



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

 A large, stylized tree graphic with a thick trunk and many branches. The branches are labeled with various community services and programs. The labels include:

- Community Gardening
- Brighter Futures
- Toy Library
- Outreach
- Community BBQs
- WordsFlow
- Art and Play
- Volunteering
- Diabetes Support
- Second hand furniture sales
- Opportunity Shop
- Toddler Tunes and Stories
- Tech Centre
- Centrelink
- Side by Side
- Community Pantry
- Markets
- Information and Referral
- UFO Craft
- Stretch Your Mind
- Counselling
- U3A

 The background of the tree is a blue sky with colorful, circular patterns. At the bottom of the tree, there is a black and white photograph of a group of people standing in front of a building. A small airplane is flying in the sky to the left of the tree trunk.

AND MUCH MORE

Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre

Growing Stronger



our newsletter

Drift is produced at
Pottsville Beach
Neighbourhood Centre,
12A Elizabeth St,
Pottsville Beach, NSW 2489
(02) 6676 4555
admin@pottsbnc.ngo.org.au
www.pottsvillebeachnc.org.au

INDEX

- 1 **PBNC's Tree of Life**
- 2 **Message from Angela
5 minute interview -
Danny**
- 3 **Drift Production Team**
- 4-5 **PBNC History**
- 6-7 **PBNC Milestones**
- 8 **Farewell Shellie - RIP**
- 9 **Gloria**
- 10 **Maree**
- 11 **Behind the Scenes -
Men's Shed/
Furniture Crew**
- 12 **Seniors Week -
Image Imagination**
- 13 **Thank you, Dorothy**
- 14-15 **WordsFlow**
- 16 **What's On At The
Centre**

Production team:

Tony Crockett, Angela Maxwell,
Lily Crockett, Chris Warner

Message from Angela

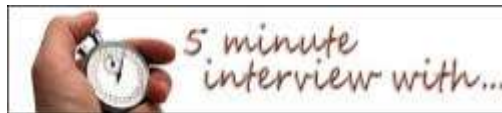
This edition is dedicated to PBNC's history to this point. It highlights the many significant milestones and achievements that have been constant from early planning days to present day operations. The common themes in all stories are 'people' and 'wellbeing'. PBNC is lucky to enjoy an abundance of goodwill from its community. This support has been present from day one. This translates to a will by all workers to provide socially inclusive services, programs and events and is present in every facet of planning and implementation.

It is no surprise to learn that the community business that occurs today is, in many ways, a continuation of the manner in which Aboriginal people gathered here on this very site to discuss and conduct their own community business, way, way

before white settlement on the Tweed Coast. There is an energy here that seems to drive PBNC on in ways that are not easy to describe in words: it's better to describe it as a feeling; a feeling of inclusion felt by many who take the time to share their experiences.

Drift's evolution to its current format has a pivotal role in helping to celebrate and broadcast all the victories accomplished along PBNC's zig-zag highway, by capturing the human interest stories associated with PBNC results.

In this climate of an uncertain funding landscape, we all hope for our community and PBNC's sakes that we will be able to continue to grow stronger together and to provide the same or greater level of community capacity building activities, with continued support by all spheres of government.



Danny -

Tech Centre Volunteer

Do you have a favourite movie?
One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest starring Jack Nicholson.

Do you have a favourite book or author?

Not particularly, but I do like to read **science fiction**.

What famous person would you choose to spend an evening with and why? **The Dali Lama** - I have great respect for Buddhism - it suits my lifestyle.

Whom do you most admire and why?

Nelson Mandela - he never gave up!

What is your favourite food?

Baked beans...I eat them every day. I can distinguish different makes - Heinz, SPC, Homebrand. And could even do it blindfolded!

If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where - and why?

South America...I am well travelled but fancy the idea of 'smuggling emeralds'!

What does PBNC mean to you?

I love volunteering and it means I am able to give something back to my community.



Free!
at PBNC &
online

The Drift Production Team

Edition One. 2014

Available
Every 2nd
Month

Many people contribute to PBNC's newsletter *Drift* in various ways, such as providing inspiration and ideas, and *Drift* has several "freelance" photographers. However *Drift* has a core production team. Here's a little from each member.



Passion and Purpose!

"It's an incredibly rewarding experience to work within the *Drift* team and witness its metamorphosis from the early days of *inhouse* to its present-day publication. Many years ago I was a part of a production team for *femal*, a small magazine dedicated to raising awareness of issues affecting local women. I learnt about news gathering, interviewing, graphic design and meeting deadlines. The same vibrancy, creativity and endless opportunities exist within *Drift*. I love how our ideas bubble to the surface and finally explode with colour and content when Tony brings the photos to life, matched with well chosen words. It's so interesting to read about PBNC folks' "back-stories" - to learn where they have come from, what attracted them to PBNC, and what motivates, excites and sustains them in their roles here. While the characters, circumstances and activities may be different, common threads remain: passion and purpose!

