Issue 6 – Nov/Dec 2015

a publication for workers and supporters of Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre



We acknowledge the people of the Bundjalung Nation. We pay respect to their cultures, and acknowledge their strong and continuing connection to their land and waters. Bundjalung Country; always was, always will be.

Seasons Greetings one and all

The 2015 Access and Inclusion perpetual trophy – awarded to PBNC. See page 3.



our newsletter

Drift is produced at Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre, 10B - 12A Elizabeth St, Pottsville Beach, NSW 2489 (02) 6676 4555 info@pbnc.org.au www.pottsvillebeachnc.org.au



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Falls Festival, Teddy bears

What's on at the centre



Good news visit

Some good news was delivered to PBNC when Minister for Ageing, Disability Services, Multiculturalism and Volunteering, John Ajaka, and MP Geoff Provest, visited the centre with a funding update.

We learnt that PBNC had been successful in gaining funding for a suite of artbased workshops for children Aspergers and their parents/ carers. The workshops will be facilitated by PBNC's resident graphic and fine artists, and renowned Tweed Shire artist, Barb Suttie (pending her availability), and will take place early next year.



We are hoping more good news is forthcoming in 2016 in relation to a proposal that was provided to the Minister. The funding proposal outlines services and supports for seniors, and creates an opportunity for an enhanced role for our Tech Centre in the provision of training in a variety of information technologies and digital devices, along with vital information to keep safe online.





Do you have a favourite movie? The Pirates of the Caribbean

Do you have a favourite book or author?

I collect books on Rugby League history and player profiles. I am a proud Panther's fan.

What famous person would you choose to spend an evening with and why?

The actor Morgan Freeman. I like all his movies. He has a great voice and is an all round nice guy. Meeting him would be interesting.

What is your favourite food? Roast pork and vegies...also Thai food and I've got a recently acquired taste for Japanese cuisine.

Whom do you most admire and whv?

The Dalai Lama impresses me. He is so at peace with the world and is a giving person to all mankind.

If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where - and why? Canada. A trip on the Rocky Mountain Railway has always appealed to me. It would be an incredibly scenic and pristine environment to visit.

What does PBNC mean to you? It's a great place for community minded people to gather and use their life/work skills to help others. PBNC provides me with an additional interest other than family and sport and keeps me active in the community.



PBNC tops Access Award honours

Several PBNC workers enjoyed a wonderful evening at the recent Tweed Shire Access and Inclusion Awards, and the enjoyment was topped when PBNC won the overall award. The event, organised by Tweed Shire Council and a local Access Committee, celebrated many positive social inclusion actions and highlighted the tremendous array of abilities and capacities within our shire.

After an opening address by the award's new patron, multiple paratriathlon world champion Bill Chaffey; Chair Milena Morrow told the ceremony that overcoming community perception was the greatest challenge to achieving improved inclusion for everyone.

"While we continue to address the environmental and physical barriers, we will also address the most challenging barrier that no one can see, and the most difficult one to change societal attitudes," Ms Morrow said.

"Accessibility is really about one community; one people, not a community divided up into separate groups. An accessible environment benefits everyone at some stage in their life, and no matter what happens to an individual, accessibility will ensure they can continue to get on with their lives."

Keynote speaker Graeme Innes, a former Australian Disability Discrimination Commissioner and delegate to the United Nations, said society will not be fair and properly functioning until it challenges the negative assumptions made about people. "There are many reasons why people with disabilities should take control of our lives - but basically they come down to the reality that societies work better if all members are included, and that societies are less functional if there are people excluded, or on the margins," he said.

PBNC manager Angela had this to say after the awards:

"The evening included such a full program - a fabulous achievement! Well done to Karen Collins (Tweed Shire Council), the organising committee and all those involved. From an audience perspective, there were so many positive experiences, including how beautifully we were all welcomed and served at our table by Lifebridge and St Joseph's College representatives; Kristian Keogh's MC-ing, singing and piano playing; Tim Morrissey's film project and the South Sea Islander dancing.

