

March 2021

AN UPDATE FOR
OUR COMMUNITY

GYMPIE Medical Transport



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Opening Day



Bev and Aunty Lillian – Welcome to Country.



Mayor Glen Hartwig and Bev Goodall Cutting the ribbon.



Murray, Neil, Peter and Wayne from Gympie Freemasons.



Glenn (Secretary) and Narelle (President) Gympie Lions.

From the President's Desk

Welcome to our first GMT Newsletter for 2021. It is hard to believe we are already three months into the new year. Certainly, a lot has happened in that time. We are now fully operational from 39 Monkland Street, and our service to the community has steadily increased.

On Wednesday 23 March, the new Gympie Medical Transport office was officially opened by Glen Hartwig Mayor of Gympie. The opening ceremony commenced at 4.00 p.m. with *Welcome to Country* by Gubbi Gubbi Elder Auntie Lillian. Invited guests were able to view the building and one of the client transport cars. At the conclusion of the official opening, invited guests were able to view the offices and enjoyed some light refreshments.

Students from Gympie Flexi School put their talents together and created a layered painting of "What Gympie Medical Transport means to them", the result is a very beautiful piece of artwork that is now proudly on display in the office. Our thanks go to Carley from Gympie Region Volunteer Centre for her coordination with students.

I am overwhelmed with the support residents of the Gympie area have shown GMT by putting their trust in us to provide them as clients, a very much needed service assisting residents to and from important medical appointments between Hervey Bay and Brisbane.



In this newsletter, we have included statistics from February 2021, our first month of servicing residents of Gympie. This infographic is a snapshot of where our volunteer hours, our cars, and volunteer drivers' time has been spent.

Finally, I am also pleased to report that during mid-March, GMT took possession of a third car which will increase our ability to service our resident's needs and transport them to their appointments. As demand for our service increases over the next few months our aim is to have more cars available.



MISSION STATEMENT

Establish a community-driven organisation staffed by volunteers that provides quality non-urgent medical transportation for residents of Gympie and Regions to specialist centres and hospitals as far north as Hervey Bay, south to Brisbane and all points between.

Volunteers urgently needed!!

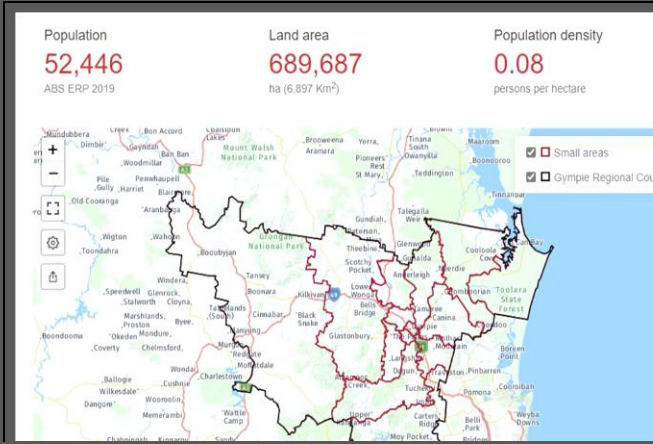
GMT is steadily growing, and each week sees us answering more calls from the community looking for transport to appointments.

GMT is seeking volunteers in all areas listed below. If you have a few spare hours each week to offer your expertise, please consider contacting the office to make an appointment to discuss your skills.

- **Drivers (Urgent)**
- **Fleet Management**
- **Administration & Finance**
- **Company Secretarial:**
- **Fundraising:**

GMT is registered with Centrelink. If you have skills that suit one our Volunteer needs above, and you need to fulfil volunteer hours to meet your Centrelink requirements, please give our office a call on.

0492 980 083



In 2019, the population of Gympie was 52,446. This figure will have increased with many new housing developments on Southside, Jones Hill and outskirts of the city centre towards the north. Whilst this figure does include residents from Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Coast and Rainbow Beach who rely on CCMT for patient transport, Gympie Medical Transport covers a vast area with different demographics. The need to ensure outlying regions have future access to medical transport is high on the agenda for the Committee of GMT.

GYMPIE MEDICAL TRANSPORT STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY

20.5 Training Hours



314 Administration Hours



41 Fundraising hours



Registration GMT111
3752 kilometres



Registration GMT222
3374 kilometres



Maintenance and Cleaning -
8.25 hours



Driver Hours -
GMT111 - 105.5 hours
GMT222 - 73 hours



Other interesting stats for February

Drivers, cars and volunteers have spent many hours assisting residents during February.

In the Community

Bev Goodall (President GMT) has been out in the community and recently spoke at PROBUS and QUOTA and has also been invited to speak at the Gympie Women's Group. The visits are an ideal time to offer information on GMT's service.

On Tuesday 23 March, Bev was also invited to the Rotary Club of Gympie Cooloola Meeting and was presented with \$1000 as part of Rotary's support of Community Groups.

A representative from GMT also attended Gympie National Seniors and was presented with a \$200 donation to GMT.

GMT received notification on 14 March that our grant application submitted to Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) under the Strengthening Rural Communities Project was successful. We would like to thank the donors for the \$6,500 grant, the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, Equity Trustees.



Age is no barrier for client travel. GMT has identified the need for all age groups to have access to the transport being offered by the service, not just those who are over 65 years of age. If you know you have appointments outside of Gympie coming up, please give the office a call (0492 980 083)