- *Angela*



Open to Feedback!

"I love working on *Drift*. It gives me the opportunity to use and develop journalistic skills I had gained working

on other community publications; the chance to be creative, experiment, research and learn; to broaden my scope from writing articles to layout and graphics; and "have a go" at anything! Every two months the team gets together and finds the threads of where our next issue will be going, and every two months the latest issue falls into place. We are always pretty thrilled with it but want the next one to be better, and if you look through back issues (available on the website or at the Front Desk) I'm sure you'll see its progress. The aim of the newsletter is to inform people from PBNC's varied work centres and connect them through stories, as well as providing an historical record of the centre. We hope you enjoy *Drift* and we're always open to your feedback and ideas."

- *Lily*



Got to Know Volunteers!

"Coming from an office background, I offered to help on the *Drift* production team. This work has given me the opportunity to get to know volunteers in areas other than Admin and a chance to learn Publisher, one of the programs used to create *Drift*. Having worked for Fujifilm Australia P/L, whose products include cameras and other photographic equipment, I offered to take photos as needed, not that I am a great photographer but Tony, *Drift*'s graphic artist, can do wonders with photos using Photoshop! With each issue I do a five minute interview, which enables me to learn a bit about

the person being interviewed. If you would like to do an interview, let me know. We are also continually looking for local stories and photographs, favourite recipes and special family events. I think the transformation of *Drift* over the last few years is fantastic." - *Chris W*



Love Coming to Work!

"It hasn't been very often that I've been able to say that I love coming to work - but I love coming to PBNC to work on *Drift*! Each issue brings new challenges in the form of making photographs appealing and interesting, making all the articles and pictures fit in the available space, ensuring the layout is readable and easy to understand. All this has given me the opportunity to learn new skills and become comfortable with the programs we use in the production of *Drift*. We have a great team with Chris willing and able to take wonderful photographs and help with articles. I especially look forward to the "5 minute interview". Lily has exceptional proofreading skills and wins every argument in that field. She also tirelessly researches and writes articles. With Angela's knowledge and editorial skills as a final review process and all the help from others at PBNC, we are able to have a production of which we are all proud. In keeping with the theme of this historical issue I've put together some photographs of how we would put a newsletter together in the 'not so distant' past.

- *Tony*

Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre (PBNC) History

Our Mission

Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre Inc is a not for profit community based organisation. In partnership with the Tweed Coast community and others, we provide services and support based on identified need to improve the quality of life of the community. We have a priority focus on the needs of those who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

Our Vision

To maintain and support a community that is strong, inclusive and connected.

Our Story

After much community consultation and loads of time and resources from Tweed Shire Council and others, the need for a neighbourhood centre on the Tweed Coast was identified in 1999. Aims of the centre were to provide an information and referral service and a place where community members could offer their skills; where social and cultural activities could be conducted and social networks established; and where professional agencies could base their outreach services. The former Pottsville Beach Public School site (recently acquired by Tweed Shire Council) was ideally placed. An establishment team was formed and a project worker employed to develop the site in Elizabeth Street.

After countless working bees, thousands of volunteer hours and donated resources, a management committee was formed and, with funding from NSW Urban Affairs and the Federal Government through the Family and Community Networks Initiative (and in-kind support from Tweed Shire Council), Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre Inc. began operating in May 2000. During these very early days, PBNC provided an opportunity shop, room hire (for a small number of community activities), and a Centrelink agency.

From 2000 to 2004, the centre expanded its operations to include a technology centre, the building for which was purchased, relocated and

converted by PBNC. The Toy Library was also established in 2004 and ongoing personal development sessions for seniors were commenced. The centre continued to develop many partnerships with community volunteers, organisations, services and government agencies to provide both smaller group activities and larger community events, like the Pottsville Beach Arts and Crafts Markets. This trend continues today. **Refer to page 6 and 7 for more significant milestones.**

Years of consultation, numerous draft plans, extensive fundraising, community support and a positive response from Tweed Shire Council resulted in the opening of PBNC's new administration and services outlet building on February 17, 2012. This new building replaced a small admin building (formerly the school principal's residence) and external storage garage. It accommodates, in the upper level, PBNC's main reception, admin offices, meeting rooms, staff kitchen, a Dept. Human Services Agent and Access Point (formerly Centrelink) agency, the Consortium of Neighbourhood Centres' Brighter Futures Program (an early intervention family support program) and counselling rooms. The men's shed/ workshop/ testing and tagging area and second-hand furniture shop, and a youth mentoring and training space, and other child and family activities occupy the lower level.

