

Our mission is to provide opportunities and support for people with a disability to achieve their goals and fulfil their potential

Talking Bedford

Upcoming Events:

Bunnings Sausage Sizzles

Once again Bedford is hosting Sausage Sizzle Community Fundraisers at Bunnings. Pop in and enjoy a sausage next time you're doing a spot of DIY!

26 September, Bunnings, Woodville
27 September, Bunnings, Woodville
7 November, Bunnings, Woodville

Bedford Quiz Night

Battle it out for the Bedford trophy and be a part of the best corporate quiz night in Adelaide!

Register your interest by calling Chantelle Dolphin, Events Coordinator, on (08) 8275 0352 or email cdolphin@bedfordgroup.com.au

Your Opinion Counts!

Let us know what you think of Talking Bedford.

Additionally if you would prefer to receive your issue of Talking Bedford by email, please contact Robin Hopkinson, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, on (08) 8275 0357 or email rhopkinson@bedfordgroup.com.au

Bedford acknowledges the valued support and funding from Federal, State and Local Governments in assisting the delivery of our services and programmes.

Bedford Remembers Honorary Life Member

ROBERT BROOK LEWIS AM

We mourn the loss of Robert Brook Lewis, Bedford Honorary Life Member, who passed away on 26 May.

Bob was a great contributor to Bedford, particularly during his time on the Board of Directors from 1983 to 1993, but also since 1993 as an active supporter. Bob was the nephew of Sir D'Arcy Cowan, after whom the Administration building is named and of Mrs Greta Lewis, who, with Dr Roger Angove, secured the land at Balyana for Bedford in Clapham. Bob will be sadly missed; our sympathy and very best wishes go to his wife Betty and their family.



Talking Bedford is a publication of the Bedford Group
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Creating a Brighter Future

Bedford is a South Australian charity creating a brighter future for people with a disability or disadvantage by offering employment, recreational and day activities, training, life skills, community housing and support services.

Our focus is on addressing people's needs in a caring and supportive environment.

With the help of the community, we can ensure that people with a disability or disadvantage are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential and achieve their dreams.

BEDFORD APPEAL

Help me and my mates become more independent...

Call **1300 300 023** or visit bedfordgroup.com.au



Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason, Dave Gibbons of GM Holden with proud Heart & Soul Award winners Ken Nottage and Mark Podger at the Adelaide Achievement Awards ceremony

Inside...

Bedford to the Max.....	2
Expansion of CareerSystems provides Exciting Opportunities.....	3
Run or Walk for Team Bedford.....	3
Celebrating a Year of Achievement.....	3
Make Bedford your Organisation's Charity of Choice.....	4
Opportunities to Make a Difference.....	4
Warren Tredrea: Bedford Ambassador.....	4
See Behind the Scenes at Bedford.....	4
Heart and Soul Perpetual Award Winners.....	4
Achievement Awards Winners!.....	5
Legacy Creates Bright Futures.....	6
Executive Profile: Gordon Griff.....	6
Bedford Packaging has it all Wrapped Up!.....	6
Millicent Celebrates Opening of Upgraded Facilities.....	7
Special Olympics Achievement.....	7
Day Options Across the State.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	8
Bedford Remembers Honorary Life Member.....	8

Celebrating the Stars of Bedford

The successes of more South Australians than ever were celebrated at the 42nd Bedford Achievement Awards in June, following an expansion phase which has seen the organisation grow to support more than 1,800 people with a disability across the State.

The Bedford Achievement Awards are the highlight of the Bedford year; where the significant achievements of many members of the Bedford family are celebrated and publicly recognised for their significant contribution to the local community in front of family, friends and supporters.

The unique Bedford tradition was stronger than ever this year, with over 2,000 people attending formal awards ceremonies in Adelaide, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln and Wallaroo.

Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason said "We're now a truly state-wide organisation - celebrating the achievements of our employees and members from across South Australia."



Open Employment Award winner Lynn Ames and Bruce Evans of Leda Woodworking Machinery

"The 2009 celebrations mark a special time in Bedford's history, a time when we are able to provide more people across the State with the opportunities to achieve their dreams - the events were all very proud days." Mr Dyason said.

The celebrations are made possible thanks to the support of key local organisations. Principal sponsor GM Holden has supported this event for an amazing 41 years!

For more pictures of our winners see page 3.

BLUE WINTER LOTTERY

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Bedford to the Max...

Dear Supporter,

Achievement Awards

This edition covers the four Awards Day events we held across the State in May and June.

Awards Day has been our pinnacle event for 42 years and it was wonderful to see celebrations occurring in Port Lincoln, Wallaroo and Mount Gambier, as well as in Adelaide.

