

April 2018 | Issue 128

 Identitywa  
Sharing the journey

# Identikite

The official newsletter of Identitywa





## Our Vision

All people live with a sense of purpose, a sense of belonging and a sense of wellbeing.



## Our Mission

Identitywa works in partnership with individuals and families to build a community where people with disability enjoy a fulfilled life.

We support individuals to achieve their goals, whatever they may be. We offer families the support they need.



## Our Values

Above all else, we make a commitment to act.

We will look for the opportunities rather than seeing the barriers.

Our approach will be objective, transparent and fair. We will always be honest and open and no matter how challenging, we will endeavour to see it through to the end.

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Cover photo: Carina and Christy regularly take a break at Identitywa's Children's House in Riverton.



# Chair Report

**You would be well aware that Identitywa is an agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth. As such, we take the opportunity of celebrating the important liturgical feasts of Christmas and Easter as one with our community.**

These are joyous occasions where all are welcome and encouraged to participate fully in the celebrations. Last Christmas, at Mercy College in Koondoola, we partnered with Personal Advocacy Service (PAS) to attend the Mass celebrated by Father Nino Vinciguerra, followed by lunch. It was an ideal setting and a perfect day.

The sense of occasion and participation by those present was wonderful and speaks to the inclusiveness and welcoming spirit practised by all. I thoroughly enjoy these occasions and am so proud of what we have achieved and the tradition that we have built. I am very much looking forward to the soon to be celebrated Easter liturgy for 2018.

Elsewhere in this edition you will see a dedication to Tom Tranter, who with his wife Fay, was a

founding member of what is now Identitywa some 40 years ago. It would be remiss of me if I did not make a brief comment on the sad occasion of Tom's passing.

At the recent naming of the Australians of the Year, the Prime Minister commented that those who were awarded such an honour stood as inspirational figures and outstanding examples for other Australians to follow. Like these decorated Australians, Tom Tranter was such a man.

In the realm of disability services in general and Identitywa in particular, as well as living out his Catholic faith and fulfilling his role in PAS, Tom was an inspirational person.

I found Tom to be a gentle person with an unrelenting passion for the causes he believed in. Always with a smile on his face and a wonderful sense of humour, Tom was such good company and could always be relied upon to attend Identitywa events.

I personally will miss him but I know that his legacy will live on through the achievements of the organisation that he, with other parents, worked so hard

to establish. Our deepest sympathy to Fay and the family. Tom will not be forgotten.

Each year in March, the Board involves itself in a Planning Day to discuss major issues and set the strategic direction for Identitywa for the future.

This year, topics will include the development of a comprehensive housing policy, models of residential respite and further clarifying our position in relation to the recent agreement of the State to join the NDIS. It is critically important that as a Board we plan appropriately to ensure that Identitywa can deliver the best possible service for those for whom we care and their families.

**Graeme Mander**



# Vale Tom Tranter

**It was with great sadness that we were told of the passing of a dear friend to Identitywa, Tom Tranter. As a founding member of Catholic Care for Intellectually Handicapped Persons (CCIH), Tom and his wife Fay shared a vision with other parents that their children with an intellectual disability would become full members of the Church.**

Identitywa is very appreciative of Tom and Fay's commitment to improving the lives of people with disability. Tom's contribution is very significant and he leaves a strong, enduring legacy. His message was to emphasise the importance of the Church in the lives of people supported by Identitywa.

In honour of our deep respect for Tom, we have included excerpts from the eulogies of Matthew and James Tranter at their father's funeral mass held on 5 January, 2018.

*Thank you, Tom. Rest in Peace.*

Dad was born on the 17 February, 1938, in Beaconsfield to Thomas and Patricia Tranter.

Dad was raised in Kellerberrin then Tammin, Wheatbelt towns. He was the third of five children, he had three sisters - Val, Pat and Jill - and a brother, Michael. The Tranters are a close family. Dad had a strong bond with his siblings. Helping and supporting them was never too much trouble.

Dad attended Kellerberrin Convent and Tammin Primary School before going to boarding school at St Ildephonsus' College, New Norcia, at the age of 13. Dad was educated by the Marist Brothers and accredits them with instilling the values he lived by in adult life.

As long as I was at home, he worked hard and kept long hours into the night. Dad was thorough; when he did my tax return it always ended with me having to find a \$5 receipt.

Many people came to Dad for advice. Dad loved talking about business and business people. His first posting was at Moora where Mum and Dad

met many friends. Dad loved his farming clients and spoke about them with a touch of envy. Dad loved the land.

