

ISSUE 12

Newsletter



November 2012

Message from the Service Manager

Seeking interested people

Would you consider joining our dedicated team on the Management Committee? Please contact the office.

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Dear,

Well the holiday season is upon us once again and 2012 is drawing to a close. To say it has been a challenging year for us here at Leisure Connections would be an understatement. It is evident that most of you are aware of some of the Readers difficulties we have faced over the year by the amazing support you have expressed and provided. It is this support and loyalty shown by families, Service Users and staff of Leisure Connections that makes it the unique and remarkable service that it is. So, I think a big **THANK YOU** is in order! We can clearly predict that 2013 is also going to hold lots of challenges and opportunities for Leisure Connections and I look forward to what the coming year brings.

Leisure Connections underwent its Quality Surveillance Audit on the 29th & 30th of November. The feedback we received from the auditors was both very positive and constructive.

Thank you to all that participated and assisted in successfully demonstrating that Leisure Connections continues to meet the requirements of the Queensland Disability Service Standards and continues to improve on the service it provides.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our AGM on the 4th of October. It is always great to see everybody getting together and catching up.

May your days be filled with warmth and good cheer this festive season, and throughout the New Year.

Leo Brunker
Service Manager

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE

Betty Kelly

I was born and raised in Brisbane. I came to Cairns in 1960 and my 3 children were born here. When my daughter was only 1 day old she was dropped in the hospital and as a result my daughter now lives with Epilepsy, OCD and Autism. I joined the Management Committee as I decided I wanted to give something back to an organisation that has given so much to my daughter. Leisure Connections supports my daughter as an individual, in her choice of activity in the community. I have found the Staff and Management Committee to be very sincere in their commitment to the people they support. I am hoping I can live up to this standard they have achieved.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

As the year draws to a close I think it is safe to say that this year has been the worst in our twenty years history. I want to take this opportunity to again thank you all for your forbearance and patience throughout that difficult time. I want to particularly acknowledge the support from the people who supported us in our campaign. Your help was much appreciated.

Unfortunately the drama is not yet over. When we were funded, initially, the department recognised that as all our support is in the community and incurs costs we were funded accordingly. Unfortunately that recognition has now disappeared and we have to meet new benchmarks. We even had an appointment with the Minister in an endeavour to gain her support. That was a complete waste of time as she would not recognise that we are a “niche” service.

The Management Committee and Senior Staff have now had the opportunity to consider what steps we must take to move forward. Committee members had to make some hard decisions to rein in expenses. We were particularly concerned with having to remove the subsidy on mileage costs.

The Management Committee have also been very proactive and we are now an approved service provider to provide community access and lifestyle support. We decided to diversify rather than specialising in recreation and leisure. In addition to providing the recreational support we now provide we will also be handling peoples’ packages.

Our values and philosophy will not change and there will be no change in your recreational support. This diversification will also mean that we will be better prepared for the National Disability Insurance Scheme when everyone will have individual packages.

We are already providing lifestyle support to one young man with another in the pipeline. Leo, Tenille and Katie are all experienced in this field and are looking forward to the new challenge. They are available to discuss this change with you should you be interested.

On behalf of the Management Committee I extend the compliments of the festive season to you all and hope we can look forward to a better year ahead.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Colleen Dolan
Hon. President – Management Committee

Management Committee Members 2012

Colleen Dolan - President
Jenni Brittain- Vice President
Janice Noonan - Secretary
Bill Butler - Treasurer
Jo-ann Hoare
Christina Tanzer
Warwick Birtwistle
Julie Smith
Betty Kelly

If you're interested in becoming a member of the Management Committee, please contact the Service Manager or the President on 4035 6771, for information.

Resource Committee

Bill Butler
Christina Tanzer
Colleen Dolan

Grievance Committee

Janice Noonan
Jo-ann Hoare
Jenni Brittain

Contact numbers for the above Grievance Committee Members are available in the Waiting Area of Leisure Connections Office.

Service Users and Support Staff

If you are intending on going away over the festive season could you please contact the office as soon as possible.



Support staff

Just a reminder that all correspondence to Support Staff will now be sent electronically by e-mail. If you prefer another method of correspondence could you please let the office know so that alternative arrangements can be made.

“Every Individual has a place to fill in the world and is important”

The Wet Season is here!!!

No doubt you will be aware that the cyclone season is upon us and it is now time to consider whether you are prepared. To assist you with your preparation below is a link to the Cairns City Council Website which has a number of valuable resources available like “Preparing for Cyclones”. It is also important to ensure that you have a Disaster Management Plan in place in case of an emergency. If you would like help in creating a Disaster Management Plan, Leisure Connections is more than happy to assist you in this. We also have an information brochure available in the office to help get ready for cyclones. If you would like a brochure you can call the office to arrange for a copy to be sent out.

<http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-information/cyclone-emergency-information>

It's Christmas time again!

Leo or Tenille will be in contact with you if your activity falls on the 25th, or 26th December 2012. Please put some thought into whether you would like to change your activity to another day.

Also a reminder that the 1st of January 2013 is a public holiday as well. Leo and Tenille will also be in contact with you to confirm your support.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE AND OFFICE STAFF OF
LEISURE CONNECTIONS**

What's On

New Years Eve!
Cairns Taipans vs New Zealand
Breakers 6:30pm

Bring in the New Year at the
Cairns Esplanade! 2 huge
fireworks displays at 9pm &
midnight and heaps of local
entertainment

Don't forget to check out the
fun free fitness at the Esplanade
there's a **free** activity on every
day of the week!



Reminder

The Office will be
CLOSED on the following
dates over the
Christmas period.

Monday 24th December
Tuesday 25th December
Wednesday 26th
December
Tuesday 1st January

Monday 28th January

Useful Contact Numbers

Disability Services
Complaints: 0732247179
Enquiries: 1800177120(Toll Free)
40489 900(Cairns)

**Disability Discrimination Legal
Service**
1300 882 872

Ostara Employment
40 410 022

Rights in Action
40 317 377

Centrelink
13 27 17

CONTACT DETAILS

Service Manager
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Coordinator
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