Taking the event to our regional employees, members, staff, families and supporters was especially poignant, as public accolades were delivered in local communities. The feedback we have received from all areas has been particularly heartening, as was the fact that 2,000 people attended the four events.

My congratulations and thanks go to the many individuals and organisations who made these celebrations possible, including the four employee speakers who stole the shows, and the leadership of our wonderful local MC's Rod Sandercock, Sally Baldock and Des Mutton.

Holden's sponsorship of this event for 41 consecutive years is amazing!

All our sponsors are valued supporters of Bedford and champions of people with a disability or disadvantage. I thank them all sincerely.

- GM Holden
- ABB Grain
- Allianz
- Austral
- Cameron InterState
- Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts
- City Holden
- Epac Salary Solutions
- Hafele
- Jardine Lloyd Thompson
- Leda Woodworking Machinery
- McCracken Homes
- Network Ten
- Nyrstar
- Port Adelaide Football Club

Progress

As the financial year draws to a close, we look forward to delivering our next phase of development. I am confident that we are on track to keep improving our services and provide support for even more South Australians with a disability or disadvantage.



Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason gets to grips with Bedford Ambassador, Port Adelaide star Warren Tredrea

In the midst of these unsettling economic times, with the challenges charities such as Bedford are facing, it is important that we keep moving forward and repay the faith of our supporters. Of course, some caution is prudent, but we will continue to grow and develop our programmes.

I know that the CareerSystems team is ready, willing and able to take up the opportunities presented to us by the Australian Government's new Job Services Australia contract, which, from 1 July, adds a new dimension to the support we provide for South Australians with a disability or disadvantage. Proudly local, CareerSystems will repay the faith of the Government by helping more people with a disability to engage more fully with the community. I have really enjoyed meeting the new members of the team!

In the Day Options, residential, training and employment areas, in metropolitan Adelaide as well as in regional SA, we are still seeking opportunities to increase the range, quality and scope of our services.

We are optimistic that the number of people we support will increase significantly over the coming twelve months.

Funds

Fundraising becomes more difficult when times are tough, so we are focusing on how we can attract more funds to underpin our ever-increasing challenges.

Our most recent appeals and lotteries have been a little down on last year; understandable given the economic uncertainty.

We really appreciate the support of our donors, lottery ticket buyers, sponsors, bequestors, the State and Commonwealth Governments and all our customers, which is absolutely critical to Bedford's ongoing programmes for people with a disability or disadvantage.

Rest assured that any support you can afford to give will be put to good use!

I sincerely hope you enjoy this edition of Talking Bedford.

Best regards,

MAX DYASON
Chief Executive



CareerSystems client James Watson loves his job at Kmart Mount Barker

Expansion of CareerSystems Provides Exciting Opportunities

CareerSystems – the employment services division of Bedford – is establishing six new offices around metropolitan and regional South Australia as part of an expansion plan that follows the Federal Government's award of contracts to assist job seekers.

CareerSystems tendered to deliver employment services as a disability specialist and was awarded a significant number of new contracts as part of the Federal Government's new Job Services Australia programme, announced in April.

The announcement was of huge significance for CareerSystems and Bedford. Our existing contracts have seen us providing support services to many job seekers. These new contracts will create an exciting opportunity for us to help even more South Australians in need to gain employment, work experience and gain new skills.

The new contracts mean CareerSystems can provide further support, training, work experience and job placement services in open employment across multiple industries including hospitality, horticulture, community services, small business, retail and manufacturing - critical work in light of the current economic uncertainty.

"Bedford is proudly local – this is a tremendously exciting time for the organisation and a watershed in our history," said Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason. "More South Australians than ever before will now have Bedford's support to find employment, personal achievement and success. We are delighted that the Australian Government has provided this opportunity to Bedford and to South Australians with a disability or disadvantage."

Right Jobs. Right People

With support from CareerSystems James Watson started work at Kmart, Mount Barker in August 2008. James enjoys his job almost as much as he loves playing video games! James works in the Sound and Vision department where he has fantastic product knowledge of the computer games he shelves and prices.

Derek Worgan, James' CareerSystems support worker, said "James has learnt his role very quickly. He knows so much about the products and has picked up the technology very quickly."

James was a CareerSystems Central finalist for the Open Employment Awards at this year's Bedford Achievement Awards – testimony to his attitude and commitment to work.

Run or Walk for Team Bedford

Be a part of Team Bedford in this year's City-Bay Fun Run on 20 September! It's your choice - run or walk three, six or twelve kilometres as part of Team Bedford to help create a brighter future for people with a disability or disadvantage in your community.

