

## Flexi Awards Night 2015



From Left: Belinda, Cecily, Keith, Kerrie, Joy, Amaya and Lorrene enjoying the evening.

All photographs thanks to Madison Magatelli Photography

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### Flexi Queensland

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# AWARDS NIGHT 2015 CONT.



Helen and Monica, our good friends from the Burdekin Bowl



Darian and Leona showing off their smiles



Rhys receiving his award from president Ian Shepherdson

On Friday 11 December 2015 Flexi Queensland held their annual Awards Night (Masquerade!). The evening was a great success with over 100 people attending on the night.

Not only did Service Users and Flexi staff attend, but also families, Flexi Board members and outside community members that are in the Service Users lives from day to day.

Many Service Users and their families nominated Staff and community members for awards for this year.

Everyone really enjoyed the company, food and of course a dance!

Thank you to the families and friends of Flexi who came and shared the evening. Also the Service Users for giving us something to celebrate in their achievements throughout the year and for showing off their artistic talents seen in their masks and table decorations.

Thank you to the members of the community, Troy Patti and his partner Kristine Patti from the Home Hill Cricket Club and Helen Rush and Monica Quagliata from Burdekin Bowl. Thank you to the Queens Hotel for the venue, Brian Newton for partial donation of the sound equipment and to Madison Magatelli Photography for the wonderful photographs which captured great memories of the evening.

To continue to make the night an annual success we encourage everyone to submit a nomination at anytime for anyone for a positive action or achievement they have made throughout the year. This can be made by contacting the office on 4783 5866.

A link to all the photos from the evening can be emailed to you upon request from [admin@flexiqld.com](mailto:admin@flexiqld.com) or you can pop into the office at anytime to check them out!

# THINGS TO THINK ABOUT



## National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in QLD

Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk signed the bilateral agreement for the National Disability Insurance Scheme rollout for Queensland on Tuesday 15 March 2016 .

The scheme will aim to support more than 90,000 people across Queensland who have a disability. It will also create 13,000 jobs throughout the state's disability sector.

Flexi Queensland will be hosting an information session for families mid to late April, and will be in touch with families that we support about the pre-planning process as we approach rollout of the NDIS in the Burdekin (scheduled for October 2016).

Families can access the NDIS website to download their "Getting Ready Plan" or phone the NDIA to get a pack delivered.

*For more information:*

- [www.ndis.gov.au/qld](http://www.ndis.gov.au/qld)
- 1800 800 110\* 8am to 5pm (AEST) Monday to Friday
- For people with hearing or speech loss TTY 1800 555 677
- Speak and listen 1800 555 727
- For people who need help with English TIS 131 450
- Follow up on Twitter @NDIS
- Find NDIS on Facebook [facebook.com/NDISAUS](https://www.facebook.com/NDISAUS)


*To download the "Getting Ready Plan" please go to:*


<http://www.ndis.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/QLD-Participant-Pack-Final.pdf>


**Source:** <http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/qld>

## Connect with Flexi!

 4783 5866

 0427 835 866

 1800 210 637

 Flexi Queensland

 [admin@flexiqld.com](mailto:admin@flexiqld.com)

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 Flexi\_QLD

## Flexi Team 2016

Change is a constant state here at Flexi Queensland so we have some new members to welcome to the team:

Lifestyle Facilitators: Andrew, Katelyn and Kate.

Centre Team:

Toni Morgan has joined the role as the Trainee TRACCS Roster and Administration Assistant.

Judith Mandall is back on board in a temporary capacity to refocus our quality systems in Service Delivery.

# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## March

### Thursday 31st March

Junior Group—Bowling  
and PCYC activity

*Staff vs Juniors bowling comp!*

### Thursday 31st March

John Denver

Families need to ensure  
registration for attendance and  
payment of activities is  
completed at least a fortnight  
before the scheduled date.

