



Welcome, Youthworks!

It is with great excitement that Smartlink Transport welcomes a new lender and the biggest bus on the register yet.

Youthworks, located in Springwood has seen the positive impact other lenders are having within the community and have jumped on board with their 21 (passenger) seat Toyota Coaster.

The vehicle has come at a great time as the Spring bookings are coming in thick and fast. The added seats will be invaluable to local groups during this peak time. Bookings for the bus already see it embarking on trips to Wollongong, Oberon, Rydal and Penrith.

If your group is considering requesting this vehicle for hire it is important to note that it does not have an extra fold down step or middle step once inside. It is unmodified as far as access goes. This may be a problem for some passengers so please think about your group's needs before making any booking.

Smartlink and the local groups of the Mountains say a very warm 'Welcome!' to the Youthworks team and their bus.

A project of



Smartlink Transport links eligible community groups and organisations with available transport in the Blue Mountains and Penrith LGAs.

Coordinator: Erin English

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Tue, Thurs, Friday-

9.30am – 4pm

Latest Driver Information

Thank you to all drivers who attended the Driver training session held on June the 13th. I received some really positive feedback about the session. It was great to see so many questions asked of the trainer and so much participation and conversation. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Blue Mountains City Council for making this session possible, in particular Maurice Brady.

A few quick reminders..

- Check your emails regularly to keep up to date with upcoming driving opportunities.
- If you notice that the log sheets are running a little low, please shoot me an email or a quick call so I can replenish them. I can't fix something if I don't know it's broken.
- Please fill out all sections of the log sheets, **including kms travelled**. I use all of these statistics at the end of each month.
- A gentle reminder to give the bus a thorough sweep at the end of each trip and please, at the very least, make sure the windows are clean. It's a good idea to check this when you refuel as you can use the squeegee at the service station.



By far the most spectacular of the Smartlink borrower groups, the Waratah Drum Corps. They stole the show at Lithgow's Ironfest. Two different volunteer drivers drove the group down on both Saturday and Sunday in a Toyota Coaster from the Great Community Transport fleet.

Where are they all going?

- Nth Rocks
- State Library
- Rockley Hotel
- NRL games
- SBS studios
- Iron Fest, Lithgow
- Lyric Theatre
- River Cat
- Tennyson Alpaca Lodge
- Penrith Regional Gallery
- Museum of Fire
- School sporting competitions
- Mt Anna Botanic Gardens
- Wisemans Ferry



An Upper Mountains group takes their time to discuss the finer details of the historic vehicles on show at the Museum of Fire in Penrith. They were driven by a volunteer driver in a Great Community Transport vehicle.

Upcoming changes...

I will be away on maternity leave from mid-December. This may seem like a long way away but we all know just how quickly the first half of the year has flown by.

Whilst the finer details regarding the position are yet to be organised, I'd like to assure you that you will still be able to book the vehicles as you need them.

You will have someone else to help you with your bookings and it's likely they will be here on reduced hours. There will still be the online booking, phone contact and emailing available to help you with bookings.

As soon as I have more concrete information I will be passing it on and until then I am still running the show. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me to discuss them.

For the group organisers...

Thank you for putting in so much effort to book online, even when there are problems with the system. Your patience and persistence is appreciated as I am only one person and receiving the booking requests on line makes my job a whole lot easier.

Most groups have responded well to the gentle reminder to pay before departure. I understand that this is not always possible but please remember that it is the policy of the hire, just as it would be with any other hire agency.

If you're struggling for ideas for destinations, try some of the following websites;

www.whatsonsydney.com

www.au.timeout.com/sydney

www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au/whats_on

www.bluemts.com.au/whatson

www.bluemountaincitytourism.com.au/whatson



Bookings for Spring are filling fast so be sure to jump in and book ASAP.

Training opportunities for Smartlink Drivers

The following training opportunities are provided through Great Community Transport. All training sessions are held at 99 Cox Avenue, Kingswood. Transport is available.

- **WHS and Risk Management** –
Friday 5th September
- **First Aid for Seniors** –
Wednesday 17th September

www.smartlinktransport.org.au