

# Amicus Exchange



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### Head office

113 Williamson Street, Bendigo 3550  
9:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday  
(03) 5441 2666

# Amicus welcomes new CEO Kevin Feeney



During September, the Board of Amicus Community Services was delighted to announce the appointment of Kevin Feeney as our new CEO.

After undertaking an extensive recruitment process, supported by interim CEO Ken Marchingo AM, Kevin was engaged and commenced his role at Amicus on Monday 19 September, 2022. He has undertaken a short handover from Ken who departed Amicus at the end of the September.

Kevin has twenty years experience leading for-purpose organisations across a wide range of programs, including disability, education, employment, health and community services sectors.

Prior to joining us at Amicus, Kevin spent nine years as CEO for Bestchance Child Family Care, a large early years and community services provider working with diverse communities across Melbourne and Geelong. Before Bestchance, he was General Manager of Business Services and Social Housing at EACH for 11 years, a national community services provider.

We believe that Kevin's experience working with some of the most vulnerable and at-risk people in our society and solid commercial business acumen will be an incredible asset for Amicus as we move into recovery and reset of the organisation after more than two-years of unpredictable pandemic disruption.

Kevin's desire to make a significant and lasting impact in the lives of others, delivered with a compassionate and ethical approach based on respectful, values and an opportunity for all to contribute, will support a positive and proactive organisation as we work together with participants, families and staff.

We thank and acknowledge interim CEO Ken Marchingo AM for his leadership and professional contribution to the organisation during the past few months; whilst the recruitment of a new CEO to replace our former long-term and accomplished CEO Ann-Maree Davis was undertaken.



**Paul Somerville**

*Chairperson, Amicus Board*



*New Amicus CEO Kevin Feeney*

# Participant updates



## TERRY TAKES BAT IN HAND AND GETS BACK INTO LIFE AND SPORT

“Our man Terry” is how Amicus support workers describe participant Terrance and his positive approach to getting back into the community.

Terry, aged in his 50s, lives with cerebral palsy and has mobility and communication challenges but this has not stopped him from striving to live the best life possible. Terry has been with Amicus Community Services for almost two years and lives with almost full-time support in his own flat in Flora Hill, Bendigo. He has a team of caring support workers providing care and support.

Terry used to work at social enterprise, PepperGreen Farm in Bendigo and he has said often how he missed the work and the social contact. Since joining Amicus, one of his personal goals has been to get back into the world and develop a social network. So when his physiotherapist suggested the All Abilities cricket program, Terry was keen to see what it was all about. The All Abilities cricket program is held at the Golden Square Indoor Sports Centre on Thursday nights from 5.30pm. All Abilities coordinator Rob, who runs the program described the many social benefits as well as the team atmosphere it provides for participants.

When Terry was reluctant to pick up the bat on the first week, Rob said other participants had played on chairs without a problem and offered to wheel him out to face the balls and then after each hit, wheel him off to the side instead of running. Support worker Heath said on the first night there were about 20 other participants and while Terry did not want to play, it looked like he loved just being there with them. “I asked Terry a few times if he wanted to get out into the nets and join in the actual cricket game but Terry said he just wanted to watch.”

By his fourth week attending the program, Terry was participating and saying that the cricket night was “right up his alley.”

Terry has long been connected to the Newbridge football and cricket club.

“Newbridge is his hometown where he grew up and he feels very connected to the community there. He has dinner at the National Hotel on Saturday nights, where he often sees some of the Newbridge footballers and while that is a great social outing the All Abilities cricket night is Terry’s first community activity” explained Team Leader Hannah.

In Winter the cricket program is held at the indoor stadium but in Summer coordinator Rob said they will look for an outdoor location.

Terry is also an avid Western Bulldogs fan and with support recently attended a game at Marvel Stadium. His support workers took lots of photos and each one tells its own story about how happy and excited Terry was to be there.

Terry is also grateful for the support and company of nieces Robyn and Deb and their families, Carol and Graeme and nephew Michael, as well as the support of the Bendigo Stroke Survivor group.