"Everyone I spoke with who attended, enjoyed being included and exposed to the stories and people behind the stories – very powerful and life affirming stuff. I am sure that Louisa and Renee and our Asperger groups' participants and facilitators, PBNC's workers and our whole community will be very happy to know about PBNC's award-winning recognition too, once word filters out!"

Angela explained PBNC's approach to community work, especially when working with those with disabilities. "We just don't see disability - we see possibility. Our approach has always been to find a way around a situation so all our participants can contribute according to their desires and aspirations," she said. "We have had so many beautiful experiences working alongside people who experience and overcome barriers."



CONC representatives (clockwise from left): Gretchen, Todd, Pat, Nat, Angela, Chibo, Cecily, Jackie, Skye and Julie.

CONC (Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres Inc)

All CONC members were represented at the CONC Inc. inaugural Annual General Meeting held at PBNC in November. Executive positions were filled as follows:

> Chairperson – Julie Williams (Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre);

Vice-Chairperson – Angela Maxwell (Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre);

Secretary – Skye Sear (New School of Arts Neighbourhood House, South Grafton)

> Treasurer – Gretchen Young (Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre)

with the remainder organisations (Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre, Casino Neighbourhood Centre and Kyogle Together / Kyogle Youth Action) being ordinary members.



by PBNC's Brighter Futures Family Development Worker Michelle Laurie



I am a proud Aboriginal woman from the Baguwa Clan (Gumbainggir Nation) of the Clarence River area. My mother is a Gumbainggir woman and my father is a Yaegl man from Yamba.

I am a mother of four children and take my role as a parent seriously in raising respectful, happy, thriving and determined young people. I feel privileged and honoured to be their mother.

I was ready to entertain change in my life regarding my career and heard that there was a vacancy for a Family Development Worker at the Pottsville office of a regional program, Brighter Futures. I called into the office and was greeted by the great staff and was impressed with the welcoming feeling and open, positive energy of the centre. After finding out more about the position, I applied and was successful. My role as Family Development Worker enables me to support a diverse range of families from different backgrounds and upbringings. Supporting families within my local area is a good feeling because I am supporting the community in which I live. I feel honoured to be playing

a small role in building capacity within families, empowering them to become stronger and determined in creating a brighter future for themselves and their children. The Brighter Futures office has two other Family Development Workers and I feel most supported by my two fellow workers, Christine and Ken, and also by my Team Leader Rod - special thanks to you all.

It is a pleasure coming to the office every day. Angela and the team at the Neighbourhood Centre are always happy and take the time to connect with whoever walks through the doors. The setting in and around the centre really values the local community and the environment. PBNC provides me with a sense of belonging and a

limited if I was not involved with Brighter Futures and PBNC.
a. J worked in Aboriginal Education and Training with North Coast TAFE for 14 years. My focus in that position was to engage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Tweed Heads and Ballina region. The role had a focus on engaging with young people and their families to help them explore, map out and start their vocational and training journey. It is important to support young people and the families all the

level of wellbeing. The centre acknowledges Country in a visual way, with local Aboriginal artworks on the walls of the building. Seeing and

feeling the works every day gives me a sense of cultural safety and helps me to nourish cultural

pride within myself. I am enjoying my new job and it helps me connect with other sectors of my local

community, connection which would have been

people and the families all the way with an holistic approach to assist them to best achieve their goals to bring about changes for themselves, their families and communities.

I paint for enjoyment and self-care purposes, painting in water colour and using mixed medium to further create interesting elements to the story I am telling. I also love spending time with my family and talking about old times and looking at Mum's old photos. Showing my children photos of my family's history is extremely important for them to connect their past with their futures. This gives them the determination and an increased level of commitment and obligation to continue making a difference in their lives. This helps them develop their sense and feeling of belonging within the

family, which in turn develops their own cultural identity. My mother tells cultural stories to the grandchildren from her childhood growing up, helping to sustain family cultural beliefs and practices.

PBNC is a hub for community. It cherishes and acknowledges the value of community and supports community development in many different ways. It is great to see the community participation within the different projects and programs on PBNC grounds each day of the week.