## April

### Saturday 2nd April

Cowboys vs Dragons

### Wednesday 6th April

Junior Group—Launch  
Zone

### Friday 8th April

Junior Group—Mini Golf

### Friday 15th April

Cowboys vs Rabbitohs

### Saturday 16th April

Canefield Ashes

### Saturday 23rd April

Cowboys vs Eels

## ATTENTION EASTER CLOSURE TIMES

The Flexi Office will be **CLOSED** from Friday  
25/03/2016 and will reopen on Tuesday  
29/03/2016.

**Community Access supports will cease from  
Friday the 25/03/16 and will recommence  
Tuesday 29/03/16.**

If you require supports in this time please contact the  
office ASAP to discuss this with your DSF.

# IMPORTANT EVENT INFO

## Companion Cards



If you have a disability and a lifelong need for 'attendant care support' in order to participate in community activities and attend venues, the Companion Card can help you with the costs of getting out and about with the support of a companion.

Companion Card holders receive a second 'companion' ticket at no charge at participating venues and on public transport. The 'companion' ticket is also exempt from booking fees.

A companion is any person who accompanies a cardholder and provides attendant care support. The cardholder's chosen companion may be a paid or unpaid assistant or carer, family member, friend or partner.

For more information please visit: [www.qld.gov.au/disability/out-and-about/companion-card/](http://www.qld.gov.au/disability/out-and-about/companion-card/)

Or pick up a Companion Card Application from the Flexi Qld office today.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2013

## SPORTS ABILITY GAMES

Flexi Queensland are happy to announce the Burdekin will be **hosting the North Queensland Sports Ability Games for 2016**.

Sports Ability is an inclusive games program aimed at increasing participation in sport and physical activity for people with disabilities particularly those with high support needs.

The games will be held on **Wednesday the 22nd of June at the Burdekin Cyclone Shelter**.

The games will kick off at 10.00 am, with presentations at 4:30pm, followed by a dinner and Disco (details TBA).

Communities from all around North Queensland are keen to compete for a win at the trophy. We will be welcoming teams from Townsville, Ingham, Charters Towers, Bowen and Innisfail.

The competition sports will include; soccer, bocce, t-ball, relays and other ball games.

Flexi Queensland are seeking sponsorship for the event to help keep the day affordable to all those who participate. Information on sponsorship packages can be obtained by contacting the office on 4783 5866. We are also looking for helping hands on the day - if you have a day or even a couple of hours to spare to help us out please let us know!

For all enquiries please contact Teneill or Stephen on 4783 5866 or by emailing [teneill@flexiqld.com](mailto:teneill@flexiqld.com) or [stephen.setter@flexiqld.com](mailto:stephen.setter@flexiqld.com)

Training is underway for the Burdekin Team who are excited and keen to get another win under their belts! GO BURDEKIN!

**SPORTS ABILITY**

**Burdekin  
winners @  
the 2011  
Townsville  
Games**



# UPDATE FROM THE CEO

## ***Actually, it's an update from the Project Coordinator!***

Hi all, Sue is off on some much needed R&R visiting the family in England!

It's been another busy 3 months at Flexi! Since the Christmas break Centre Team staff have been further readying for the pending sign off of the bilateral agreement between the Queensland State Government and the Federal Government around the implementation of the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme).

Centre Team staff have been attending workshops with the Department from areas of funding, supported accommodation, information technology and communication to marketing and pre-planning and preparation for families.

On Tuesday the 15 March we received the long awaited news that the Bilateral agreement has been signed!

The information provided in the Participant and Provider information pack's is that *from 1 July 2016, the NDIS will become available for remaining children and young people (0-17) in Townsville and Charters Towers. From 1 October 2016 all remaining eligible people in Townsville, Hinchinbrook, Burdekin, west to Mount Isa, and up to the gulf will be able to access the scheme. This covers the local government areas of:*

*Townsville, Charters Towers, Palm Island, Boulia, Burdekin, Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Flinders, Hinchinbrook, McKinlay, Mornington, Mount Isa and Richmond.*

© *Frequently Asked Questions, Queensland. NDIS*

Flexi Queensland will be offering information sessions to Service Users, parents, carers and families mid to late April on the NDIS and how families can prepare and plan for meeting with the

NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) and how Flexi Queensland can support this process.

