

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our centre stands, the Bundjalung nation.

Eight months since PBNC's new Admin Centre opened, the centre's workers have adapted and are thriving in the new environment. Pictured below are Front Desk workers Adam, Emma, Bernie, Mick, Jill, Troy, Rena, Karen, Pauline, Libby, Chris and Marie. Other Front Desk workers are Cecily, Jan, Ruth, Chris I, Fiona, Suzanne, Debby and Karen G.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE FRONT DESK



The good feeling starts when you come through the front door at Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre. Whether a worker (paid or volunteer) or a customer, you'll be met with a smile and made to feel welcome.

The Front Desk is the starting point for visitors to the centre, and it is from here that information is dispensed and referrals to other services / activities (internal and external) are made.

Usually about three people or more operate the busy Front Desk. Some will be answering the phone; others will deal face-to-face with customers and most will be researching or working on various projects in between attending to customers.

Visitors with an internal query may be directed to PBNC's Centrelink Agency, Tech Centre, Opp Shop, Brighter Futures, the Markets, onsite counsellors or one of the many programs currently on offer at the centre.

Front Desk workers also take part in filling the vital role of keeping up refreshments to the team, maintaining energy levels with a continual flow of cuppas and crackers with tomato, cheese and gherkin - the centre's recipe for success. ■

Re-energising at LCSA

More than 200 staff, managers, board members and volunteers from neighbourhood and community centres gathered at the LCSA (Local Community Services Association) Conference held in Sydney last month to explore the theme "*Authentic Engagement*". The conference dealt broadly with ways in which workers engage with their communities and listen and respond to those communities' needs. Three people from PBNC attended, returning refreshed, with renewed enthusiasm and a wealth of information.

Angela and Lily participated as representatives of the centre, while Karen, Community Capacity Worker for PBNC but also President of Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre Management Committee, attended in the latter role. At this annual event, workers gather information from the various speakers and workshops which run all day for nearly three days, with the only breaks being for eating and networking. It's a great opportunity for a worker from the Far North Coast, with its bush and beaches, to compare notes with someone from Western Sydney, for instance. It's also great to get together with workers from other centres in our region, and strengthen those ties.

Among the many speakers was Gretchen Young from Mid Richmond Neighbourhood Centre, who spoke about how that centre went about liaising with their local Indigenous population, to ensure their needs were met and their views represented and included at the centre. Among the workshops was "*Diversity and Authentic Engagement*", presented by Barbel Winter, Managing Director of Futures Upfront, which

works to build inclusive communities. Participants learnt to question themselves about their tendency to judge people based on their appearance or the participant's past experience. Stories of discrimination were told by people from many cultures and those with disabilities. Barbel is originally from a tiny German village and has lived in Sydney a long time, but she still retains her accent. Drawing on both her personal experiences



and those from her 20 years working in the community sector, she was able to present this challenging workshop with humour and occasional irreverence! Other workshops covered subjects such as Centre Management, Finance, Volunteering and online innovations. Angela, Lily and Karen all came away inspired and fortified with information to share with their colleagues and workplaces. The photos on this page depict both the re-energising and the calming effect of nearby Darling Harbour and were taken by Angela during a conference break.



our newsletter

Drift is produced at
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What's On At The Centre

Production team:

Lily Crockett, Angela Maxwell,
Tony Crockett, Chris Warner,
Michelle O'Brien





5 minute
interview with...

Dave

Tax Help Consultant



Do you have a favourite movie?

Cheyenne Autumn

1964 Western, starring Richard Widmark - a classic....

Do you have a favourite book or author?

The American Assassin
by Vince Flynn

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

Rafael Nadal

The famous tennis player (No. 2 in the world). My wife loves tennis so I get to watch it with her whenever it's on.

Whom do you admire most?

Bill Gates

Famous computer software creator who set up Microsoft. I admire his achievements but also recognise the good works he does for charities.

If you could travel to any country, where would it be and why?

Peru

I have always wanted to visit Machu Picchu and the ruins from the Incas (ancient Peruvians). I am envious of my kids 'cos they have already done it....

What is your favourite food?

Steak Tartare

A classic dish from Burgundy (France) and associated with "spiffy restaurants". Takes me back to my childhood when Mum used to serve it. The dish is raw steak (diced) topped with raw eggs and onions. I add my wife does not serve it up....

This guinea pig has a tale....

Hello, the guinea pig here!
What sort of guinea pig? A Work Development Order (WDO) guinea pig. I started my WDO placement in September, 2012 at PNBC.

First, I'd better tell you what a WDO is – you do it instead of paying a fine to the SDRO – State Debt Recovery Office of NSW. With work being so inconsistent in the building trade, I couldn't pay a fine. Anyway I am so glad there was this option provided by PNBC – the neighbourhood centre at Pottsville.

