



# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

## WORDS FROM THE CEO

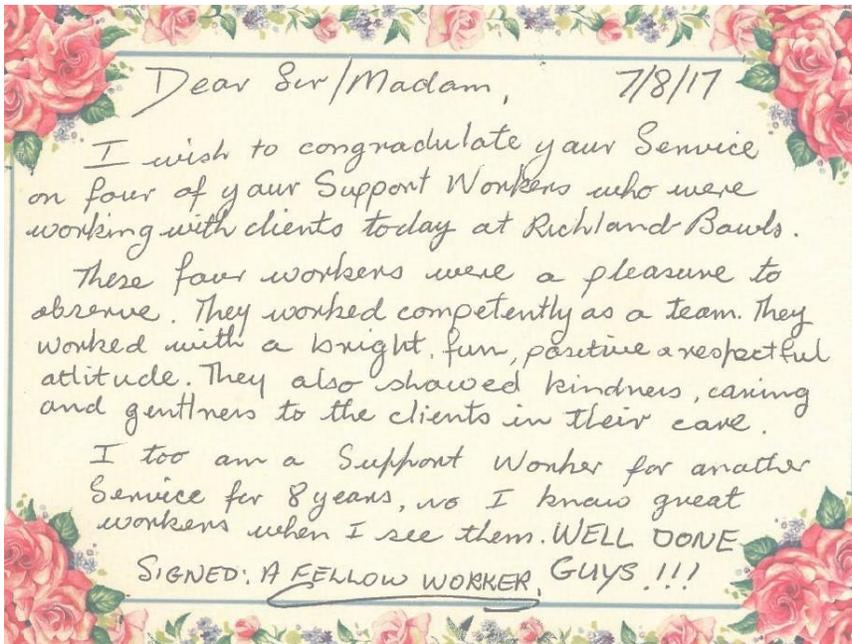
**NDIS:** Since May, about half of Focal’s families have transitioned into NDIS. Focal is continuing to support people through this transition. If you have not done so already, please contact Focal about any questions you may have about the NDIS. We can arrange a meeting to ensure that all of your concerns are addressed.

**Reminder about sickness:** Focal would like to remind clients and families to not attend our centre if feeling sick or unwell. This has obvious risks not only for our staff, but also for other clients and their families. This is particularly important with the flu season in full swing.

**Anonymous Letter:** On Monday we received a lovely letter from an anonymous support worker. He or she observed our staff supporting our clients at Richland Bowls last week. Well done to our support workers for doing a fantastic job!

Thank you all for your continuous support.

*Michael Blanc*



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- Focal Social Event: “Driftwood”
- Montrose September Events
- Focal MyTime Men’s Group

## FREE NDIS INFO SESSIONS

Presented by Carers QLD

Every Wednesday, 10am - 12pm

Level 3 George Thorn Building, 28  
Thorn Street, Ipswich, QLD 4305

**Ph:** 0428 945 842



## Community Services

6 Canning St, North Ipswich QLD

**Ph:** 3812 2014

**Fax:** 3812 2023

**Email:** [admin@focal.org.au](mailto:admin@focal.org.au)

**Web:** [focal.org.au](http://focal.org.au)

Registered NDIS Provider

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Focal would like to extend a warm welcome to its new board members:

- Hamish Leech
- Patrick Albina
- Stephanie Francis

## FACEBOOK



We have reached 300 likes on Facebook! Thanks to all of our followers.

[@FocalCommunityServices](#)

## LINKEDIN



Follow us on LinkedIn for the latest job opportunities and industry practices.

[@Focal Community Services](#)

## TWITTER



Follow us on Twitter for the latest news in the community and not-for-profit sectors.

[@FocalSEQLD](#)

## CALLING ALL BLOGGERS!

Do you enjoy writing? Have a great idea to share? We are inviting everyone at Focal to help us start a monthly blog.



You can write about practically anything! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Recipes
- Daily routines
- Best coffee in Ipswich
- Your favourite hobby

To express your interest, please contact Greg on 3812 2014 or [GregS@focal.org.au](mailto:GregS@focal.org.au).