## SCHOOL FUN ADVENTURES IN BENDIGO

School holidays mean freedom from the school routine and the promise of fun adventures.

For one Amicus Children's Services participant the recent school holidays were all of that and more. The young person who loves horses was lucky enough to visit the Horse Hand property in Echuca for the day. As part of their horsemanship program, the facility aims to entertain every child and gives them the opportunity to make friends with a beautiful horse.

As part of the school holiday program visit the children learn about grooming, ground communication, as well as riding. While she was there, she was able to meet, groom and ride her special horse – Ranchi.

And, if that action-packed day was not enough the participant also jetted to Bendigo for a wonderful night. There both she and her support worker got their 'neon glow' on to participate in Bendigo After Dark – a special event where Bendigo's beautiful Rosalind Park was transformed for several weeks with vibrant installations and light projections offering visitors an unforgettable display. After this wonderful sensory experience, it was off to the cinema to watch and groove their way through the Elvis movie.



## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?

[www.amicus.org.au](http://www.amicus.org.au)

amicus  
www.amicus.org.au

About News Contact us (03) 5441 2666 STAFF PORTAL PARTICIPANT PORTAL

Adult services Children and youth Karen Support Supported Independent Living Short-term accomm & respite Support coordination Specialist disability accommodation Search Language Accessibility

**One person at a time**  
LET'S PLAN YOUR PATHWAY

**Our services**

Adult services Children Karen support Supported

# Amicus Updates

## AMICUS HAS MOVED

We've moved! You will now find all of our support teams and administration at our new offices located at

**113 Williamson Street, Bendigo VIC 3550**  
*Corner of Williamson and McLaren Streets, Bendigo.*

We are very excited about having an appropriate space and facilities for our participants and visitors, and a workspace for all of us, together.



## Amicus Open Day Postponed

With the safety and wellbeing of our staff, participants and friends of Amicus foremost in our minds, we have made the decision to postpone our Open Day.

This decision was based on the ongoing flooding and the forecast for further heavy rains in the coming week.

We look forward to advising you of a new date shortly.

## OUT OF HOURS PHONE CHANGES

The Amicus out of hours phone provides critical and emergency support outside of business hours (Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm) and during weekends and on Public Holidays.

The new number for Out Of Hours support will be **(03) 5441 2666**, and this will take effect on Monday 24 October 2022 at 5pm.

This number is for calls only, not text messages, however the Out Of Hours staff member may call you, then follow up with a text message.

When contacting the new number, you will hear a recorded message which provides 2 options in order to direct your call appropriately.

Please continue to use the Out Of Hours number for critical supports and emergencies only.





**Phone** 5441 2666  
**Email** [pathways@amicus.org.au](mailto:pathways@amicus.org.au)  
**NDIS Provider Number** 4050007836  
**[amicus.org.au/melissa-court](http://amicus.org.au/melissa-court)**



## MELISSA COURT RESPITE HOUSE

# Short-term accommodation and respite in Castlemaine

Amicus is excited to offer people in Castlemaine and surrounding districts the opportunity to experience a state-of-the-art facility at the Lions McDonald Hill Respite House - also known as the Melissa Court Respite House - for people with disabilities.

FUNDED AND LAUNCHED BY MASARG



The Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation and Respite Group (MASARG Inc.) is a non-political, independent group of parents, carers and community members working to address the critical need for respite and accommodation infrastructure for people with disabilities in the area.

# Ask Amicus?



Every Friday 1-2pm | Amicus Office 113 Williamson Street, Bendigo

We know it can be challenging navigating funded, community and mainstream services.

We would love to offer our participants and families our experience and expertise to assist.