I recommend it to anyone else who is struggling financially – with electricity, petrol, vehicle, school and food expenses and kids to feed, clothe and shelter.

I was in a Catch 22 - my work vehicle with all my building tools was unregistered and I needed to go to work to pay the rego. I had a job around the corner so I took a risk – a bad risk in hindsight. I drove an unregistered vehicle. Am I a criminal?

Around the corner was a cop who 'threw the book at me' and gave me a \$1,110 fine: he didn't care about my story or my struggles and certainly didn't send me back home (which was only 100 metres away). Thanks

for being so understanding mate – sitting pretty in a job where you can expect to get paid without fail every week!

I'm angry thinking about what happened but maybe it was a blessing in disguise - the WDO anyway. I'm grateful because I got the option to work off my fine at such a great place – PNBC made it easier to bear. So, I've been helping the centre in the Opp Shop, the Tech centre and in odd jobs relating to what I'm qualified in – building work.

I've met a lot of amazingly interesting people – retired plumbers, mechanics, boat builders, mothers, grandmothers. And the community workers here are a really friendly bunch. I take my hat off to them

for bringing together a wonderful group of volunteers from all over the Tweed Coast and neighbouring communities.

Thanks so much to PNBC for giving me this great opportunity to pay off my fine – it's been great to work here.

Expect to see me again, down the track, hopefully not on another WDO. ■



Empowering families to reach their goals

The Brighter Futures (BF) team at PBNC, Chris, Erin and Ken, provide comprehensive, skilled support to many Tweed Shire families, empowering them to reach their goals.

The BF team provides services to families, ensuring that problems are dealt with, parents are coping well and children get the opportunity to progress to their full potential.

In 2008, PBNC, as part of the Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres in the Far North Coast, was successful in its submission to provide outreach services throughout the region via the Mid-Richmond Neighbourhood Centre as the BF Program Adminstrating Agency.

This Early Intervention program provides targeted support and strengthens vulnerable families to prevent them from entering or escalating into the Child



PBNC's Brighter Futures team (L-R) Erin, Ken and Chris.

Protection system. Support is available to families with children nine years old or younger, or those expecting a child, who face problems such as child behaviour management problems, lack of parenting skills, and other problems that impact on parenting such as domestic violence, mental health issues, drug and alcohol misuse and learning and/or intellectual disabilities.

Families can self-refer or be referred by other services and are assessed for eligibility by the

Brighter Futures Unit based in Sydney. Participation in this strengths-based program is voluntary.

Each family receives services and support through the Brighter Futures program for an average of 18 months, the time needed to achieve a lasting effect. Brighter Futures is funded by NSW Family and Community Services.

To find out more, phone PBNC's Brighter Futures team on **(02) 6676 2277** or visit the website www.community.nsw.gov.au

is made possible by Northern Rivers AS Network
Support Groups for Autism and Aspergers
www.northernriversasnetwork.wordpress.com



GAME ON

Regular LAN (Local Area network) Gaming Group for teens

run by Side by Side Asperger Family Support Group

Third Saturday of the month

During school term

1: 00 - 5: 00 pm

Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre

(round the back and underneath the new building)

12a Elizabeth St, Pottsville Beach

Contact: Debbie or Terry 6676 0483

GAME ON welcomes donations of used gaming consoles (Playstation, Xbox, Wii etc) and multiplayer games. We don't need TVs - unless it's a flatscreen! We don't run during school holidays.

GAME ON is made possible by



You need to bring: a laptop or notebook or desk top with wireless capability and your power leads.

There are no spare computers. You must provide your own. There is some wireless capability (you need to contact us). Be on time to get the game loaded to your computer.

A parent or carer must attend with you.

Parents are welcome to game in the group. While younger members are welcome to attend, the group is aimed at teenagers.

Parents need to assess suitability of all games for their child.

(Most games have an MA15+ rating).

Watch your language. Keep it clean.

Light refreshments provided. Feel free to bring snacks to share.



Student on placement Michelle talks to Stretch-Your-Mind facilitator Adam (paid worker at the centre and also a student on placement)

When did you start the program?

I started assisting Drew Stevenson in November 2010 and began hosting Stretch-Your-Mind myself in early 2011.

What do you bring to the group as the facilitator?

I bring a spontaneous and creative flair to the way of doing things. Everyone who is part of the group brings something that adds to the group.

What kinds of activities do you run?

We run a variety of activities, brain teasers, puzzles, trivia etc... I work to incorporate everyone's skills and contributions as a way of getting each person out of their routine and comfort zone.

What can participants gain from attending the group?

The most important thing I believe everyone gets is friendship and a sense of community, especially with people that they ordinarily may not meet.

What is your vision for Stretch-Your-Mind, for its future direction?

