



# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

## WORDS FROM THE CEO

**NDIS:** Since May, the majority of Focal’s clients have transitioned into the NDIS. Focal is now supporting families through the review process. If you have not done so already, please contact Focal about any questions or concerns that you have about your plan. We can arrange a meeting to ensure that all of your needs are being met.

**Christmas Holidays:** The Christmas season is coming very fast. During the festive season, all individual services will be maintained, with group activities starting back on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Please contact your support officer to inform Focal if you need different services over the Christmas period.

**New Services:** Focal is currently re-designing its service offering. We have reached the end of block funding, which means that we can now deliver new services under the NDIS. One of our more significant service re-designs which we are trialling is an NDIS-funded Vacation Care Service (p. 4).

Some other initiatives which we are pursuing include e-sports teams for gamers, recycling and trades for our Handyman Group, as well as other Social Enterprise projects.

Thank you all for your continuous support.

Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas,

*Michael Blanc*



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### SPECIAL EVENTS P8-13

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- Focal Excellence Awards
- The Ipswich Toy Run
- Ipswich Siblings Group
- MyTime Men’s Group

## Christmas in the Park

**Dec. 7**   
**4-7pm**

**RSVP essential!**



Community Services

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**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

## FOCAL'S 44TH AGM

Focal would like to thank every one who attended our 44th Annual General Meeting on November 1, 2017, especially Jennifer Howard MP.

## FACEBOOK

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

The 2016-17 year has been one of the most significant in Focal's 44 year history, since the de-institutionalisation at the end of the '70s, or the implementation of the disability pension, strongly influenced by our very own former President, Jim Cummings OAM. Indeed, with the launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) on May 26, 2017, the Focal environment has changed dramatically—with some fantastic outcomes for clients and families.

Through 2016-17, Focal has focused on supporting clients, their families and carers, and the community in general to get 'NDIS ready'. This work continues with Focal's transitioned clients, and will progress to ensure that the community gets the best outcome from the NDIS.

2017-18 promises to be a fascinating year for Focal, with many new surprises and initiatives in store. We will continue to increase our community consultations, with the aim of co-designing activities that ensure all the current needs and expectations of our clients are being met. The year will also see a greater focus on health and wellbeing, to address a growing need that has been expressed by our parents and participants.

Focal is also looking to implement new social enterprise initiatives, for those who want to participate in activities and give back to the community. Moreover, Focal will continue to increase options for families wishing to foster independence. This includes additional 24/7 services, independent living solutions and alternative respite arrangements.

From all of us at Focal, thank you for being a part of our journey.



Chris  
Hannah



Patrick  
Albina



Stephanie  
Francis



Hamish  
Leech



Russell  
Swinton



Community Services

# INTRODUCING THE FAB FOCAL CLUB

Kerri Siebenhausen - OSHC Service Manager

2016-17 has been a fantastic year for Focal's Out of School Hours Care Services. The children and staff had lots of fun participating in a whole range of unique and exciting experiences throughout the year. In addition to our regular Vacation and After School Care activities, we offered some new activities for children to participate in, including a Helicopter visit and visit from the RSPCA.

With the NDIS now rolled out in the Ipswich region, we have seen families extend their support from services such as Vacation and After School Care, to individualised in-home and community access supports. Despite the impact that the NDIS has had on the costing of our services, we remain committed to providing quality support for children and young people into the future.



Because of the NDIS, Focal is launching a new school holiday club in December, named **'The Fab Focal Club'**. This service is specifically designed for NDIS-approved participants aged 13-17, who have standard intensity support requirements. The purpose of this club for teenagers is to develop everyday life skills, build friendships and have fun!

Participants will undertake a range of fun and exciting experiences over the three weeks, including outings to the cinema, Orion Lagoon and Wivenhoe Dam, as well as cooking, art & craft and games days. Spaces are limited to 10 children per day, so make sure that you secure your spot! Booking are made on a day-by-day basis. To view our schedules and booking forms, please click this [link](#). For more information about costs and other specifications, or to make a booking, please contact Kerri at Focal on (07) 3812 2014.

