

ISSUE 13

# Newsletter



April 2013

## Message from the Service Manager

### Seeking interested people

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

### Inside This Issue

#### Letter from the Service Manager

##### 1. My Story

President Comments

##### 2. Service Users

Support Staff

Reminder of Office Hours

##### 3. What's on

Cairns Markets

Whats On

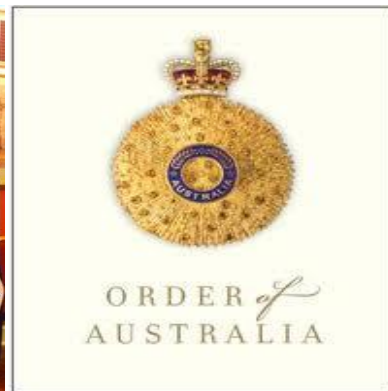
Useful Contact Numbers

IT'S AN HONOUR!

I want to congratulate **Colleen Dolan OAM** on her most recent attainment. I was very delighted to learn that she has been awarded the 'Order of Australia' Award by the Australian Government for service to people with a disability.

The Australian Honours System recognises the special contribution Australian citizens make to their communities locally, nationally, and overseas through a wide range of service including in the Arts, Industry, Commerce, Education, Health, charities and the armed services.

In the Australian honours system appointments to the Order of Australia confer the highest recognition for outstanding achievement and service.



It is her selfless dedication and devotion to people with disabilities that has earned her this deserving recognition.

We are very proud to be part of a service that supports inclusion and recognizes people with a disability for who they are and not what disability they have.

A hearty congratulations for this great achievement.

**Leo Brunker**  
Service Manager



## My Story with Leisure Connections

Hi, my name is Mathew Rundle. I am 29 years old. I have been receiving support from Leisure Connections since 2005, which means I have been involved with Leisure Connections for almost 8 years. Leisure Connections has enabled me to train in Choi Kwan Do, which I love. I really like my Support Worker who also trains with me at Choi Kwan Do. I have recently graded to Brown belt - black stripe and look forward to training for my black belt which may be graded in the near future. My fitness and health has been much improved because of my training. I am also much more confident thanks to the support I've received from Leisure Connections and Choi Kwan Do. I have had my picture on the sides of Cairns Sun buses and posters for Government initiatives - I achieved this through my Choi Kwan Do training. I look forward to seeing my Support Worker each week and thank Leisure Connections for the opportunities it has provided me.

### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I have decided to change this section of the newsletter from Committee Comments to President's Comments. The reason being is that because of time limits I am not able to get it vetted by Management Committee members.

Through previous Committee Comments I have endeavored to keep you all informed of the progress of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which will eventually give all people with a disability their own package where they can purchase the services they need.

Amazingly the Newman Government has now signed on to the NDIS. No one knows where we will go from here but in the meantime the Queensland Government has adopted a self Directed Funding approach in preparation for the NDIS. People who already have an individual package will have the option to self manage. People will be able to have the funds deposited in their own bank account and they will be able to manage according to special conditions. I believe that some young people will adopt this option as they will save coordination and operational costs and therefore gain more hours of support. For more information you can contact the department on 40489900.

The Productivity Commission has stated that under the NDIS there will be no block funding except for some indigenous services. How will all this affect Leisure Connections as we are block funded? Despite all our efforts we have not been able to receive any answers.

Because we believe so strongly that one on one support really does develop skills and self dependence we have decided to expand our service to provide lifestyle assistance. We are hoping that when you receive your package through the NDIS that you will choose to use us as your service provider.

You may be aware that the NDIS is now going to be called – Disability Care. The focus for Leisure Connections, when supporting people, will be to assist people in what they are able to do – it will not be on caring. **If you assist people they develop skills, if you care for people they become dependent.**

In conclusion, on a more personal note, I would like to thank all of the people who contacted me on my award of an OAM in the 2013 Australia Day Honours list. The most rewarding part of receiving that award was in hearing from so many people who supported the idea of inclusion.