In 1964 Genevieve was born. She suffered brain damage from encephalitis at age three. In the eyes of my family, never has there been a more devoted father to their daughter. Dad, together with Mum, left no stone unturned in trying to make her life better.

Whilst dealing with the many challenges Genevieve's life presented, Mum and Dad always focussed on the positives and it made their bond together even stronger.

Dad once told me it was his personal crusade to make life better for the intellectually handicapped. To this end, he and others awakened the Catholic Church to the inclusion of intellectually handicapped people. As a result of this, Genevieve received Confirmation in 1977 and Holy Communion in 1978. Many others have since followed.



Voluntary roles held by Dad were: Treasurer of The Slow Learning Children's Group, President of Pyrtton Parents Association, Foundation Member and Treasurer of Catholic Care for Intellectually Handicapped Persons - now known as Identitywa; parent representative on the Consultative Committee to Government to establish Perth Special School; Board Member of Spine & Limb Foundation (formerly Civilian Maimed and Limbless Association) and Board Member of his beloved Personal Advocacy Service. Dad invested much into the Personal Advocacy Service, established as an instrument to provide friendship and prepare the intellectually handicapped for the sacraments.

Dad was a man of strong faith. He said to me to keep the faith and that there will be times when you need to work hard at it so you don't lose it. In return you get a constant companion and source of comfort, something to turn to that will provide you with strength in times of adversity. I'm finding this to be sound advice.

*Matthew Tranter*

Genevieve's life and disability had a profound impact on Dad. I'll never forget him telling me that it opened up completely different things in life, a new direction, new people, new challenges and basically a whole new positive meaning.

He would be very keen for me today to sincerely thank on his behalf all those who have cared for Genevieve in her life, and there have been many.

*James Tranter*



## CEO Report

**Identitywa provided a submission earlier this year to the recent WA Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices. We have a strong view that it is important for us to stand together with people with disability and their families, to express our concern about this life issue.**

Together with Identitywa parent, Gaye Matthews, we presented the view to the committee that people with limited decision making capacity should never be placed in the position where decisions around hastening the end of their life are made by others.

Whilst we do live in a more inclusive and welcoming society, we must be vigilant that those

who have limited decision making capacity are not subject to decisions borne out of funding or financial pressures, and less than ideal access to medical interventions and care. Identitywa is committed to being a party to high quality palliative care and working with individuals, families and the medical specialists to enable this to happen. So far, we have done this successfully, and hopefully will continue to offer this, as needed, into the future.

Our ongoing commitment to developing Advance Care Plans for vulnerable people is an important step in preparing individuals and families to think about how we can ensure a good death with respect and dignity.

We understand that palliative care is more than pain management and must focus on the whole person, offering and supporting each person emotionally, psychologically

and spiritually. This focus on the whole person speaks clearly to the genesis of Identitywa and our mission.

Full details of submissions received by the Committee as well as transcripts from the hearings are available from the website. [www.parliament.wa.gov.au/eolcc](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/eolcc)

**Marina Re**

# The 2017 Family and Carers survey results are now in

**8/10 say they are satisfied with Identitywa and 90% would recommend us to others!**

All our families and carers were asked to complete a survey at the end of 2017 as it is essential to check if we are delivering the high quality services we say we will.

Survey questions covered the areas of communication, provision of support, consultation, complaints process, and overall satisfaction of the support their family member receives from Identitywa.

"We were really pleased with the number of responses to the survey and loved that our efforts to increase consultation with families and guardians were so warmly welcomed," said CEO, Marina Re.

"The survey has provided valuable feedback which gives us a real benchmark for future surveys and is an important opportunity to identify areas we need to improve on so we can assist people to achieve their goals.

"Improvements implemented already include updating our website so it offers comprehensive information about the NDIS, and including a set of tools we have developed to assist with navigating the changes.

"We have also made amendments to our induction process and the provision of training opportunities. Additionally, the development of a Reference Group will enable Identitywa to engage with, and work alongside, individuals, families and guardians to continually improve our practice and processes.

"Of course, there is always room for improvement, so we will continue to look for ways to improve our services and supports, maintaining our reputation as one of WA's leading disability service providers," said Marina.