The Fab Focal Club is an exciting new concept and we cannot wait to see where it goes from here.





## 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 NEW STAFF

Welcome to our 50 new Support Workers (and counting) that have joined Focal in the last 2 months!

## WELCOME TO LINDA

Meet Linda, Focal's new Project Officer/Support Coordinator. Linda previously worked for Anglicare Southern Queensland as a Project Officer. Join us in welcoming Linda to the Focal family!



## CLIENT & STAFF NEWS

Our clients and staff recently celebrated two of our biggest dress-up days for the year: Halloween and Melbourne Cup!



Gerard, Focal's long-tenured Support Worker, has left Focal after ten years of service. Thank you Gerard for your wonderful service. You will truly be missed by everyone!



## FOCAL ENTERPRISE: RECYCLING INITIATIVE

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 plastic recycling. 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><u>BUILT FOR SPEED (LEGO CAR RACES)</u></b>	<b>NOV 17 - FEB 18</b>
<b>INT'L DAY OF VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>TUES, DEC. 5</b>
<b>FOCAL CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK</b>	<b>THUR, DEC. 7</b>
<b><u>WOODWORK PYROGRAPHY PLAYGROUND</u></b>	<b>SAT, DEC. 9</b>
<b>IPSWICH TOY RUN (BRASSALL SHOPS)</b>	<b>SUN, DEC. 10</b>
<b>IPSWICH SIBLINGS NETWORK EVENT</b>	<b>THU, DEC. 14</b>
<b>FOCAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS</b>	<b>FRI, DEC. 15</b>
<b><u>SUMMER READING CLUB (GAME DAYS)</u></b>	<b>DEC 15, JAN 5/19</b>
<b>MYTIME MEN'S GROUP EVENT</b>	<b>THU, DEC. 21</b>
<b>FOCAL OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>DEC. 23 - JAN 1</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>MON, DEC. 25</b>
<b>BOXING DAY</b>	<b>TUES, DEC. 26</b>
<b>STAFF HOLIDAY</b>	<b>WED, DEC. 27</b>

## Christmas in the Park



### Community Christmas Event at North Ipswich

Focal invites you to join us for our annual Christmas Celebration at Browns Park!

Enjoy a night of festivities including carols, live music, food and drinks, information stalls and fun activities for all ages and abilities.

'Life. Be in it' and 'The Axegrinders' will entertain us, along with other community-based groups who will be in attendance.

Even Santa will make an appearance!

Bought to you by:



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Supported by:



#### What you need to know

##### When

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017  
4:00pm - 7:00pm

##### Where

Browns Park,  
Corner of Flint and Downs St,  
North Ipswich

##### Cost

FREE entry and entertainment  
\$1-3 per food & drink purchase

##### Bookings

To book now, call 3812 2014  
or email [admin@focal.org.au](mailto:admin@focal.org.au)

RSVP: Thursday, 30 November

Come along, invite your friends  
and bring the Christmas spirit!

Gold coin donations are  
welcome on the day.

Endless opportunities for all.

Care, support, empower.

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

## Excellence Awards



### Focal Staff and Volunteer Excellence Awards 2017

Nominations are now open for the Focal Staff and Volunteer Excellence Awards.

This is our way of saying **thank you** for being innovative, creative, and providing the high-quality service that people want.

This year, the 3 types of awards will be:

- Client & Parents Award
- Peer Award
- Management Team Award

If you believe a Focal worker or volunteer deserves to receive an "Excellence Award", you are asked to complete the nomination section on the right and return the form to reception by **Friday, 8 December**.

Your comments will be collated and awards presented to individuals at the Staff & Volunteer Christmas Party and Excellence Awards Event on **Friday, 15 December**.

#### Who do you nominate?

I nominate (name of staff or volunteer) for an award

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I believe they deserve this award because:

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---

Name:

---

Signature:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a:  Client or parent/carer  
 Staff or volunteer

Endless opportunities for all.

Care, support, empower.

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



# 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Ipswich Toy Run 10 December 2017

Hosted by:

**Ulysses Club Inc.  
Lockyer Branch**

In aid of:

- Salvation Army Christmas Appeal
- Ulysses Club Arthritis Research Fund (UCARF)

We invite you to become part of the festivities by participating in the ride, donating a toy or by coming out to see Santa and the motorbikes as they pass.

