

Your Companion

Issue 1, 2009

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the first edition of "Your Companion", an annual newsletter featuring a range of information for Companion Card Holders.



As you may be aware the Companion Card Program in WA is managed by National Disability Services (NDS) WA. The Program was launched in April 2006 to support people with disabilities as they access events in the community. Today there are more than 4000 cardholders and over 283 affiliates in WA.

As a cardholder you are also able to use your card in South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland. It is expected that ACT and NT will launch later this year, so it will be a national card.

I hope that you are enjoying the benefits of your Companion Card and getting out to enjoy more leisure and recreation pursuits.

Kind Regards,



Helen Granville
Manager, Companion Card Program WA

Share your experiences

If you've just seen a great concert, been on a holiday, had a great time out at an affiliated venue or would like to encourage other cardholders to try something new - we would love to hear from you. We will publish a selection of your comments in this newsletter. Email us in 25 words or less to frances.thomas@nds.org.au

Free Public Transport

Western Australian seniors, aged and disability support pensioners are now able to use public transport free between 9am and 3.30pm on weekdays and on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. To access the new free entitlement on Transperth services you must be in possession of either a Seniors SmartRider or Pensioner SmartRider. For more information, click on the banner on the Transperth website www.transperth.wa.gov.au.

Eligible Cardholders utilising this free service will still need to show their Companion Card in order for their Companion to also ride for free.

Lucky number for Flippy

As the 3000th Companion Card Holder in WA, Felicity "Flippy" Lee received an overnight stay at the Burswood including free tickets to see Shannon Noll perform live.

Flippy (as she prefers to be known) has been putting her Companion Card to good use and says being the 3000th Cardholder was a bonus. "I had a great time at the Burswood enjoying a few plays in the casino and seeing my favourite Australian artist, Shannon Noll perform live was definitely the highlight!" says Flippy. Flippy extended her stay at the Burswood, staying another night so that she could also take in Courtney Murphy's solo gig at Burswood's Spice Lounge.



Flippy - WA's 3000th Companion Card Holder.

Companion Card Affiliates

Below is the current (as at May 2009) complete list of formally registered Companion Card "Affiliates" where you can use your Companion Card. New affiliates are joining the program every week and we recommend you visit www.wa.companioncard.org.au and click on Western Australia to keep up-to-date.

If there is a venue or activity that you wish to attend, it is your responsibility to check with the venue or ticketing outlet, at the time of booking your tickets, if they will accept your Companion Card. Many venues may still accept your Companion Card even if they are not formally registered to the program and listed below – so check each time!

