

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The year is drawing to a close. The Christmas lunch to be held at 12 noon on Wednesday 17th December at Tranquil Park, Maleny provides us all with the opportunity to celebrate a very successful year together. The subsidised cost is \$10 per person. Please advise the staff if you are able to attend.

It has been a successful year with the completion of our new building, commencement of overnight respite services, Friday day respite, and an additional 4WD vehicle for the nurses to use—to name but a few achievements.

The BRCG is applying for additional Commonwealth funding which, if granted, will enable us to further increase the levels of more advanced care we are able to offer next year.

The Suzuki Jimny 4WD is now serving our staff well, particularly in wet conditions allowing us to safely support clients in somewhat inaccessible areas. The BRCG logo is now on the sides of the Jimny and Tarago helping to advertise our services across the Range.

Still no final news on the funding for a Toyota Prius. We may need to apply for other grants to achieve this replacement for the Ford station wagon.

The Horseless Carriage Club, after a successful breakfast/morning tea, has donated \$2,000 to the Cottage. We all are most appreciative of their significant contribution. The Committee has not yet decided on how this generous amount will be spent but it is probable some will go towards subsidising our overnight respite activities.

The Montville Masonic Lodge, supported by the State Board of Benevolence, has donated over \$800 which has enabled a reversing camera to be fitted to the smaller Ford Transit bus which improves its' safety. Many thanks to Bevan Christensen and the team from the Lodge. A presentation of the cheque and morning tea for Lodge representatives is to be held on Wednesday 3 December.

The driveway resurfacing, plumbing and provision of some soft furnishings have been completed – thanks again to the Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Recent wet weather has confirmed the effectiveness of the works.

The Maleny office is being updated by our landlord with the addition of our own toilet on the same level as the office – a great improvement for our Clients and staff. This will eliminate previous toilet access via a long ramp or steps. The work should all be completed before the end of the year.

The Open Garden at John and Patricia Heymans' home, 84 Akala St., Flaxton was a great success. The Devonshire Teas – provided by Leonie Kilmister and her team – raised \$1,376 for the Care Cottage. The team's catering at the earlier Open Garden at Magnolia Close in Flaxton Mill Road raised significant funds. Thank you to John & Patricia, and John & Margaret for the opportunities.

We have appealed for additional volunteers to help in various ways and welcome those who have responded so positively. More are always needed.

In the New Year we intend trialling weekend overnight respite to gauge the need for respite on weekends, as well as during the week. Feed back please.

The Management Committee and staff wish you all a happy Christmas and we look forward to great things next year – including our delayed Fair.

Best wishes to clients, carers, staff, volunteers and supporters.

Mark Gardner



FROM THEA'S DESK

It's Christmas time again already -

A chance to catch up with friends and family, take a short break from the routine activities, and recharge for next year.

I would like to wish all a safe and joyful Christmas, and hope that as many as possible will be able to join us for lunch at Tranquil Park on Wednesday the 17th of December.

It has been a busy year with many events both large and small, from our official opening of the new building to the fun activities and celebration of our volunteers during Seniors Week, to our AGM gathering in September.

I was astonished to realise recently that the service has grown by about one third during the short time I have been here. Luckily we received some additional funding to meet the growing need.

We will all make our best efforts to ensure that this continues, and that we are able to meet our clients' needs as and when they are identified. We are fortunate so far to have entirely avoided the need for a "Waiting List", and hope that this will remain the case.

The Centre will be closed from after the Christmas Party until the 5th of January except for Nursing Care or Personal Care which will be available on non-Public holidays. Speak with your Care Workers or ring the office before we close, if you need either of these services during the break period. Very best regards,

Thea



RSL COMMUNITY LINK

From the Mapleton RSL Sub-Branch

Remembering our deceased Veterans is a very important part of Australian culture. The Mapleton Sub-Branch of the RSL has made it easier for family members and others to represent deceased veterans at important occasions such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day by developing a "Veterans Memorial Plaque" on a simple badge which can be worn by the representative.

