



# NORTH COAST FUN CLUB

Biala Support Services Inc.  
**NEWSLETTER - August 2008 - December 2008**  
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**(Please do not book outings via email. Email bookings will not be acknowledged. Ring 66246615 to book outings!)**

Hi everyone! Just thought I'd get another little Newsletter out to you. If you have anything that you want mentioned in the next newsletter, please let me know.

AT THE FEBRUARY OUTING AT THE BALLINA POOL, WE WILL BE HOLDING A MEETING TO ELECT NEW MEMBERS FOR THE CONSUMER CONSULTATION COMMITTEE (CCC) FOR NORTH COAST FUN CLUB. SO THINK ABOUT WHO YOU WANT TO ELECT TO REPRESENT YOU! PLEASE NOTE THAT CCC MEMBERS NEED TO BE ABLE TO GET THEMSELVES TO CCC MEETINGS AS TRANSPORT CANNOT BE PROVIDED UNFORTUNATELY.

Fun Club is again way over budget and we still have not been successful with getting enhancement funding from DADHC. We receive the same funding as when we commenced being funded by DADHC when I was successful with the application to DADHC after the Area Assistance funding ran out. That was approximately a year after Ross Mountford, the previous Fun Club Coordinator left. So we have not had a funding enhancement since 2003 when we first started to receive DADHC funding. We still have not had an official decision / notification from DADHC about my proposal for enhancement funding.

Later in the year I am going to look at holding a night time 'barefoot bowls' fundraising night at the Ballina Bowling and Recreation Club. (not so hot at night) Transport will be provided. So I hope clients and carers will help support this Fun Club fundraising effort.

I will also be running another 'Progressive Lottery' for Fun Club this year. For last years Progressive Lottery fundraiser we made around \$1.300 profit (cost for one Fun Club outing). So this helped us out a lot. Some clients and carers purchased tickets and this is most appreciated. (I realise that there are a lot of raffles & fundraising efforts that you are involved in and it can seem overwhelming and expensive!) Most tickets were purchased by staff and their families and friends and the general public. When I run the Progressive Lottery again this year I will let you know and you may be able to sell some tickets for Fun Club. That would be an enormous help!

If Fun Club cannot raise a substantial amount of money, we may need to cut back on Fun Club outings and that will be a shame. We also have the dilemma that Fun Club needs to meet our service agreement with DADHC and so, we need to fulfil a certain amount of hours to meet our funding agreement. The last thing we want is to lose the DADHC funding! We changed service agreements last year from respite based funding to social support / recreation funding after approval from the Board of Management of Biala Support Services Inc. This means that we need to fulfil more hours of service to clients than we did with the previous service agreement and already we have less client hours accrued because of low numbers of clients attending outings as compared to previous years. I think this may partly be due to there being so many services in the community now providing social support and the clashing of events between services. I intend to contact other agencies to hold a meeting to discuss coordinating our events so we do not clash and we can support each other!

Fun Club has just been notified that we will not be able to borrow the van after the January Fun Club outing. So we will not be able to provide transport to as many clients as we will only have the use of the Biala bus. The budget does not allow for hiring a van. Thank you to Community Options for the use of the van for the last 6 years! They did not charge us a hire fee - we just replaced the diesel at the end of each outing. (The loss of the use of the van will not help with client hours for funding either!)

**FUN CLUB OUTINGS: As a way to assist with costs, transport will be \$8.00 per person as from the February outing.**  
**9/8/08 Ballina Fair Cinema to see 'Mamma Mia' & dinner in the Ballina Fair outdoor food area (26 Fun Club clients attended)**  
Wow! What a great movie! We all sang each song throughout the movie and laughed our heads off! I heard that Tracy had seen the movie several times already and it was Cathy's second viewing too! So it must have been a good movie! All of you got to chat about the movie over dinner while I attended to the van with the NRMA guy as the van had broken down! (I was starving by the time I got home!) Nothing serious with the van though, thank goodness. Just a computer panel or something not allowing the van to start and needed to be rebooted. Has since had a new computer system installed. (The van broke down on 3 outings in a row with the same problem before it was fixed!)

**6/9/08 Hoe Down at Biala (25 Fun Club clients attended)**  
An excellent night! The staff of Biala and the Board of Management had again gone to a lot of trouble to make the night so great. The band was terrific and taught everyone bush dances. There was a variety of food (sausage sizzle, steak sandwiches etc. with salad fillings and fruit salad and ice cream for dessert plus a big cake as well! There was a huge marquee and hale bales and nearly everyone dressed in a country theme! Joanne, the administration officer for Biala, won the best dressed prize of an mp3 player. The band picked the winner.

**18/10/08 Swimming, games & picnic at Brunswick Heads (16 Fun Club clients attended)**  
The weather was terrific! Very hot but the water was **FREEZING** though! But most of us braved it and after we were in the water for a while and our bodies became numb, we couldn't tell how cold it was! I was good to see Col again who volunteered on the day! (Glad he didn't wear his mankini like he thought he might! Ha! Ha!) Chris, as usual, excelled at cricket and killed the ball by bashing it so hard! Instead of hitting sixes he was hitting twelves! We sang on the way home in the bus. (Well, mainly I sang on the way home! You poor things!)

**28/11/08 Dinner at McDonalds & Crossroads Xmas Dance (21 Fun Club clients attended)**  
As usual everyone caught up with friends and work colleagues and went crazy dancing. This Crossroads Xmas dance was not as Christmassy as others though and I got many comments from people about this. It was great that Crossroads provided a fruit platter instead of sandwiches, sausage rolls, party pies etc though. They said this is because so many people have food allergies and it was a food handling / OHS decision for client safety.

**13/12/08 Fun Club Christmas Party - Dinner at the Ballina Bowling & Recreation Club (36 Fun Club clients attended)**  
What a ball we had! After a scrumptious dinner we headed to the dance floor. The band was 'Fossil Rock' and they were fantastic. The club said they'd never seen so many people on the dance floor at any one time. The general public danced with us (I kept an eye on things) and it was the best fun! The glow bangles were a success too. They glowed so much in that dim light. A very nice party atmosphere!  
Well, that's all again! Take care. Hope to see you at the next outing.

Yours Truly,  
Rhonda Honda & staff of North Coast Fun Club