PBNC's governance structure consists of a volunteer management committee comprising eight elected association members and the manager. All members contribute to the governance, wellbeing and future planning of PBNC by committing considerable time and sharing their diverse personal experiences, knowledge and skills.

Since opening in 2000, non-recurrent funding has been obtained through various sources, including Urban Affairs and Planning, the Federal and State Department of Family and Community Services, Tweed Combined Clubs Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme (now NSW ClubGRANTs), Tweed Shire Council Section 94 Development Plans, Department of Veteran Affairs, and Department of Human Services (via a 12-monthly contract to fund the Human Services Agency).

PBNC's community business plan has always included social enterprises. This element is crucial

to PBNC's viability as there has never been a source of renewable funding for this centre. No "new" State Government money, to establish neighbourhood centres in emerging communities such as ours, has been available for PBNC to tap into. PBNC's social enterprises have strengthened this community and enabled growth and enhancements across all program areas. Some of the social enterprises include the Pottsville Beach Markets (including the Community Barbeque), the Opportunity Shop/ Second-hand Furniture Shop, Technology Centre, Room Hire and Administration Services. Social enterprise income and term-limited funding from the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (now Dept. Social Services (DSS)) has enabled PBNC to reach well beyond what we all thought was possible. We hope this arrangement with DSS will continue because we sure do provide plenty of bang for tax payers' buck!

Funds are channelled into PBNC's many community development programs, including the large and diverse volunteer program. This program supports approximately 210 volunteers productively engaged across many different work areas, including Administration, Technology Centre, Opp Shop, Men's Shed/Furniture and Maintenance Crew, Gardening, Markets and Community Barbeque, and special projects like Stretch Your Mind, to name a few. Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds; range in age from teenagers to over 90; have broad-based skills, experience and capabilities, and various levels of health and capacity. All are known as community workers, and recognised for their contributions, supported by two paid volunteer support workers.

Currently there is a very small paid worker to volunteer worker ratio, ie one fulltime paid worker and ten part-time paid workers - 11:210. Each worker (paid and unpaid) is inducted in PBNC processes and encouraged to work as part of a team. All are able to attend meetings and "have a say"; and receive training in many fields, including professional development and Work Health and Safety (WHS).

The centre is accessible to all members of the public, especially those who are isolated and / or disadvantaged. The centre services the Tweed Coast, from Kingscliff on the coast to Mooball in the south, and as far west as Burringbar. Given

Pottsville's desirable location, natural beauty and PBNC's breadth of attractive activities and inclusive manner, many visitors from other regions take up the opportunity to participate on many different levels.

Due to PBNC's popularity, a '**Welcome Kit**' was created for residents, especially those new to the area. It contains information on activities and facilities in the region, and promotes and fosters community involvement.

Listed below are some of the services and activities on offer at PBNC:

Art and Play

Brighter Futures Early Intervention Program

Centre Admin Services

(including Information and Referral)

Community Gardening

Community Pantry

Counselling

DHS Agent and Access Point

(formerly Centrelink Agency)

Diabetes Support Group

Get Fit Keep Fit Group

Men's Shed/Furniture Sales

Opportunity Shop

PlayTime Group

Pottsville Beach Markets and Community Barbeque

Scrabble Group

Side by Side Group and GameOn

(for Aspergers children and young people)

Stretch Your Mind Group

Technology Centre

Toddler Tunes and Stories

Tweed Coast Toy Library

Tweed Coast U3A Groups (art, gardening, booklovers, quilting, cryptic crosswords)

UFO Craft Group

Volunteer Program

WordsFlow (creative writers) Group

PBNC Milestones

Source:
PBNC Annual Reports 2003 - 2013

Staff and resource shortages, and minimal activities during 2000 - 2002 meant that no annual reports were created for that period. The first PBNC annual report pertained to the 2003 - 2004 financial year.