## WORDS FROM THE BOARD

I would like to personally welcome our new board members: Hamish Leech, Patrick Albina and Stephanie Francis. The selection of new board members should not be taken lightly and as such, our new board members participated in a selection process to identify their individual skills and their personal motivation for desiring to join the Focal Board. Hamish, Patrick and Stephanie each bring a unique set of diverse skills and expertise to the board and I look forward to working with the new members to ensure Focal's continued growth.



Focal would like to thank Ipswich Jets Leagues Club and its patrons for raising \$100 in coin donations—every dollar counts! We are also very excited to unveil our new-look fleet of buses. These will promote the organisation's re-branding throughout South-East Queensland. A big thank you goes to Danny at Sign Groove!

Warm regards,

*Chris Hannah*



# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Focal has formed an exciting collaboration with LifeTec Australia, who specialise in assistive technology (AT) provision. AT provides practical living solutions for everyone, regardless of their age and lifestyle: including all intellectual, physical and sensory disabilities.

Focal has developed an Access Point at its 6 Canning Street building, for clients and loved ones to speak directly to a LifeTec consultant. LifeTec will go through a 4-step pathway:

## IMAGINE the possibilities



LifeTec can assist you to imagine the things you want to do and what products or technologies could help you achieve this.

## SEEK information and advice

Learn about and explore some AT options to best enable you to achieve your goals and aspirations.



## CHOOSE the best option for you



LifeTec will work with you to choose your AT through a process of assessment, trial and prescription.

## LIVE successfully with your AT

Once you have acquired your chosen AT, LifeTec can set-up, fit and train you on its use. We are available for ongoing support as your needs change and grow.



For more information, please contact Focal on 3812 2014 or email [admin@focal.org.au](mailto:admin@focal.org.au).

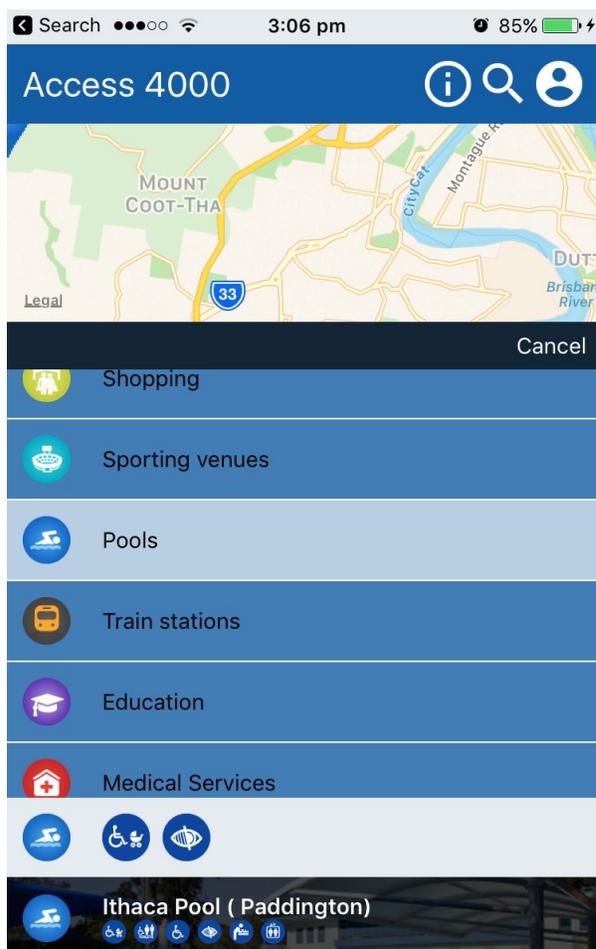
## ACCESS 4000

Access 4000 is a revolutionary new smartphone app which is helping people with disability navigate their way around Brisbane in an Australian first.

The app highlights disability access features like wheelchair and pram ramps, disabled toilets and parking, and support for low vision or blindness.

