

ISSUE 9

# Newsletter



December 2011

## Seeking interested people

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

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## Message from the Service Manager

Dear Readers

Welcome to the festive season! It sure does seem that each year that goes past is quicker than the previous. With Christmas fast approaching please be sure to advise the office if you intend on taking holidays with enough notice so we can advise the relevant people if necessary.

Since the last Newsletter Leisure Connections has held its Annual General Meeting for 2011. Turnout was good and I would like to thank all those who attended. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of our dedicated Management Committee. The level and quality of volunteer work that they have put in over the years to the development, running and improvements of Leisure Connections is truly commendable.

Leisure Connections underwent its Surveillance Audit on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> of November. I am very pleased to inform you that the auditors were very impressed with the services provided by Leisure Connections. I even recall one of the auditors referring to Leisure Connections during the closing meeting as the 'Rolls Royce of services.' I'd like to thank all of those who participated in the audit. You successfully assisted us in demonstrating that Leisure Connections continues to meet the requirements of the Queensland Disability Service Standards and continues to improve on the quality service it provides.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

***Please remember that if your activity is outdoors protect yourself from the sun by using sunscreen and wearing a hat. Rest regularly in the shade and drink fluids frequently.***

Leo Brunker  
Service manager



## COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE

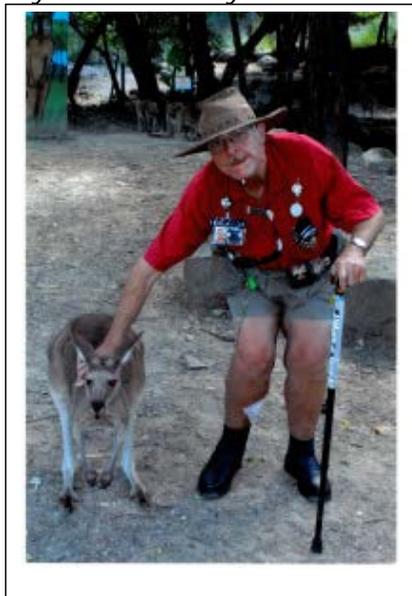
### *Janice Noonan - Secretary*

I was born and raised in Cairns, I married my husband Stephen and we had a family with five children three girls and two boys. My second eldest child Keith was born with cerebral palsy and our third child Wayne was only with us for a short time seven and a half weeks to be exact. Keith's cerebral palsy brought with it challenges at each stage of life that we didn't experience with our other children, but that's exactly what they were, challenges which certainly made us stronger. Keith's sisters played a big part in our journey, supporting where possible during Keith's early years. They loved their brother dearly even though it meant they had to miss out on some things and had to fend for themselves at an early age. There came a time when the girls needed to move on with their own lives (still helping as much as possible) and we found that there was a need to involve services who supported people with disabilities and their families to help us meet Keith's needs. The need for this support led to my involvement with these organisations fulfilling different roles on their committees. During this time I was introduced to Leisure Connections and was impressed with their philosophy and values and became a member of the Management Committee. I was also lucky enough to be offered support from Real Living Options which certainly allowed Stephen and I to have some life together knowing that Keith needs were being met. Sadly Keith passed away just over two years ago (a week before his sister's wedding) but I have still remained on Leisure Connections Committee because I believe they play a vital role to work towards people with a disability having a real life. My daughters are still supportive and I have a beautiful grandson who is 6 months old and another grandson to be born in February next year.

## My Story with Leisure Connections



Hi my name is Aslak and I have been Involved with Leisure Connections as a Service User for the last four years. Having Leisure Connections support has helped shape and improve the quality of my life. There are many benefits in having regular support from people I can call friends that enable me to have the social interaction I need. Over the years I have been able to pursue my chosen interests such as the zoo and the Kuranda Train. The highlight of the year was a visit to the Gordonvale Sugar Mill and Museum where I got to share my knowledge with my Support Person David. I showed David how the cane comes from the trams to the mill by locomotion's 7 days a week in the cane crushing season to turn cane into raw sugar. When I go out with Leisure Connections support I feel a sense of independence and I make all the decisions. I enjoy my time with my Support Person and being out in the community. With the support of Leisure Connections I was able to purchase a yearly membership at the Cairns Tropical Zoo, below is a picture of me with a kangaroo on one of my visits in the year.



