



SRS EXPRESS

AIM FOR THE BEST WITH SRS

JUNE 2026



SRS Express is back with another exciting edition, with our participants and staff enjoying plenty of highlights as we reach the halfway point of the year. From overseas adventures to special mural art, there's been plenty happening! As always, if you know someone who would be interested in our services and programs, please share this newsletter and encourage them to subscribe at srsinc.com.au/srsexpress

SRS brings the art to BLK MLK!

BLK MLK Mildura and Sunraysia Residential Services Inc. (SRS) recently joined forces to 'jazz up' the café's laneway dining area.

A three metre by two metre section of the laneway was transformed by SRS staff and participants over a three-week period, with the new artwork capturing the region's reputation as a food bowl, while also helping locals and visitors alike create, connect and 'grow'.

SRS sub-contractor, and hobby artist, Andrew Hill led the project with help from Emma, Mick and Sam, who utilised skills learned and developed at Benetook Farm and through other programs.

The artwork was completed in late May 2026, with participants leaving their mark while showcasing their creative side and contributing to Mildura's growing laneway art.

Support Coordination & Unlimited

Our Unlimited Crew have recently started collecting cans and bottles as part of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, the recycling raised enough money for the crew



to enjoy a special reward – a delicious Domino's pizza lunch – a fantastic example of teamwork, sustainability and enjoying the rewards of a job well done!

Participants also enjoyed a fun and creative day in the kitchen recently, making birthday cakes to celebrate Xavier and Bill's special days. Everyone worked together to mix, decorate and add their own personal touches to the cakes, creating some fantastic birthday treats.

Jesse returns from overseas adventure

Mildura's Jesse Grayling has proven that dedication, persistence and a passion for adventure can turn lifelong dreams into reality, recently returning home from a four-week journey across the United States that he spent more than five years planning and saving for.

Jesse's passion for machinery and engineering was the driving force behind the trip, with a major highlight visiting both the John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum in Waterloo, Iowa, and the Caterpillar Museum in Peoria.

Jesse's itinerary also took him across some of the United States' most iconic destinations. In New York, he experienced Times Square, visited the Statue of Liberty, the 9/11 Memorial and the Intrepid Museum, and explored the city on Big Bus tours and night tours of Brooklyn. He also travelled to Philadelphia, where he visited historic landmarks including the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and Benjamin Franklin's grave, and enjoyed the city's famous cheesesteaks.

In Los Angeles, Jesse toured Universal Studios, explored Super Nintendo World and visited the Petersen Automotive Museum, where he saw muscle cars, Fast and Furious-featured vehicles and even



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Herbie. He also stopped by Santa Monica Pier and dined at Bubba Gump Shrimp.

Another major highlight was Disney World, where Jesse spent several days enjoying rides, shows and meeting beloved characters including Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Daisy Duck and Winnie the Pooh.

Supported Accommodation

We're excited to share that Deakin Resort is now open to new Supported Independent Living (SIL) participants. This vibrant and well-appointed setting offers a unique balance of independence, comfort and community connection.

With some participants already moved in, and making themselves at home, places are filling quickly, with availability now limited. If you or someone you support is considering SIL in a modern, well-located environment, now is the perfect time to reach out and explore what's on offer.

Congratulations is also in order for Eliza, who recently transitioned into a more independent living arrangement. Eliza has stepped into her own stylish caravan, creating a space that reflects both her independence and personal choice.

This option was intentionally designed to support her continued growth, providing a safe and self-directed living environment while maintaining close proximity to peers and supports.

Importantly, Eliza continues to enjoy the social connection of the broader community while building her confidence and life skills in a setting that is truly her

own. It's a great example of how flexible living options can empower participants to achieve meaningful independence.

Progress at our new DON Complex on Fifteenth Street, meanwhile, is moving quickly, and we're only a matter of weeks away from welcoming participants for respite stays.

This purpose-built space will offer a comfortable, supportive and engaging environment for short-term accommodation.

We're now inviting expressions of interest for upcoming stays. If you're planning ahead or have participants who may benefit from respite in the near future, please get in touch to discuss availability and options.

We also currently have SIL vacancies available across a range of properties.

By joining our upcoming placement

list, we can help identify the right fit as opportunities arise, ensuring a smooth and well-planned transition when the time is right.

Our team is here to support you through the process and help match participants with environments where they can thrive.

Respite, Programs and Specialist Supports

Our NDIS participants have been busy over the past few months, enjoying regular social programs including Social Club, Social Cooking Club and After School programs.

There's plenty more to come, with our 18+ Disco to be held on Thursday 25 June at SRS Unlimited. The night will embrace a 1970s theme and feature DJ Cynthia from NEXT LEVEL SOUND spinning the tunes! Tickets are still available.





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Register now by calling us on 03 5022 1741 or email intake@srsinc.com.au

Participants will also have the chance to join our upcoming group trip to see the hot air balloons light up the night sky as part of the Balloons Over Mildura Night Glow on Saturday 4 July.

The night will feature food vans, music and a show of up to 30 glowing hot air balloons! Pick up and drop-offs are available, contact 03 5022 1741 or email intake@srsinc.com.au to register your interest.

Our Winter School Holiday program has also been confirmed. Head to our social media channels for all the details and to sign up!

Aged Care

Our Aged Care team recently attended Mildura Rural City Council's Aged Care Workforce Expo, which proved a great opportunity for the community to learn more about our services, and about opportunities to join our team.