Thanks to Rachel and the Brighter Futures Team – North Coast for the privilege of taking up the Family Development Worker position in Pottsville at PBNC ■





Christmas Party 2015

































































































110 revelers danced and chatted the night away at PBNC's Christmas Party held at Pottsville Beach Sports Club.

Thanks go to the Pottsville Sports Club, Julie and Clive for helping make the evening such a success.















Pantry Party!

Once again Beachside Communicare Community Pantry held its Christmas Carols in the Courtyard at PBNC in December.

More than 100 adults and children enjoyed Christmassy refreshments and a sausage sizzle, kicked up their heels and sang along to Christmas carols with Phil Guest.

Face painting was popular and guests were also able to access Beachside's community pantry, held each Wednesday morning from 10am till 12noon downstairs at PBNC.

This was the pantry's last session for the year. It will reopen on Wednesday 6 January 2016.





2 December 2015

Angela Maxwell Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre Elizabeth Street Pottsville NSW 2489

Thank You from Beachside Communicare – Community Pantry Pottsville

Dear Angela

We want to take this opportunity once again to express our big **THANKS** to you for your support and partnership with our Community Pantry in Pottsville.

The Community Pantry is funded wholly by our church's limited financial income and, supported by people like you. The Community Pantry provides poverty relief to approx 60 families (our estimate is that this benefits approx 120-150 people) in the Tweed Coast area weekly. **Two weeks ago alone, we helped 76 families.**

Without your free, regular, consistent and reliable support we will struggle to sustain this program effectively. Your cooperation in and provision of the premises and your volunteers to assist us weekly enables the pantry to run smoothly and this is a tribute to you and your organisation.

We want to thank you for your sacrifice and active social involvement in the lives of the people in our community and are praying that you ,your family and your staff enjoy great blessings & prosperity now and in the future.

For more information on the operations and testimonials on the Community Pantry please view our website: <u>www.beachsidechurch.org.au /food pantry</u>

Yours Fatthfully

Mobile: 0422 869 343

Alan Pillay Senior Pastor

Angela received this beautiful letter of thanks from Alan Pillay of Beachside Church in relation to the Community Pantry and wanted to share it.

The pantry provides a much needed service to those in need. PBNC now has a community worker, Lily, placed down at the pantry to offer assistance in the way of material aid and referrals, and to chat with pantry clients, many of whom enjoy the chance to socialize as well as accessing the pantry and learning about other local activities and supports.

Platypuses

by PBNC worker Lily

Tony and I recently had a couple of days at a 'bnb' in Tuckombil with our son Andrew and his girlfriend Anastacia. The Japanese-style house was perched on a bend of Maguire's Creek, which had carved its way through rocky hills to the sea. The owner of the property told us about the wildlife we might see and where we might find it. The first night we saw Edward the Eel, a couple of turtles and a few perch.

The next morning I was determined to see the platypus, which Sophie had said we might see if it was not feeling shy. I looked for any signs of a platypus. Within several minutes I had spotted some small ripples and bubbles, and soon a furry shape about 30cms long popped up to the surface. When it dived under again, I quietly waved to the family to come from the house to my spot on the creek bank to watch this amazing spectacle. The four of us were spellbound by this little creature and were amazed to see another platypus popping up. They soon parted company, one going further along the waterhole, the other remaining to entertain us for about half an hour. The experience was a very rare, special and bonding one for our own small family.

In 1799, Dr George Shaw in England gave the species the scientific name *Platypus anatinus*. For various reasons this was eventually replaced after several years by the current scientific name *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*. In the meantime, "platypus" had become the accepted common name for the animal. The word "platypus" is derived from two Greek words meaning "flat foot". The accepted plural is "platypuses" or (particularly in scientific and conservation contexts) "platypus". The term "platypi" – commonly used in the past – is clearly incorrect, being derived from a Latin plural form.

The platypus is most likely to be seen early in the morning or late in the evening, though it may also be active in the middle of the day. Platypuses occupy weir pools, irrigation channels and manmade dams or reservoirs as well as natural lakes, rivers, creeks, backwaters and billabongs. They are usually spotted in places where the water surface is fairly calm, making it easier for observers to identify the ripples formed on the water surface as the animals swim and dive. They occur over a wide altitudinal range, from sea level up to at least 1500 metres. However, platypuses are not commonly seen in the salty water of bays and estuaries.



