

Northcott in Action

Our Impact

Oh, the places we'll go!

Sydney is a great city to explore, but if you have limited mobility like Lam, getting to accessible locations isn't always straightforward.

Since Northcott received the van thanks to generous funding by The Woodend Foundation, Lam, who accesses our Parramatta Everyday Life Skills program, has been making great use of it.

"We're using the van a lot to go out exploring and to the places we like to go to for other activities, like bowling," he said.

"I like going out to new places, places I've never been before. I like being able to go out in a group with friends who are in wheelchairs."

Lam and his friends have visited Bondi Beach, Rhodes Shopping Centre, Auburn Botanic Gardens and Casula Powerhouse Museum.

Recently, the group ventured out to explore Lavender Bay, on Sydney's North Shore, with



Lam explores Milsons Point in Sydney.

Northcott's photographer on hand to capture the day.

"We walked around the water, passing by Luna Park, towards the Sydney Harbour Bridge, to see a view of the Sydney Opera House and the city," Lam said.

"I enjoyed being the centre of attention and having so many photos taken. It was a nice ride [in the van] and the view and weather were also good today."

Melia Kharoufeh, Northcott's Parramatta Everyday Life Skills Coordinator, said there are around 30 Life Skills customers who use a wheelchair. Having an additional van has enhanced the program's offerings for customers.

Northcott thanks The Woodend Foundation through Perpetual's 2019 IMPACT Philanthropy Application Program for funding the purchase of the van and its modification for use by our customers.



From the CEO

Thank you for your ongoing support in these difficult times

I am pleased to say that during this COVID-19 crisis Northcott has been designated an essential service which means that we have some government assistance and support to ensure that we can keep as many programs and services open to our customers.

Although COVID-19 has had a major impact on the way that we deliver our services, we are still working on major projects to provide innovations in service and new programs to improve the opportunities for people with disability to live the lives that they choose. The impacts of social distancing and restrictions on public gatherings mean that we won't be able to host any events for supporters and customers in the coming months. However, that doesn't mean that your support isn't valued

or needed. We will be running our usual appeal around the end of the Financial Year and I encourage you to reach out and talk to us about ways in which you can be involved in supporting our projects and programs.

These challenges are not new and we came across a special illustration from the collection of our benefactor, May Gibbs, that she created in 1919 as part of the public health campaigns around the Spanish Flu epidemic at the time.

Born in England in 1877 but quintessentially Australian, the much-loved author, illustrator and cartoonist May Gibbs has thrilled generations of young readers with her gumnut babies' characters and stories. On her death in 1969 she bequeathed the copyright from the designs

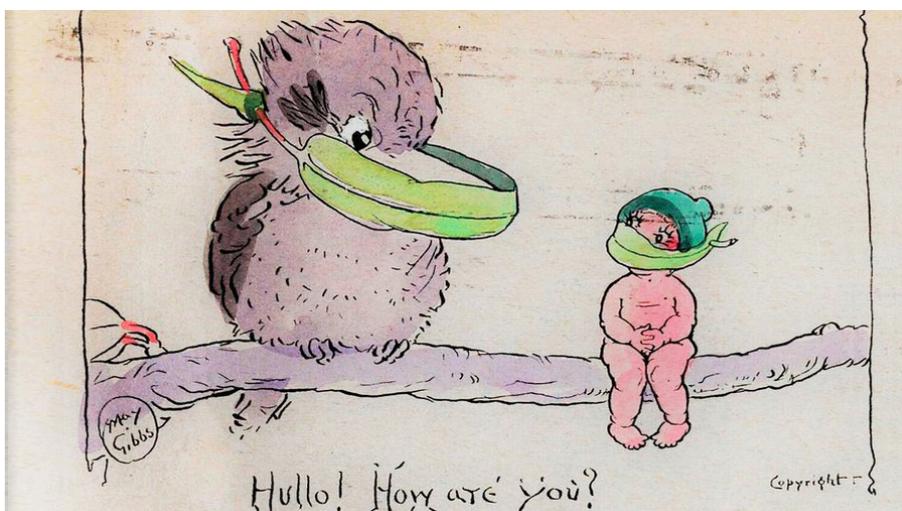


Kerry Stubbs

of her bush characters and her stories jointly to Northcott (then the NSW Society for Crippled Children) and Cerebral Palsy Alliance (formerly The Spastic Centre of NSW).