**No appointment needed, just pop in and see us!**



## What you might like to ask us....

- Everything and anything you need to know about the NDIS
- Questions about your NDIS plan and how it can work
- Make the most from your funding
- Where to find the services you need - any services, not only NDIS
- What options are there in the community for things you want
- Are you experiencing trouble accessing something you need
- There are no silly questions and no problem too big or too small
- The questions or advice needed does not need to be about your Amicus services or funding used at Amicus

*Ask us anything and we will do our best to help you live your best life.*

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Ph: (03) 5441 2666



[amicus.org.au](http://amicus.org.au)

## IRENE GOES THE EXTRA MILE WITH HER COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORK

Amicus team leader Jaxon recently recognised one of his team members, support worker Irene, for her excellent service.

"I would like to give a shout-out and recognise Irene for her excellent work with the participants that she is currently supporting," Team leader, Jaxon said.

"She went the extra mile during the recent surge of COVID-19 and helped cover shifts when we were short staffed," he said.

Irene who came to Australia in January has been with Amicus since April. While she is relatively new to the disability sector in Australia Irene had previously worked in an aligned field and started work as soon as all the required screening and checks were completed.

Some of Irene's family were already in Bendigo, so she came straight here.

When asked what her first impressions were Irene said: "I thought it was a nice place. I noticed the buildings were really old and significant and I thought it was well designed city; even the street lamps."

She said the number of people who drive and the reliance on cars had been a surprise as she is used to taking buses and public transport.

Irene said she is enjoying her work with Amicus and that she wanted to "work somewhere that was directly involved with helping people."

"Here at Amicus I am working directly with the participants and helping them do things they want to do in their daily lives," she said. "I have three regular participants I work with and I like it when I make a difference."

Irene does overnight shifts when required and said that sometimes she prepares dishes that she cooked in Kenya using different spices and ingredients and said the participants enjoy them.

"I like it when I have supported the participant to do something that they wanted to do, something that has made their lives more enjoyable or easier. It is very fulfilling when I can see the contribution that I make," Irene said.

Irene said she is looking forward to learning more and developing a connection with the people that she supports. She is currently studying project management and is looking forward to exploring other roles in the sector later on.

Outside of work, Irene wants to spend more time with her family; sightseeing and exploring more of the region around Bendigo, and the National Parks.



### Office Closures

Our offices will be closed on the following public holidays. If you require support for these days, please contact the office prior to the day ensure you have everything you need.

**Bendigo Cup Public Holiday**  
Wednesday 26 October, 2022

### Important dates

**National Mental Health Month**  
1-31 October, 2022

**Melbourne Cup Public Holiday\***  
Tuesday 1 November, 2022  
\*some areas only

**Victoria State Election**  
Saturday 26 November, 2022



# Information for participants

## CHOOSING A PROVIDER

The NDIS allows you to choose who supports you with your disability related needs. In some cases you can have all your supports with one provider, or you can have multiple providers engaged, it's up to you.

- The one thing all NDIS providers have in common, is they need to act in line with the NDIS Code of Conduct.
- If you engage with an unregistered provider or an independent worker that is the only thing they are required to do.
- You should always check if their workers have passed the NDIS worker screening check.
- You should ask to see their insurance and make sure they have the qualifications and training to meet your specific needs.
- Registered providers, like Amicus, do a lot more things as we have also committed to meeting the NDIS service standards. This means you can be sure we are following all the rules and will provide a comprehensive service no matter which supports you receive from us.
- We will be up front about what we do and what we need from you, we'll also be sure you know exactly how much of your plan we will use.
- We have a team of support workers so you can be sure of finding someone you share interests with and will work with you the way you want to meet your needs. It also means we will usually have a back up if your regular worker is unavailable for any reason.
- We also have some NDIS experts so if you have any questions about your plan or supports we will have someone able to answer them.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Bendigo Volunteer Centre have plenty of great opportunities for participants to volunteer in a variety of roles across Bendigo. To register your interest and find out more information, contact the Bendigo Volunteer Centre.

**Web:** [www.bgovolunteers.org.au](http://www.bgovolunteers.org.au)

**Phone:** 0435 532 020

**Email:** [admin@bgovolunteers.org.au](mailto:admin@bgovolunteers.org.au)

**Remembrance Park Central Victoria** require volunteers to assist with gardening, painting and serving of tea and coffee in their function centre.

**Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria** require gardening volunteers for the Stationeers Program at:

- Bendigo Railway Station
- Kangaroo Flat Railway Station
- Castlemaine Railways Station
- Pyramid Hill Railways Station

**Benetas Eaglehawk** require volunteers to assist with their lifestyle programs which include bingo calling, nail and beauty, arts, crafts, knitting, sewing, active games, word games, music (guitar and piano), reading and writing.



## ACCESS TRAVEL PASS

An Access Travel Pass is a registered Myki card that enables you to free travel on all public transport in Victoria. It includes your name, photo and comes with a lanyard to make it easier to carry.

To be eligible for a pass you must:

- Have a significant permanent physical disability, cognitive condition or mental illness
- Be unable to consistently touch on or off due to your condition
- Be able to travel independently on public transport, without assistance from a carer or companion
- Be a Victorian resident

An Access Travel Pass is free, visit the link below to learn how to apply.

[www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/concessions-and-free-travel/access-travel-pass/](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/concessions-and-free-travel/access-travel-pass/)

# Seasonal health information

## SEASONAL HAY FEVER

Seasonal hay fever mainly occurs in the spring and the summer, affecting those who are allergic to pollen.

Hay fever symptoms:

- frequent bouts of sneezing
- a runny or stuffy nose
- itchy ears, nose, throat and mouth
- red, itchy or watery eyes
- headache

In some cases, the symptoms of hay fever can be so severe that a person can't sleep or concentrate, and may feel tired or unwell. Identifying what causes your hay fever and reducing your exposure to it is an important part of managing your symptoms. Staying informed about pollen counts can also reduce your exposure.

Some medications may help relieve the symptoms of hay fever. Your GP or pharmacist can give you advice on which kind of medication is right for you and how they might react with current medications or conditions.

To view the daily pollen forecast visit:  
[www.melbournepollen.com.au](http://www.melbournepollen.com.au)



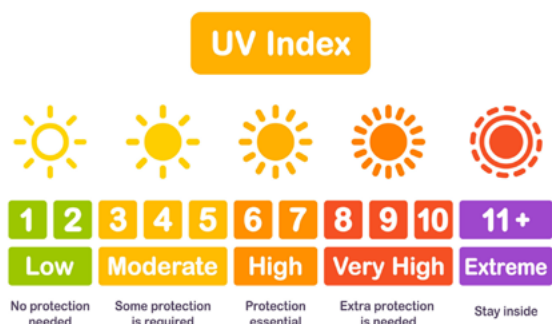
## STAYING SUN SMART

Spring has sprung and as the weather warms up we're all spending more time outdoors. Ultra Violet (UV) levels are on the rise at this time of year so sun protection is a must, even if the day feels cool.

When the UV index is three or above, you need to protect your skin from sun damage. The free SunSmart app tells you what the UV levels are for the day in your area. It will also tell you what time of day sun protection is required for.

The best way to protect yourself from sun damage is to:

- Slip on clothing
- Slop on sunscreen
- Slap on a hat
- Seek shade
- Slide on your sunglasses



## THUNDER STORM ASTHMA

During grass pollen season in the coming months there is a heightened risk of thunderstorm asthma. People with current, past or undiagnosed asthma or hay fever are considered to be at risk.

Those at increased risk should:

- avoid exposure to any storms, especially wind gusts
- have a reliever available (as discussed with your doctor or pharmacist)
- review their asthma action plan if they have one

Risk forecasts are issued twice daily from October through to December on the Department of Health website.

[www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)



# Spring community events

## CASTLEMAINE FARMERS' MARKET

### Monthly and weekly markets

Castlemaine and surrounds has an abundance of excellent local producers. Find fresh fruit and vegetables; excellent meats and cheeses, delicious homemade cakes, jams, preserves and chocolates as well as plants, livestock and much, much more.