With the scale up of the NDIA team in Townsville with the early launch at 1 January 2016, for Townsville, Charters Towers (years 0-17) and Palm Island, the State Disability Services team has begun to scale down. This has presented some issues surrounding supports for new families or changes in circumstances with those already receiving state government disability services funding. Flexi Queensland is working hard to identify how we can support families as this 'transition phase' passes. If at anytime you are unsure on what to do or where to go please do not hesitate to contact Flexi on 4783 5866, a member of our Centre Team will be happy to talk through things with you.

In other news, the 2015 Flexi Masquerade and Awards night was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event. The annual event is earmarked for September during Disability Action Week 2016 (11 -17 Sep).

Again Flexi Queensland has a number of exciting activities, projects and events coming up with the RADF grant, "Paint Together - Learn Together" project, Cane Field Ashes and the Sports Ability Games, and the staff vs junior bowling comp at the end of this month!

Flexi 1 renovations have been completed! The house is looking fabulous and fresh! Thanks to the housemates, families and staff's cooperation and support in this time!

Until next time the boss is away ;)...

**Jasmine Crutchfield**

# FOOTY FEVER - GO COWBOYS



Flexi Queensland Service Users have Footy Fever this year after the NQ Cowboys spectacular grand final win last year.

The North Queensland Cowboys held their annual Community Fun Day, this year was a little more special than the rest, because last year they had won the Premiership!

Flexi also attended the first Cowboys game for the year. The Cowboys dominated the Cornella Sharks and Cowboys came out

on top with a score of 20 - 14. Well done boys!

If you are interested in attending any upcoming games, please contact Steve or Teneill at the office to book yourself in for a game. Places are only secured upon payment.

Lets bring on the 2016 Footy Session! Go Cowboys!



Left: Mark F, Mark P, Ethan and Johnny enjoying the Cowboys Community Day



Right: Nicole wearing her funky flower balloon hat.



From left: Nicole, Andrew, Emily, Steve, Johnny, Margaret, Ethan, Mark, Belinda and Kerrie.

## Barra Fun Park

On 27th of February, Flexi Queensland visited the Barra Fun Park in Townsville. It was a great day to be on the water swimming and sliding.

Mark, Johnny and Ethan even caught a barra each! The boys loved checking out the Big Pond with the metre plus Barra's. Steve and Mark tried going "Bear Grills style" and catching them with their hands.

Thank you to the Barra Fun park for their hospitality and support to providing a safe environment for the gang.



The Barra Fun Water Park!

# GRANTS APPROVED

The Flexi Queensland Centre Team have been working very hard towards applying for local grants to support the purchase of equipment, resources for activities and events and to increase the opportunities for our service users and families.

We can happily say over the past five months, we have been successfully approved for two grants.

Home Hill Community Bank Branch of Bendigo approved Flexi Queensland \$500 to purchase gazebos and camping chairs. The Service Users are very excited to attend community events in shade and comfort.

Secondly, Flexi are about to start an exciting art project supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) from the Burdekin

Shire Council with partners Aicey and Bernice Zaro.

Over the next 2 months Flexi Service Users will participate in the "Paint Together - Learn Together" project. Throughout the experience the participants will increase their knowledge of the arts and its links to culture and history.

The skills of the participants will be captured in a final piece of artwork, a mural which will also act as signage to the Flexi Queensland office at Ross Street. The mural will encapsulate the meaning of relationships, an understanding of art and local culture. The mural will be revealed on Wednesday 18th of May, 9:30am at the office. We welcome everyone to come down for a look.



Karen McKaig presenting the Bendigo Bank grant cheque to Flexi DSF Teneill.