As a member of Team Bedford you will receive:

- A Team Bedford running singlet or T-shirt (to wear on race day)
- A delicious Bedford Big Breakfast to refuel you after crossing the finish line
- A sponsorship form to help you raise funds for Bedford (we hope everyone will raise at least \$50)

Join Team Bedford today! Register your interest by calling Chantelle Dolphin, Events Coordinator on (08) 8275 0352 or email cdolphin@bedfordgroup.com.au

Celebrating a Year of Achievement

Chairman Colin Dunsford and the Bedford Board joined Port Lincoln Mayor Peter Davis and guests at a Mayoral Reception in April to celebrate the anniversary of the merge between Compass and Bedford.



Bedford Chairman Colin Dunsford and Chief Executive Max Dyason celebrate egg-cellent growth at Compass in Port Lincoln

Bedford has long been an advocate of training and development opportunities for its employees and members and now training is very important at Compass too. In the last year alone, twelve Compass employees undertook a Certificate II in Business through Bedford's 'Abilities for All' programme and all have graduated, signifying a tremendous achievement.

Compass' employment areas – grounds maintenance, horticulture, lawn mowing, landscaping, contract cleaning, and egg farming and sales – have also benefited from the merge through increased contracts due to new equipment and access to more skills and resources.

Make Bedford your Organisation's Charity of Choice

Corporate and community support play a critical part in Bedford's fundraising programme, ensuring we can continue to support over 1,800 South Australians with a disability or disadvantage.

Make Bedford your organisation's charity of choice and enjoy a mutually beneficial partnership; profiting your organisation whilst supporting one of South Australia's most marginalised communities; people with a disability or disadvantage.

Why partner with Bedford?

- Play an active part in corporate social responsibility and enhance your organisation's reputation
- Foster significant support, acceptance and goodwill from your staff, investors, clients and customers. We can work with you to identify and highlight appropriate news for your corporate business and community communications
- Promote your organisation! Increase brand awareness both locally and across the State
- Enjoy networking opportunities at our high profile events
- Invest in your local community and social change
- Promote teamwork by volunteering at Bedford, join Team Bedford with your colleagues in the City-Bay Fun Run or be a part of the Bedford Quiz Night

Opportunities to Make a Difference

Bedford offers tailored partnership and event sponsorship opportunities to meet your organisation's needs.

- Attend or sponsor one of our fundraising events or donate an auction item or raffle prize. Sponsorship support may be financial or in-kind; offering products or services at a reduced rate to help us maximise funds
- Volunteer for a day at Bedford sites across South Australia. For example, Delfin Lend Lease staff recently joined Bedford employees at Panorama for a day as part of their corporate responsibility programme

Find out how your organisation can help create a brighter future by contacting Tracey Watters, Business Development Manager, on (08) 8275 0358 or email twatters@bedfordgroup.com.au



Bedford Ambassador Warren Tredrea with Encouragement Award winners Helen Dunicliff, Sean Curchin, Amanda Shattell and Kahlia Schutz

Warren Tredrea: Bedford Ambassador

Port Adelaide champion Warren Tredrea is passing on words of wisdom to South Australians with a disability or disadvantage through a new ambassadorship with Bedford.

Warren attended his first official event in June – the Bedford Achievement Awards in Adelaide – where he presented the Encouragement Awards to a group of deserving Bedford rookies.

It was an honour to have the support and commitment of Warren and the rest of the Port Adelaide team – who supported Bedford as sponsors of the Encouragement Awards at this inspirational event.

Warren and the Port Adelaide team are inspirational sports people who can offer vital encouragement to people with a disability to go on and achieve their own goals and aspirations.

See Behind the Scenes at Bedford

Take a tour of Bedford to discover the truly inspiring culture that makes Bedford what it is and see the services and facilities that help people with a disability or disadvantage achieve their goals and dreams.

See 'behind the scenes' on a tour of Bedford's employment areas - including packaging, catering, fundraising and furniture – as well as Day Options.

Tours of Bedford for individuals, schools or community groups are available Monday to Friday by prior appointment.

If you would like to book a tour, please contact Lauren Marshall, Community Coordinator, on (08) 8275 0221 or email lmrshall@bedfordgroup.com.au

Heart and Soul Perpetual Award Winners

Bedford's Heart and Soul Perpetual Award recognises an individual who epitomises the values prized most highly by Bedford; teamwork, achievement, commitment, respect for others and a positive attitude. This year it was too difficult to pick just one winner for this prestigious award.



