

ISSUE 5

Newsletter



September 2010

Message from the Service Manager

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Leisure Connections Newsletter. The move into the new premises was a very busy time and we would like to thank all Service Users, Family Members and Staff for their consideration and patience over this period. We have settled nicely into the new office with only a few minor adjustments to be done.

We hope that you like receiving this Newsletter and find the information provided in it useful. I would like to encourage you to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions on what you would like to see in the next edition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to once again advise you of our new contact details

Leisure Connections

113-115 Aumuller Street Bungalow

Service Manager: 40 356 771

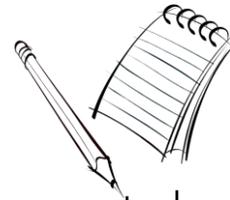
servicemanager@leisureconnections.com.au

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MESSAGE TO SUPPORT STAFF



Could we please ensure that timesheets are filled in correctly, this includes;

- Using the right timesheets [Green, Blue or Pink] If you are not sure of the correct colour please contact the Service Manager/Coordinator
- Filling in all required information [dates, expenses, names, mileage, feedback ect]
- Please do not use initials, but record Service Users full name

We would also like to make a note in regards to handing timesheets in. Please have them handed into the office by 4pm every (2nd) Monday after the Pay Period Ending. There is a mail box outside for after hours drop off. We can also e-mail a copy of the timesheet if you would like to e-mail them in.

Workplace Health and Safety is an important condition of your employment. It is an obligation of your employment to keep yourself safe and the people you transport safe. Can you please do a quick inspection of your vehicle before each shift to ensure it is in a road worthy condition.



Piccones Supa IGA Community Benefits Program We need your support

Recently we received a cheque for \$46.20 from Piccones Supa IGA. **A BIG THANKYOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS NOMINATED US WHEN SHOPPING AT THESE STORES.** Unfortunately the family's generosity has become too well known and they now have over 200 organisations on their list. This has prompted them to decide that organisations need to earn 10 000 points every six months to stay on the list. As a small organisation it would be a great help for us to achieve this. So if you shop at these stores we would really appreciate it if you could nominate Leisure Connections at the checkout.

CONGRADULATIONS

You will all know that Leo has been acting in the Service Managers position since September last year whilst Katie was on maternity leave. Katie is enjoying her role as a Mum and has decided that she does not want to return to full time work at this stage, so has resigned as Service Manager. The Committee recently decided to appoint Leo to the position.

CONGRADULATIONS LEO..... We all wish you well and hope we will have a long and happy association. We haven't lost Katie entirely as she has been appointed as a Part Time Quality Officer and will be working on the Policies and Workplace Practices that we have to do to pass our Quality Audit.



COMMITTEE COMMENTS

THE FEDERAL SCENE

Last Newsletter I mentioned the inquiry into Disability care and Support by the Productivity Commission. Since then we have had an election. Despite our best efforts we were unable to find out if the national Disability Insurance Scheme has bipartisan support. Now we have a minority government it will be very interesting to see if Labour can push this through. If we want to get disability out of the **welfare** system into an **entitlement** system then we will have to do some work on the coalition.

STATE GOVERNMENT SCENE

Recently a couple of Committee members together with Committee members of Real Living Options (founded by the same families) attended a full day workshop on Disability Services 10 year plan for support Queenslanders with a disability. The Plan's focus is on inclusion in community and appears to be a resurgence of the vision and values that created Leisure Connections.

The Director General of Disability Services happened to sit at our table for the first of three consultations during the day (we were all at the one table). He elected to spend the whole three consultations at our table despite the fact he was supposed to circulate. This was a great coup for us and was a real chance to get our message across that although one on one support is more expensive at the outset, that it does build interdependence eventually. On the two occasions that he addressed all the participants of the workshop he mentioned remarks from our table so, keep fingers crossed, we may have made an impression!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many of you may remember Lauren from visiting the office. She worked as a Support Worker and then as the Team Leader for Real Living Options. She recently moved to the Dominican Republic. She described her first day to me.

She was provided with an interpreter who escorted her to various venues to sign a lease on her apartment; arrange for the telephone etc etc.

She said she spent the whole day –

- Being escorted around – never really knowing where she was and where she was going
- She experienced being spoken about – not being spoken to and not having her presence acknowledged
- She knew that she was being spoken about but could not understand what was being said
- She signed papers which she could not read and the interpreter failed to explain them to Lauren's satisfaction

Does all this sound familiar?

Lauren said to me – “I have spent the whole day in the shoes of a person with an intellectual disability. I am feeling so depressed. The one good thing about it is that when I return to Australia I will be a much better Support Person”.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could provide this training?

DREAMING OF COURSE!

Colleen Dolan
Hon. President

Parking Changes

We would like to advise all staff and Committee members when coming into the office to attend a meeting that there is a nature strip off Hartley Street just down from the Takeaway shop next door. There are also three parking spaces out the front on Aumuller Street. Please do not park in Nelson Street as some of the residents do not have off street parking.

IT'S AGM TIME – 11TH November 2010

Do you believe:-

- that people with a disability are part of their family and therefore are entitled to be part of their community
- that people with a disability should be able to choose a recreation and be supported one on one to engage in that recreation
- that all people have the potential to grow and therefore should not be limited by the expectations of their current support needs

After several years of frustration we are now getting messages from the government that they are again listening. We need to optimize this opportunity. Do you have a few hours a month that you could contribute to make this happen?

We would welcome you on the Committee.

If you feel that you would like to contribute please ring the office. WE WILL DO THE REST.

New Office Protocol

Now that we have a new set up in the office we would like to inform all Staff, Service Users and Family Members of the new protocol when coming into the office.

- If possible please make appointments if you want to see the Service Manager or Coordinator. These people spend a lot of time out of the office so there is no guarantee you will see them if you just pop in.
- When entering the office please approach Julie and she will contact either the Service Manager or Coordinator. Julie will ask you to take a seat in the foyer while you wait.
- If the administration area is unattended please ring the bell and someone will come out

WHAT'S ON



Yungaburra Folk Festival 21-24th October Yungaburra

Melbourne Cup Day 2nd November

Carols by Candlelight 12th December, Fogarty Park

CONTACT DETAILS

Service Manager

PH: 40 356 771

Email: servicemanager@leisureconnections.com.au

Coordinator

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