Map-based technology then allows users to find venues around Brisbane with these features, including public transport, shopping centres and tourist attractions.

Access 4000 is currently available for free on the App Store and Google Play.



## FOCAL VACATION CARE RECAP: JUNE/JULY 2017

The Senior and Junior Vacation Care Program had a fantastic two weeks. The children were all kept busy with lots of different activities available for them throughout the week. Daily activities included outside play, group sports, playground areas and indoors where children watched movies, did art and craft activities, construction and much more.

During the two weeks the children had a Pyjama Day Party where the children got to relax and watch some movies. They had a few special visitors this program: Ripley Fire Station, Ulysses Motorcycle Group and Mike Jarvis from Pterodactyl Helicopters. They went on two excursions; one to Colleges Crossing and the other to Springfield Trampoline Park in Ipswich.

***A message from Team Leaders Janelle and Elise:** Thank you for your full participation. The joy on the children's faces makes it all worthwhile. We are looking forward to the next program.*

**Wednesday, June 28:** The children had a visit from the Fire Fighters who also brought a fire truck along. The children were all very excited about the visit and eager to go and look at the truck. The firemen explained to the children how things work on the truck, and showed them their special fire fighting gear. Afterwards, all the children who wanted to were invited to have a turn using the big hose and listen to sirens. The children appeared to have enjoyed the visit.



**Thursday, June 29:** This was an exciting day at Vacation Care as the Ulysses Motorcycle Group came to visit and brought along some motorcycles for the children to have a ride on. They were able to choose which motorcycle they wanted to go on and then the rider took them for laps around the oval. This was a much enjoyed activity by all the children and the staff. Focal would like to say a big THANK YOU to the Ulysses Motor Cycle Group for coming out and providing the children with this opportunity and to Janelle for making this day possible.



**Thursday, July 6:** Pterodactyl Helicopters landed a helicopter on the oval. Captain Mike gave the children a talk and answered any questions asked about the Helicopter. The children had lots of smiles as they sat proud in the Pilots seat for a photo. Thank you to Captain Mike, Johey Jarvis and Janelle for making this day possible.



***A message from Service Manager Kerri Siebenhausen:** What a great first program for the year, it was fantastic to see the children enjoying themselves and engaging in the wide range of activities available to them. The next Vacation Care Program is **September 18-29, 2017**. As the NDIS has begun to roll out, if you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact me on 3812 2014 so that we can discuss them.*



## 7 Reasons You Should Join Focal Aged Care

Focal Community Services (Focal) have launched aged care services in June 2017. These services cater to people who have already received, or are eligible to receive a Home Care Package. Here are 7 reasons why you should join Focal Aged Care:

1.

We have 43 years' experience providing in-home & community care services.

2.

We are a small organisation, which means that we have more time for you.

3.

We work alongside you to understand your needs and wants.

4.

We take a flexible & open-minded approach to designing your care package.

5.

We empower you to reach your goals at home or in the community.

6.

We facilitate your community access through our 'Social Circle'.

7.

We partner with community programs that enhance your wellbeing.

**For more information, contact Focal on 3812 2014 or [focal.org.au](http://focal.org.au)  
Focal will respond to your initial enquiry within 24 hours.**

## CALLING ALL GAMERS!

Do you enjoy gaming? Let us know about it! Focal are looking to start a gaming club for clients and their support workers.



What is your favourite game type?

- **Action/shooter**—e.g. Call of Duty
- **Sport games**—e.g. Fifa
- **Role-playing**—e.g. World of Warcraft
- **Adventure**—e.g. Minecraft
- **Racing**—e.g. Need for Speed
- **Something else?**

To express your interest, please contact Greg at Focal on 3812 2014 or [GregS@focal.org.au](mailto:GregS@focal.org.au).

## WELCOME TO TEPA

Meet Tapa, Focal's new Rosters Officer. Tapa recently moved up from Sydney, where she worked as an Allocations Coordinator. Join us in welcoming Tapa to the Focal family!



## CLIENT & STAFF NEWS

Our clients have enjoyed a number of outings in recent weeks, including Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, AMF Bowling Richlands and Pan Pacific Peace Gardens.