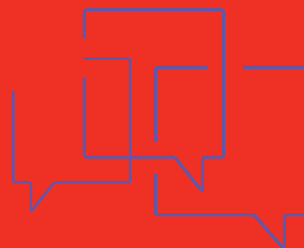
**Please call Reception on 94743303 if you are interested in joining our Reference Group.**



**87% of you said your family member experienced opportunities for participation and inclusion**



**90% of you would recommend Identitywa to family and friends**



**92% of you said your family member was treated with dignity and respect**



**Welcoming - 93%**  
**Responsive - 88%**  
**Non-Judgemental - 90.5%**  
**Professional - 90%**  
**Understanding - 93%**





# It's here!

In December 2017, it was announced that the Commonwealth Government's National Disability Insurance Agency will operate the NDIS in Western Australia for the future. This will bring to a close the WA NDIS trial conducted by the former Disability Services Commission. The NDIS brings eligibility, allocation and funding of all disability related supports under one scheme.

NDIS support focusses on the goals a person identifies as being important to them. The goals are written in a person's NDIS plan and it is only through this plan developed annually, that funding for disability support becomes available.

## How Identitywa can support your NDIS journey

### Am I in the NDIS?

**The NDIS will continue to roll out across WA, with all eligible people being able to access to the Scheme by 30 June 2020.**

**I have a WA NDIS plan with Disability Services. What happens to me?**

- Your WA NDIS plan will be transferred to the NDIA between 1 April and 31 December 2018.
- Your local Coordinator will be in contact with you well before it's time for your plan to transfer to the NDIA.
- Identitywa Planning Officers and Team Leaders will provide additional information the local coordinator needs to successfully and seamlessly transfer your plan. Identitywa will support you throughout the transfer.

**I have a NDIS plan with the NDIA in Midland. What happens to me?**

- There are no changes to your arrangements. Identitywa will continue to provide you with the support you request.
- Identitywa Team Leaders will support you with the reviews of your existing plan and pre-planning in advance of the development of your new plan with the NDIA.





Planning Officers Lee, Stuart and Alysha

**I don't have a NDIS plan yet.  
What happens to me?**

- If you are already receiving disability supports, both Disability Services and Identitywa will be in contact with you when it is time for you to engage with the NDIS.
- If you have not previously been in receipt of disability supports, contact an Identitywa Planning Officer on (08) 9474 3303 or email [reception@identitywa.com.au](mailto:reception@identitywa.com.au)
- Through one-on-one pre-planning sessions with Identitywa, our Planning Officer or Team Leader will assist you to prepare for your first meeting with the NDIA planner by thinking about what your current and future goals may be, and your immediate support needs.
- We will work in partnership with you across the life of your plan, ensuring your supports are tailored to suit your unique situation and that of your family.

**I don't know if I will be eligible for the NDIS.  
What should I do?**

- Almost everyone currently receiving disability supports will be eligible for the NDIS. If you are uncertain or have any concerns, your Identitywa Team Leader will help you.
- For the few people who will not be NDIS eligible, although they will not be part of the scheme, the governments have given a commitment for their current level of support to continue. Individuals receiving support from Identitywa who are not eligible for the NDIS can continue to receive their support from Identitywa if they choose to.



# NDIS scheduled roll out



## Commencing 1 July 2017

### South Metro\*

Local government areas of:  
Mandurah and Rockingham

### Existing NDIS Perth Hills sites

Local government areas of:  
Bassendean, Bayswater,  
Chittering, Kalamunda,  
Mundaring, Northam, Swan,  
Toodyay

### Existing WA NDIS sites\*

Local government areas of:  
Armadale, Cockburn, Kwinana,  
Murray, Serpentine-Jarrahdale

## Commencing 1 July 2018

### Central South Metro

Local government areas of:  
East Fremantle, Fremantle,  
Melville, South Perth

## Commencing 1 October 2018

### North Metro

Local government areas of:  
Joondalup and Wanneroo

## Commencing 1 July 2019

### Central North Metro

Local government areas of:  
Cambridge, Claremont, Cottesloe,  
Mosman Park, Nedlands,  
Peppermint Grove, Perth, Stirling,  
Subiaco, Vincent

### South East Metro

Local government areas of:  
Belmont, Canning, Gosnells,  
Victoria Park

\* Transferring to NDIA by  
31 December 2018

# Identitywa offers a range of supports tailored to your specific needs

**At Home:** Support with daily personal activities in your own home or in an Identitywa home you share with others.

**Having a Break:** Short-term assistance day or overnight for children and for adults in Identitywa houses or in your own home.

**Fun, Friends and Community:** Participate in community life, connect with others socially and pursue your passions.

**Skills for Life:** Develop social and daily living skills, build confidence and grow your independence.

**School's Out:** Explore options for life after school, transition to further education, work or other meaningful activities.