Very large adult males may measure up to about 60 centimetres in length (including the tail). Juvenile platypuses first emerge from nesting burrows in late January to early March. Tasmanian juveniles emerge two months later. Platypuses are very rarely seen on land, though they may occasionally rest on a log or rock, usually while grooming.

The platypus eats mainly aquatic insects such as mayfly and caddis-fly larvae, along with other invertebrates such as worms, freshwater shrimps and yabbies.

A platypus will normally remain underwater for less than one minute while feeding. When the animal's oxygen supply starts to run low it returns to the surface, most typically popping up within 10-20 metres of the point where it dived. However, if a platypus is alarmed by a bird flying overhead or some other perceived threat, it may hide underwater for 10 minutes or more, conserving oxygen by wedging itself under a handy log or the roots of an undercut tree at the water's edge. Alternatively, it may retire to a burrow or a protected location under an overhanging shrub until the danger has passed

> Source: Australian Platypus Conservancy Website: www.platypus.asn.au





Clare McGregor from the Falls Music & Arts Festival Byron Bay has kindly donated 10 three-day passes to Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre for distribution to workers who would enjoy the festival but may not be able to afford it.

The lucky ticket-holders will need to exchange the tickets for a wristband at the festival entry gate.

People who are driving in will need to pre-purchase car passes from here:

http://byron.fallsfestival.com.au/travel/car-passes

Otherwise there are shuttle buses to and from the festival to various locations (see details on the website) or people can be dropped off or picked up at the drop-off zone at the festival. If people want to camp, camping is free and is included in the ticket entry (byo tent, etc).

For more information about Falls Festival go to: http://byron.fallsfestival.com.au It is a strictly 18+ event. Dec 31 - Jan 2, North Byron Parklands



Teddy bear giveaway

Ten children who attended the community pantry with their parents/carers each left with a new companion, a soft, cuddly knitted teddy bear. Twelve bears were made and donated to PBNC by a very kind anonymous donor and were happily received by the children, aged from nine months old to seven years old. Tyrell is pictured (on the right) choosing a bear for his younger sister.

The remaining two bears will be given to children through PBNC's Brighter Future's program. Many thanks go to the local knitter whose donations bring so much joy to the children.

Who says you're too old for netball?

More than 500 women (and some men) descended on Hobart in November to take part in the 16th Golden Oldies **Netball Festival. The motto is 'Fun, Friendship and Fraternity' which we all** lived up to, especially the fun part !



Three days of netball took place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, when we played three games of two 12-minute halves.

Sunday night saw the Opening Ceremony held at Wrest Point Casino, with a theme of Casino Royale. Ladies dressed up in some great costumes and we all danced the night away before having to get up bright and bushy-tailed for netball the next morning. Buses took us to the netball venue by 10am where the temperatures managed to top 13°!

Tuesday was Melbourne Cup Day, so we were taken to the local Tattersall's racecourse where we watched the local races and bet on the all-important Melbourne Cup. The course was booked out especially for us, with five different food vendors set up to keep hunger away. Again the costumes were very imaginative and colourful – see the girls on their horses pictured above right.

Thursday was a free day to explore Hobart and surrounds. We took a tour of the Old Hobart Gaol which was very interesting. I am certainly glad that I did not live during the early settlement of Hobart, having to spend any time in the dark, dank solitary confinement cells.

Saturday saw everyone down at the famous Salamanca Markets purchasing goods and gifts in between showers of rain. Saturday night was the Finale Dinner with a



theme of 'H' – you could dress up as anything starting with the letter 'H'. Our team was dressed in High Vis gear. Other teams went as Hippos, Harlots, Heavenly Angels and Housewives (see photo below).

That night we won the 'Friendship Award' which teams vote for. It was a delightful surprise for us.

