



WEEROONA NEWS

“Taking time to care”



Josiah Villenguez accessing the beach for the first time. Story continues page 3.

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FROM THE MANAGER

Welcome Newsletter Readers

I must apologise for the delay in publishing this newsletter. Staff holidays and other unplanned leave have made it impossible for us to put together a newsletter until now.

I hope you're Christmas / New Year break was full of happy times and that you could escape the heat. I am sad to say my hive of native bees perished in that week of hot weather. ☹️

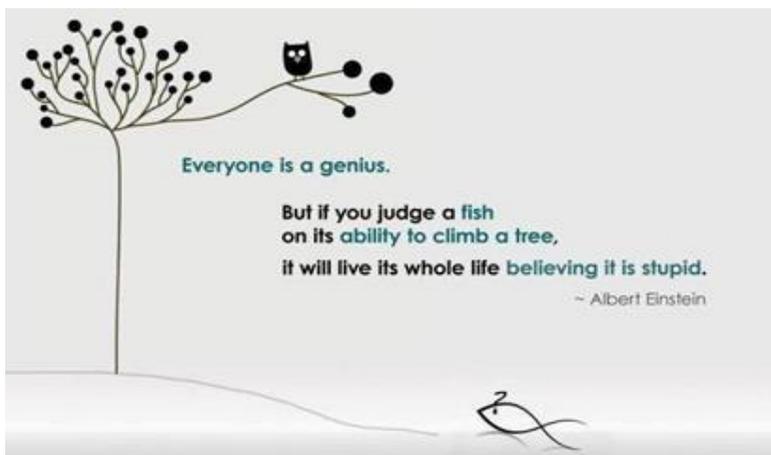
Since our last letter we have concluded our very first program of Baby Bridges and we are very happy with the positive feedback. I am eager to see how we go in offering this unique program to other parents during this year. Congratulations to Tammy, Nicki and Alyssa.

Weeroona has submitted an application to be a Host Provider under Your Life Your Choice. We expect to have approval and be able to offer service in the not to distant future. We will use facebook followed by official correspondence when we have more information about our official start date.

As we approach the changes in the sector (Your Life Your Choice and NDIS) please remember to call in or call us with your questions. We may not have the answer but we will do our best to help get the information you require.

I wish you all the best for 2014 and I look forward to the challenges of the year ahead.

Greg Wilson



Story continued from cover:



Josiah Villenguez is just like any other teenager. He loves the sun and the surf of the beach, but has never been able to access it.

Josiah recently visited the beach at Alexandra Headlands over the Christmas holidays and for the first time he has been able to access the beach in a specially designed wheelchair made for the sand. Josiah loved every minute of it and he did not want to leave.

A lot of lifesaving clubs have beach wheelchairs that people with mobility issues are able to access free of charge. All you need to do is ring the lifesaving club and book it or drop in and see if it is available.

STEPS CARE FOR CARERS PROGRAM

Change of venue

At STEPS, we recognise that Carers play a valued and important role in our community. Regular meetings are held at Country Bounty Garden & Café, 32 Graham Street, Gympie every second Tuesday of each month between 10.30am to 12.30pm. There is no cost to attend, enjoy morning tea on us.

For more information please ask your Weeroona Coordinator or go to www.careforcarers.com.au

“There’s a sense of relief to meet people who understand what I’m going through and can share a laugh knowing that ‘what happens in the group, stays in the group’”.

All Abilities Golf
Sunshine Coast

Healthy Sport Fun Excursions
for people with disabilities...

Share & Enjoy...

All Abilities Golf Fun Activities with
PRIZES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!
Healthy, creative and inclusive fun golf sessions with
Marc Bright - Presenter, Golf Coach & Joyologist

Join us...
on the following dates at these
awesome golfing venues on the Sunshine Coast!

(Mondays, 10am to 2pm)

- Feb 10th..... Palmer Resort Golf Club
- Feb 17th..... Cooroy Golf Club
- Feb 24th..... Palmer Resort Golf Club
- March 10th..... Weesa Par 3 Golf Club
- March 17th..... Nambour Golf Club
- March 24th..... Cooroy Golf Club
- March 27th..... Palmer Resort Golf Club

\$15 per person
(\$99 snacks, water & hotel)

Contact...
Marc Bright - All Abilities Golf
☎ 0492 447317 ✉ joyloggnow@gmail.com
or
Sunshine Butterflies Office
☎ 0754782930 ✉ admin@sunshinebutterflies.com.au

Search & follow:

Sunshine Butterflies

GYMPIE REGIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

BY TANYA EASTERBY

February 2014

- 6th Inaugural Wheelchair Challenge Contact: 54829775
- 14th Valentines Day at the Rattler contact: 0405401082
- 15th Long Flat Hall Dances Contact: 54822572/54839387
- 15th Twilight Markets - Old Gympie Station Ph: 54822750
- 15th Mothar Mountain Speedway
- 16th Bushranger Re-enactment - Gold Musuem Markets
- 21st Blue Light Disco - Civic Centre
- 22nd Bull & Broncs - Gympie Showgrounds
- 23rd Simply Classical Concert - AICM Channon St
- 28th Mayor Prayer Breakfast - Showgrounds
- 28th Andrew Fisher Portrait Prize - Regional Gallery