**Planning:** Pre-planning preparation, support coordination and assistance with plan management.



Identitywa Planning Officers and Team Leaders can explore how different plan management options may assist you to achieve your goals, build your skills and enable you to exercise the choice and control you seek.

You can engage Identitywa's supports whatever your choice or combination of plan management arrangements:

- ✓ Self-manage your funds
- ✓ Engage Identitywa to manage your funding package for you
- ✓ Have Identitywa provide your supports through NDIA managed funds

To learn more about how we can help and to arrange a home visit please call us on 9474 3303 or email [reception@identitywa.com.au](mailto:reception@identitywa.com.au)

# NDIS opens up greater opportunities for Identitywa's outreach

The chance to provide individualised support and services to younger people (under 65 years of age) with disability living in aged care homes has been the motivation for collaborations with residential aged care providers as well as for the Emmaus Community who provide long term independent community living for people who live with mental health issues.

Discussions are underway to consider how Identitywa can partner with other organisations in order to contribute to the quality of life of the people living in their homes.

For Brother AI, from Emmaus Community, meeting with CEO, Marina Re and Area Manager, Tara Ludlow, was a very positive experience.

"I had been looking for an agency to collaborate with for some time," said Brother AI. "It really has been eye opening to find another agency which also works from the heart."

Emmaus Community were specifically looking for someone to work alongside them, helping them to navigate the emerging NDIS journey for the people they support.

Tara Ludlow explains: "Brother AI and Marina met initially to discuss what was required from the partnership. One of the key areas was demystifying the NDIS and assisting those living at the Emmaus Community to be 'NDIS-ready'," said Tara.

"Our staff will soon be delivering tailored 'NDIS readiness' information sessions to assist the Emmaus Community to understand their eligibility requirements and the types of support they can access. We have also provided guidance for some individuals who have come to Emmaus with NDIS funding in place.

"This has been a unique and life affirming project for me – the Emmaus Community is incredibly independent and the staff and volunteers are such compassionate people.

"Brother AI is one of the most generous and empathetic people I have worked with and I look forward to continuing this journey with them," she said.

Brother AI is also very pleased with the partnership: "Moving forward I feel confident that Emmaus and Identitywa will make a meaningful difference to the people that we both support," he said.



Tara meeting with Br AI

## Tyrone's building a new life

**Being surrounded by nature is very important to Tyrone. It's in this space that he finds serenity he says.**

Tyrone has come a long way over the last year, finding independence, building his confidence and enjoying a sense of great pride in living in and looking after his own unit.

Someone who has significantly contributed to Tyrone's 'new life' is his Identitywa support worker, Ian. They really enjoy each other's company and spending time together.



One of Tyrone's (left) favourite things to do is walk in Kings Park with Ian.



## Stuart is having fun developing his business

**Stuart's local Men's Shed, and his dad, Ray, have provided the inspiration for him to start his own business making handcrafted wooden products including pens, letter openers and key rings.**

They have both been busy renovating their home so Stuart can set up his lathe. Stuart thinks this is fantastic as he will now have dedicated creative space at home to make his unique products whenever he wants.

Supported by Identitywa to engage in various activities in his community such as the Men's Shed, Stuart has also developed friendships with the three young men who live in an Identitywa shared houses. He regularly visits them for a chat and often joins them when they go out for meals.



# Living Life

## Travelling to his job by himself is really important to Simon.

He has been working in Palmyra for a number of years. In 2017, his place of work relocated from Palmyra to Bentley which is quite a distance from his Identitywa home.

For the first few weeks, Simon caught a lift but was keen to have more freedom and not to have to rely on someone else.

With the assistance of his support worker, Kelsey, and the internet, Simon researched the bus routes and bus numbers which would get him to the new location.

Simon explains: "Kelsey went with me on the bus to work. I loved it. I have to change buses two times each way so I get to catch four buses!

"I like to be able to do things for myself – I'm proud to be independent!"



# John's ocean adventure on the *STS Leeuwin II*

The chance to go sailing on the tall ship *STS Leeuwin II* was an amazing experience for John who shares an Identitywa house in Bentley.

Sponsored by Identitywa, John joined the five-day trip, sailing just off the coast of WA.

The chance to be part of a team was a real highlight for him.

