

NEWSLETTER - 12/6/06

Hi everyone! It's been a while since the last Newsletter. I've been quite busy working on getting Fun Club ready for accreditation with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home care (DADHC) who is our funding body. This part of my job certainly isn't as much fun as the time I spend on the outings with the Fun Club members and staff! I really enjoy the time I have to share and to catch up on the goss with you guys!

I just need to ask you all to **not** ring the mobile phone numbers other than on the day of each outing if you need to contact us as the Biala mobile is used by the school and other services and Fun Club uses it **only for the outings**. Also, I don't even turn my mobile phone that I use for Fun Club on till the morning of each outing. When I turn it on there are always missed calls on it from the weeks before. **Please**, only ring the 66246615 number in between outings. If I do not answer the phone, please leave me a message on the answering machine and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Fun Club is an out of hours service.

Here is a brief run down on what's been happening on the outings so far this year:-

Richmond river cruise - 25 Clients, 2 Carers, 1 group home Support Worker & 4 Fun Club staff attended.
It was another great day out on the river! But we had to cancel the original date because of the local floods. We didn't want to be floating down the river with trees, dead cattle and all manner of other things. That wouldn't have been safe or much fun! So, we had the outing a week later and we could not have asked for better weather. I think everyone on the cruise got a chance at steering under the watchful eye of the Skipper, Harold. We had a scrumptious afternoon tea of scones, jam and cream with tea, coffee or juice and were waited on hand and foot! We had a new Fun Club member, Meagan, join us for the first time. Meagan was accompanied by her 2 sisters, Rachael and Tamara for her first outing. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Meagan.

SWIMMING AT ALSTONVILLE POOL & FISH N' CHIPS AT KADINA PARK - 28 Clients, 4 Community Support Workers & 8 Fun Club staff attended.

What a great afternoon we had! The weather was hot and perfect for swimming. The couple that manage the pool were very helpful. They said that they would like to put on a BBQ for us next time. Won't that be good! The man said to me, "I saw all these people with red hats leaving to catch the buses and people were trying to get me to go with them because I had a red hat on too"! He laughed and laughed! After leaving the pool we picked up the food orders from the local seafood shop and went to Kadina Park where we sat around talking and eating. After we shot a few hoops of basketball. We had trouble trying keep some people to only shooting hoops! Michael and a few of the other blokes got a bit carried away and competitive and started running and dribbling the ball. Michael came unstuck and bounced across the court on his tummy! He took a bit of bark off his little toe and knee but was ok! He was full of smiles as we administered first aid to him. I think he liked the attention! We sang songs and listened to music on the way home.

POOL PARTY AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE AT ANGELA'S PLACE - 16 Clients, 2 Community Support Workers and 4 Fun Club staff attended.

Another great afternoon was spent chatting by the pool, listening to music and swimming. Angela, Fay and Bob were excellent hosts and made us feel most welcome! Thank you so much for a great get-together! They must have thought we were well behaved, because they've asked us to go again for another pool party at the end of the year! So we'll look forward to that!

DINNER AT HUNGRY JACKS & CROSSROADS DANCE - 21 clients & 5 Fun Club staff attended.

We have dinner alternatively at Hungry Jacks and Lismore McDonalds as it is quick, cheap and convenient, then off to the dance we go. As usual everyone had a great time! The most often asked question I get is, "When are we going to the next Crossroads dance"? The atmosphere there is great and everyone catches up with their friends and workmates and they dance themselves into exhaustion! It is non stop laughter. Staff are constantly encouraging people to have drink breaks and chill out! The DJ plays everyone's favourites, they turn out the lights on the dance floor just like any other entertainment venue. The coffee shop offers a place to get away from the noise to enjoy a cuppa and a chat with old friends. The staff enjoy this outing very much too.

LUNCH AT LA PORCHETTA AND MOVIE AT BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS - 32 clients attended, 2 Community Support Workers & 4 Fun Club Staff attended.

We feasted, we joked around, we stirred each other up, but most importantly, WE HAD FUN! The staff at La Porchettas were patient and friendly and the food was delicious. The movie we saw at the cinema was called '8 Below' and it was fantastic! It was about a team of snow dogs and their master. It was a bit of a tear jerker though! Or was it just me blubbing away?! In one scene in the movie something unexpected and scary happened and we nearly all jumped 10 feet in the air and screamed. (I can't say anything more so that I don't spoil it for anyone who hasn't seen it yet!) Everyone said they had a good time and said that they really enjoyed the movie.

Well, that's it for yet another little Newsletter! Please let me know if there is an outing or an activity that you would like to do. Unfortunately we are unable to hold a drama group this year because of lack of time and funding. Hopefully we may be able to do this next year if we get enough people who are interested in doing it. I look forward to seeing you all on the next outing!

Till next time.....
Yours truly, Rhonda Honda