

NORTH COAST FUN CLUB

Biala Support Services Inc.

NEWSLETTER January 2009 – June 2009

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Hi there everyone. It's time for another newsletter and updates about what has been happening. I hope you have all had a great year so far! Can you believe we are more than half way through the year already!

During this year we have been striving to keep Fun Club within budget, but alas, we have not been successful. We just do not get enough funding to cover costs. So we are looking at how to reduce costs further. Firstly, we will not have a December outing. It is a busy time of year for everyone and we know people will be busy going to their other Christmas parties etc. and will not miss the December outing! Secondly, we have introduced a service fee for clients attending each Fun Club outing. So you will notice this on each Fun Club flyer under 'costs' from now on. Starting to charge a service fee was passed at the recent Annual General Meeting in June. Thirdly, we will be looking for sponsorships and donations from businesses and companies. Fundraising will be limited as people have limited time to put into fundraising and we generally do not make much of a profit.

We elected a new Consumer Consultation Committee (CCC). They client members are: Cathy Andrews (re-elected), Carmen Zerk, Christopher Hendry and Renee Lewin. Two Carers have also joined the Committee. They are Maryellen Hendry & Cheryl Lewin and a new Board of Management representative is Sue Dearden. We have been having combined CCC and NCFC staff meetings which is working well. Thank you to the past CCC members: Leon Weston, Karla McLean and Diana Evans for your input and help over the past 2 years.

We have only had the use of the Biala bus since March 09 as Richmond Community Options got rid of their Transit Van that they used to lend to us. We are very grateful to them for lending us the van for many years! So unfortunately we have only been able to provide transport to 15 or 16 clients. Soon we will be getting another Biala Support Services Inc bus that we will be able to transport even more people in! (It will even have air conditioning!) We should have it by August.

Here is information about the outings Fun Club has had so far this year:

17/1/09 BALLINA FAIR CINEMA & DINNER AT THE MANDARIN PALACE IN LISMORE (27 clients attended)

We saw the comedy movie 'Bedtime Stories' then hurried to Lismore for dinner. It was a good night full of talk and laughter but was a very late night. It took the restaurant a long time to get our meals to us, but they were worth waiting for and the staff were really lovely! Next time we may just all have a banquet instead of ordering out own separate meals to save time!

21/2/09 BALLINA POOL & WATERSLIDE (19 clients attended)

What an excellent time we had. You guys really used your muscles climbing the stairs on the waterslide! We have some good pictures for the Biala Website for the Fun Club section! After lunch we had a meeting to vote for new members for the Consumer Consultation Committee & to discuss what outings you wanted for the rest of the year.

7/3/09 SWIMMING, GAMES & LUNCH AT HASTINGS POINT (19 clients attended)

It was great to try a different venue and we had so much fun – when we eventually found enough water to swim in that is! We played ball games in the water. The staff kept pegging balls at each other! Then we had lunch. After lunch Shane tipped the whole barrel of iced water over me which you all thought was hilarious! THANK YOU! I don't think I've recovered yet. I sure cooled down! Don't you worry...! I'll get Shane back! Maybe you can all come up with some suggestions about how I can go about getting him back!

24/4/09 DINNER AT HUNGRY JACKS IN LISMORE & CROSSROADS DANCE (15 clients attended)

It is always good to catch up with friends at these dances. The Congo line was enormous towards the end of the night! I think everyone at the dance was in it!

16/5/09 KNOCKCROW CASTLE & SAUSAGE SIZZLE (24 clients attended)

Fun, fun, fun! Great day! We loved hand feeding and patting the animals! The train rides weren't bad either! Some of the Putt Putters would have put Tiger Woods to shame! We all helped each other out and had a thoroughly good time. Some new faces from other agencies joined us which was great!

29/5/09 CROSSROADS DANCE (10 clients attended)

Janiece Bone and I volunteered to take the Ballina / Alstonville clients to the dance. Unfortunately we could not pick up the Northern clients. We were a small group but had lots of fun! Especially the singing and games on the bus! Poor Janiece trying to drive while listening to us!!! We will try to provide other volunteer dance outings.

20/6/09 RICHMOND RIVER CRUISE WITH AFTERNOON TEA (26 clients attended)

Although it was a horrible day raining on and off, it did not rain much while we were on the water. We have not had much luck with the weather for the cruises over the last few years with floods etc have we?!? Some people got to steer the boat and did a great job! At one stage a lot of people were on the same side of the boat and it was tipping slightly and the skipper had to ask us to spread ourselves out. We didn't even notice the boat was on a slight angle! It was a lovely short outing.

Well guys, that's it for this newsletter! Let me know if you want anything included in the next one in January 2010.

Take care.

Yours truly, *Rhonda Honda*