

THANK YOU Home Hill Community Bank!



Left to Right: Mark, Lita, Leona, Emily, Vasi, Gaylene, Sheldon, Kerry, Mark, Steve, Karen (Bendigo Bank), Johnny, Sue, Leanne, Angie, Catherine, Shannen, Glenys, Nives, Steven, Lorrene, Mark, Alexandra, Peter, Janelle, Belinda, Rebecca, Kerrie.

Flexi Queensland would like to thank Home Hill Community Bank for supporting Flexi to purchase two shade gazebos and six folding camping chairs. The equipment has already been a great asset and has been used for different activities at Flexi. It is great to have local businesses supporting local people.

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CANEFIELD ASHES 2016

On Saturday the 16th of April, Flexi Queensland participated for the second year running in the annual Canefield Ashes held by the Home Hill Cricket Association.

There were a few rain clouds around on the day, but that didn't stop Flexi! Once arriving, together we organised where to sit and put up our Flexi gazebo (**Thanks again Home Hill Community Bank!**)

We met with the competing team and won the coin toss—Flexi decided to field first. The Flexi team got ready and set up the out field. The cricket ball was flying everywhere, the Service Users had to teach the Lifestyle Facilitators how to catch... and throw!

The Flexi team caught a few out and hit some wickets. It sure was hot standing out on the field, a big thank you to Flexi 4 girls for bringing out water to us—Great work !

After a short break, it was time to bat. Once again, the Service Users had to show the LF's how it was done. The Service Users were surprising the rival team by hitting sixes, after sixes. They couldn't keep up!

The Flexi team were waiting for the winner to be announced, when we heard "The winners are... Flexi Queensland!" over the microphone the Service Users jumped with excitement and congratulated each other. The Service Users then thanked the competing team showing great sportsmanship!

Once again, **a big thank you to the Home Hill Cricket Association** for their invitation and having Flexi participate in such a great community event, the experience is invaluable as the Service Users thrive on the engagement and inclusion and develop lasting confidence. We hope to see you again next year!... :)

LEFT: Back Row: Pete, Wayne, Darian, Mark, Katie
Middle Row: Stephen, Andrew, Shannen, Lizzie
Front Row: Teneill and Vasiliki.



ABOVE: Shannen trying her best to bowl at the wickets.



ABOVE: Andrew ready to hit a six!



ABOVE: AND he's OUT!



JUNIOR GROUP



ABOVE: The Junior Group kids getting ready to vs the Centre Team at Bowling

Once again, the young ones had a ball during the School Holidays with the Flexi Activities. To kick off the holidays we had a Service Users vs Centre Team bowling competition. The Service Users were triumphant over the Centre Team with a whopping 551 points to 307 points. Hana and Teneill tried their best to hold the team but weren't good enough to gain the title. The groups weekly Monday afternoon bowling league is paying off with an awesome display of skill and ability!



ABOVE: Ethan , Molly, Jett and Madeleine in the Party Zone.

Next was Launch Zone in Townsville! This was a new experience for all of us. The experience was amazing with the group jumping to music, jumping in foam pits, jumping, jumping and jumping some more! **A big shout out to Launch Zone and all their staff** for being so accommodating, the group totally loved the experience.



ABOVE: Ethan with the place to himself.

The last of the holiday activities was mini golf at the Stardust Drive in Ayr. The kids played two games each, with Rhys winning both games! Well done Rhys! The girls enjoyed walking through the "Magical Garden" and "Going on a bear hunt". We were surprised with a face paint too! **Thanks Stardust Ayr! :)**



ABOVE: Ethan and Molly lost in the launch pit!

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: Jesse, Michaela, Kathy, Kerry, Glenn, Sheldon, Hannah and Tracy.

Centre Team: Charmaine- Service Support Facilitator, Leanne- Development and Support Facilitator Supported Accommodation and Leona Flexi 4 House Leader.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

June

Saturday 4th June

Cowboys Vs Knights

Wednesday 22nd June

myBurdekin.com 2016

NQ Sports Ability games

Thursday 30th June

Burdekin Show

July

Friday 8th July

Townsville 300—V8s

Saturday 16th July

Tastes of the Burdekin

Saturday 23rd

Burdekin 4B Mania Rodeo

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

IMPORTANT EVENT INFO

Please RSVP / Express your interest to the Service Delivery Office as soon as possible for each activity. A 50% deposit is required to secure your spot. All activity pricing is based on 4 Service Users attending the event. Once all RSVP's are received Flexi will advise if the final event price differs from the original quote where less/ more than 4 Service Users have RSVP'd to attend.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have spoken to your DSF at the Service Delivery Office and have identified that you have the hours available to attend any events.