Sunday morning came all too quickly and everyone left, after a great week of renewing old friendships, making new ones and having lots of fun. We are all looking forward to meeting up again in Christchurch in April 2018 ■



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During October and December 2015, PBNC via the Re-purpose arm of the TripleR Project, was delighted to donate two refurbished laptops. One was donated to a family with the Brighter Futures program and the second one to a recently settled family to Australia, known to the Pottsville Refugee Support Group. Both laptops will be used to assist families in their educational activities. On each occasion Danny provided some welcome hints on accounts and usage.

The PBNC TripleR Project is a supported community project setup to achieve results for the community through work generated by TripleR. The 'Re-purpose' arm of the project aims to use donated computer components to re-purpose otherwise obsolete IT items that would have ended up in landfill. Re-furbished computers are then donated to individuals/families in our community who are disadvantaged ■





PlayTime Group party

PBNC's PlayTime Group celebrated the end of 2015 by having a party in the Sandbar Room and playground at the centre. Ten families attended, with parents and carers bringing food to share, and a bouncing castle for the children to play on.

Organisers are planning to run sessions on Mondays and Thursdays, depending on numbers, with sessions held during school terms from 9.30am to 11.30am.

For more information, call Karen or Angela at PBNC (02) 6676 4555.

We all love it when people take the time to acknowledge the great work achieved in our community, via PBNC, and endorse the products (services and activities) at PBNC which really galvanise people and reduce isolation and disadvantage. The following email from Lisabel Ward says it all.

🖙 8-31 AM (1 hour ago) 👉 🔸

Hi Angela

I recently called into the tech centre and the second hand shop at Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre. I was so thrilled by both services that as you

know we ended up speaking on the phone. I wanted to also record my appreciation of the Pottsville services, hence this email.

I have worked as a community development worker in Australia and overseas for almost 40 years. This work has included supporting Neighbourhood Houses. I have rarely seen neighbourhood services at the standard of Pottsville - practical, accessible, friendly, dignified, aesthetic and totally affordable!

I am very aware of the work and goodwill required behind the scenes to offer the incredible standard of services at Pottsville. I highly commend all of the people involved in offering these services to the public. The services are 5 star and they speak to what is possible when communities work together.

Thank you for offering an inspiring example of what is possible. All the very best in the future.

Lisabel Ward



Ruth (right) - Diabetic Support with Janet and Angela



Emma-lee (right) - Art and Play with her children and Karen

Appreciation Certificates



Janet - Community Services Resource Directory

Certificates were presented to the above people and also to the following organisations and individuals for their generous and sustained contributions to PBNC:

Cabarita Lions Club – for the donation of Christmas presents for children, distributed through the Brighter Futures Program located at PBNC.

Kym Tonge – for running the Side by Side (SbS) Home Educating Support Group for children and their families.

Debbie Coppen and Terry English – for running PBNC's Aspie SbS suite of services for children, teens and their families.

Ethan English – for running the Aspie GameOn activities for teens and their families.

Thanks also to Rebecca Gardner from Learn & Play Near the Sea Family Daycare and Jules Psaila for their donations of Christmas gifts.

Heavenly hummus with spicy lavash

Hummus:

- Heat oil in pan, add chopped onion, stir till soft. Add cumin till fragrant, then allow to cool for 5 minutes.
- Blend onion mix with cooked or (tinned) chickpeas, tahini, lemon juice, coriander, paprika and buttermilk until smooth. Spoon into serving bowl; drizzle with a little olive oil.



Serve with spicy lavash.

Spicy lavash:

Cut each lavash into 16 triangles, place in single layer on oven tray; sprinkle with seasoning. Toast in hot oven about 5 minutes till crisp.

Source: The Australian Women's Weekly Middle Eastern cookbook.

About hummus:

Hummus or houmous is a Levantine and Egyptian food dip or spread made from cooked, mashed chickpeas or other beans blended with tahini, olive oil, lemon juice, salt and garlic. Today, it is popular throughout the Middle east (including Turkey), North Africa (including Morocco), and in Middle Eastern cuisine around the globe.

Hummus is an Arabic word (حمّص) meaning "chickpeas".