2003 - 2004

78 volunteers and 3 part-time staff

OHS committee formed

Private home purchased and brought on site as EbbTide

PBNC's Centrelink Agency increased capacity

Community Technology Centre commenced

Awarded licence to run Pottsville Beach Arts, Crafts and Produce Market

Tweed Toy Library outreach commenced at PBNC



2004 - 2005

Markets Community Partnerships Scheme formed

Diabetes Support group formed

Stretch Your Mind commenced

Extensive community needs survey undertaken



2005 - 2006

Frontline worker training for local organisations

Welcome to Pottsville kit developed

Toddler Tunes developed and commenced

Preschool Readers Club formed

Pottsville Parenting Insights Program developed and commenced



2006 - 2007

U3A Tweed Coast based at PBNC

Toddler Tunes combined with Preschool Readers Club to form Toddler Tunes and Stories

WordsFlow writers group formed

Website developed and went online



2007 - 2008

Brighter Futures (formerly known as the Regional Family Development Program) began servicing Tweed Shire from its PBNC outlet

...and now...



210 volunteers

1 full-time paid worker and 10 part-time paid workers



Many services and activities, and a multitude of partnerships

PBNC Manager, Angela, received a State award - Tweed Woman of the Year

Kingscliff High School conducted its Homework Study and Tutoring Centre

Computer in Your Pocket implemented



Work Development Order (WDO) program began

PlayTime Group starts to operate under PBNC banner

Side By Side seminars take place

Side By Side (Asperger Family Social Support Group) formed

New plans for admin building - TSC approves building

PBNC's newsletter *Inhouse* transitioned to *Drift*

Drift uploaded to website

Volunteers undertake major refurbishment of Ebbtide and Sandbar rooms

Tech-In For Seniors (TIS) implemented

Beachside Church Communicare Pantry commenced

DHS (Centrelink Agency) rebranded to Agent and Access Point

Official opening of new administration and services outlet building



Side By Side (Asperger Family Social Support Group) formed

Work on new building began

New MOU between TAFE and PBNC to support students on placement at PBNC



Partnership between TSC and NSW Premier's and Cabinet Dept aimed at re-developing admin and services outlet building



Large scale consultation and support garnered for PBNC to progress plans for new building

PBNC 10 Years Anniversary

Pottsville Counselling begins

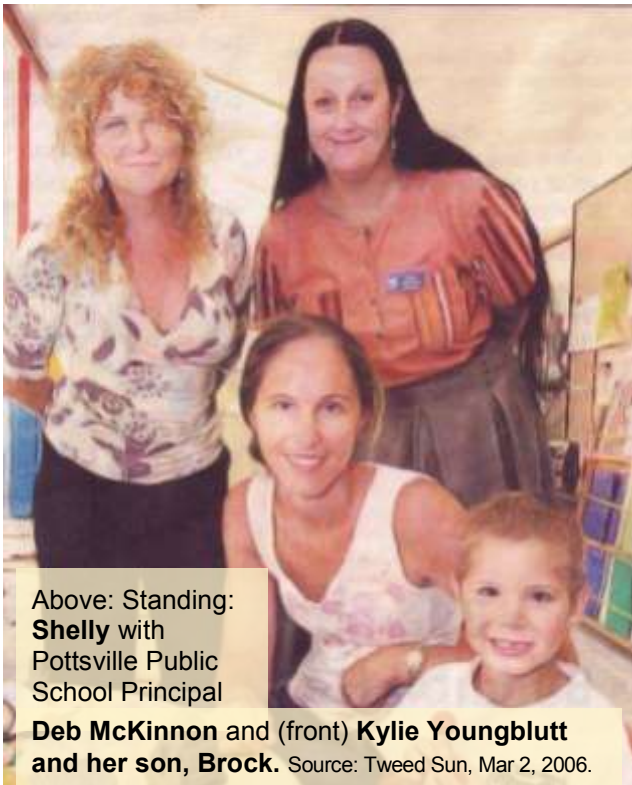


Tax Help delivered to 190 clients (first operated in 2001)



Vale Michele (Shelly) Howell

With the recent passing on 24th January, 2014 of Michele (Shelly) Howell, who succumbed to a merciless battle with Motor Neurone Disease, the Pottsville community lost a tireless community worker, a fearless and staunch child advocate, and a dedicated and compassionate early childhood and family educator. For PBNC — we lost a willing collaborator, a loyal supporter and a very dear friend.



Above: Standing: **Shelly** with Pottsville Public School Principal

Deb McKinnon and (front) **Kylie Youngblutt** and her son, **Brock**. Source: Tweed Sun, Mar 2, 2006.

Our relationship with Shelly started in 2004 when the concept of the *Welcome to Pottsville Kit* first emerged. Shelly agreed to be a part of this community development exercise by contributing information about the Community Preschool, where

she taught and supervised for over a decade, before undertaking a reluctant retirement due to illness. During those early discussions, it was clear that the Preschool and PBNC could easily develop synergies for the benefit of local families with young children. At that time Pottsville's demography was beginning to change in terms of a rapid and sustained increase in the number of families with young children making the Tweed Coast and surrounding villages their home. When the Pottsville Beach Public School became involved in our partnership, the Pottsville Parenting Insights Program evolved to assist families with parenting supports from playgroup, to preschool, to school.