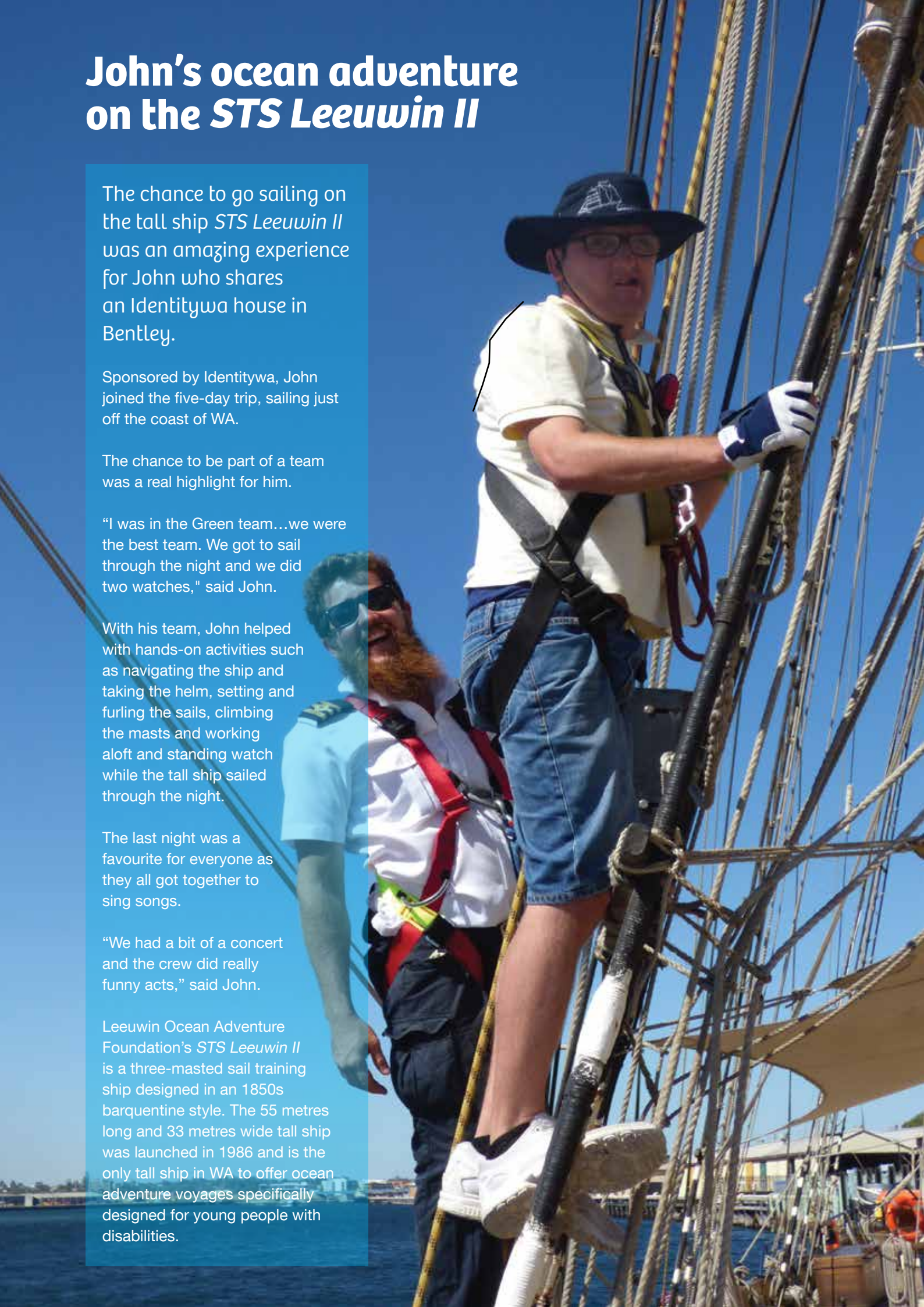
"I was in the Green team...we were the best team. We got to sail through the night and we did two watches," said John.

With his team, John helped with hands-on activities such as navigating the ship and taking the helm, setting and furling the sails, climbing the masts and working aloft and standing watch while the tall ship sailed through the night.

The last night was a favourite for everyone as they all got together to sing songs.

"We had a bit of a concert and the crew did really funny acts," said John.

Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation's *STS Leeuwin II* is a three-masted sail training ship designed in an 1850s barquentine style. The 55 metres long and 33 metres wide tall ship was launched in 1986 and is the only tall ship in WA to offer ocean adventure voyages specifically designed for young people with disabilities.



**A Catholic outreach supporting people  
with disability and their families.**



*Identitywa is a registered NDIS provider.*

We welcome contributions  
to Identikite from people we support,  
their families and staff.

Articles can be emailed to the Editor  
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