*If you would like to tell your story please contact the Service Manager or Coordinator*

## COMMITTEE COMMENTS

### COMMITTEE COMMENTS

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN WE ARE NO LONGER HERE?

Last week Margaret (Maggie) Wraight, one of the founders of Leisure Connections passed away. Maggie worked tirelessly to get Leisure Connections up and running and was our first Treasurer. As an organisation we owe a lot to Maggie. Vale old friend.

When I lose a close friend my own vulnerability comes to the fore and of course the age old worry of what will happen to my daughter rears its head.

This edition of committee comments will deal with this issue so is addressed to parents. I have no intention of attempting to give advice I am simply endeavouring to pass on some information I have on a parent- to- parent basis.

I wonder how many parents know about "Pave the Way ". Pave the Way works with families to clarify their vision for their family member with a disability and to plan to implement that vision. Although Pave the Way is based in Brisbane they are readily accessible to families throughout the state. Their phone number is 0732915800. E-mail – [pavetheway@mamre.org.au](mailto:pavetheway@mamre.org.au).

They do run workshops throughout the state so you can either get on their mailing list or let us know you are interested and we will advise you when they are coming to town.

They do have a very useful publication – "Preparing to make your will". This publication outlines the steps that people should take before visiting a solicitor to prepare their will. It is a six page publication and has very useful and comprehensive information.

They also have a list of Solicitors; Financial Services and where legal advice and assistance is available. There are two Cairns solicitors on their list. We have their names and contact details in the office. Pave the Way do not recommend any solicitors. The solicitors on the list are not offering a free or discounted service. They simply have some extra background in the issues around disability in estate planning. If you intend to use either of these people we would encourage you to phone and have a chat beforehand to ascertain fees, etc. Naturally there is always the Public Trust Office for people who wish to go down that track.

I hope the above information has been useful to you in the spirit in which it was offered. Well with all that heavy matter out of the way I intend to have a happy and healthy festive season and I wish you the same.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!

Colleen Dolan  
Hon- President – Management Committee.

#### Useful Contact Numbers

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

**Disability Discrimination Legal Service:** 1300 882 872

**Direct Employment Services:** 40 314 816

**Rights in Action:** 40 317 377

## Whats On

### Esplanade Christmas Markets

Esplanade  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 8am-4pm

### 14 Days of Christmas

Esplanade- Various Locations  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

For further information go to:  
<http://www.cairnesesplanade.com.au>

### New Years Eve

Esplanade  
Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec  
Entertainment from 6-10pm

Includes  
Performance by **Diesel**  
10:30pm -12pm

### Fireworks

9pm and Midnight



### Service User Memo

*If you are having an Individual Breakdown and Planner Review with the Service Manager or Coordinator could you please ensure to bring along your induction kit to ensure it is kept up to date*



### Management Committee Members 2011

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

**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.**

### Grievance Committee Members 2011

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.**

*Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.*

### Support Staff Memo

*If you are coming into the office for a Support Person Activity Review and Performance Appraisal please remember to bring in your induction kit to ensure it is kept up to date.*

*If you are having a break over Christmas could you please call either Leo or Tenille to inform them as soon as possible.*

### Reminder

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

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec after 12pm

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec

Monday 2nd Jan

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan – Australia day



# It's Christmas Time



Leo or Tenille will be in contact with you if your activity falls on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>, Monday 26<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December or Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 that this year Australia day falls on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> January, Leo and Tenille 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**

## 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

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