Over time we concentrated on delivering the popular 1-2-3 Magic and Emotion Coaching course, delivered in the evenings, at PBNC. Shelly was one of the regular trained

group facilitators who provided her expertise so that families could come together to learn strength-based strategies for dealing with myriad challenges associated with parenting. When PBNC's community development funds grew, through successful bids to run the markets and the development of other social enterprises, the Preschool and PBNC devised a way to donate funds to subsidise enrolment fees at the Preschool for families facing financial hardship. This

strategy enabled disadvantaged families and their children to access a quality early childhood learning environment, ostensibly breaking down a barrier to community participation, and also ensured that the Preschool remained financially viable.

Angela represented PBNC at Shelly's memorial service on Saturday February 1, at the Community Hall, where friends, colleagues and family members celebrated her extraordinary life lived growing up in Singapore, to trailblazing in Weipa mines and on barramundi fishing boats in Far North Queensland, to settling and working her magic in Pottsville.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Shelly's son, Dale; her mother, Pat; and her siblings, Ken, Janet, Denise and their families ■



One volunteer's story...

Gloria

Gloria has volunteered at PBNC for nine years. Her job is washing and sorting donated items, especially clothes, and preparing them for sale in PBNC's Opp Shop. This job is often very demanding, as PBNC receives many donated items every day.

Gloria's dedication to her role is made even more amazing due to the fact that she has an incapacitated left shoulder. She said there were many benefits which came from her participation at PBNC, one of the most important being the opportunity to have a natter and a cuppa with a wide circle of co-worker friends and acquaintances.



"Would this suit me?' ... Gloria sorts incoming goods at the Opp Shop.

Gloria, Bev and Cathy check out the merchandise.



In the past few years Gloria has also been recuperating from numerous foot operations. During that time, despite the fact that she was not actively volunteering with PBNC, she continued to come in to the centre to talk with old friends and meet new people, saying she loved the chance to catch up.

She recently had two strokes which left her being unable to read or write, as well as impairing many other skills such as driving. After the strokes, Gloria slowly built up her hours at the centre from 4 to 8 hours per week. She is now back working in her previous role in the Opp Shop, and credits the centre for helping her to make such a good recovery. She has also resumed driving to Banora Point, where her other important friend and support, and her only close family member, her twin sister, lives.

Prior to volunteering at the centre, Gloria was coordinator of A1 Heavy Duty Equipment, which was used to cut people out of car crashes and assist in other accidents and disasters. In this role, she led a team of rescue workers, including more than 300 volunteers. She also worked as Coordinator of Volunteers at the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000.

Something Gloria enjoys about the centre, as well as the people and the work, is PBNC's newsletter *Drift*. She loves reading about people and events at the centre, and likes to hear what people in other areas are doing. Gloria said that the different areas, including Men's Shed/ Furniture Crew, Opp Shop, Technology Centre, Admin, Gardens and Markets, could get isolated from each other, and she found the newsletter helped to break down this isolation. Gloria added that she has noticed the development of *Drift* over the past three years, to a bigger, brighter, more informative and professional publication ■



Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre - where everyone feels valued

Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre is a place where each person - whether paid staff, a volunteer or someone who walks in or telephones looking for information or support - feels valued.

The philosophy that underpins the centre is service to others. I believe that is what life is about. The emotion that permeates all acts of service, helpfulness and kindness is love.

The neighbourhood centre provides opportunities to "share the love." Volunteers feel a sense of purpose in working at the centre. Whether

they are retired and want to be useful in their community, or are helping at the centre whilst looking for employment or completing studies, each individual is a part of the fabric of the multi-coloured tapestry that is Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre. The colours, the warp and weft of that tapestry are constantly changing and evolving. It is a living, breathing organism that is enriched by the skills and personalities that each individual brings to it.

At the heart of the centre are the permanent staff and the Management Committee.

These people embody the spirit of Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre, ensuring that the vision and core principles of the centre

are protected, nurtured and enhanced. Positivity, forward planning, pro-action and the ability to lead volunteers into the areas of service and roles that best suit their talents and personalities is a winning combination in the successful operation of the centre.

The Pottsville and surrounding communities are so very fortunate to have a vibrant and dynamic oasis where they can make connections, increase knowledge, access services and belong to various interest groups whilst appreciating and sharing with pride the ownership of our wonderful meeting place. ■

**Maree Mackie,
PBNC Admin volunteer**

Behind the Scenes...