## Wheelchairs for Kids

Flexi Queensland are still collecting cans and ring pulls, if you have any to be collected please contact Stephen at the office.

**CURRENT RING PULL TALLY**  
**As of 17th March 2016**

Raised: **\$299** for Wheelchairs for Kids.



We have raised enough funds for our first wheelchair!

**ONLY \$100 to go for our SECOND WHEELCHAIR!**

To learn more about Wheelchairs for Kids visit <http://wheelchairsforkids.org>



# JUNIOR GROUP - BOWEN TRIP

On Tuesday, 15 December 2015, Flexi's junior group went to Bowen for a day out in the sun.

It was a rowdy bus ride on the way with all the group of juniors were excitedly singing songs and discussing who were brave enough for the slides.

Once arriving all the juniors raced to get changed into their swimmers and off they went onto the waterpark.

Everyone found the courage to go down the



**Left: Joel enjoying the Waterslide at Bowen water park.**

**Right: Hana and Teneill working hard at the Marketing Workshop**

slides—even Miss Teneill had a turn too.

The juniors then cooked their lunch on the BBQ with the help from LF's Jane and Colin—everyone loves a good sausage sizzle!

Thank you to Alexandra for all the photos. A great day was had by all!

## *NDIS Marketing Workshop*



Hana Armstrong and Teneill Ready attending the NDIS Marketing Workshop in Townville, March. Hana and Teneill worked towards Flexi Queensland being NDIS ready for the rollout from July 2016

## *THANK YOU JOHNNY*

Johnny Casella has enjoyed some quality family time with his Sister. Johnny got to stay at their beach hut which he said he enjoyed heaps!

Johnny said he missed all his Flexi Friends and playing pool at the RSL.

Johnny made this thoughtful gift for us at the Flexi Office, which is on display above Chris' desk. Thanks Johnny, we love it :)!



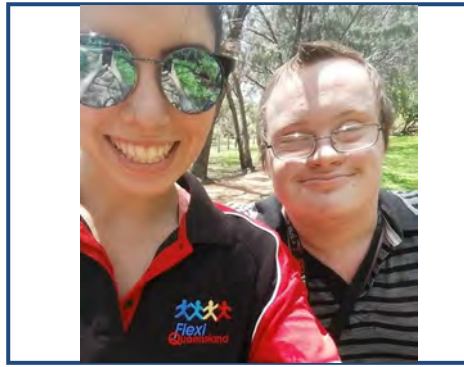
**Johnny is proud as punch with his shells jar.9**

# ON THE GROUND



## Barra Fun Park

Ethan holding his catch at the Barra Fun Park in Townsville, February 2016.



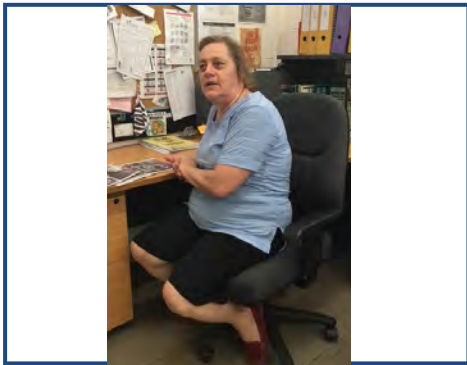
## Alva Beach

Lifestyle Facilitator Vasi and Jarrod taking a selfie on a walk at Alva Beach in January 2016.



## Birthday at the Pool

Andrew celebrated his birthday at the Ayr Pool along with Lifestyle Facilitator Kerrie and fellow Flexi Friends in February, 2016.



## Working Hard

April working hard or not working at all, at Jasmine's desk while Jasmine was on holidays.



## Cooking

Sisters, Molly and Lily baked a rainbow cake in February 2016.



## Flexi News

Johnny is very excited to be in the Advocate promoting Disability Action Week in September 2015.

HAPPY EASTER

The Flexi Team would like to wish all our Service Users and Families, our Friends, and the Burdekin Community a very **Happy Easter !**