About Bike Hire	Bunbury Repertory Club	Equal Opportunity Commission
ABS – Albany Body Studio	Burswood Entertainment Complex	Esperance Bay Turf Club
Activ - City to Surf Fun Run	Busselton Jetty	Esperance Civic Centre
Adventurland Park	Camel Lane Theatre	Esperance Community Arts
Adventure World	Camelot Cinema	Esperance Theatre Guild
Albany Agricultural Society	Carnarvon Aquatic Centre	Fitzone – Busselton
Albany Harness Racing Club	Cannington Greyhounds	Fremantle History Museum
Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre	Captain Cook Cruises	Fremantle Leisure Centre
Albany Town Hall	Challenge Stadium	Fremantle Motor Museum
Altone Park	Challenge Stadium Fitness Centre	Fremantle Prison
Aqua Jetty Warnbro	Cinema Paradiso	Friends of the Art Gallery of WA
Aquamotion Wanneroo	City of Albany-Leisure & Aquatic	Funstation Midland
AQWA	City of Albany – Albany Town Hall	Funstation Rockingham
Araluen Botanic Park Foundation	City of Armadale-Armadale Aquatic	Funstation Whitfords
Arena Joondalup	City of Canning-Riverton Leisureplex	Geographe Leisure Centre, Busselton
Armadale Arena	City of Geraldton-Aquarena	Geraldton Aquarena Aquatic Centre
Armadale Aquatic Centre	City of Gosnells-Leisure World	Goldfields Arts Centre
Armadale Reptile Centre	City of Joondalup	Goldfields Oasis
Armadale Soccer Club	City of Kalgoorlie Boulder	Goldrush Tours
Army Museum of WA	City of Melville-Leeming Recreation	Grand Cinemas-Armadale, Currambine,
Art Gallery of Western Australia	City of Melville-Melville Aquatic Fitness	Joondalup, Warwick, Whitford City,
Australian Model Railway Association- WA Branch Railway Modelling Exhibition	City of Melville-Melville Recreation	Bunbury
Australian Prospectors & Miners Hall of Fame	City of Swan	Greater Union Innaloo
Aviation Heritage Museum of W.A.- RAAF Association	City to Surf - Activ Foundation	Greater Union Morley
Ballajura Aquatic Centre	Cockburn City Soccer Club	Greyhounds W.A. - Mandurah
Barking Gecko Theatre Company	Collie Shire-Pool	Gloucester Park
Bay of Isles Leisure Centre	Country Arts WA	Gravity Discovery Centre
Bayswater Waves Aquatic Centre	Craigie Leisure Centre	Harvey Dickson's Country Music Ctr
Beatty Park	Cygnets Cinema	Harvey District Trotting Club
Bell Tower	Dalwallinu & Districts Agricultural Society	Heathridge Leisure Centre
Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp	Department of Environment and Conservation (formerly CALM)	Hellfire Gallery
Bijou Theatre	Dept for Planning and Infrastructure- Revolutions and Summer of Bush	Hillarys - The Great Escape
Bilgoman Aquatic Centre	Dances at Whiteman Park	Hoyts Carousel
Blues at Bridgetown Inc.	Denmark Arts	Hoyts Cinema City
Bodycare Health Club, Albany	Dept of Sport and Recreation	Hoyts Cinecentre
Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority - Kings Park & Botanic Garden	Developmental Disability Council of WA	Hoyts Garden City
Bridgetown Agricultural Society	Disability Services Commission	Hoyts Millenium Fremantle
Brookton Swimming Pool	Donnybrook Apple Festival	Hoyts Queensgate
Brown Park Recreation Complex	Duncraig Leisure Centre	Hoyts Fremantle,
Bunbury Regional Entertainment Cntr	Eastern Gascoyne Race Club	Hoyts Rockingham
	Eastern Goldfields YMCA	Hoyts Southlands
	Ern Halliday Recreation Camp	Injury Control Council of WA Inc
		Joondalup Library
		Joondalup Eisteddfod
		<i>(list cont'd on page 3)</i>

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Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society
Kalamunda History Village
Kalgoorlie Boulder Community Fair Society
Kelmscott Tenpin Bowl
Kings Park & Botanic Garden-Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority;
Koorda Agricultural Society
Kulcha Multicultural Arts of WA
Kununurra Agricultural Society
Kununurra Race Club
Kwinana Requatic
Lake Leschenaultia Camp Ground
Landsdale Farm School
Leeming Recreation Centre
LEG Entertainment
Leisure World-City of Gosnells
Lone Ranges Shooting Complex
Luna Leederville
Luna on SX
Mackenzie's Island Cruises
Manbana Aquaculture & Discovery Centre
Mandurah Ferry Cruises
Mandurah Greyhounds
Mandurah Performing Arts Centre
Margaret River & Districts Agricultural Society
Maritime Museum
Meeka Festival, Races and Rodeo
Melville Aquatic Fitness Centre
Melville Recreation Centre
Midland Sports Centre
Morley Rollerdrome Blade & Skate
Morley Sport & Rec Centre - YMCA
Mount Barker Turf Club
Mt Helena Aquatic Centre
Mt Magnet Race Club Inc.
Museum Park
Nannup Music Club & Festival
Narrogin Harness Racing Club
National Disability Services (WA)
National Trust of Australia (WA)
Newdegate Machinery Field Days (INC)
Nican Incorporated
Northam Agricultural Society
Northam Race Club
Oasis Supa Golf
Osborne Park Agricultural Society
Paintball Skirmish
Peel Zoo
Pentland Alpaca Stud & Animal Farm
Perth Football Club
Perth Soccer Club