Men's Shed/ Furniture Crew

Every Thursday and Friday (outside holidays), Don, a team leader with PBNC's Furniture Shop/Men's Shed, and assistant Peter S set off in Don's ute, with PBNC's trailer attached, to pick up and deliver furniture. Don has been doing this job for 12 years, and Peter S for 6 years. It's tough work – finding correct locations and moving furniture in and out – often up stairs or in other awkward places, and often in unpleasant climatic conditions, though the team doesn't pick up or deliver in rainy weather because of safety concerns.

When people have furniture and other large household items they wish to donate to PBNC, they ring the centre and a Front Desk worker takes down the donor's details, which Don collects on Thursday and Friday mornings before going out to assess the items and hopefully bring them back to the centre for sale.

He and Peter S also deliver purchases to people's houses for a nominal delivery charge.

All donated electrical items are tested and tagged before sale by workers trained in this task. Many donated electrical items do not work and have to be

disposed of, said Peter H, another leader who assists with pickup, delivery and restoration of many items. Goods which fail the test are disposed of responsibly.

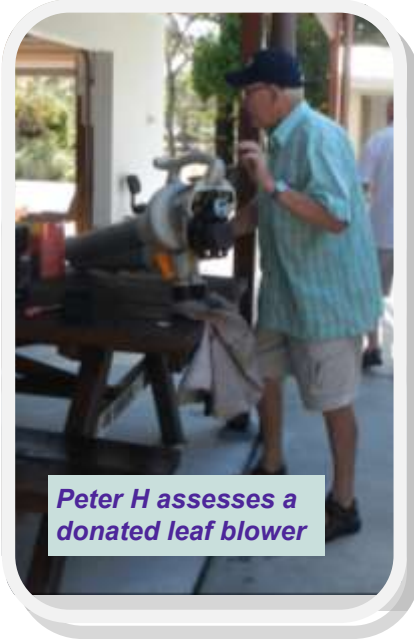
Peter H said that, between Christmas and New Year, PBNC was inundated with donated goods. Opp Shop volunteers had no sooner unpacked, sorted, washed



Don (right) and Peter S (inside trailer) unload donations

and displayed clothes when more goods were dropped off, and the furniture crew were also inundated. Finally Don reluctantly advised that the shed had so much furniture, it couldn't take any more.

Workers had to turn away donations and refer people to Lifeline at South Tweed. However, during the rest of the year, workers manage to keep on top of donations by continually receiving, moving, storing, sorting and fixing items that then go for sale at the Opp Shop and Furniture Shop. These sales make up a sizeable amount of PBNC's income, and assist greatly in the purchase of equipment, improvements to the centre's services and facilities and covers some corporate overheads.



Peter H assesses a donated leaf blower

The centre is very grateful to the community for its generosity with these donations, and grateful to all those wonderful, committed workers who keep the flow of items moving through the community. This enables people to recycle their unwanted items, thus helping many others, especially those in need, who have the opportunity to purchase these items at very reduced prices at the Furniture Shop.

The Furniture Shop is open Thursdays and Fridays 9am - 1pm and also on Market Sundays 7am - 1pm. If you wish to donate items or volunteer at PBNC's Furniture Shop/Men's Shed, ring PBNC's Front Desk on (02) 6676 4555 to find out more ■



Electrical items await testing



A shaggy dog keeps watch over the Furniture Shop

NSW Seniors WEEK
 15 – 23 March 2014
www.nswseniorsweek.com.au

Live Life!



Above: Rob (left) and Don (right) update their technological skills with facilitator Drew at the Tech Centre.

PBNC presents...

Image Imagination

WHAT:

FREE training in new digital trends

PARTICIPANTS:

Seniors

WHEN:

Friday 21st March, 2014 -

Morning session: 9.30am - 11.30am

Afternoon session: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

WHERE:

Technology Centre,

Pottsville Beach

Neighbourhood Centre,

12A Elizabeth St, Pottsville

Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre is presenting this exciting program as part of NSW Seniors Week activities in March.

Image Imagination consists of FREE hands-on training for seniors to develop skills in new digital trends. Seniors will learn to manipulate, enhance and work with photos and other images using readily available, free software. Some skills to be learnt are:

- *brightness, contrast and colour level control*
- *sharpening and blurring*
- *dodging and burning (light and dark spot control)*
- *resizing, rotating and cropping*
- *removing unwanted objects*
- *adding wanted objects*
- *red-eye removal*
- *spot and wrinkle removal (air brushing)*
- *magic wand (background removal)*
- *cloning*
- *adding text*

Participants will learn how to keep in touch with family, friends and others by posting and sharing their photos on sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

The program will cater to about 40 participants (20 per two-hour session) delivered by trained PBNC facilitators and volunteers. Refreshments will be provided, along with a guided tour of the Technology Centre and other PBNC activities.