In a 100gram serving, homemade hummus provides 177 calories and is an excellent source (20% and higher of the daily value) of vitamin B6, manganese and dietary fibre. It is a good source of protein, vitamin C, folate, phosphorus, iron, zinc, copper and sodium.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Monday

Technology Centre 9am - 4pm

Opp Shop 9am - 4pm

Toy Library 9.30am - 12.30pm



PlayTime Group Sandbar Room 9.30am - 11.30pm (school terms)

Thursday

Technology Centre 9am - 5pm

Opp Shop 9am - 1pm

Toy Library 9.30am - 12.30pm



Furniture Shop 9am - 1pm

PlayTime Group Sandbar Room 9.30am - 11.30am (school terms)

Stretch Your Mind Reef Room 12.30 - 2.30pm

Tuesday

Technology Centre 9am - 5pm

Opp Shop 9am - 1pm

Toy Library 9.30am - 12.30pm

Get Fit, Keep Fit Sandbar Room 9.00am - 10.15am

Scrabble Starfish Room 10am - 12pm

Art and Play Coral Bay Room 10am -11am (school terms)

Meditation with Robyn Sandbar Room 1.30 - 2.30pm **Phone Robyn** 0427 212 210

Friday

Technology Centre 9am - 1pm

Opp Shop 9am - 4pm

Toy Library 9.30am - 12.30pm

Furniture Shop 9am - 1pm

Get Fit, Keep Fit Sandbar Room 9.00 - 10.15am

Pottsville Toddler Tunes & Stories Sandbar Room 10.45am - 12pm (school terms)

Wordsflow Sandbar Room 12.30 - 3.30pm (school terms) Phone Cheryl 0412 455 707

Wednesday

Technology Centre 9am - 5pm

Opp Shop 9am - 1pm

Toy Library 9.30am - 12.30pm

Diabetes Support Group (1st Wed each month) Reef Room 2 - 4pm Phone Ruth (02) 6676 0411

PBNC Home Educating Group (each Wed except 1st Wed each month) Sandbar Room 1 - 4pm (school terms) **Phone Kym 0401 078899**

Saturday

Opp Shop 9am - 1pm

Aspergers Support Groups Side by Side (1pm first Sat of month) & GameOn (1pm 3rd Sat of month) -School terms only Phone Deb or Terry (02) 6676 0483

Sunday

PBNC Markets, Opp Shop, Furniture Shop, Trash & Treasure (7am - 1pm) and Community BBQ -

1st & 3rd Sun each month.

Next markets (2015):

20	
3&	17
7&	21
6&	20
	3 & 7 &



Regular Services & Programs

PBNC ADMINISTRATION

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm

BRIGHTER FUTURES

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

DHS (CENTRELINK)

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 1.30pm

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

1st Wednesday each month 2pm - 4pm - Reef Room Ph: Ruth (02) 6676 0411

MEN'S SHED AND SECONDHAND FURNITURE SHOP

Thursday/Friday 9am - 1pm; Market Sunday 7am - 1pm

GET FIT, KEEP FIT

Sandbar Room - Gentle exercise for Seniors Tuesday 9.00 - 10.15am, Friday 9.00 - 10.15am

OPP SHOP

Monday & Friday 9am - 4pm Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat 9am - 1pm Market Sunday

7am - 1pm

PBNC TECHNOLOGY CENTRE Computer Lessons, Internet Access and Equipment Servicing

Monday Tues, Wed, Thu Friday

9am - 4pm 9am - 5pm 9am - 1pm

POTTSVILLE PLAYTIME GROUP

Sandbar Room Monday & Thursday 9.30am - 11.30am (school terms)

ART AND PLAY

Coral Bay Room (next to Reef Room) Tuesday 10 - 11am, (school terms)

COUNSELLORS

Counselling by appointment most days. Contact Admin for more details.

MEDITATION WITH ROBYN

Sandbar Room - Tuesday 1.30 - 2.30pm

STRETCH-YOUR-MIND

Reef Room - Thursday 12.30 - 2.30pm

TOY LIBRARY

Monday to Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

WORDSFLOW

Sandbar Room - Friday 12.30 - 3.00pm (school terms)

SCRABBLE

Tuesday 10am - 12pm

TODDLER TUNES AND STORIES

Sandbar Room - Friday 10.45 - 11.45am (school terms)