The Plaque is worn with a Link Card which gives the name of the representative and their relationship with the Veteran.

The Badges can be applied for through the Mapleton RSL Sub-Branch by filling out the required forms and forwarding them with the payment of \$12 for a Plaque, and \$4 for the Link Card, to the Sub-Branch address at

PO BOX 149

Mapleton 4560.

Forms can be obtained from the Cottage or by phoning Steve Eaton (Mapleton RSL Community Link Officer) on 5435 2032. You may need to research your veteran's details, if you do not already know them.

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SERVICES DURING THE BREAK

Blackall Range Care Group Centre will be closed from 18th of December until the 5th of January for all services except essential Nursing Care and Personal Care. If you need either of these services during the Christmas Break Period, please make sure that you speak with your Care Worker to discuss with them what you will need.

Services can be provided on the normal working days during this period as long as we know in advance.

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Coming to the Cottage

December and January can involve more occasions when family and friends come to visit or other outings occur.

NORMAL DAYS—If you cannot make your usual day at the cottage or wish to change your days **PLEASE LET US KNOW**. Neither our Kitchen or Day Centre staff are trained in ESP. They need your help.

If we don't hear from you we assume you are coming on your regular day. Fiona's direct no. is **54 457 056**.

There is a message bank if the number isn't answered.

OUTINGS are fun but take a lot of planning, particularly when catering outside the cottage is involved.

Transport is also an issue so accurate numbers are essential.

In order to ensure smooth running of outings, the cut off for notification will be by 12 noon of the day before, ie if there is a Tuesday outing, 12 noon on Monday will be the deadline for notifying us.

If I haven't heard from you I will assume you do not want to attend the outing. Best regards, Fiona

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COTTAGE NEWS

Cottage staff are busy preparing for the Christmas celebrations. As soon as all bookings are in for the Christmas Party we will establish a seating plan to cater for client needs. Access issues for people with mobility difficulties are the main considerations, but if you have any other requirements please let Cottage staff know. Not everything is possible but we will do our best. Your understanding is very much appreciated.

The staff at CDC are planning some rest and recreation over the festive season and look forward to seeing our much loved clients in the New Year. CDC resumes on Monday 5th January 2009. **We wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.**

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TRANSPORT COSTS

This little notice is to advise everyone that from January 2009, our Transport Fees will be the same whether the trip is one way or return. Previously we have advertised the costs as for a return trip, as most of our trips are. However, occasionally a client needs transport only one way. If this is the case we still need to charge the full amount as our costs are the same. Our driver still needs to return. If you have difficulty meeting the cost please let us know, and an arrangement can be made.

CARERS' NEWS

Are you in need of RESIDENTIAL RESPITE but find that the Cottage Monday to Friday service does not meet your need?

We are interested to hear if any Carers are seeking residential respite care on a weekend? It may be possible to offer an occasional weekend of Respite Care in the New Year if this is what Carers are requiring.

Please let Thea know on 5445 7044 if this is of interest to you.



“MALENY CARE GIVERS GROUP”

For Carers Week this year the Maleny Caregivers Group nominated Mr Rob Outridge for an award, for the way in which the Maleny IGA supports Carers, the frail elderly and people with a disability. This occurs in many small practical ways at the business and also through Community Chest support for the Blackall Range Care Group. Rob won a Queensland-wide Award presented at a lunch in Brisbane accompanied by members of the Carers Group.

The Group's next meeting will be the third Monday in February, the 16th



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don't forget the Blackall Range Care Group Annual Christmas Party to be held on **Wednesday 17th December** at Tranquil Park Resort Restaurant, Maleny, beginning at 12 noon.

This year we will have more space and the entertainment and the program will be shorter so no excuse to nod off after lunch. We look forward to seeing everyone.

If you haven't RSVP'd to staff yet—please do so now.

Cut off date for RSVPs is Wed 3rd December.



CHRISTMAS QUOTES & JOKES

Santa's Outfit

How do you know Santa has to be a man?
No woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.

Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

Norman Vincent Peale

'Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.'



