

15th SEPT
2014.

GATEWAY — AGM. 2014

GATEWAY TO THEIR SUCCESS.

MARK HUTTON SPEAKS OF HIS
EXPERIENCE WITH GATEWAY TO BE
ABLE TO SPEAK AT SCHOOLS - UNIVERSITY

Gateway to their success

IT HAS been a big 12 months for Mark Hutton since he started working at Gateway Industries in Dandenong.

Addressing the company's AGM on Wednesday, he spoke eloquently of how he had blossomed from a shy, nervous recruit to now speaking in front of school assemblies, university students and the BHP boardroom.

"I can share and be a spokesman for other people with a disability," he said.

"It's helped me spread the word, to educate about other people's needs."

He later told the Journal his message was acceptance, respect and support, honed with the help of his mentor and Special Olympics Australia manager Anne Monaghan.

He wants to change minds.

"We do things that everyone else does. We struggle and might do things a bit slower but we're all normal people," he said.

Mr Hutton said there should be more media coverage of sports events involving competitors with intellectual disabilities.

"If any media could get behind us that would be my dream."

He and work colleague Peter Christoforou are training in basketball and ten-pin bowling respectively ahead of Special Olympics national titles next month.

They are hoping to have a shot at qualifying to represent Australia at world games in LA next year.

Gateway has sponsored some of the pair's \$5600 participation costs - though more donations are needed.

As part of their work at Gateway, they and 47 other staff mow lawns, tend parks, pick up litter and package items for councils and businesses.

Established by Rotary in 1983, the enterprise states its charter is to help its workers "build a quality of life".

Mr Hutton told the meeting he'd felt shabbily treated at his former 'hospitality' workplace, working 11-hour days, six days a week and being "challenged physically and emotionally".

His new welcoming workplace had "restored his faith" in people. He quickly realised his bosses were caring, and the factory was filled with happiness and pride, he said.



Mark Hutton and Peter Christoforou. 127211
Picture: ROB CAREW

He said he'd since learnt to understand people with other disabilities and respect other people's needs.

"I could be myself," he later told the Journal.

The AGM heard that the disability enterprise had returned to a modest profit in 2012-'13.

It faces uncertainties through a current High Court case over disability awards and the upcoming and as yet undefined National Disability Insurance Scheme.

However, Mr Hutton is proof Gateway's social dividend is rich.

To sponsor the athletes' sporting campaign, call Alan Warwick at Gateway Industries on 9793 9988.

-Cam Lucadou-Wells

DANDENONG JOURNAL, Monday, 15 September, 2014 P/10

Disability enterprise offers gateway to opportunities

By Casey Neill

Gateway Industries' workers couldn't speak more highly of the disability enterprise.

"Everyone is treated with love and respect," Krystal Bradshaw told the Gateway AGM at Dandenong Club on Wednesday 21 September.

The 30-year-old Berwick resident has worked at Gateway for two and a half years.

"I have made new friends and met my partner Mark there, too," she said.

She said her supervisor listened to her needs and helped everyone come out of their shells.

Ms Bradshaw spent some time working in a "mainstream job".

"I felt uncomfortable and I struggled in the maths," she said.

She said her co-workers gave her sideways glances.

"It made me feel intimidated and uncomfortable," she said.

Ms Bradshaw said she was bullied at school and in other workplaces, but that wasn't the case at Gateway.

The registered charity offers employment, training and support for adults with disabilities in Greater Dandenong and Casey, and started more than 30 years ago as a Rotary Club of Dandenong initiative.

The Australian Disability Enterprise, through 55 workers, offers processing and packaging, woodwork, litter pick-up, garden maintenance, and more.

Gateway Industries has provided street furniture cleaning and litter pick-up services to Greater Dandenong Council for 25 years, and garden maintenance to Greenways Retirement Village in Seaford for 15 years.

CEO Alan Warwick said he hadn't been well during the past 18 months and Gateway founding CEO Margaret Cleary had been a huge help.

He said a break-in and robbery in April left staff and employees stressed and physically shaken but they had rallied to support each other and bounced back.

President Russell Smith also commented on the break-in.

"Everyone just put their shoulder to the wheel," he said.

"We had insurance, of course, but insurance doesn't cover everything."



Krystal Bradshaw shared her Gateway employment story.

Mr Smith attended a National Disability Services (NDS) conference in Canberra, which largely focused on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and its effect on service providers.

"It was characterised by one of the speakers as a bit like an aeroplane flying in the air and someone's trying to work out whether the wings are on properly," he said.

"For many people with a disability, funding from the NDIS scheme will be allocated on a personal basis, in that they will be able to choose what support services they require and what facility will best suit their needs, rather than the fund-

ing going direct to a service or facility.

"This will also be the case for people at Gateway in the future."

Mr Smith said Gateway had a very good year financially.

"The supervisors have engaged in further professional development during the year and the employees have continued their education with the new Skills Program," he said.

Treasurer Geoff Johnson said Gateway had turned a loss last year into a profit this year, and that the current financial year was progressing in line with the budget.