We've also been taking to social media to share key facts about the Commonwealth's Support at Home Program, and how it relates to our services.

These facts cover how Support at Home funding is allocated, how funding applies to medication packing services, assessment and approval process for Assistive Technology & Home Modifications plus so much more.

Find at more about Support at Home at www.health.gov.au/our-work/support-at-home or visit www.srsinc.com.au/aged-care



care to find out more about our Aged Care services and programs.

Our weekly Connect participants, meanwhile have also provided valuable feedback as part of a special survey, including what they love about the group, and areas for improvement.

Our Connect Program meets twice a week, and is aimed at both NDIS and Aged Care participants. The program focuses on building connection, with participants leading group activities.

Our Aged Care members said they loved meeting new people, the planned outings and the companionship the group offers. Keen to find out more about Connect? Contact us on 03 5022 1741 or email intake@srsinc.com.au

Benetook Farm

Dance, music and performance are proving powerful tools for building confidence, connection and wellbeing at Benetook Farm.

Our Rhythmic Squad has quickly become a favourite at aged care facilities across the region, delighting audiences while showcasing the physical, social and emotional benefits of movement for people with disability.

Led by instructor Peta Lynne Buchanan – affectionately known as Mrs B – the Rhythmic Squad rehearses twice a week, learning dance routines that improve coordination, encourage physical activity and foster teamwork in a supportive, inclusive environment.

In a short space of time, participants have learned nine dance routines and are currently mastering a new one.

Benetook Farm also celebrated the official opening of its new pickleball court in May 2026, creating an exciting and inclusive space for people of all ages and abilities to come together, get active and connect.

Made possible through a \$15,000 grant from the Australian Government's Stronger Communities Programme, the project



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reflects a strong commitment to promoting active lifestyles, social engagement and community inclusion across the region.

The new court will deliver significant benefits for both the local community and visitors, including increased opportunities for physical activity, improved health and wellbeing and enhanced social connection.

Preparations are also in full swing ahead of the next Benetook Farm Market Day! Scheduled for Saturday 11 July, the day will feature stallholders, food and the chance to explore the Farm. Stay tuned to the Benetook Farm Facebook page for all the details!



Other news...

SRS Specialist Disability Accommodation recognised on national stage

A Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) project delivered in partnership with Garraway Developments was named a national finalist at the 2026 HIA Australian Housing Awards, placing Mildura on the national stage for inclusive housing design.

The HIA Australian Housing Awards celebrate excellence in residential building and design, recognising outstanding achievements across 24 specialist categories nationwide.

Garraway Developments was one of just nine national finalists recognised in the Specialised Housing category for its delivery of two custom-built SDA homes in central Mildura.

The project involved the demolition of

two ageing houses adjacent to Aldi on Fifteenth Street and their replacement with two purpose-built units constructed to the SDA robust design category standard.

Rebekah rejoins the SRS team

We were delighted to welcome back a familiar face to the SRS team in May 2026, with Rebekah Clifford returning to the organisation to take on the new Respite and Programs Manager role.

Rebekah said she was excited to be returning to her SRS roots.

“What brought me back to SRS is the opportunity to be part of an organisation that is deeply connected to the community and focused on creating meaningful outcomes for people,” she said.

“Throughout my career, I’ve found the most rewarding part of my work is

building relationships, supporting people to achieve their goals, and seeing the positive impact that quality services can have on individuals and families.

“SRS’ strong community presence, participant-focused approach, and commitment to inclusion really align with my own values and the way I like to work.”

Rebekah said she was looking for to the more community-based and role.

“I enjoy working directly with participants and their families, community groups and stakeholders to create opportunities that improve quality of life and foster genuine inclusion,” she said.

“The chance to be involved in programs and services that have a visible impact within the local community was a major factor in my interest in returning to SRS.”

Rebekah re-joins the SRS team after



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a stint at Intereach, where she gained valuable skills and experience.

"I was looking for a new challenge and a role that would allow me to have a stronger connection to community-based services, build local partnerships and contribute more directly to participant outcomes," she said.

"I felt SRS offered the opportunity to combine my experience, leadership skills and passion for community engagement in a way that aligns with my long-term career goals."

We're getting behind Michele's fight

It's been only a few short weeks since we launched our special fundraiser supporting Merbein local, Michele Dichiera.

Michele, 12, the son of our Gardening Maintenance Coordinator Robert, was born with an extremely rare and aggressive tumour – giant cell angioblastoma – in his right foot.

So far, standard treatments have not been successful, with Michele's family now facing two difficult options: trial a specialised medication, Cabozantinib, or, as a last resort, amputation.

While there is hope, the medication is not covered under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, leaving the family with costs of around \$7,500 per month (to cover a child's dose of the medication).

As of May 2026, Michele has been approved to begin treatment with Cabozantinib. His specialists will trial the medication over six months to assess its effectiveness.

The Royal Children's Hospital is currently

working to fund the first three months, with hopes of sharing costs beyond that. If successful, Michele may need to remain on the medication for two to three years to fully treat the tumour.

Thanks to an incredible show of community support, we've already raised more than \$20,000 for Michele, with more to come over the next few weeks.

The amazing team at The Boxing Cartel are stepping up in a big way – trading gloves for running shoes in a 24-hour continuous run to raise funds for Michele starting on Saturday 20 June at Mildura Sporting Precinct.

There's still time to donate to the group's efforts, visit <https://tr.ee/Michele> with no amount too big or too small.