Perth Mint
Perth Motorplex, Kwinana Beach
Perth Observatory
Perth Soccer Club
Perth Zoo
Playzone Indoor Play Centre
Point Walter Recreation and Conference Centre
Propelarts
Princess Royal Fortress
Public Transport Authority: Transperth & TransWA
Rail Heritage WA
Reading Cinemas – all states
Rivergods
Rosemount Bowl
Rottneest Island Authority
Scitech
Shark Bay World Heritage and Discovery Centre
Shire of Boyup Brook
Shire of Brookton
Shire of Collie Swimming Pool
Shire of Donnybrook/Balingup-Recreation Centre
Shire of Esperance-Bay of Isles Leisure Centre
Shire of Esperance-Civic Centre
Shire of Exmouth
Shire of Derby / West Kimberley
Shire of Manjimup Manjimup-Regional Aquacentre
Shire of Meekatharra
Shire of Mundaring
Shire of Shark Bay
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
Skywest Airlines
Small Business Development Corp.
Sorrento Soccer Club
Sorrento Football Group Inc
Soundshell
South Fremantle Football Club
South West Dockers Supporters Club
South West Sports Centre
Spare Parts Puppet Theatre
Stirk Cottage
Strut Dance Inc
Subiaco Football Club
Subiaco Oval
Sunday Serenades
Swan Bells Foundation (Bell Tower)
Swan Districts Football Club
Swan Park
Swan Valley Cuddly Animal Farm
Telstra Rally Australia

Terry Tyzack Aquatic Centre
Theatre 8, Geraldton
The Astor
The Blue Room
The Dolphin Discovery Centre
The Great Escape Hillarys
The Greene Room, Geraldton
The WA Sporting Car Club
The Windsor
The Woolshed
Town of Claremont-Pool
Town of Claremont-Museum
Town of Claremont-Golf Course
Town of Kwinana-Kwinana Requatic;
Town of Victoria Park-Aqualife Centre
Town of Victoria Park-Leisure Life Cntr
Town of Vincent- Beatty Park
Transperth bus train, and ferry services in Metropolitan Perth;
Transwa rail and coach services;
Regional bus services within Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Carnarvon, Collie, Dunsborough, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Kununurra, Manjimup, Narrogin, Port Hedland.
Valued Independent People
Vancouver Arts Centre
WA Sports Centre Trust – Challenge Stadium
WA Disabled Sports Association
Wanneroo Agricultural Society – Wanneroo Show
Warnbro Aqua Jetty
Western Australian Museum-Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Western Australian Museum-Perth
Western Australian Museum-Geraldton
Western Australian Museum-Albany
Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) through Ticketmaster
West Australian Symphony Orchestra
Western Australia Trotting Association
Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association
West Coast Eagles Football Club
Western Knights Soccer Club
Western Power World of Energy
Whiteman Park-Revolution and Summer of Bush Dances
Woodman Point Recreation Camp
Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation
YMCA - Morley Sport & Rec Centre
York Harness Racing Club



It's amazing where Skywest can take you....



Since December 2006 Skywest Airlines has been an affiliate of the Companion Card Program. The award winning Skywest Airlines flies to 15 destinations, right across WA, as well as interstate to Darwin. An airline geared for both the tourist and corporate traveller, Skywest transports more than 400,000 people every year.

Skywest's current scheduled service destination list covers: Perth, Albany, Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Kalbarri, Monkey Mia, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Port Hedland, Broome, Karratha, Kununurra and Darwin. Be first to get the best deals, special offers and latest Skywest Airlines news by subscribing to *SkyNews* online at www.skywest.com.au.

Companion Card E-News

Every three months the Companion Card Program sends out an E-Newsletter packed with information about upcoming shows and events accepting the Companion Card. If you haven't already registered for e-News, please send your email address to wa@companioncard.asn.au

Planning a Holiday?

As the Companion Card Program operates in several states in Australia, don't forget to pack your Companion Card if you are planning an interstate holiday. Go to www.companioncard.asn.au to check out the list of affiliates in the state you plan to visit. For Australian holiday ideas and destinations visit the Australian Tourism website www.australia.com

Misplaced your Companion Card?

You can request a replacement card if you lose your Companion Card or it is damaged. You will need to complete a Replacement/Change of Details Form. If you do not need to change any of your information, your existing details and photograph will be used to create a replacement card, which will be posted to you.

What to do if an affiliate doesn't accept your Companion Card

If you go to use your Companion Card at an affiliated venue and the staff member has not heard of the program, we recommend you:

- Show them the back of your card. It lists a telephone number and web site that can provide further information; or
- Ask to speak to the Manager

It always pays the check in advance directly with the venue or activity to ensure they accept the Companion Card. Alternatively you can visit www.wa.companioncard.asn.au for a list of affiliates.

Companion Card Renewals

A renewal notice will be forwarded to you approximately 6-8 weeks prior to the expiry date on your card. All Cardholders turning 18 years will be sent a review form to complete.