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2008

Mon 01st	Mens' Group—Cottage Day/Piano with Bill
Tues 02nd	Outing Caloundra RSL
Wed 03rd	Cottage Day/ Bell Ringing Podiatrist (phone Harriet)
Thur 04th	Cottage Day/Yarns & Music/Bingo/Cards
Fri 05th	Womens' Group—Nursery visits & lunch in Buderim Maleny Shopping with Neil/Nambour with John

Mon 08th Mens' Group—making Christmas decorations
 Tues 09th Cottage Day—Art Group/Cards/Games
 Wed 10th Cottage Day/Sit Down Dancing/Bell Ringing
Hairdressing 54 943 941
 Thur 11th **Morning Tea at Uniting Church/Bingo/Cards**
 Fri 12th **Womens' Group– Progressive MT and Lunch**
 Maleny Shopping with Neil/Nambour with John

 Mon 15th **Mens' Group—Christmas Party at the Cottage**
 Tues 16th Cottage Day—Art Group/Cards/Bingo
 Wed 17th **CHRISTMAS PARTY AT TRANQUIL PARK**

JOYEUX NOEL **VESELE' VIANOCE**
PRIECIGUS ZIEMSVETKUS
VROLIJK KERSTFEEST
CESTITAMO BOZIC

JANUARY 2009

Mon 05th Mens' Group—Activities Suggestions/ **Piano with Bill**
 Tues 06th Art Group/Cards/Activity Suggestions
 Wed 07th Clients' suggestions/Art/**Podiatrist**
 Thurs 08th Cottage Day/Yarns & Music/Bingo/Cards
 Fri 09th Women's Group— To be Advised

 Mon 12th Mens' Group—Exercise and Health/Games
 Tues 13th Outing—Maroochydore Bowls Club
 Wed 14th Cottage Day/**Beach Theme—bring a photo/Bell Ringing**
 Thurs 15th Jokes & Yarns/ Music/Bingo/Cards/Hoy/Massage
 Fri 16th Womens' Group—To Be Advised

 Mon 19th Mens' Group **Outing Ten Pin Bowling**

Tues 20th Cottage Day/Art Group/Cards
Wed 21st Pick a Box Raffle (bring a \$1 coin)/**Sit Down Dancing**
Thurs 22nd Jokes & Yarns/ Music/Bingo/Cards
Fri 23rd Womens' Group—To be Advised

Mon 26th **Public Holiday—Australia Day**
Tues 27th **RSL Outing**
Wed 28th Cottage Day/**Bell Ringing with Caitlin**
Thurs 29th **Travel Talk NZ South Island**/Yarns & Jokes/
Visual Diary
Fri 30th Womens' Group—To Be Advised

BLACKALL RANGE COMMUNITY CARE TEAM

Management Committee of the Blackall Range Care Group

Mark Gardner—President

Gillie Warren —Secretary

Dorothy Cosandey—Vice-President

Frank Laver —Treasurer

Committee Members - Colleen Brady

Ivan Yaksich

Rob Norris

Allan Lewis

Lee Lucas

Leonie Kilmister

Ann Koenig

Contacts for Blackall Range Care Group

Manager—Thea : Ph 5445 7044

Flaxton Office—Trish & Clem : Ph 5445 7044

Transport Requests—Harriet : Ph 5445 7044

Nursing Staff: Su, 5445 7044 or 0408 458 062,
and Gillian on 0438 156 969

Centre Day Care—Fiona : Ph 5445 7056

Meals on Wheels—Trish : Ph 5445 7044

Care staff Flaxton—Wendy and Helen on
5445 7044

Mobiles—Wendy : 0438 797 530, Helen : 0408 170 995

Care staff Maleny: Janene and Rina: Ph 5429 6152

Mobiles— Janene : 0488 735 307, Rina : 0488 090 142

Kitchen Co-ordinator—Cheryl : Ph 5445 7044

Office: Flaxton Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:00pm

Phone: 5445 7044

Office: Maleny Mon-Fri 12:30pm to 3:30pm

Phone: 5429 6152