Colleen Frances Dolan OAM

### Support staff

It is important that Support Staff read and follow all instructions on your Support Details for the person you support. It is a part of your job description as a Support Person to know what is expected of you. Support Details inform you of your expected duties and any control measures to ensure the person you are supporting is not put at risk. It also details the Activity Details, negotiated time and expenses. It is also vitally important to have the Service Users emergency/family contact number on you at all times while supporting the Service User.

Please be aware that all documentation (registration, insurance, licence renewal ect) is to be handed into the office **at the latest** 1 week after its due date. If you are waiting to receive any of these documents in the mail please ensure that you contact the office to let them know.

### **Service Users**

If you are having any financial difficulty and are unable to pay your Mileage Bill on time please contact the office as we can discuss alternative payment arrangements. If it is too costly to afford the Mileage Bill on a regular occasion we can also discuss other activity options that will decrease your Mileage Bill.

*Nothing in life is to  
be feared.  
It is only to be  
understood.*

### **Reminder**

The Office will be **CLOSED** on the following dates

**Queen's Birthday -Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Cairns Show - Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> July**

### **REMINDER TO Support Staff**

All Support Staff were previously notified via Memo of the changes to funding for Criminal History Screening (CHS). All staff are required to have a current Positive Notice Card (or current Blue Card) to be able to work with Service Users and now are expected to pay the 3 yearly processing fee of \$75.05. This is due to the service no longer being funded for this expense. There are a number of Staff who will be due to renew their cards over the coming months.

#### **Here is what you need to know:**

- CHS renewals are forwarded to the employee prior to expiry (approx 16weeks.)
- CHS are to be renewed every 3 years, currently charged at \$75.05.
- Employees will receive a Memo from Leisure Connections 1 month prior to expiry, advising that renewal is due.
  - If you are a holder of a Blue Card with more than 4 months remaining contact the Office and a form 10-11 will be forwarded to you.
- Employees are to bring the completed form, supporting proof of identity & fee to the Office before the expiry date of their current Yellow Card. This form must be signed by your Employer before being forwarded to the Department.
- This fee is a one off fee every 3 years. Employees do not have to pay the fee for each Employer they work for.
- This fee is Tax Deductable. Use a copy of your Job Description to support this with your Tax Agent / Accountant.

## Cairns Markets

<b>Cairns Mud Markets</b>	every Sat & Sun 9am to 1pm	Pier / Lagoon
<b>Cairns Night Markets</b>	every Night from 5pm	Esplanade
<b>Cairns Rusty's Markets</b>	every Fri, Sat, Sun	Grafton St (under Gilligans)
<b>Gordonvale</b>	1st Saturday of the month	Norman Park
<b>Holloways Beach</b>	2nd Sunday of the month 8am to 1pm	Main beachfront area
<b>Kuranda</b>	every Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat and Sunday	Kuranda Market Place

### *What's On*

#### May 2013

27th May to 11<sup>th</sup> June - Artists of the North  
17th - 26th - Port Douglas Carnivale  
19th - Million Paws Walk

#### June 2013

2nd to 10th - Cairns Adventure Festival  
5th - World Environment Day  
7th - Cairns Post Run for Cairns - Cairns  
1st - Festival of the Knob - Yorkeys Knob  
14th & 15th - Kuranda Roots Festival

#### July 2013

4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> - Cairns Ukelele Festival  
17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> - Cairns Show

### 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

PH: 40 356 771

Email: [servicemanager@leisureconnections.com.au](mailto:servicemanager@leisureconnections.com.au)

### Coordinator

PH: 40 356 444

Email: [coordinator@leisureconnections.com.au](mailto:coordinator@leisureconnections.com.au)

Leisure Connections Association

Incorporated

Fax: 4035 5887

113-115 Aumuller St, Bungalow QLD 4870

P.O BOX 676, Bungalow.