Message from the Service Manager

Dear readers,

Wow, where has the year gone! 2015 has proven to be a wonderfully busy and eventful year with even more positive changes on the horizon for 2016.

Some of you may know that back in March this year I decided to move on from Leisure Connections to see what other opportunities were out there for me. I found myself in various roles with several interesting job offers. As much as I really missed Leisure Connections, this change was welcomed. In July I learned that Lisa Preston was moving on. This led me to reassess the situation and I am very pleased to have been able to return to my role as Service Manager.

Since my return we have all been working very hard on implementing changes to improve the services we offer and prepare for the NDIS. The name change to Lifestyle Connections Association Inc. forming part of a new feel and direction for the organization. I can assure you however that Lifestyle Connections will stay true to its values of providing one on one, person centered support to assist people with disabilities to connect to their community in their own way, and Lifestyle Connections will remain a family governed organization.

I am also pleased to inform Support Staff that we are currently setting up new software that will make it easier and less time consuming for you to submit time sheets. I expect this to be operational sometime next month.

On behalf of the staff and myself, I would like to thank you all for your support during the year and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Leo Brunker
Service Manager
News from Human Resources

A newsletter is a great forum for announcing new company policies, changes to existing policies, important benefits information, and other important Human Resources information. For example, in the fall, you can print the company policy on carrying over vacation or sick days. This gives employees time to use vacation days that won’t carry over, as opposed to finding out at the beginning of the year after the extra days have been lost.

If you do not have Human Resources announcements to make, you can use this column as a question and answer column. Ask employees to send questions that they want the Human Resources team to answer. If one employee has a question, it is likely that others will have the same question or a similar one. The Human Resources team can then provide a single answer to address the concerns of many.

Mathew Wright’s Charity Fundraiser

On Friday, 6th November, Mathew Wright completed a charity fundraiser for African Christian Homes. It is the third time Mathew has organized and completed a fundraiser. Mathew pushed himself in his wheelchair 14kms from Rising Sun Café in Palm Cove to Coffee Hub & Home in the Smithfield Shopping Centre. He was accompanied by Support Person, Amanda Matthew, and Rev. Kofi Boateng of African Christian Homes. Reverend Kofi has said that is inspirational to him to see all that Mathew has overcome and how he has focused his determination on helping others. All money raised will go to shipping two containers of educational supplies for a centre that is being built for disadvantaged children in Ghana. Mat has said he would like to organize a fourth fundraiser in Sydney to bring more attention to this cause.

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, Lifestyle 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.


The One That Got Away

“Jim is a great worker and good company. He’s the best fisherman I know.”

Andrew Santala

After 15 years of service with Lifestyle Connections, Jim Stevens is calling it a day. Andrew Santala says “Jim is a great worker and good company. He’s the best fisherman I know.” When asked what the biggest fish he ever caught with Jim was, Andrew recalled the time they caught a large barramundi. Jim will be greatly missed.
PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Sorry I missed my usual blurb in our last newsletter. Unfortunately at the time I was in hospital recovering from a fractured hip and neck. I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their well wishes. I am extremely blessed to belong to such a caring organisation. I can’t remember whether I thanked you all. Being drugged up I have limited memory of that time.

As you all know we changed our name at our recent Annual General Meeting from Leisure Connections Association Incorporated to Lifestyle Connections Association Inc. This action means we are one step closer to finalising our conversion from only providing leisure and recreational support to diversifying to lifestyle support. This action was taken as part of our preparations for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. I would recommend to all that you take the opportunity provided in the various workshops to become informed of what will happen. It is very important for all families to be aware of what they can ask for in their personal plan. We now have this information in the office and the Management Committee and Staff will be holding a final strategic planning day in January when we should be in a position to help anyone who is unable to attend these workshops.

I have mixed feelings about our name change. It is sad to be saying goodbye to Leisure Connections. I have so many wonderful memories of the last 23 years. By the same token it is exciting to think that we are beginning a new chapter. To survive under the NDIS we have to lift our profile in the community as block funding will gradually cease to exist. We are in consultation with our IT guys to have our website changed to Lifestyle Connections Association Inc. Unfortunately I can’t yet give you a date when this will happen.

With the festive season now almost upon us, on behalf of the Management Committee, I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Hope to catch up with you all in 2016!

Colleen Dolan
Hon. President.
It’s Christmas Time

Matt or Katie will be in contact with you regarding your holiday plans. Please put some thought into whether you would like to change your activity to another day.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND OFFICE STAFF OF LIFESTYLE CONNECTIONS

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND OFFICE STAFF OF LIFESTYLE CONNECTIONS

Useful Contact Numbers and Links

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

Disability Discrimination Legal Service
1300 882 872

NDIS Website

Rights in Action
40 317 377

Centrelink
13 27 17

Support Staff - Pay Reminder

Due to the Boxing Day Public Holiday the office will be closed on Monday 28th Dec. Timesheets will be due by close of business on Tuesday 29th Dec. Pays will be processed on Wednesday 30th December. Late timesheets will not be processed until the 13.01.16.

Reminder

The office will be closed on the following dates:

24th Dec - Office closing at 12pm
25th Dec - Christmas
26th Dec - Boxing Day
28th Dec - Boxing Day Public Holiday
01st Jan – New Year's Day
26th Jan – Australia Day

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