You understand that the following conditions apply if you need to **cancel your attendance** to an event:

- **With Notice Cancellation:** 2 office days' notice prior to event 50% reimbursement of activity cost. In the event that we are able to find someone to attend will get 100% reimbursement.
- **Short Notice Cancellation:** Less than 2 office days' notice prior to event 0% reimbursement of activity cost. In the event that we are able to find someone to attend will get 100% reimbursement.
- **No Notice Cancellation:** 0% reimbursement

Other important information:

Everyone must meet at the Hangout 15 minutes prior to the departure time.

Please ensure that you wear appropriate foot wear, bring a coat or jumper, have money to buy dinner and bring a water bottle, hat and sunscreen (where applicable).

Travel Matrix

To help Service Users and families understand the costing of Flexi Activities and Events Flexi have developed the below travel matrix. The Matrix displays the costs of one vehicle traveling to Townsville based on the award unit cost of 78c per kilometer. This cost is then shared across the number of participants attending the event.

Rate per km = \$0.78		Ayr - Townsville Return = 200 kms				
	# of Service User					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cost	\$ 156.00	\$ 78.00	\$ 52.00	\$ 39.00	\$ 31.20	\$ 26.00

Ticket Costs

Also when costing an event Flexi need to consider covering the cost of the LFs ticket, this is also incorporated into event pricing.

myBurdekin.com 2016 NQ Sports Ability Games



As you may be aware, the Burdekin is hosting the NQ Sports Ability Games, with Flexi Queensland as event organisers. The games will be held on Wednesday the 22nd of June, and we are happy to announce we have many local business on board helping out with the cost and running of the day.

Our Sponsors are: GOLD—myBurdekin.com, SILVER—[Wilmar Sugar](#), and BRONZE—[Wassmuth Automotive](#), [Queens Hotel](#) and [Burdekin Tiles and Bathrooms](#).

We also have many other organisations to thank for raffle prizes—Toyworld Ayr, Brandon's Travel, Earthorne's Sportspower, Spearitts Jewellers, Dominiques, Amcal Pharmacy Ayr, Moda Interiors, Ayr Camping World, Campbell's Showcase Jewellers, Penny Lane Homewares, Dotty Daisy Flowers, Glen Dell, Butterfly Blue, Empower Studio and Harvey Norman Ayr.

Meal donations: Thank you to Domino's Ayr and Red Rooster Ayr for suppling meal options to the participants. Also a big thanks to the Lion's Club of Ayr and the Lion's Club of Home Hill for preparing and serving dinner. Thanks to Coles, Woolworths and Phelan's Pies for the gift card donations.

It is greatly appreciated how many people and local businesses have gotten involved and are supporting Flexi Queensland to host such an awesome event for the region and enabling the Service Users to get physical.



The myBurdekin.com 2016 NQ Sports Ability Games will start at 10am, followed by presentations at 4:30pm, Dinner at 5:30pm, and to follow a disco and the State of Origin—Game 2 on the big screen.



If anyone is interested in lending a hand on the day to referee or score keep, please contact Teneill Ready or Stephen Setter on 4783 5866. Schedules of the day are available from the Flexi Office and also on page 9 of this newsletter.

RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE

Flexi Queensland are holding a raffle to support the Service Users participating in the myBurdekin.com 2016 NQ Sports Ability Games.

Tickets are on sale at the Flexi office—\$1 a ticket or \$3 for 5 tickets.

The raffle will be drawn on the sports day, Wednesday 22nd of June at 4:30pm following the presentations.

Thank again to everyone who has been involved with donations and selling of the tickets.



ABOVE: Sue , Jasmine and Hana showing off the raffle prizes.

UPDATE FROM THE CEO

As I write this I cannot believe it is the 1st of June tomorrow. The last two months have flown by and since my return from holidaying overseas for a family wedding in England, things have been full steam ahead in preparation for the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in the Burdekin from the 1st October 2016.

