

ISSUE 15

Newsletter



November 2013

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 readers,

It is coming to the end of another year and Christmas is fast approaching. If you are taking any holidays or just having some time out and need to cancel or change your support times please let us know as soon as possible so we can make the necessary changes to your support.

A lot has happened this year, with Colleen Dolan receiving an Order of Australia medal, the 20th year anniversary celebrations of Leisure Connections at our AGM and the completion of our Quality Audit. The feedback from the auditor was very positive and I am pleased to share that we are now certified under the new Human Service Quality Framework. Thank you to all who participated.

Also in November the Community Leisure Cards were launched. Leisure Connections have been heavily involved in the creation of the cards and auspiced the project. The Community Leisure Cards are a free community resource developed cooperatively by a number of community service organisations in Cairns. The Cairns Community Leisure Cards project is founded on Asset Based Community Development principles with the cards being designed to assist people to discover and participate in new and varied activities in their community. Thereby, reducing social isolation and enabling the development of relationships and valued roles in community.

I have put aside a deck of these cards for all families and Service Users of Leisure Connections. Please contact me for more information and to find out how you can get your deck.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas!

Leo Brunker
Service Manager



My Story with Leisure Connections



My name is Nikki and I have been with Leisure Connections for many years now. During that time I have tried different activities such as mini golf, tenpin bowling, squash, belly dancing and yoga. My favourite activity of all is attending Taipans games. I always wear my Taipans shirt to the match to show support. I really love it when the Taipans play the Townsville Crocs as they are also a team I like. Leisure Connections supports me to do the things I like to do. My Support Workers help me to meet

people, to learn how to play the game and to get to and from the activity as it would be too hard for me to do it on my own. Being involved in the activity makes me feel like I am a part of the community. I use to be a bit shy but now I am braver. My Support Workers and Leisure Connections help me feel like I am an important part of every activity I choose to do.

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>

My Story with Leisure Connections

Hello my name is Aslak Court and I like going out with my Support Person around Cairns down to the Wharf to see the boats come in and what boats may be down at the Wharf. Sometimes I get a surprise and get to see some of the Navy ships from other countries. I also like going down to the Gordonvale Mill every year to see the Cane Trains working and to take some pictures. I know a lot about the Sugar Cane trains and really enjoy learning more. Here is a photo of me at the Sugar Mill in Gordonvale with my Support Person.



Whats On

Christmas Carols – 14th Dec 7-9pm Holy Cross Catholic School, Reed Rd Trinity Park. Free Sausage Sizzle

Retro Christmas Craft Workshop 14th Dec 1pm-3:30pm Botanical Gardens

New Years Eve 31st Dec 6-12pm Cairns Esplanade
Live Entertainment Fireworks 9pm and 12pm

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

When one sits down to write an article at this time of the year the tendency is to look back on the year just ending.

Staff wise we have experienced one of our busiest on record. Our move to now providing lifestyle support in addition to community access has meant that the Management Committee had to review all our service delivery policies and procedures. This meant that the office staff then had to amend all our workplace practices and all the documents associated with support. We also had to change our bookkeeping practices. At the same time they had to continue to provide quality service to all stakeholders. The staff deserve a huge "thank you" for the way in which they have faced and conducted this huge task. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated people on our staff.

This week the auditors conducted our external audit. Every three years we have a full audit on all the standards and the two years in between we have audits on selected standards. I am very pleased to advise that once again we have passed audit and to use the auditor's words – "with flying colours". Audits are now changing to every eighteen months instead of the twelve months interval previously so we will not be bugging you so much with the surveys. Thank you to everyone who returned the survey forms and a big thanks also to those families and staff who agreed to meet the auditor. We know it is an imposition on your time and we do appreciate the effort you make to help us.

Well the silly season is now on us. I wish you all a very happy and healthy festive season. We are all taking a short break and hopefully will return refreshed in 2014 to tackle the New Year.

Merry Christmas everyone.

.....
Colleen Dolan OAM
Hon. President.

Management Committee Members 2013/2014

*Colleen Dolan -
President
Jenni Brittain- Vice
President
Janice Noonan -
Secretary
Bill Butler - Treasurer
Jo-ann Hoare
Julie Smith
Betty Kelly
Wendy O'Reily*

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
Colleen Dolan
Jo-ann Hoare
**Grievance
Committee**
Janice Noonan
Betty Kelly
Jenni Brittain*

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



It's Christmas time



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 Wednesday the 1st of January 2014 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*

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

Support Staff -

Early Pay Reminder

As usual all Timesheets must be handed in by 4pm on Monday the 30th December. Pays will be processed on Tuesday the 31st December due to the Public Holiday on Wednesday 1st January 2014.

Late timesheets will not be processed until the 15.01.14.

Reminder

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

Tuesday 24th Dec after 12pm
Wednesday 25th December
Thursday 26th December
Friday 27th December
Wed 1st Jan

Mon 27th Jan – Australia Day

CONTACT DETAILS

Service Manager

PH: 40 356 771

Email: servicemanager@leisureconnections.com.au

Coordinator

PH: 40 356 444

Email: coordinator@leisureconnections.com.au

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113-115 Aumuller St, Bungalow QLD 4870
P.O BOX 676, Bungalow.