I am confident we will get through this together and build our resilience as a community.

Thank you again for your support and wishing you a safe time ahead.



Spanish Flu Illustration by May Gibbs.



Corporate Support

The gift of giving

A change in the gift strategy of Baresque, a long standing supporter of Northcott, has won over their corporate clients while getting behind people with disability.

Baresque CEO, JJ Blaiklock, explains it's a "win-win" and it's making everyone very happy. After years of hampers and other corporate gifts, last year the wholesale interior design company sent their clients a card instead, outlining they would gift a donation to Northcott towards supporting people with disability to realise their potential and help drive inclusion in the community.

The heart and philanthropy of Baresque's clients shone through as the team were bowled over by the positive feedback and support for their unique gift.

Baresque is now looking into other ways to continue supporting Northcott, including volunteering at upcoming carnivals.



Baresque's Christmas card to clients.

"Just wanted to say that it's fantastic to see such generosity in lieu of Christmas gifts. As someone with a mentally disabled brother, this really hits close to home – and I know the contribution will go a long way..."

– Jaana, Baresque and B+G customer, Interior Designer, SA

Got an idea for a workplace initiative to support Northcott? Contact Northcott's Partnership Specialist Holly Borbely on (02) 9890 0536 to discuss how we can help.

Let's see what we can do!

Over 90 years of history

Northcott turns 90! Governor of NSW hosts Northcott anniversary celebration

Our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of New South Wales, hosted Northcott customers, supporters, Board members and staff in Government House recently at a cocktail reception to mark Northcott's 90th anniversary. The spectacular home and grounds were a wonderful backdrop for the celebrations.

During the evening, Her Excellency acknowledged the longstanding relationship between Northcott and the office of the Governor of New South Wales; successive Governors of New South Wales have been our Patron for more than 70 years. Her Excellency also highlighted the impact that the organisation has made in the last 90 years.

Northcott Chairman Michael Briggs shared some examples of how Northcott has been at the forefront of innovation, and how that vision has been the platform for ever greater inclusion for people with disability.

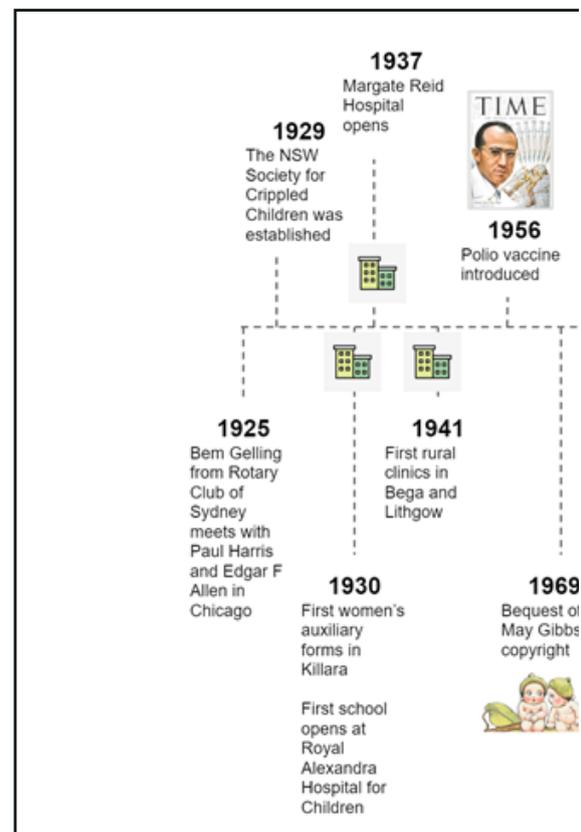
Northcott is named in honour of NSW's first Australian-born Governor, Lieutenant General,



Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of New South Wales (far right), hosting Northcott's 90th Anniversary celebration.

Sir John Northcott KCMG, KCVO, CB, who was Patron from 1946-1957. We continue this relationship today with the support of his family.

For 90 years, Northcott has provided support and services to children, young people and adults with disability to develop life skills, build confidence and become active participants in their communities.



