

# Jack's kindness gives disabled kids freedom

By JANINE HILL

**W**HEN Jack Manasserian donated a van to a Sunshine Coast charity group, he gave more than just a set of four wheels.

The van the Moffat Beach Post Office owner gave to The Board Meeting will give some much-needed freedom to disabled kids, some of whom are almost "shut-ins".

Mr Manasserian donated the van, which is fully equipped for the disabled, to The Board Meeting after the passing of a relative.

The Board Meeting, which assists local disabled children and their families, will lend it to those who have no suitable transport for their disabled children.

"Some of these kids haven't been out of the house, other than to go to school, for years," The Board Meeting's Glenn Corbet said.

"A lot of these families really do it tough, and simply just can't afford to hire a disabled taxi, let alone be able to afford a van of their own."

Sue Merrotzy, of Buddina, whose teenage son, Jose, is in a wheelchair, can vouch for how difficult it is to get a disabled child around the Coast.

Before her family received a van from The Board Meeting, Ms Merrot-



**ON THE MOVE:** The Board Meeting's Glenn Corbet – with Sue Merrotzy, her son Jose Morales and Jose's niece Izabella Morales – in the newly donated van which will help families get disabled children out and about.

PHOTO: BRETT WORTMAN / 191494

zy struggled to push Jose around or waited, sometimes hours, for taxis.

"You are limited to 100 to 200 metres of where you live because taxis are unavailable," she said.

"But having a van, suddenly we could go to the shops when we wanted.

"I could take Jose to the beach with his friends. I could take him to school."

The new van, which will help numerous families, will bear The Board Meeting's trademark tuxedo rashie on the back door thanks to Sykes Signs.

Continental Car Repairs

at Caloundra and Ken Mills Toyota supplied parts and mechanical services to get it on the road.

The van will get its first outing tomorrow when it will be used to transport two children with disabilities to The Board Meeting's surf movie night.

The charity will host a screening of Five Summer Stories at Lake Kawana Community Centre as a fundraiser.

Doors open at 4.30pm for the 5pm screening, which will be followed by a surf memorabilia auction. Tickets are \$10.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### News for retirees

SUNSHINE Coast Libraries and Suncoast Community Legal Service will jointly host a free information session on Tuesday about the legalities of buying into retirement villages. Solicitor Adam Barrell from Butler McDermott Lawyers will explain a variety of topics. The session will be held from 10am to 11am at Nambour Library. Bookings are essential. Contact the library on 5441 8332.

### BNI for Buderim

BUDERIM is the next Sunshine Coast cab off the BNI rank. The town is launching its own chapter of the Business Network International club, which claims to be the world's largest referral organisation. The club, which will have businessman Wayne Slager as president, will hold a visitors day at the Goodlife Centre next Thursday. Phone Mr Slager on 5477 0077 for more information.

### Awards deadline near

TIME is running out for residents and businesses to nominate for Sunshine Coast council's 2010 Living Smart Glossies Awards. The Glossies aim to recognise the eco-achievements of the applicants and to inspire others to make eco-friendly changes in their daily lives. Submissions close at 5pm on Monday, June 7. Visit [www.livingsmart.net.au](http://www.livingsmart.net.au) The Living Smart Glossies Awards will be held on Saturday, June 26.

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