NDIS Preparations

Following the NDIS rollout announcement I have been working closely with the Flexi Board around the necessary preparations for the organisation. This included the decision to engage consultants Linda Hayes and Ken Leigh of Corporate Synergies Australia (CSA) to assist myself and the Centre Team to ensure that Flexi is very well prepared and best placed to enable transition across to NDIS for our existing Service Users and families.

Linda was on site for two days on 17th and 18th May to meet the Centre Team and Board, and to map the organisational systems and processes against what is required for business in NDIS. Particularly as our behind the scenes operating costs have to reduce from 18% to 12% based on the pricing of services under NDIS. Consequently Flexi has restructured the Centre Team and the position of Service Administration Officer has been made redundant. This position was held by Chris Durso and her last working day was Friday 27th May. To recognise Chris' contribution and service to Flexi for over eight years a lunchtime get together with date to be advised for Service Users, families and staff to attend.

Today I finalised the provider registration process on the NDIS online portal—this gave me a few more grey hairs!! Flexi Queensland has applied for registration to deliver our existing support services and also some new service types that are available under NDIS. Once we have approval of our registration we will be advising Service Users and families of all these service types in an easy to read “menu” with supporting information to assist with learning the new NDIS terminology.

Disability Services has approved my request to notify Service Users and families of the support types and hours they currently receive from Flexi Queensland—this will assist with the transition and I hope to get the letters out with this information before mid June.

Flexi NDIS Information Meeting

This leads me on to the Flexi Queensland NDIS Information meeting that Jasmine mentioned in the last newsletter. Finally we have set a date for the early evening of Wednesday 22nd June—time and venue to be advised through a flyer. This will coincide with Linda Hayes' next visit and the Sports Ability Games so that most Service Users will be at the event allowing families to attend the meeting. We

are a little later than planned in holding this meeting but we have been waiting on the release of information so that we could develop resources to assist Service Users and families with the preparations for developing their NDIS Plan with the Planners from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA). Following this meeting Joy Cornford and myself will arrange to meet with each family to assist in establishing the points you need to raise with your NDIA Planner regarding your individual support needs. Flexi will be there to assist you in this process and you can even request someone from Flexi's Centre Team to attend your NDIS planning meeting with you. If at anytime you are unsure on what to do or where to go regarding NDIS, please do not hesitate to contact Flexi on 4783 5866, a member of our Centre Team will be happy to assist.

Staffing Changes

I would like to welcome the eight new LFs who have joined the Flexi Team which has bought the staffing numbers up to 61 as this newsletter goes to print. Jasmine Crutchfield has resigned from her position as Project Coordinator and will be relocating back to the cold of country Victoria in mid July—she will be sadly missed by everyone and we will be organising a NQ send off for her to remember!! As part of the restructure this position will not continue and has been replaced by a Development & Support Facilitator role to oversee the Supported Accommodation Houses. I am pleased to advise that Leanne Marriott was successful in the internal recruitment for this role and will be starting in the office next week now that Leona Floriduz has been appointed replacement House Leader Flexi 4 following her successful internal recruitment process—congratulations to you both on your promotions. These changes mean that the Centre Team will be reviewing the Service User caseload and once this is finalised people will be advised of any changes to their current Centre Team contact person.

Zandra Johnson has decided to retire from her role as Service Support Coordinator with Flexi after nearly nine years of keeping the behind the scenes running as a well oiled machine. Zandra is currently training up Charmaine Keyse who started Monday 29th May following her appointment to take over the reins. Zandra too will be very missed but she promises not to be a stranger and visit regularly. A morning Tea for Zandra will be held at the Hangout on June 7 at 12pm with Service users, families and staff welcome.

Finally, Thank You to Bob Dundas's family for donating the flat screen TV and Karen Young's family for donating the entertainment unit—adding the finishing touches to the Flexi 1 Lounge. Also a Thank You to the local businesses and clubs for sponsoring the 2016 Sports Ability Games—I look forward to seeing you all there!

Sue Collier

RADF REVEAL



In our last edition Flexi shared their success in obtaining a grant from the Regional Arts Development Fund from the Burdekin Shire Council to run a project in partnership with Aicey and Bernice Zaro. The focus of the project was to give our Service Users an opportunity to learn about local culture through art.