Start: Brassall Shopping Centre Hunter St, Brassall

Finish: Ipswich Show Grounds, Greyhound Pavilion

Registration: From 8 am

Depart: 10:30 a.m.

Cost: Free  
OR

\$20, includes breakfast, patch or pin & a perpetual draw ticket



Route follows:

Brassall Shopping Centre, Workshops St, Vogel Rd, Gregory St, Arnold St, Grace St, Wulkuraka Railway Bridge, Dixon St, Aspinall St, Toongarra Rd, Old Toowoomba Rd, Lobb St, Warwick Rd, Ash St, Whitehill Rd, Cascade St, South Station Rd, Robertson Rd, Chermerside Rd, Salisbury Rd, Ipswich Showgrounds

For further information contact:

- Deb Meier-Cuddy 0418 720 724
- Ian (Foggy) Winter 0409 277 087
- Email: [lockyer@ulysses.org.au](mailto:lockyer@ulysses.org.au)



IPSWICH SIBLINGS NETWORK

# Christmas BBQ & Craft

THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2017  
9:30AM - 2PM

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Meet at Focal  
6 Canning St, North Ipswich

*Please bring a wrapped game or puzzle  
to the value of  
\$10 for a Secret Santa gift*

**Remember hat,  
sunscreen & water bottle**



**RSVP: Friday, 8th December**

Jo Witt - 0418 148 090 or email: [jo.witt@ozcare.org.au](mailto:jo.witt@ozcare.org.au) or  
Trish Gibson - 0417 608 065 or email: [trish.gibson@alaraql.org.au](mailto:trish.gibson@alaraql.org.au)

## MyTime Men's Group



### What you need to know

## Christmas Break Up Dinner at Heisenberg Haus

Focal invites you to join the MyTime Men's Group for our monthly get-together.

This evening is an opportunity for men who are dads, granddads, uncles, male friends or siblings of a young person with disability to meet up.

The group meets regularly during school terms and gives men a chance to chat, go on outings, go to dinner and have information sessions about topics of interest.

New members are always welcome!

Brought to you by:



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### When

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December  
6pm to 10pm

### Where

Heisenberg Haus  
164 Brisbane Street  
Ipswich, QLD 4305

### Bookings

Booking in the name of Harrison  
Please let Ben know if you want  
to order a pork knuckle.  
Contact Ben on 0414 470 280

### Further Information

This event is just for carers.  
To assist you on the night,  
we are able to provide a  
qualified worker to support  
your loved one/s.

Please let us know when you  
RSVP.



# Ipswich ASD Parent/Carer Support Group 2018

Ipswich ASD Parents/Carers Support Group was started in 2011 as a peer based support group. We are a group of caring and supportive parents and carers helping each other on this journey in caring for a loved one on the spectrum.

We have face to face meetings once a fortnight on a Friday morning during school terms. Our meetings can be an education session with guest speakers or just simply be coffee and chat. Out side of these meetings we also have ladies dinners and lunches where mums can get together with other like minded carers and chat over a meal. For more information and dates for these please email Jodie.

Our meetings are held at Cr Kylie Stoneman's office Shop 2, 38 South Station Rd Booval from 9:30am to 12pm.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, the mums and female carers try to get together for an early evening meal (5pm meeting time) and possibly a movie afterwards if time permits. This is self funded, but a way to get out and meet other mums especially for the working mums. For more information please email us!

**Meeting Dates for 2018 are as**

**follows:**

JAN –

FEB – 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

MAR – 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

APR – 13<sup>th</sup> (family Autism day), 27<sup>th</sup>

MAY – 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

JUN – 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>

JULY – 27<sup>th</sup>

AUG – 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

SEP – 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>

OCT – 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

NOV – 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>

DEC – 7<sup>th</sup>

For more information on our Group activities please feel free to contact Jodie  
via email: [ipswich.asd.carers@gmail.com](mailto:ipswich.asd.carers@gmail.com)