic plan for the next three years. We will focus on four key areas:

- Providing the right support at the right time for clients
- Building a team that is focused on helping clients achieve their goals
- Increasing awareness of the Nexus brand
- Taking opportunities to provide new services

COVID19 is still a threat to our clients and staff and we are working hard to continue to keep everyone safe. Our quality team are still checking that our Supported Living houses are COVID Safe, and that we are still social distancing in the office. Our COVID cleaning crew continue to wipe down our offices twice a day (see their story inside).

The disability sector has been frustrated with the slow rollout of vaccines to the 1B group (clients and staff in Supported Living houses). We did everything to prepare, including making sure people filled in consent forms and talked to their GPs, but then we waited. It was great that the State stepped in (after a lot of asking) and we got permission to use the Royal Hobart Hospital clinic to get staff and clients booked in. Great news recently, however, is that Aspen Health (the Commonwealth provider) has started in-reach programs and we got three of our houses done – the first in the South of Tasmania. Finally roll'n out our vax!

Stay safe.

Mark Jessop

Nexus Team Updates

Nexus has been growing and we have been excited to see a number of our staff move into leadership roles.

It is important to us that our staff are given opportunities to get new skills and move forward in their career at Nexus.

Congratulations to these team members who have moved into leadership roles recently:

Troy Briggs, Acting Assistant Manager, Supported Living
Sally Clifford, Acting Team Leader, Supported Living
Deb Crosswell, Acting Team Leader, Supported Living
Lily Finch-Carver, Acting Team Leader, Supported Living
Andrew Freedland, Acting Team Leader, Supported Living

Catherine McNeice, Manager, Community Service
David Smithurst, Assistant Manager, Community Service
Carmen Synott, Acting Team Leader, Supported Living
Lynne Triffitt, Acting Team Leader, Supported Living
Tioni Woodland, Team Leader, Community Access

We have also welcomed Amanda McRoy and Paul Breen to our Executive Team this year. Amanda is our General Manager of People, Culture and Quality and Paul is our General Manager of Finance.



Amanda McRoy

Amanda joined the team in early 2021 after moving from Victoria.

Amanda has lots of experience in building a good company culture, engaging with staff and creating performance systems. She is passionate about helping people to achieve success in the workplace.

Amanda has already been working on our processes to make sure that all of our staff, and future staff, are supported to achieve the best for themselves and their clients.

Outside of work Amanda enjoys travelling, spending time with her family, and being creative.

Paul Breen

Paul joined the Nexus team in late 2020, in the new role of General Manager, Finance.

Paul has over 20 years' experience in accounting and business advisory. He is passionate about understanding an organisation's financial challenges and opportunities so that he can give the best advice possible.

Arriving at Nexus when a new strategic plan was being made, Paul's finance and business knowledge has been very useful when deciding on the the strategic direction of Nexus.

Outside of work Paul enjoys spending time with his family and watching Brooklyn 99.





Nexus is Expanding

This quarter we were excited to announce that we are opening a new office in the Huon and Channel region. We will be able to provide a lot of our great Nexus services to people in the area who may not be able to get to our city office.

The new office will be open from July and anyone with an NDIS plan will be able to come in and talk to our staff about the kind of support they need.

We were pleased to get a grant of \$50,000 from Liberal MPs Jacquie Petrusma and Nic Street to assist in the set up of our new office to support people in the region.

"I congratulate Mark and his team for all of their hard work," said Ms Petrusma.

"They have had great success with the pilot programme at their Franklin orchard, and an office in Huonville is a great extension of support to people in the area."

The Huon Office will also be the head office of our new program that helps people living with disability to get training, job skills, and a pathway to getting a job. The new program is called Social Enterprise, Employment and Diversity (SEED) and is open now for people to register their interest. To register your interest in this program please call Jackie on 6240 5081

"As a Valley resident I've seen the gap in disability support services in the region and we are pleased to help fill that gap."

- Mark Jessop, CEO Nexus



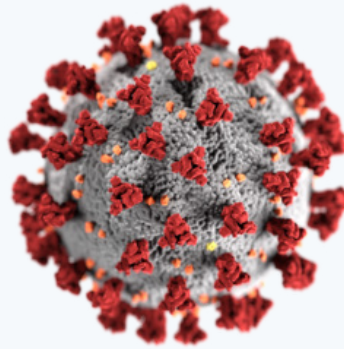
COVID19 Update



COVID Cleaning Crew

A great piece of news to come out of our increased COVID cleaning requirements is the creation of our COVID Cleaning Crew.

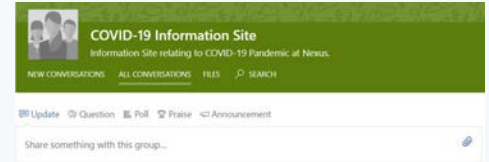
Three dedicated clients took on the important task of cleaning the Nexus offices twice a day to make sure we are following COVID rules and that our staff are safe. After a short trial period they were officially put on the payroll and are now providing COVID cleaning services to other businesses.



COVID Response from Industry

During the pandemic it has been important for our executive team to keep on top of the latest developments and best practice for our sector.

Our CEO, Mark, has been asked to be a part of a number of committees who have created plans to keep clients safe during local outbreaks and, more recently, to roll out the vaccines as quickly and easily as possible.



Connecting During COVID

During the pandemic we have been using our internal communications program, Yammer, to keep all of our staff up-to-date with the latest COVID recommendations around working from home, testing, quarantining, and vaccinations. We have also used Yammer to keep everyone in touch and share good news stories from both clients and staff.