For more information or to book a place, phone Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre on 6676 4555.

Image Imagination is an initiative of PBNC and is funded by NSW Department of Families and Community Services ■



PBNC supporter Dorothy Somerville reminisces with PBNC Manager Angela about the progress of the centre from its inception in 1999 to the present.

Dorothy and Angela are seated in the reception area of the beautiful, spacious, “new” admin building, opened in February 2012, which was needed to accommodate the rapidly growing centre’s many service users and services.

Thank you, Dorothy!

One of Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre’s “*originals*” is Dorothy Somerville. She has keenly and passionately supported PBNC for more than 14 years, being involved in 1999 in initial discussions with Tweed Shire Council, community groups and residents about the need for a community centre in Pottsville.

Dorothy became a member of the steering committee which was formed that year to see the neighbourhood centre established and, when the old school site was acquired by the council and made available as a site for the neighbourhood centre, Dorothy was one of the first to assist to whip the old school buildings into shape “with a bucket, broom and mop”. One other task Dorothy remembers is removing staples from the classroom walls (thousands of them!).

A great supporter of PBNC’s Technology Centre from its foundation to the present day, Dorothy was also instrumental in the formation of the Tweed Coast chapter of U3A (University of the Third Age) which continues to deliver classes at the centre in topics such as art and botany. She attends the Diabetes Support Group and, despite handling various health issues, is still very enthusiastic and passionate about PBNC and the services it offers, and proud of the centre’s progress from its days of inception to its present state, with its spacious, modern new admin building, landscaped native gardens and its convenient position next to the recently opened medical facility HealthOne ■

Words flow on... the latest from WordsFlow



PBNC's writers' group WordsFlow recently farewelled facilitator Rosemary Nissen-Wade (pictured above) and long-standing members Eddie Blatt and Marie Heffernan. Eddie has gone to live overseas, but is still submitting his work to the group for review over the internet. Marie has sold her family home and moved to Brisbane to begin the next stage of her life. They will all be sadly missed but plan to keep in touch with the group to let them know the latest developments in their writing. The group welcomed Cheryl Brown to the role of facilitator.

Cheryl and Rosemary are both founding members of WordsFlow, which began in 2006. In her years with the group, Cheryl has developed as a novelist and writer of short stories. She is very well read in a variety of genres and is an excellent researcher for material useful to writers, according to Rosemary. This year Cheryl is returning to study for a Master of Arts in Writing.

A published writer and poet, Rosemary is branching out into collaborations with other poets. "I have had seven wonderful years with WordsFlow and have made friends for life. I am ready for less responsibility and more freedom now, including the freedom to do my own writing," said Rosemary. She is taking part in a year-long renshi (a Japanese form of linked poetry) with Australian poets Jennie Fraine, Helen Patrice and British poet Michele Brenton.

The following poems, called 'somonka', were written by Rosemary and American Bruce Niedt. A somonka consists of two 'tanka' (a five-line Japanese form), where the second poem responds to the first. This somonka was recently named runner-up in an international competition.

Listen!
A magpie warbles
at my gate.
I send you the song
across distance.

- *Rosemary Nissen-Wade*

When I hear it
I will fashion clouds
to its music.
When the weather turns
they will sail to you.

- *Bruce Niedt*

Copyright for
the individual tanka:
©Rosemary Nissen-Wade 2013
and ©Bruce Niedt 2013

Words flow on...(continued)

WordsFlow members (standing - left to right) Marie, Hebe, Amber, Lorraine, Nan, Ashlea and new facilitator Cheryl farewell Rosemary (seated left) with Bron



***To thank and honour Rosemary,
the group offered the following tributes:***

Cheryl - "I'm the only one left from that very first day of WordsFlow in October 2006. We were nervous and excited and I knew I was out of my depth. Rosemary put me at ease and explained her ideas and goals for the group and I was hooked.

So many writing groups rapidly disappear into the fogs of failed experiment - but Rosemary had a vision. The group would respect each other's work before all else. There was no self criticism allowed, only a loving environment with constructive criticism when requested by the author. Respect for, and from, all members. This allowed a nurturing environment in which to create. The result is a group that has seen many pieces and books published during its existence and a core group of members who are like family to me. Thank you Rosemary for your intuitive and skilful guidance of the group. I hope I can do justice to your legacy."