Northcott Timeline

Amazing moments over the years

Freedom through sand and snow



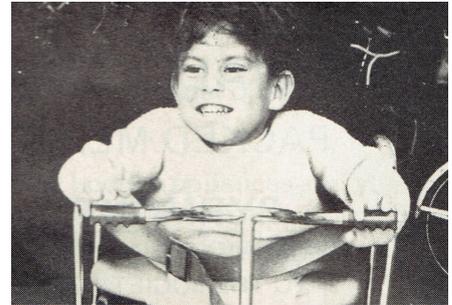
People with limited mobility have been able to access the beach, the ocean and the snow fields since 1999, thanks to the Northcott Freewheeler. Northcott Equipment Services designed the wheelchair, which was called the Freewheeler through a staff competition. Here customer Jo puts the Freewheeler through its paces.

A win for accessibility

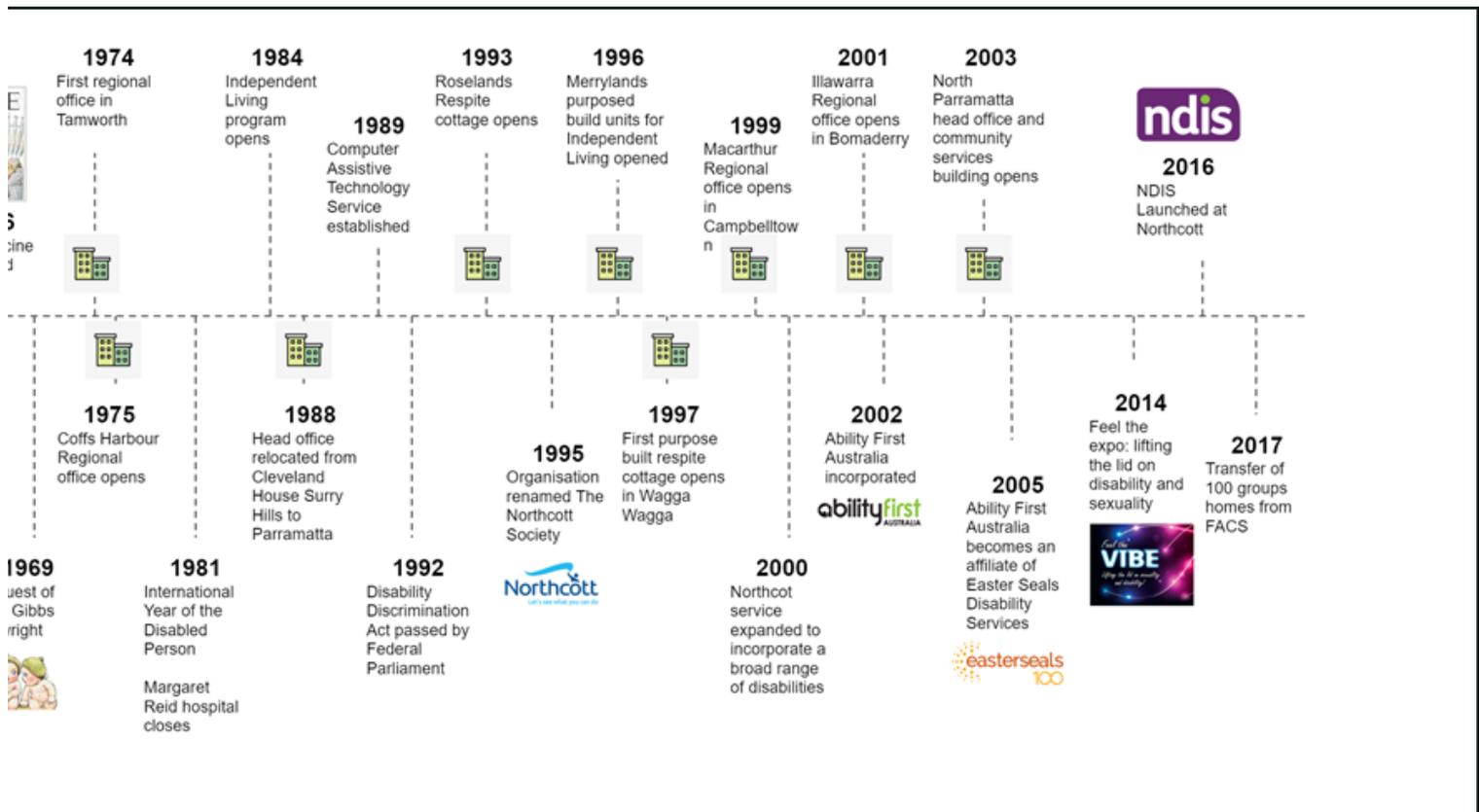


The opening of an accessible toilet block for scouts with disability was a special moment of the jamboree at the 14th Cataract Scout Park, Sydney, in the mid-1980s. Then Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler (closest to camera), formally opened the facility. Beside him is then NSW Society for Crippled Children President, Richard Griffin.

