

# LOCAL LIVING

## West Gippsland Taxis now associated with 13CABS

After more than 30 years operating in Warragul / Drouin and surrounding areas West Gippsland Taxis are entering a new era of customer service. Offering customers the same excellent service but with an improved booking service. The telephone number is the same local call 5623 2318. West Gippsland Taxis are now associated with 13CABS booking service provider. The largest and most modern in

Australia. Customers can now download the 13CABS Booking App to their phone. Benefits to local customers are: no waiting for call to be answered (150 phone operators); 24/7 answering service; smart phone booking app; online booking service; clients able to converse with driver; client pickup arrival alert; and the latest in-car taxi technology. Also the only local Taxi offering Veterans Affairs Transport

(DVA), Worksafe Clients Transport and TAC Transport. West Gippsland Taxis has a fleet of 9 cars and 2 Wheelchair / Maxi vehicles with the special addition of a 6 person capacity taxi.

## Windermere team leader is committed to offering disability support to families

What began as a short term role for Deb McNeil has grown into decades of dedicated service to her community.

The Warragul resident has assisted hundreds of children to improve their lives through her work in occupational therapy and early childhood intervention services.

Deb is a Team Leader at Windermere Child and Family Services.

The service provides allied health services and disability supports for children and families in Baw Baw Shire.

"We work with children to develop the skills that they need to actively participate in their community. It's also about building and enhancing the capacity of families to care for children whatever their special needs," she says.

Deb began working with Windermere (formerly WECAN) in a temporary role over two decades ago and never left.

"We support families to support their children. Often the team and I work with more than one child from a family and it's really rewarding to get to know the family as a whole," she says.

Over time the service has evolved according to community need and industry changes.



Windermere's Team Leader, Deb McNeil has more than two decades of dedicated service.

The rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will allow families to have greater choice and flexibility regarding their children's supports.

In Warragul, Windermere currently offers services in disability support coordination and plan management, occupational therapy, speech pathology and access to a psychologist.

Over 23 years, Deb and her team have worked with over 800 children and their families in the Baw Baw Shire area to assist them to develop greater independence, confidence and participation in their community.

"Small achievements can make a big difference to how a family lives," says Deb. These may be small transitions such as learning basic, tasks like dressing, toileting and eating skills or more complex tasks such as writing, managing emotions or interacting with a friend.

Windermere's services are primarily funded through two channels - government and by our generous community of donors, to whom we are grateful. They believe that everyone is someone in our community - this is reflected in their approach with those they work with every day.

1. **Family Wellbeing** to create positive behavioural changes, respond to violence and/or neglect to enable people of all abilities to actively participate in their community

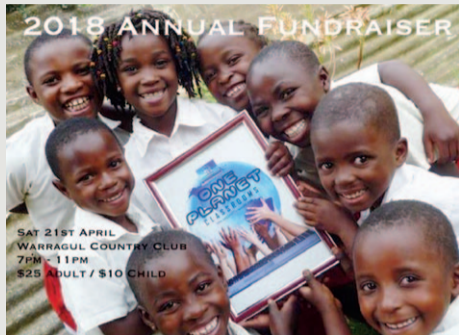
2. **Development & Early Childhood Education** including support to individuals and children with disability and developmental delays and a range of childcare services

3. Assistance and support for victims of trauma, assault and/or violent crime

4. **Community Strengthening** designed to respond quickly to relevant and emerging needs.

Windermere is an independent community service organisation, working across south eastern Melbourne and Gippsland, to help those who need it most. With a history spanning 160 years, they work to build a

## One Planet Classrooms at the Warragul Country Club



under, \$10. More details at [oneplanetclassrooms.com](http://oneplanetclassrooms.com)

In three years One Planet Classrooms has provided: 8 clean water solutions, 4 solar systems, sustainability projects, land and helped rebuild a school, a home for a family, 140 student scholarships and sanitary pads and underwear to over 2,000 girls, cots, mozzie nets, food, clothes, shoes, mattresses, and blankets.

Kerryn Vaughan is an international author and creator of 'Magnificent Kids!'

She is also a singer/songwriter, teacher and renowned inspirational speaker. Kerryn is an unrelenting advocate for animal rights, wildlife, youth and the disadvantaged

Community organisation, One Planet Classrooms Australia, will host a fundraising evening at the Warragul Country Club on Saturday, April 21.

Founder and director of the organisation, Kerryn Vaughan of Warragul, said One Planet Classrooms was a not-for-profit body that provided support to individuals, schools and communities in developing countries.

Its primary activities were student scholarships, sanitary pad making and projects which directly relieved poverty and suffering. It supports schools in Africa and the Philippines.

The fundraiser will consist of entertainment, door prizes, competitions, videos and presentations of achievements.

It will start at 7pm and conclude at 11pm. Entry - adults \$25, children 15 and

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## Think of us before you drive.

Police are out across Victoria. So, before you text behind the wheel, drive when you've been drinking or go a few k's over, think twice.