We recently celebrated two 10 year anniversaries at Focal. Finance Officer Patty, and Support Worker Gerard, have remained steadfast at the organisation for a number of years. Thank you both for your wonderful service—you are truly appreciated by everyone at Focal!



Congratulations to Sharon for recently graduating with a B.CCJ at Griffith!



There's always one... staff dressing up for the State of Origin decider on July 12.



## FOCAL ENTERPRISE: NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

Focal is committed to not only supporting the community, but also being a socially-conscious organisation. Our aim is to facilitate social and economic participation, but to do so in a way which promotes greater social outcomes for everybody. That is why we have created Focal Enterprise.

Focal Enterprise's first target is **National Recycling Week**, which runs from November 13-19. Now, you may think of recycling as putting paper, bottles and other things in recycling bins. This starts the recycling process... but we want to actually **do** the recycling!

Dave Hakkens runs a project called **Precious Plastic**, which allows individuals to start their own plastic recycling workshop. Dave provides simple blueprints and instructional videos for users to develop machines, which can then produce a whole range of products.



Based on these principles, Focal wants to develop its own workshop, machines and equipment and share it with the community. If you are hands-on and keen to make a difference, please contact Greg at Focal on 3812 2014 or [GregS@focal.org.au](mailto:GregS@focal.org.au).

## FOCAL REALTY: A PLACE TO CALL HOME

**Focal in 2016 identified that one in three clients needed accommodation solutions.**

We have formed a strong collaboration with First National on the Coast to provide the following solutions:

- Wealth creation
- Access to property through purchase or rent
- Building
- Property management and maintenance

For more information, please call Focal on 3812 2014 or email [ceo@focal.org.au](mailto:ceo@focal.org.au)





Community Services

## DATES TO REMEMBER

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>DAFFODIL DAY (CANCER COUNCIL AUST)</b>    | <b>FRI, AUG. 25</b>  |
| <b>IPSWICH FRESH FUTURES MARKET</b>          | <b>WED, SEPT. 6</b>  |
| <b>FOCAL VACATION CARE: SEPTEMBER</b>        | <b>MON, SEPT. 18</b> |
| <b>FOCAL MYTIME MEN'S GROUP</b>              | <b>THU, SEPT. 21</b> |
| <b>FOCAL SOCIAL EVENT: "DRIFTWOOD"</b>       | <b>SAT, SEPT. 23</b> |
| <b>QUEEN'S B'DAY (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)</b>        | <b>MON, OCT. 2</b>   |
| <b>WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY</b>               | <b>TUES, OCT. 10</b> |
| <b>DAY FOR DANIEL</b>                        | <b>SAT, OCT. 28</b>  |
| <b>HALLOWEEN</b>                             | <b>TUES, OCT. 31</b> |
| <b>MELBOURNE CUP DAY</b>                     | <b>TUES, NOV. 7</b>  |
| <b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>                       | <b>SAT, NOV. 11</b>  |
| <b>INT'L DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY</b> | <b>SUN, DEC. 3</b>   |
| <b>INT'L DAY OF VOLUNTEERS</b>               | <b>TUES, DEC. 5</b>  |

# Social Activities

By



Aged Care

Arts and crafts  
Cooking  
Social outings  
And more!



These activities are open to anyone  
aged 60 and over.

When: Tuesdays, 9am-12pm

Where: 82A Nicholas Street, Ipswich

Cost: \$10 (plus a gold coin donation for  
transport)

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Book on 3812 2014 or [StratosE@focal.org.au](mailto:StratosE@focal.org.au)

Proudly supported by: *Ipswich Multicultural Projects Inc.*



# Ipswich Fresh Futures Market

Connect with local resources and support for your future

**Are you living with a disability or mental illness?  
Are you wondering what to do once you've finished school?  
Are you caring for a young person or adult with a disability?  
Are you looking for realistic options for your future?  
Then this market is for you.**

**Wednesday, 6 September  
9.00 am – 1.00 pm  
Ipswich Showgrounds Pavilion  
Warwick Road, Ipswich**

*Wheelchair friendly venue*

Over 80 stall holders, workshops, food, live entertainment and giveaways.