Over the past eight weeks, the Service Users discovered and learnt about different cultures, animals and icons in the Burdekin region and new painting techniques. The Service Users thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On Wednesday the 18th of May, Flexi Queensland held a morning tea for the official reveal of the mural called: **“Paint Together—Learn Together”**.

Those present at the morning tea were greatly impressed when the mural was revealed. To top off the occasion the group were lucky to have another photo opportunity to share in the Ayr Advocate to share their experience with the greater community.

Flexi would like to extend another big **Thank you to RADF, Burdekin Shire Council and Aicey and Bernice Zaro.**



Left Top: Steven joining in on the activity and learning different painting technics.

Left Below: The “Paint Together—Learn Together” Mural



Right: Article in the Ayr Advocate.



Residents with disabilities build relationships through mural

Regina Lovic
A WONDERFUL mural has been produced by a group of residents with disabilities who can now proudly show off their work.
Flexi Queensland received a grant as a part of the Regional Arts Development Fund from the Burdekin Shire Council, allowing them to partner with indigenous artists Aicey and Bernice Zaro. The Zaro's provided an art workshop for the service users, explaining the importance of traditional painting, and the techniques and the meaning of art in the indigenous culture.
The eight-week hands on project focused on skill development, while increase their knowledge of the arts, and its links to culture and history.
Independence and community inclusion development and support facilitator Teneill Ready said it was an opportunity not often provided to adults with disability in the community.
“The project offered the service users the opportunity to enhance/increase their communication styles through adopting different forms of expression and interaction with others, within a comfortable and supported environment,” she said.
“The service users thoroughly enjoyed the experience.”
“The end result and masterpiece is a mural which encapsulates the meaning of relationships, an understanding of art and local culture—the piece is located outside the Ross Street office for the community to view.”
Service user Belinda Linton added: “They all learnt different painting techniques and about the indigenous culture, and enjoyed catching up with their friends during the activity.”

Thank You

Flexi Queensland would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the renovations to the Flexi 1 lounge room. The housemates and staff are all very impressed with the new lease on life the renovations have given to the house.

The new furnishings are like icing on the cake! A big thank you to the families who have donated pieces to the home, please see Update from CEO for a special acknowledgement.

The housemates really enjoy watching their favourite shows and movies while reclining in comfort and style.



From left: April, Karen, Paul and Bob enjoying their new lounge room.

presents a free 3 hour presentation:

**Paving the Way to the
National Disability Insurance Scheme
(NDIS)**

Pave the Way invites people with disabilities and their families to a presentation about preparing for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which will begin to roll out in Queensland in July 2016.

The NDIS is a new Federal system for ensuring people with disability have the reasonable and necessary supports they require to engage more fully in social and economic life.

To assist individuals and their families to understand what the NDIS will involve this presentation will explore:

- ◆ A general overview of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the role of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA)
- ◆ What you need to do to prepare for planning with the NDIA
- ◆ What you need to do to develop confidence as a consumer of disability services.

To register for a presentation:

Visit the Pave the Way website: www.pavetheway.org.au

or contact Pave the Way:

Phone: (07) 3291 5800; Toll free call: 1300 554 402



Should you require support/ consideration for dietary, mobility, auditory, visual, interpreter or cultural needs, please let us know when you book your place and we will endeavour to assist you.



DETAILS:

MACKAY

Monday 30th May, 2016

9:30am—12:30pm

Harrup Park Country Club,
Juliet Street, Mackay

BOWEN

Wednesday 1st June, 2016

10am – 1pm

Bowen PCYC,
Cnr Queens Rd & Hay St,
Bowen

AYR

Thursday 2nd June, 2016

10am – 1pm

Ayr Tropical City Motor Inn,
121-125 MacMillian St, Ayr

Morning tea provided.

Registration by Friday 27th May
is essential to ensure your place.

PLEASE NOTE: We require a minimum number of 8 for these presentations to proceed.

Venues used by PTW are accessible.