Defying the odds



Society customer John Coutis, pictured at the Nepean School in 1978. Born with a rare form of spina bifida, John was not expected to live. But he grew up to become a highly successful author and motivational speaker.



Spotlight on Therapy

Group therapy initiative, made possible by supporter funding

Learning and playing together is a great way for children to feel comfortable and included whilst unleashing their full potential. Last year we introduced a range of group therapy programs as an alternative model of support to enhance individual therapy and target goals that are better suited to group environments. These included school readiness playgroups, social skills groups, a toddlers' playgroup, literacy support, mealtime management groups and a parents' support group.

Northcott Therapist Gayle Roberts attended the first Building Skills LEGO-based therapy training program in Australia to become a LEGO trained facilitator. LEGO-based therapy is a collaborative, play-based social skills intervention designed to improve social competence in children with autism and related conditions. Groups are run by a trained facilitator and children are encouraged to build together within set roles. The program supports children to develop their social interactions and language in a safe and fun environment.



Children getting ready for their group activity.



Snow-globe making with one of the children.

In Term 2 of 2019, Gayle ran LEGO therapy groups for Northcott customers in the Casula area with great success. These groups were funded through a generous donations, allowing children to engage in such an interesting learning experience.



Brothers Ashaz (left) and Aydin (right).



Annual Event

Primary school swimming carnival goes off with a splash!

On Thursday 12 March, more than 130 primary school students took part in our annual Primary School Swimming Carnival at Ryde Aquatic Centre.

Teachers and students were in great spirits and the day was about everyone giving it a go. There were freestyle, backstroke and noodle races as well as a rubber duck scavenger race which saw every student and teacher in the water trying to collect as many rubber ducks as possible for their school bucket.

“Swimming makes me feel like a winner. Coming to the Northcott swimming carnival makes me feel spectacular. And I even won a freestyle race today!”

Harrison from Jasper Road Public School in Baulkham Hills, really summed up the feelings of everyone who took part in the swimming carnival.

Miss Emma, a teacher from Greenwich Public School, said: **“This is the best day in our school year and we all love to participate in the carnival. The best part of the carnival is that every single student from the support unit is involved no matter what their swimming ability, and everyone has a fantastic day.”**

Harrison and his friend Kyan from Jasper Road Public School had a great time participating in swimming races and supporting and cheering on their friends when they were racing.

“The best thing about swimming is that it makes me really happy. I like it because it’s training and it helps me out,” said Kyan.

Congratulations to all the students for taking part in such a fun day.

Thank you Graham Ragg from Western Earth Moving and Mark

Skipper. We wouldn’t have been able to hold such a great event without your support. The joy that this day brings to the students is priceless! A big thank you also to all the volunteers especially David Cashin from Made by Holiday, CBA and Westpac who came along to make it a special day for everyone.



One of the many students who enjoyed competing with assistance from a Physical Therapy Student.



Students posing and having fun in front of the camera before their race.



Kyan (left) and Harrison (right) cheering at the carnival.



Berta and Annette from the Fundraising team

We love hearing your thoughts about Northcott and the work we do. Please get in touch today with our friendly Fundraising team!

Get in contact... we'd love to hear from you



1300 378 243



fund@northcott.com.au



northcott.com.au/donate



Northcott, PO BOX 4055,
Parramatta NSW 2124

FOLLOW US



ACN: 000 022 971 ABN: 87 302 064 152

Privacy Statement

At Northcott we recognise the importance of your privacy and safeguarding of your personal information. The details you provide may be used to maintain contact with you, keep you updated about our programs and services via newsletters, invite you to events, and to inform you about ways you can get involved and support our work. Your information won't be passed on to third parties for commercial purposes. If you do not wish to receive communications from Northcott, please call us on 1800 818 286 or email us at privacy@northcott.com.au. For more information please visit <https://www.northcott.com.au/privacy-policy/>