

ISSUE 3

Newsletter

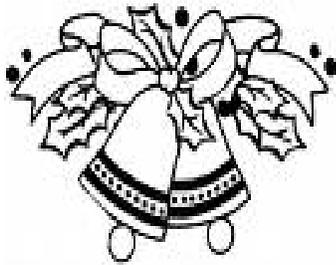


Dec 2009

Message from the Service Manager

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Reminder

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

Thursday 24th Dec after 12pm
Christmas Eve

Friday 25th Dec- Christmas day

Monday 28th Dec – Boxing Day

Friday 1st Jan – New Years day

Tuesday 26th Jan – Australia day

Dear readers'

Welcome to the December issue of the Leisure Connections Newsletter. Time certainly seems to have flown by with Christmas just around the corner. It has now almost been 4 months since Katie left on Maternity Leave and I have been in the position of Acting Service Manager.

Our AGM was held on the 12 of November and I would like to thank everyone who attended. The feedback received was very positive and it seems that everyone enjoys the social aspect of getting together and having something to eat.

Over this time our Internal Audit was also conducted in preparation for the Maintenance Audit in March. During this Audit it became very evident that a lot of good work has been done over the past year, so I would like to take this opportunity to put out a big thank you to all Support Staff who provide quality support to the Service Users at Leisure Connections and to acknowledge the continual good work of the office staff.

I hope you all have a great Christmas and I wish you all the best for the New Year to come.

Leo Brunker
Acting Service Manager

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Fiona Williamson – Acting Coordinator

In 2004 I moved from Townsville to Cairns with the intention of finishing a degree in Nursing Sciences at JCU. Though in 2005 I applied for a position as a Support Worker at Leisure Connections, at this time I was not aware that this decision would impact on my life on such a large scale. As a Support Worker at Leisure Connections I quickly became very fond and proud of the values and philosophies which surround this service, I soon knew that this was where I was meant to be. It was then in 2006 when I left university to pursue my passion, a decision which I feel has paid off tenfold. I am now one of those lucky people that love going to work each day. In 2007 I was given the opportunity to become Assistant to the Service Manager and have since moved into the Acting Coordinator position while our Service Manager Katie Britt is on maternity leave. I am very grateful for the opportunities which have been given to me by Leisure Connections and consider Leisure Connections to be my second family. I have also recently been appointed as a member of the Access & Equity Advisory Committee of Cairns as I believe very strongly that all people have the right to participate and be treated equally in the community. Over the next few years I plan to stay in this wonderful part of the world to continue on this journey which thus far has given me the most valuable lessons, lessons that I will take with me for the rest of my life both professionally and personally.

FAMILY MEMBER/ ADVOCATES

All people who access Leisure Connections have the right to have a Family Member/Advocate with them in all dealings with the Service. Leisure Connections will support this and can also provide information on how to contact an advocacy service if required. An advocate is someone within a person's social network, who can be a Family Member or friend or we can provide you with details of advocacy Agencies within the area.



COMMITTEE NEWS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the disability sector we hear the words "needs" continuously – support needs; high needs, according to need, etc. etc. In defining "needs" I am borrowing an extract from literature belonging to "The Blue Skies Team"

"The fundamental needs of people with disability are the same as all people. They are

- Adequate food, drink and shelter
- Communication and artistic expression
- Love and acceptance
- Spiritual fulfillment
- Mobility
- A safe environment
- Health and appropriate medical treatment
- Belonging to and participating fully in society
- Education and
- Meaningful careers and achievement."

To me this appears to be another way of saying that people with a disability are entitled to live an ordinary life – the philosophy on which Leisure Connections was founded.

Colleen Dolan
Hon. President

Management Committee Members 2010

Colleen Dolan – President
Jenni Brittain – Vice President
Janice Noonan – Secretary
Bill Butler – Treasurer
Jo-ann Hoare
Christina Tanzer

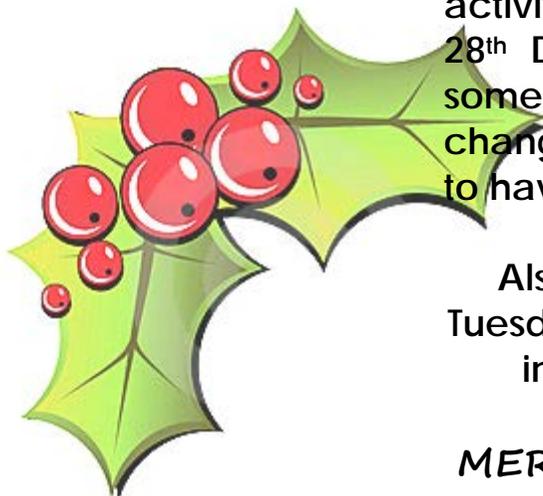
If you're interested in becoming a member of the Management Committee, please contact the Service Manager or the President on 40412 073, for information.

Grievance Committee Members 2010

Jenni Brittain
Janice Noonan
Jo-ann Hoare

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

Reminder Christmas holidays just around the corner



Leo or Fiona will be in contact with you if your activity falls on Friday 25th, Saturday 26th, Monday 28th December or Friday 1st January. Please put some thought into whether you would like to change your activity to another day or if you want to have a break and cancel support for these days.

Also a reminder this year Australia day falls on Tuesday the 26th January, Leo and Fiona will also be in contact with you to confirm your support.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND
OFFICE STAFF OF
LEISURE CONNECTIONS*

WHAT'S ON

Sunday 13th Dec – Carols by Candlelight at Forgarty Park from 6:30pm

New Years Eve!

Cairns Taipans vs Melbourne Tigers 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!

CONTACT DETAILS

Service Manager

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Coordinator

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