It has been an evolving group, even before it was my turn to host. So my vision for the group is to have more input from others to continue the evolution of the group, with the aim of keeping people interested and engaged.

What has been your most memorable moment in running the group?

The most memorable moment is really hard to choose. I've been the host for so long now that I've experienced many emotions. My happiest was last Christmas when everyone came together and I let everyone know not to bring a plate, as I wanted to spoil the group with a surprise spread. Everyone was so appreciative. My saddest and most touching was when everyone rallied around a member who lost their partner. My funniest was when we performed a play based on King Arthur for another member's birthday. ■



Linking People and Strengthening
Our Community

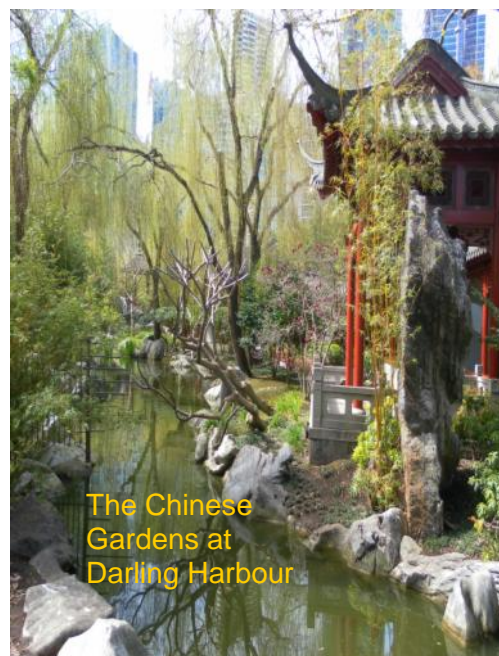
Old School Buildings, 12a Elizabeth St, Pottsville Beach

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday Nov 20th, 2012
starting 6.30pm
Reef Room

Everyone welcome
Light refreshments

To RSVP by Nov 13th, 2012 -
phone (02) 6676 4555 or email
admin@pottsbnc.ngo.org.au



The Chinese
Gardens at
Darling Harbour

WordsFlow

Last year *WordsFlow* member Nan Doyle was highly commended - twice! - in the Stringybark Humorous Short Fiction award.

This year it's on again, and now that *Drift* gives us an outlet into the community, we'd like to let the rest of you know about the competition. We realise there are many more writers out there who can't get to *WordsFlow* meetings, who might like to know about these things. So here are the details...



The Stringybark Humorous Short Fiction Award 2012

What's funny?
You tell us!
The *Stringybark Humorous Short Fiction Award* is presented to the writer whose story entertains our judges the most. That means anything goes — satire, slapstick, farce, comedy, murder mysteries, love stories, adventure tales, erotica, character sketches, outback yarns or whatever and wherever your fancy takes you — just make us laugh, smile, guffaw or giggle in 1500 words or fewer. The story must have a link (no matter how tenuous) to Australia. The competition is open to anyone over the age of 16 and living on planet earth.

There is a total of \$770 worth of prizes in cash and books available — plus publication for place-getters and highly commended authors. There is an entry fee of \$9.95 (discounts for multiple entries).

Closing date 24 November 2012.

Details: <http://www.stringybarkstories.net>

Nan's and other winning entries from last year were published in *The Road Home*.

This is available both as a printed book and an ebook. The ebook can still be purchased with a 33% off discount coupon, for US\$2.67 (just A\$2.44). This coupon code is KY47W and is good for as many uses as you wish but please note it expires on March 14, 2013. Printed copies are available at the normal rate.

To purchase either an e-book or a paperback, visit:

[http://www.stringybarkstories.net/
The Stringybark Short Story Award/
Bookshop.html](http://www.stringybarkstories.net/TheStringybarkShortStoryAward/Bookshop.html)

Caba Projects Plan - The Story

PBNC has been supporting Lily (of the *Drift* production team) in her work on the Cabarita Beach / Bogangar Projects Plan (CPP), providing her with office space, resources and professional advice and assistance.

The CPP developed from the ideas of Cabarita residents, including representatives of local businesses, clubs and associations. Under the auspices of Cabarita Beach Surf Life Saving Club, a steering committee, the Cabarita Beach / Bogangar Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC), was formed and this committee drove the plan. The final plan is the result of more than two months of community consultation and four community workshops. More than 250 people attended the first workshop, with 80 participants voting on 44 ideas at the next workshop. Projects under the CPP umbrella are Caba Village Hub, Caba Trails, Cabarita Youth Service, Camp



Shahmaran opens Caba Creative's Carnivale

Wollumbin, Caba Creative, Cabarita Community Garden and Cabarita Dunecare. Project representatives meet every three months to update on progress and discuss common needs and goals. Being under the umbrella of CPP allows the project groups to share skills and information, and support each other's project activities such as Caba Creative's hugely successful Caba Carnivale, held in September, a twilight event showcasing local artists and entertainers, with stalls featuring local products. "I've found being involved in the Cabarita Projects Plan has been a great learning curve for me.