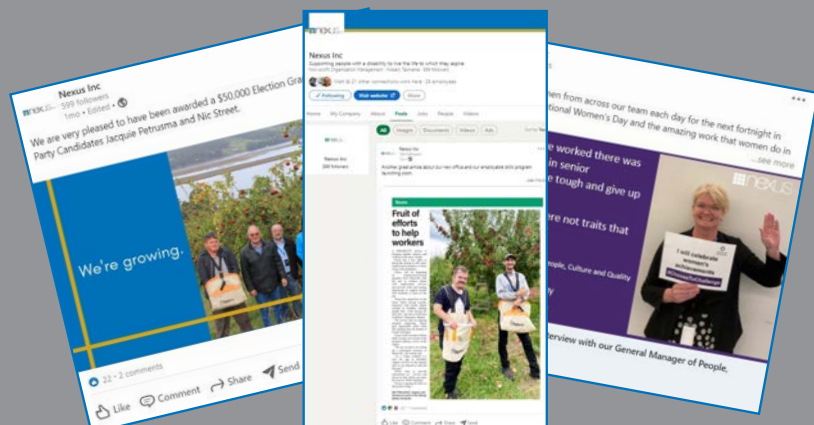
LinkedIn

We are now on LinkedIn!

Nexus are growing and we wanted a way to connect with people and tell them about the great things that clients and staff are doing.

There has been a terrific response to our LinkedIn page and we now have over 600 connections.

You can connect with us at
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/nexus-inc-tas>

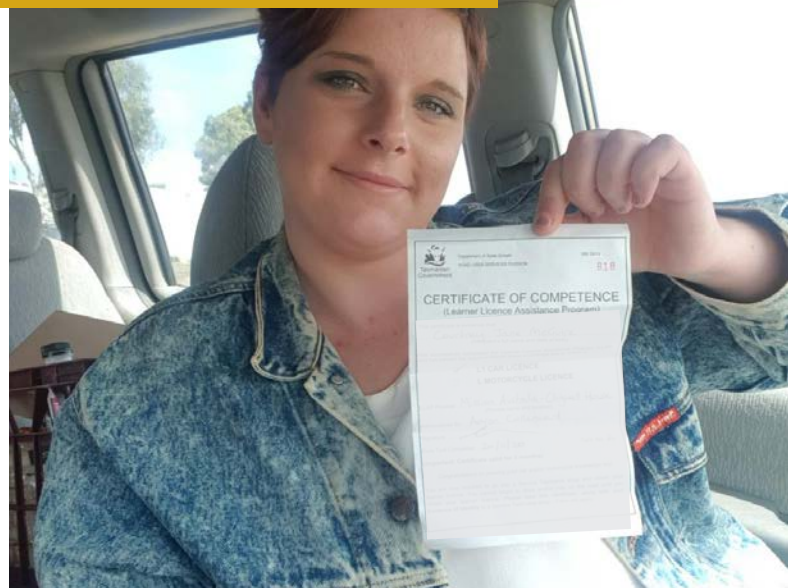


Client Stories

Courtney

Courtney has been working hard to prepare for her Learners' License test and was very excited to come into the office and tell us that she had passed.

Courtney is now being supported by her Nexus support workers to get her driving hours up so that she can get her provisional license later this year. She is excited to get her license so she can be more independent.



Alex

Alex has been working with our Capacity Building team for two years and has recently been learning skills in bee-keeping and running a small business. His business name is Glen Dhu Honey.

Alex loves the outdoors and has a lot of knowledge about native forests, animals and the history of Tasmania. He gets outdoors to fish, bushwalk and take photographs, and is learning to kayak and become more confident in the water.

Alex hopes to get his license in the next couple of years so he can be more independent.

Jamie

Jamie received a lovely surprise over Easter when he won the raffle at the City Mission OpShop in Warrane. He was very happy and surprised by his win and was excited to take home the giant hamper of Easter eggs and a fluffy bunny soft toy.



Client Stories

Karen

Karen has been working with our Community Access team to get out of her comfort zone, become more independent and engage with the community.

Karen enjoys being outside with the flora. Going to the Botanical Gardens and making a wish in the wishing well was a highlight.

Karen is happy to try new things with her Community Access “Girls” as she calls them. The team are trying to get Karen into a regular pottery class, improve her cooking skills and start jewellery making.



Joshua

Joshua is studying a Combined Degree in Physics and Mathematics at the University of Tasmania. He has an impressive knowledge of computing, technology and social dynamics and explains concepts very well.

When he isn't studying, Joshua has been going for weekly bushwalks with his Nexus support workers.

Joshua knows a lot about the tracks around Hobart, Wellington Park, and Meehan Ranges and often has a route mapped out. He has been taking along his camera on some walks to practice his photography.

When the weather is bad, Joshua has been cooking and is learning to make delicious and healthy meals.

Orchard

Over Summer we have been supporting clients to learn picking, packing and pruning skills at Stoney Banks orchard.

Clients have been getting out and about in the sun picking fruit to be sold at the Salamanca Markets on Saturdays. They sell out almost every week!

This short pilot program was so successful that it will now be part of our new Social Enterprise, Employment and Diversity (SEED) program.





SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND DIVERSITY



Supporting you to achieve your
employment goals

For more information about our employment and job skills
program call our friendly team on: 6240 5081