Heart & Soul Award winner Ken Nottage with GM Holden's Dave Gibbons

Ken Nottage

Ken Nottage works in Bedford's Fundraising and Administration departments, preparing mailouts and sorting internal mail. Ken has been at Bedford for 23 years and says "I love everything about it."



Heart & Soul Award winner Mark Podger

Mark Podger

Mark has been part of the Bedford family since 1980. Mark is a Day Options member; Bedford Packaging employee and resident at Balyana, Bedford's supported residential centre. Mark enjoys discussing politics, watching movies and is a Day Options committee member. "I like seeing all my friends at Bedford," said Mark. "My favourite things we do here are going out for lunch and going to the pictures."

Congratulations to the following outstanding winners:

Heart and Soul Perpetual Award Sponsored by: Holden		Winners: Ken Nottage, Mark Podger
Day Options Team Award Adelaide Sponsored by: City Holden		Winners: Jasmine Burman, Lee Dreyer, Lisa Henschke
Bedford Northern Sponsored by: Nyrstar		Winners: Nigel Freer, Colin Robertson, Chad Sherry
Port Lincoln Sponsored by: ABB Grain		Winners: Aaron Dennis, Malcolm Parfitt
Millicent Sponsored by: Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts Australia		Winner: Ted Russell
Achiever of the Year Award APG Sponsored by: Austral		Winner: Stephen Hussey Finalists: Navarre Lang, Matthew Wilson
Compass Sponsored by: ABB Grain		Winner: Jonathan Tom Finalists: Judith Everett, Craig Gerschwitz
Bedford Furniture Sponsored by: HAFELE		Winner: Michael Reed Finalists: Angelo Ditroia, Bill Wilkey
Bedford Hospitality Sponsored by: JLT & Allianz		Winner: Nick Pettersen Finalists: Sean Brown, Robbie Margach
Bedford Northern Sponsored by: Nyrstar		Winners: Paul Bannister Finalists: Edward Oors, Gino Rafanelli
Bedford Packaging Sponsored by: Cameron Interstate		Winners: Grant Greenwood, Shannon Goldsworthy, Phyliss Squire Finalists: Ray Budd, Anne Marie Butler, Joyce Cotton, Martin Deflutter, Steven Gonis, Mandy Harsent
Bedford South East Sponsored by: Carter Holt Harvey		Winner: Brian Brodie Finalists: Glen Jones, Jonathon Warnett
Bedford Support Services Sponsored by: EPAC Salary Solutions		Winner: Laura Anderson Finalists: Carol Eichner, Graham McGuire
Open Employment Award Central Sponsored by: Leda Woodworking Machinery		Winner: Lynn Ames Finalists: Nicole Hazell, John Martin, James Watson
North Sponsored by: McCracken Homes		Winner: Juan Pablo Ponce de Leon Finalists: Krystal Sharpe, Anthony Stanford
South Sponsored by: Network Ten		Winner: Kelly O'Brien Finalists: Steven Harris, Shannon Skinner
Encouragement Award Sponsored by: Port Adelaide Football Club		Winners: Sean Curchin (APG), Paul Dunn (Compass), Helen Dunicliff (Bedford Support Services), Daniel Oliver (Bedford Northern), Kahlia Schutz (Bedford Packaging), Amanda Shattell (Bedford Hospitality), Anthony Stafford (Gambier Contracts)

A DVD of the event is available for \$3 plus postage. To order your copy please call Robin Hopkinson, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, on (08) 8275 0357 or email rhopkinson@bedfordgroup.com.au

Bedford Achievement Awards 2009 Winners!



Bedford South East Achiever of the Year Award winner Brian Brodie with Jim Snelson of Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts



Bedford Furniture Achiever of the Year Award winner Michael Reed with Leah Thomas of Hafele, and finalists Bill Wilkey and Angelo Ditroia



Port Lincoln Day Options Team Award winners Malcolm Parfitt and Aaron Dennis with Ian Bampton of ABB Grain



Adelaide Day Options Team Award winner Lee Dreyer with City Holden's Julian Newton



Bedford Packaging employees Jannette Hill, Joyce Cotton and Penny Evans pack Fruchocs for Robern Menz in dedicated clean room facilities at Panorama

Legacy Creates Bright Futures

Thanks to a legacy from a generous benefactor in October 2008, Bedford has been able to install purpose-built clean room facilities as part of the Bedford Packaging operation at Panorama.

The addition of this facility has enabled Bedford to win contracts with food processing companies including packing Fruchocs and Crown Mints for Robern Menz - providing valuable employment and development opportunities for employees who have learnt how to work with advanced packaging machinery.