An NDIS Participant Readiness activity funded by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

**CONNECT
WITH
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Flexi_QLD

MYBURDEKIN.COM 2016 NQ SPORTS ABILITY GAMES
 WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE 2016
 SCHEDULE



Time	Action
7:00am – 9:00am	Event coordinators to arrive at location and commence setting up – needs to include overall safety check of the venue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place signage up around venue, including toilets, first aid and water stations • Set up information and/or results table • Instruct volunteers of roles
9:00am – 10:00am	Morning Tea Greet organisations and get them settled for 10am start.
10:00am – 10:20am	Event coordinator to conduct welcome. Hold March.
10:20am – 11:45am	Session 1 – Soccer
11:45am – 12:30pm	Lunch – Sponsored by Domino's Ayr
12:30pm – 1:15pm	Session 2 – Bocce
1:15pm – 1:25pm	Participants to move to their next session
1:25pm – 2:20pm	Session 3 – T-ball
2:20pm – 2:30pm	Participants to move to their next session
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Session 4 – Relay and Ball Games
3:30pm – 4:30 pm	Participants, support staff and volunteers assemble in designated area for wrap up for Event Coordinator appreciation speech for sponsors, volunteers, participants, support staff etc, for involvement in afternoon.
4:30pm – 5:30pm	Presentations of Trophies
5:30 pm – 6:15pm	BBQ Dinner – Supported by Lion Club of Ayr and Home Hill and Sponsored by Red Rooster Ayr
6:15pm – 10pm	Disco and State of Origin – Game 2



SPORTS ABILITY

ON THE GROUND



Cooking

Lita made some savory muffins in April 2016.



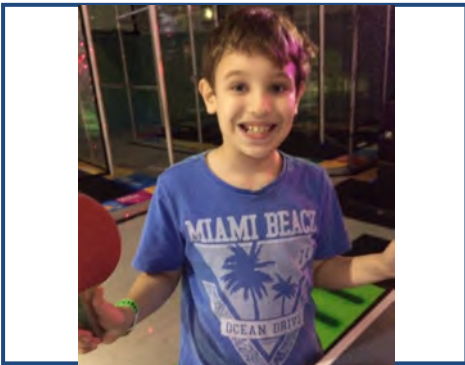
Junior Group Bowling

Ethan, Holly and Molly enjoyed catching up over the school holiday at bowling in April 2016.



The Winning Ball

Peter holding the winning ball from the Canefield Ashes Game in April 2016.



New Found Skill

Jet discovered he enjoys playing table tennis while at Launch Zone in Townsville, April 2016.



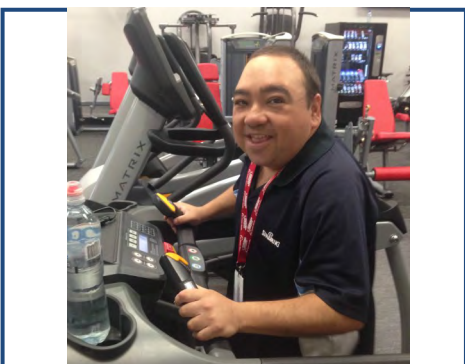
Cowboys

Andrew, Mark and Lifestyle Facilitator Kerrie taking a selfie at the Cowboys game at 1300 Smiles Stadium.



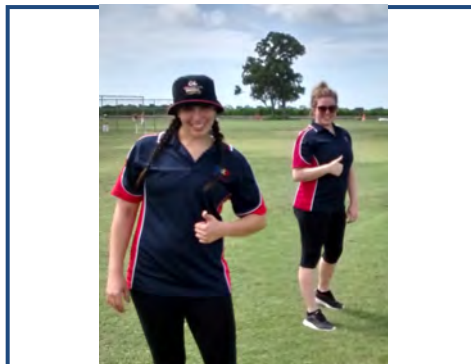
Birthday Fun

Paul enjoying his birthday at home with his friends in May 2016—21 again?



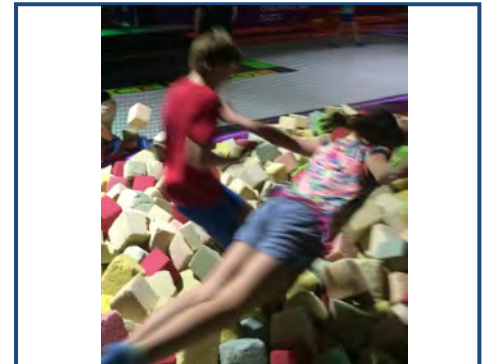
Snap Fitness

Johnny working hard at the Snap Fitness Gym.



Canefield Ashes

Lifestyle Facilitators Vasi and Shannen giving a thumbs up on the cricket pitch in April 2016.



Launch Zone

Ethan Collins and Molly Julyan leaping into the foam pit at Launch Zone in Townsville.