

# September 2021

AN UPDATE FOR OUR  
COMMUNITY

GYMPIE Medical Transport

Phone 07 5371 9823



## Highlights in this issue

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GMT's President won the Lions Club of Gympie Citizen of the Year Award 2021!

Narelle Tomkins, who was President of the Lions Club of Gympie at the time said, "This year's recipient is a person who has headed a committee with just that goal in mind. It is my great pleasure to announce that this year's recipient is Bev Goodall, President of Gympie Medical Transport."

Narelle added, "Bev has been at the head of the Organisation's efforts to establish a medical transport service in the Gympie region following on from the success of the Cooloola Medical Transport service at Tin Can Bay. The service is now up and running in Gympie Region thanks to the efforts of Bev and her Committee. The latest newsletter from GMT gives an overview of progress to date and I quote: 'Some interesting statistics to date for your information - we now have over 300 referrals, 200 clients which show the demand that exists in our community for this type of service. Congratulations, Bev, on your achievements and the achievements of your committee. Well done!'"

## From the President's Desk

Welcome to the September 2021 Newsletter. I am pleased to report the community need for service being offered by Gympie Medical Transport has increased dramatically over the last three months. Our marketing and word of mouth is having a positive impact on the service GMT is offering the residents of Gympie.

We now have a fourth car on the road, but find we are so busy that at times we are having to turn people away due to our cars being fully booked up to two or three weeks ahead. Whilst this is good for our service, it is a timely reminder to please call the office on 07 5371 9823 to book a car as soon as you know your appointment date, even if it is a way into the future.

Due to the increase, our need for volunteers is still ongoing especially for drivers. Driving for GMT is very rewarding, not only are you doing something worthwhile for the Gympie Community, but you really do also meet some lovely clients during your travel time with them. GMT drivers receive some very positive feedback and some of the comments are included for you to read in this newsletter.

Graham, who volunteers his time as IT Manager, has created a new website for GMT. The information will be updated frequently as the need arises, however, if you would like to see more information included on the website, please give the office a call. Click on the link below to see the live view.

[Home - Gympie Medical Transport Inc \(gymt.org.au\)](http://gymt.org.au)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Gympie Lions Club who awarded me the *Lions Club of Gympie Citizen of the Year Award 2021*. This award is presented annually to a Citizen who has made an important and outstanding contribution to the local community, to someone who has gone the "extra mile" to make life for those requiring extra help a little bit easier or more comfortable.

Whilst it was fantastic to receive the award and I would like to thank the team of volunteers who put their time and effort into GMT to make the service work.



**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.

### 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.

# GYMPIE MEDICAL TRANSPORT STATISTICS FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2021



39.05 Training Hours



1168  
Administration Hours



20.8 Fundraising hours



Cleaning  
office  
19.45 hours



## Car Stats



53,610 Kilometres  
travelled during  
June, July and  
August

246 Trips taken  
during June, July  
and August

1519.83 Hours the  
cars have been used  
during June, July  
and August

71.53 Car cleaning  
hours during June,  
July and August



### Introducing Fay, GMT's Volunteer Finance Officer

What made you decide you wanted to be a volunteer driver for GMT? **I felt there was a great need within this community for a service like this.**

How many volunteer trips have you done so far? **I have only done approximately 6 volunteer drives and would like to do more. I still work and I am a committee member (Treasurer) for GMT**

As a volunteer driver, would you recommend to those who have time and a willingness - that they come along to GMT and meet the team, and put in an expression of interest to become a driver. **I would absolutely recommend anyone that has spare time to become a volunteer driver, they would meet very interesting people and the satisfaction of helping people is rewarding.**

What has been your best experience to date when you have been driving? **Meeting new people and listening to their stories about Gympie**

GMT are a relatively new volunteer organisation offering personalised medical transport to Gympie residents, what are your own thoughts on this service and what it means to residents in the area who have historically found getting to and from appointments difficult.

**I believe this service has been a long time awaited by the Gympie Community. There was a large gap in the community for transport down to Brisbane and Sunshine Coast where all the specialists are. We have taken the burden off the family members that have to take time off their work to transport their loved ones down for non-urgent medical appointments**

Vollies celebrating their birthdays this quarter are Fiona, Eric, Catherine, Liz, Maxine, Margaret, and Ken!  
Happy birthday to everyone!

### Meet Miss Molly the Mascot

GMT became the proud owners of "Molly" who now takes pride of place in the front office at 39 Monkland Street. Molly was originally won in a raffle and was kindly donated to GMT. Molly's real title is *Sister Bernadette O'Meara*, a limited-edition Great War Nurse Bear who represents more than 2,500 women who served in the Australian Army Nursing Service during the Great War. The certificate that accompanied "Molly" verifies that she one of only 10,000 bears released to commemorate the Centenary of Australia in the First World War. (1914-1918). GMT are very grateful for the donation.



Jackie and Malcolm are very valued clients of Gympie Medical Transport and have used our services since February 2021. We asked Jackie and Malcolm to share their thoughts about their travel time with GMT.

"Where did you hear about the service being offered by GMT?" "On Facebook"

"How many trips have you taken with GMT?" "6"

"What is the best thing about using a GMT car and a volunteer driver?" "Not having to worry about driving and traffic – chatting to the driver of the day."

"Would you recommend this service to your family and friends?" "Absolutely, the drivers are excellent, and the service is just so convenient and safe."

"Is there anything that GMT could do to improve their service to the residents of Gympie?" "Can't think of any!"

"Does travelling with GMT take the stress and anxiety away from having to drive yourself and find a car parking spot at your appointment?" "Yes without a question."

### Late News Flash

Late news – Gympie Medical Transport is a finalist in the Gympie Chamber of Commerce's Not for Profit Business Award, and our President Bev Goodall is a finalist in the Gympie Chamber of Commerce Hero Award. We are very proud and thankful for the nominations and fingers crossed for a positive outcome.



Our Volunteer Drivers are trained in house  
For their Restricted Driver's Authorisation