**Workshops will be running in the Pavilion on topics to assist people to understand the NDIS. More information will be available on Facebook in the lead up to the day.**



**[facebook.com.au/FreshFuturesMarket](https://facebook.com.au/FreshFuturesMarket)**

This event is proudly supported by:

Able Australia, ALARA Qld Ltd, Carers Qld, CATS, Disability Community Awareness, Empowered Futures, Endeavour Foundation, FOCAL Community Living Inc., HealthCall, Ipswich City Council, National Disability Coordination Officer, QDN, Real Community Services and TAFE QUEENSLAND South West.



Community Services

# Social Event

## "Driftwood"

*A dazzling display of acrobatics & aerial stunts*

**Saturday, September 23**

**2:00pm - 8:00pm**

**South Bank, Brisbane**

**\$20.00 per person**



**RSVP: Friday, September 9, 2017**

**3812 2014 or [admin@focal.org.au](mailto:admin@focal.org.au)**

**Pick Up/Drop Off: 6 Canning St, North Ipswich (train to Brisbane)**

**Don't forget your GO, Companion & Concession Cards!**

**Food can also be purchased before the show starts (5pm).**

**This is a supported event. Please ensure that you have organized necessary support with the Rosters team. For any questions, please contact Focal.**



## SEPTEMBER SOCIAL EVENTS

| <u>DATE</u>                       | <u>EVENT</u>                                      | <u>TIME</u>        | <u>WHAT TO BRING</u>                                     | <u>RSVP by</u>             |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| FRIDAY<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sept    | <b>Sydney Comedy Festival</b><br>Powerhouse       | 4.30pm –<br>11pm   | ✓ \$50 Ticket<br>✓ \$ for Dinner                         | 28 <sup>th</sup><br>August |
| Friday<br>8 <sup>th</sup> Sept    | <b>Daytrip to Stradbroke Island</b>               | 8:20am –<br>5.30pm | ✓ \$35 Ferry<br>✓ \$ for Lunch                           | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept       |
| Friday<br>15 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | <b>Daytrip Gold Coast</b>                         | 9.30am –<br>3.30pm | ✓ \$ for Lunch   | 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept      |
| FRIDAY<br>22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept   | <b>Southbank Diners</b><br>Zeus Street Greek Food | 4.30pm –<br>9pm    | ✓ \$ Dinner<br>✓ Go Card                                 | 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept      |
| SATURDAY<br>30 <sup>th</sup> Sept | <b>Riverfire</b><br>Kangaroo Point                | 3pm – 9 pm         | ✓ \$10 for Dinner<br>(Pizza + Drink)<br>✓ \$10 Transport | 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept      |

**TO RSVP:** Please contact Michelle Lipovich on 3717 1145 / 0414 325 530 / [mlipovich@montrose.org.au](mailto:mlipovich@montrose.org.au).

**Where to meet?** There are two main meeting points for these events if you require transport:

- **Yeerongpilly Short Stay, 4 Ortive Street Yeerongpilly** or
- **Aspley Ten Pin Bowling Carpark, Albany Rd Aspley**

Please note some activities have limited places available so make sure you book in early to avoid disappointment.





Community Services



**MyTime**  
**PROVIDER**  
*supporting parents of  
children with disabilities*

**You are invited to join us**  
**My Time Men's Group**  
**Dinner at**  
**Heisenberg Haus**

**Thursday, September 21, 6:30pm**  
**164 Brisbane Street, Ipswich**

**RSVP: Ben on 3812 2014 or [BenH@focal.org.au](mailto:BenH@focal.org.au)**

This evening is an opportunity for men who are relatives or friends of a young person with disability to meet up and have a chat.

We hope you can join us at this event, or another one in the future. New members are always welcome!

To assist you on the night, we are able to provide a qualified worker to support member's sons or daughters.