March 2014

- 1st Bizzart Day & Suitcase Market - Regional Gallery
- 1st Race Day, Gympie Turf Club
- 2nd Clean Up Australia Day
- 4th Pancake Day
- 9-15th Foster & Kinship Carer Week
- 14th Gympie Blue Light Disco
- 15th Cemetery Crawl on tour #1 Ph: Di 0419224628
- 15th Twilight Markets - Old Gympie Station Ph:54822750
- 15th Mothar Mountain Speedway
- 16th Bushranger Re-enactment - Gold Museum Markets
- 17th St Patricks Day
- 19th Cemetery Crawl ph: 0419224628
- 21-22nd Goomeri & District Show
- 23rd Cooloola Kart Racing
- 29th National Alpaca Week

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



Choice Support Service runs an Anxiety Support Group on Mondays (excluding public holidays) from 9-10am. This group is for people who suffer from anxiety to share their experiences and wisdom and to inspire and learn from each other. The group is run at Cooloola Human Services Network at Shop 2, 22 Barter St, Gympie. For enquiries, call Choice Support Service on 5482 1805.

Queensland Disability Conference 2014

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th March at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Kay McGrath will be MC, the Queensland Disability Conference will present an informative and engaging two-day program for people interested in the significant changes, challenges and opportunities that the NDIS will bring. An event not to be missed. For more information visit www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability or call 13 74 68 or TTY 1333 677

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS - A day with Al Condeluci

On Saturday 1st March 2014 Mamre Family Support warmly welcomes you to a one day workshop that will examine the importance of community connectedness to assist people with disability and their families/loved ones towards a good life. Al Condeluci has spend nearly forty years studying, teaching and practising building social and community capital. This workshop is located at the Brisbane Broncos Leagues Club in Red Hill. Registration must be finalised by 14th February 2014. For further information please contact your coordinator at Weeroona.



Are you ready for a possible emergency?

To be ready for an emergency it can help to look at areas in your home and your life to identify if any preparations are necessary. Detailed planning tools may be helpful in this process:

www.getready.qld.gov.au/be-prepared

www.hardenup.org/

www.qld.gov.au/emergency/dealing-disasters/rediplan.html

Or you can contact the council on: 5481 0800





2014 kicked off with a get-together for families. We had a lovely morning, meeting new families and catching up with families who attended Baby Bridges in 2013. A big 'thank you' to Andre for hosting us at the Early Years Family Hub.

The Term 1 Baby Bridges program will commence on Friday 21st February and goes for 6 weeks. There is still room for another family so please spread the word! Baby Bridges is for families who have a child/ren with a disability or developmental delay. Parents receive information/guest speakers/a chance to chat with other parents while the children are having fun in a Play session with input from therapists. Please contact Tammy Shelley at Weeroona if you are interested or would like more information.

Baby Bridges Training

Greg and Tammy travelled to Brisbane recently for 2 days of Baby Bridges Training. We met Baby Bridges teams from around Qld and participated in 2 days of excellent training. The highlights were 1. Listening to Matthew Ames talk about overcoming barriers to achieve goals. You may have seen Mike Willese interview Matthew and his family on Sunday Night. Matthew had both arms and legs amputated after an infection of Streptococcus A entered his bloodstream. His story is inspirational and brought tears to more than a few eyes



The 2nd highlight was being a part of the largest group to participate in a 'Helping Hand' team exercise to assemble prosthetic hands for people overseas. With only one hand each, basic instructions and other hurdles to overcome we assembled the prosthetic hands and wrote a letter to the recipient. Hearing the stories of the children and adults in India and Cambodia who had received the 'hands' certainly inspired us to do our best and made us thankful for all the benefits we have living in Australia.



Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of pleasures, costs nothing, and conveys much.

Erastus Wiman

HUMAN SERVICES QUALITY STANDARDS

Standard 4: Safety, Wellbeing and Rights

Weeroona protects and promotes the safety, wellbeing and human and legal rights of people using the services by:

- Providing services in a manner that uphold people's human and legal rights
- Ensuring people are treated with dignity and respect during all aspects of service delivery
- Ensuring that Staff follow Weeroona's code of conduct, criminal history screening is completed, training is provided and ongoing performance monitoring and reviews of Staff occur.
- Being proactive in promoting, identifying and responding to risks to safety and wellbeing
- Having processes that aim to achieve a balance between the principles of duty of care and alternatives that don't unduly limit the ability of people to make decisions and take responsibility for their actions
- Having effective processes in place for reporting and responding to potential or actual harm, abuse and/or neglect that may occur
- Safeguarding peoples rights to be fully involved and make informed choices about the services they receive.
- Ensuring that people are able to access appropriate supports and advocacy as required



Weeroona is on Facebook!

“Like us” on Facebook to keep up with what is happening day to day; for ideas of things to do & to keep informed about upcoming events, training and news items.



WEEROONA ASSOCIATION INC.

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Web: www.weeroona.org.au

Please use the front entry at the top of the ramp to enter the building.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon— Thurs 9.00am to 4.00pm

Fri 9.00am to 3.00pm

Closed weekends and Public Holidays

Would you like your work published?

No promises, but we may put it in the newsletter.

PLEASE LET US KNOW, CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

Please feel free to complete a Compliments and Concerns Form or a Complaints Form, both are located at the desk in reception. Your comments can be anonymous by placing the completed form in the suggestions box at the ramp.