Leaving a legacy to Bedford, big or small, has a significant impact, ensuring we can provide opportunities for people with a disability or disadvantage in years to come.

If you would like to know more about remembering Bedford in your will, please contact Lauren Marshall, Community Coordinator, for an informal, confidential chat on (08) 8275 0221 or email lmarshall@bedfordgroup.com.au



Gordon Griff, National Business Development Manager

Executive Profile

I've seen my fair share of change during my fifteen years at Bedford. The ongoing diversification of Bedford's key business areas to cater for changing demands in the current economic climate has made my job more important than ever.

We operate a number of services through our key disability enterprises; Bedford Packaging, Bedford Furniture, APG and Bedford Hospitality.

As a charity we rely on these operations and the support of businesses and the general public to ensure we can continue to provide key services to people with a disability.

I'm responsible for ensuring Bedford's relationships with businesses are long lasting, at the same time as uncovering new opportunities and expanding capabilities to ensure Bedford can continue to win contracts – so that people with a disability or disadvantage have the opportunity to work and develop more skills.

While it's a challenge, it's an exciting time to be a part of an organisation that is playing such a vital role in securing the livelihood of people with a disability state-wide.



MWOC employees James Looby and Anthony Dixon wash sheets for local hotels in the commercial laundry

Millicent Celebrates Opening of Upgraded Facilities

There was plenty of cause for celebration at Millicent Work Option Centre (MWOC) in April when more than 100 guests attended an afternoon tea to witness the official opening of the centre's upgraded facilities.

MWOC, whose employment areas now include a new public laundromat, as well as a commercial laundry, grounds maintenance, lawn mowing, landscaping and contract cleaning, merged with Bedford in November last year.

The significant developments will see improved employment, training and

recreational opportunities for people with a disability in the South East. MWOC now has the capacity to employ more people by managing more laundry contracts, while providing additional beneficial services to the community.

"The centre looks like new," MWOC Manager Neil Sylvia said. "Our aim is to provide a greater service to the community, through providing Day Options programmes and employment for people with a disability, and the expanded facilities mean we will be able to achieve this."

The centre's refurbished facilities were officially opened by Deputy Mayor Rob Dycer of Wattle Range Council at the ceremony hosted by Bedford Chief Executive Max Dyason.



Adelaide Day Options member Cameron Woods keeping fit in the gym at Panorama

Day Options across the State

Day Options programmes offer a wide variety of recreational, leisure and developmental activities, encouraging members to become more independent by gaining life and social skills in a caring and supportive environment.

Bedford offers a number of State quality accredited Day Options programmes across South Australia, currently in Adelaide, Millicent, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and Wallaroo.

Whatever a member's specific training needs and learning styles, our team will develop a programme plan with the member to work towards achieving their personal goals.

We offer a transitional programme to support members considering moving into supported employment, who may need additional training and development prior to this happening. Members undertake 'hands-on' skills development activities, training, work experience and, when ready, will be offered a position in one of Bedford's business areas.

For more information about Bedford Day Options, please contact Graeme Kerkin, Day Options Manager, on (08) 8275 0359 or email gkerkin@bedfordgroup.com.au

Bedford Packaging has it all Wrapped Up!

Bedford Packaging provides a complete packaging and assembly service to an impressive mix of local, national and international companies, undertaking local and national contracts from our advanced facilities across metropolitan and regional South Australia. Mobile packaging services are also available to meet offsite requirements.

Our commitment to a quality service has ensured a growing client base demonstrated by our ISO 9001: 2000 accreditation.

Customers are consistently impressed by our ability to provide solutions to any packaging requirement, from unusual one-off tasks, to coordinating and managing national packing and fulfilment contracts.

Our proven ability to offer reliable, highly flexible packaging services has enabled us to grow our existing facilities and capacities to meet large volume and short turnaround requirements.

We offer food & wine packaging, third party packing & distribution, promotional packaging, goods assembly, mail management and repacking/relabeling.

Employees gain valuable on-job skills and have the opportunity to undertake nationally recognised TAFE qualifications, ensuring both work satisfaction and a quality service.

Find out more by calling Gordon Griff, National Business Development Manager, on (08) 8275 0315 or email ggriff@bedfordgroup.com.au



Swimming superstar Damien Braun

Special Olympics Achievement for Bedford Employee

Bedford Hospitality employee Damien Braun achieved spectacular results in the Special Olympics State Swimming Competition in April.

Damien received:

- Gold in 400m, 100m and 50m Freestyle
- Gold in 100m and 50m Backstroke
- Bronze in 200m Freestyle