**Monthly market:** First Sunday of the month, 9am - 1pm

**Weekly market:** Every Wednesday, 3:30pm - 6pm

**Location:** Mostyn Street, adjacent to Castlemaine Market Building (Visitor Information Centre)

**Price:** Free

[www.castlemainefarmersmarket.org](http://www.castlemainefarmersmarket.org)



## RALLY4EVER

### Every Wednesday 11:30am - 1:00pm (excluding school holidays)

Rally4Ever are hosting free community tennis sessions every Wednesday lunchtime. With no prior skills required, the aim of the sessions is to embrace having fun and make new friendships. Free transport, rackets and lunch will be provided for attendees.

**Location:** Bendigo South Tennis Club  
150 Neale Street, Flora Hill



## SPRING PEACE PARK TOUR AT THE GREAT STUPA

### Every Thursday during Spring

Enjoy a guided tour of Peace Park from one of the knowledgeable gardeners, exploring the native and introduced plants and trees, including the sacred Bodhi trees. Spring is the perfect time to visit our lush and blooming gardens. Winding paths and dry-stone walls complement the beautiful landscape.

**Location:** The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion,  
Sandhurst Town Rd, Myers Flat

**Time:** 11am - 12pm

**Price:** Adults: \$15, concession and child: \$10

[www.stupa.org.au](http://www.stupa.org.au)



## MAKE TOGETHER, WEAVE TOGETHER, CONNECT TO COUNTRY

**10 October - 27 November, 2022**

Make Together, Weave Together, Connect to Country, exhibits the artwork of one family's re-connection to culture through creative practice and Djaara and Yorta Yorta culture. Come and journey with them through their weaving of traditional and contemporary styles and materials.

**Location:** Living Arts Space (inside Bendigo Visitor Centre)

**Time:** 9am - 5pm

**Price:** Free



## BENDIGO BLUES & ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

**3 - 6 November, 2022**

Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival is a four-day event of Blues and Roots performances, jam sessions and workshops throughout Bendigo and surrounding towns. The centrepiece of the program will be an all-day, free-entry, family-friendly concert featuring over a dozen great acts in Bendigo's Rosalind Park on the Saturday.

[www.bendigoblues.com](http://www.bendigoblues.com)



## BLOOM SECRET GARDEN

**Ongoing**

Journey into Bloom's Secret Garden at the Carriageway (laneway between The Engine Room and The Capital on View Street). Take a selfie in front of the stunning flower gates and admire the digital artwork of local artist Alicia Huddy.

**Location:** View Street, Bendigo

**Price:** Free entry



## MOONLIGHT MARKET

### Summer Bendigo Night Market

The Moonlight Market has live music and art, specialty food trucks, street performers, a huge range of stalls featuring the work of artists, crafty creators, vintage finds, talented food producers and local businesses. All in one great location on a beautiful summer's night. It will bring the Dai Gum San precinct in Park Road to life every month.

**Location:** Dai Gum San, Park Road, Bendigo

**Time:** 5pm - 9pm

**Date:** Various Saturdays from October to April

**Price:** Free

[www.moonlightmarketbendigo.com.au](http://www.moonlightmarketbendigo.com.au)



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## BENDIGO ART TRAIL

### Ongoing

Explore Bendigo's thriving Arts Precinct and discover hidden artistic treasures with the Emporium Creative Hub Art Trail app. Emporium Creative Hub has teamed up with local artists and creative venues to create a stunning outdoor virtual gallery.

**Location:** Bendigo's Arts Precinct

**Price:** Free



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## IN OUR TIME EXHIBITION

### Ending on 19 February, 2022

Come and see the exquisite collection of nearly 70 artworks from the collection of Dr Geoff Raby that have been brought together by 75 artists working in China and Australia, as members of the Chinese diaspora.

**Location:** Bendigo Art Gallery

**Price:** Free

[www.bendigoregion.com.au/bendigo-art-gallery](http://www.bendigoregion.com.au/bendigo-art-gallery)