Dealing with more than one project, and with many diverse personalities, was interesting but demanding, and I soon realised it was a job I did not enjoy doing mainly from home. I feel really fortunate that I was able to work out of PBNC, which gave me the extra support and structure I needed, along with guidance from CEDC. The whole process has been very rewarding and exciting," said Lily. The Cabarita Beach / Bogangar Projects Plan was funded by ClubsNSW, with support from the Department of Trade and Investment, Tweed Shire Council and local businesses and organisations. ■



Caba Carnivale -
Photos by Tony Crockett

what's on at the centre

PBNC ADMINISTRATION

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 1.30pm

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

with Ruth - Reef Room
First Wed each month 2 - 4pm

LIGHT AEROBICS

with Vera - Sandbar Room
Tues 9.15 - 10.15am, Fri 9.15 - 10.15am

OPP SHOP

Monday & Friday	9am - 4pm
Tues, Wed, Thurs	9am - 1pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm
Market Sunday	7am - 1pm

KINGSCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL HOMEWORK GROUP

Reef Room
Tuesday & Thursday 4pm - 6pm

POTTSVILLE PLAYTIME

Sandbar Room
Monday 10am - 12pm
Tuesday 10.30am - 12.30pm
Thursday 10am - 12pm

PBNC TECHNOLOGY CENTRE COMPUTER LESSONS & INTERNET ACCESS

Monday & Friday 9am - 1pm
Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am - 5pm

ART AND PLAY

With Emma-Lea - Coral Bay (next to the Reef Room) Tuesdays 10 - 11am
Ph. Emma Lea 0434 790 969

STRETCH-YOUR-MIND

with Adam
Thursday 12.30 - 2.30pm

TOY LIBRARY

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

WORDSFLOW

Rosemary Nissan Wade
Sandbar Room
Friday 12.30 - 3.15pm

Contact Administration Office for more details or bookings
(02) 6676 4555.

Centrelink Agency

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 1.30pm

Applications to join our Association are always welcome - just ask for your application form from one of the friendly front desk crew or call PBNC 6676 4555

Side by Side is a social support group for children and young people with Aspergers and their parents or carers. The group meets during school terms from 1pm on the first Saturday of each month for combined primary and secondary school age, and the third Saturday each month for teens. Contact Debbie or Terry on 6676 0483 for more details

Monday

Technology Centre
9am-1pm
Pottsville PlayTime
Sandbar Room
10am-12pm
Toy Library
9.30am-12.30pm

Tuesday

Technology Centre
9am-5pm
Light Aerobics
Sandbar Room
9.15am - 10.15am
Pottsville PlayTime
Sandbar Room
10.30am - 12.30pm
Toy Library
9.30am - 12.30pm
Scrabble
10am - 12noon
Kingscliff High School Homework Group
Reef Room 4pm - 6pm

Wednesday

Technology Centre
9am-5pm
Toy Library
9.30am-12.30pm
Diabetes Support Group with Ruth
(1st Wed each month)
Reef Room 2-4pm

Thursday

Technology Centre
9am-5pm
Pottsville Playtime
Sandbar Room
10am-12pm
Stretch Your Mind
Reef Room
12.30-2.30pm
Toy Library
9.30am-12.30pm
UFO Craft Group
Reef Room
9.30am-11.30am
Kingscliff High School Homework Group
Reef Room 4pm - 6pm

Friday

Technology Centre
9am-1pm
Light Aerobics with Vera
Sandbar Room
9.15-10.15am
Toy Library
9.30am-12.30pm
Pottsville Toddler Tunes & Stories
Sandbar Room
10.30am-12pm
(in school term)
WordsFlow with Rosemary Nissan Wade
Sandbar Room
12.30-3pm
(in school term)

Saturday

Opp Shop 9am-1pm

Side by Side
Aspergers Support Group - 1pm
See ad above

Sunday

Pottsville Beach Markets, Opp Shop (7am-1pm) & **Community BBQ** - First & third Sunday each month

Market dates
(Nov, Dec)
Nov 4th & 18th
Dec 2nd & 16th



DANCING WITH NIKKI Freestyle dance classes for pre-schoolers to adults - \$5 per lesson. Contact **Nikki** on **0417 036 609**

Tweed Coast U3A conducts classes at PBNC including **Quilting, Booklovers** and **Botany For Inquisitive Gardeners**. Phone **0466 355905** or email **tweedcoastu3a@gmail.com**

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Meditation
Thurs, Nov 8th & 22nd, 1-2.30pm
Phone Lily **6676 4555**
or Michelle **0439 064 813**