Nan - "I have enjoyed the last five years with WordsFlow under Rosemary's guidance. The first day I went along I noticed that Rosemary was wearing a Phantom ring and knew that everything would be great. Rosemary has a special knowledge of the English language and this has been a help to us all. She is broadminded and never seeks to stifle our writing. You have done a great job, Rosemary."

Hebe - "When I moved into the area two years ago I was relieved to find a writers group that could support me through my first novel. What I found was a group of independent women with a sharp, wicked sense of humour and high level writing skills. I particularly appreciated Rosemary's command of the language; her honest, expert appraisal of my work and knowledge on the production of a finished product and on different types of publishing."

Bron - "Pink hair or no, there's only one Rosemary. She'll be remembered at writing for her tolerance, patience, and grammatical incisiveness."

Amber - "Rosemary is a lady dedicated to the sharing of words, and supporting others in the enjoyment of the writing process. A gentle and wise woman with a great sense of humour and justice."

what's on at the centre

PBNC ADMINISTRATION
Monday to Friday 8.30am - 1.30pm
DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP
With Ruth - Reef Room 1st Wed each month 2pm - 4pm
SECONDHAND FURNITURE SHOP
Th, Fri 9am-1pm; Market Sun 7am-1pm
GET FIT, KEEP FIT
Sandbar Room Tues 9.15 - 10.15am, Fri 9.15 -10.15am
OPP SHOP
Monday & Friday 9am - 4pm Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat 9am - 1pm
POTTSVILLE PLAYTIME GROUP
Sandbar Room Monday 9.30am - 11.30am
PBNC TECHNOLOGY CENTRE <i>Computer Lessons & Internet Access</i>
Sandbar Room Tues 9.15 - 10.15am, Fri 9.15 -10.15am
TODDLER ART AND PLAY
Coral Bay Room (next to Reef Room) Tuesday 10 - 11am
STRETCH-YOUR-MIND
Thursday 12.30 - 2.30pm
TOY LIBRARY
Monday to Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm
WORDSFLOW
with Rosemary Nissen Wade Sandbar Room - Fri 12.30-3.15pm (in school term)
SCRABBLE
Tuesday 10am - 12 noon
UFO CRAFT GROUP
with Clair - Reef Room Thursday 9:30 - 11:30am
Contact Administration Office for more details or bookings (02) 6676 4555.

DHS (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	Wednesday	Friday
<p>Technology Centre 9am-1pm</p> <p>Pottsville PlayTime Sandbar Room 9.30am-11.30pm</p> <p>Toy Library 9.30am-12.30pm</p>	<p>Technology Centre 9am-5pm</p> <p>Toy Library 9.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>Diabetes Support Group with Ruth (1st Wed each month)</p>	<p>Technology Centre 9am-1pm</p> <p>Furniture Shop 9am-1pm</p> <p>Get Fit, Keep Fit Sandbar Room 9.15-10.15am</p> <p>Toy Library 9.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>Pottsville Toddler Tunes & Stories Sandbar Room 10.45am-12pm (in school term)</p> <p>Wordsflow with Rosemary Nissen Wade Sandbar Room 12.30-3.15pm</p>
Tuesday	Thursday	Saturday
<p>Technology Centre 9am-5pm</p> <p>Get Fit, Keep Fit Sandbar Room 9.15am - 10.15am</p> <p>Toy Library 9.30am - 12.30pm</p> <p>Scrabble 10am - 12noon</p>	<p>Technology Centre 9am-5pm</p> <p>Furniture Shop 9am-1pm</p> <p>Pottsville Playtime Sandbar Room 9.30am-11.30am</p> <p>Stretch Your Mind Reef Room 12.30-2.30pm</p> <p>Toy Library 9.30am-12.30pm</p> <p>UFO Craft Group Reef Room 9.30am-11.30am</p>	<p>Opp Shop 9am-1pm</p> <p>Side by Side Aspergers Support Group - From 1pm (see ad above)</p>
<p>DANCING WITH NIKKI Freestyle dance classes for pre-schoolers to adults - \$5 per lesson Contact Nikki on 0417 036 609</p>		
Community Pantry every Wednesday Coral Bay Room 10am-12 noon		
<p>Tweed Coast U3A conducts classes at PBNC e.g. Quilting, Booklovers, Gardening, Art & Cryptic Crosswords. Ph PBNC (02) 66 764555 or email admin@pottsbnc.ngo.org.au</p>		
		Sunday
		<p>Pottsville Beach Markets, Opp Shop, Furniture Shop (7am-1pm) & Community BBQ - 1st & 3rd Sun each month. Next markets: Mar 16, Apr 6 & 20, May 4 & 18.</p>

