



# NORTH COAST FUN CLUB

Biala Support Services Inc.

## NEWSLETTER January 2010 – December 2010



**NOTE:** New email address - [northcoastfunclub@biala.org.au](mailto:northcoastfunclub@biala.org.au)

View our website at [www.biala.org.au](http://www.biala.org.au) and see some of the outing pictures!

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!

During this year we have been striving to keep Fun Club within budget, and yay, we have been successful! We just do not get enough funding to cover costs. So we had to look at how to reduce costs further:

We still cannot afford to have 12 outings per year, so again this year there will be no December outing. It is a busy time of year for everyone and we know people will be going to Christmas parties etc. and will not miss the December outing as much!

We introduced a service fee for clients attending each Fun Club outing. So thank you all for assisting in keeping NCFC going without too much reduction of social support outings to clients!

Fun Club staff have been volunteering their time on Fun Club outings to reduce costs to the budget and as you will see below, a 'volunteer' outing was provided to take clients to the much loved Crossroads Christmas dance. We provided transport and support for the local clients only as far as Lennox Head to save on some time, especially when the Fun Club Christmas party was the next night!

Another way you could help is with carers assisting to sell raffle tickets. I will also encourage the Fun Club staff to be more proactive in selling raffle tickets.

**Transport:** Central pick up points for transport on Fun Club outings are now: Newrybar (this is safer and takes less time and fuel than meeting in busy Byron Bay). **THIS IS ANOTHER BUDGET SAVER!** We also pick up from Biala School in Fox Street and in Teven Road in Alstonville or at the Alstonville post office.



Towards mid way through 2011 we will be looking to elect new Consumer Consultation Committee (CCC) Members. This will be held on an outing when the majority of regular attendees on outings will be present. (The meeting will be advised beforehand so as many clients as possible can attend). People can also nominate people ahead of this meeting and Rhonda will ask the person nominated if they would like to accept – this person will then be voted on at the meeting. CCC members will need to be able to get themselves to and from CCC meetings which are held twice per year. (February and July)

We have a couple of new volunteers: Romy Neate and Jenny Anderson! They are very helpful and a great support to me and the clients! They are lovely, caring people.



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

**16/1/10 BALLINA FAIR CINEMA & DINNER IN THE BALLINA FAIR OUTDOOR EATING AREA (27 clients attended)**  
We saw the comedy movie 'Mamma Mia'. The movie was excellent and everyone sang along while watching the movie! Everyone knew all the words! After the movie we had lunch in the Ballina Fair outdoor eateries and sat around discussing the movie etc. It was a day full of talk and laughter.



**13/2/10 GOONELLABAH SPORTS & AQUATIC CENTRE (23 clients attended)**  
What a fantastic time we had! You guys really used your muscles climbing the stairs on the waterslide! We have some good pictures for the Biala Website in the North Coast Fun Club section! We had lunch there at the centre. The staff were lovely to us. We all had so much fun! AND....NO SUNBURN as it is inside!!!



**20/3/10 LISMORE SPEEDWAY (20 clients attended)**  
It was great to try a different venue and we had so much fun – even if it did get a little noisy. Everyone was cheering and 'going off' pounding the air with their fists and shouting out when the cars they liked crossed the finish line first. The organiser of the members stand and memorabilia gave everyone free little chequered 'finish' flags (see the pictures on the website). (YES DAVID, WE WILL GO AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!!) Everyone wants to do this outing again! Bring ear plugs from the chemist if you think it will be too noisy!



**24/4/10 RICHMOND RIVER CRUISE (29 clients attended)**  
Another favourite outing that we usually do each year. It was a lovely sunny day enjoyed by all. Lots of people got to steer the boat (see the pictures on the North Coast Fun Club website).



**22/5/10 BALLINA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB (33 clients attended)**  
Fun, fun, fun! Great time! We ate a scrumptious smorgasbord then danced our little hearts out to 'The Fiddle Band'. This outing is also a much requested one. Everyone loves dancing and the staff at the club are very considerate!

25/6/10 DINNER AT LISMORE McDONALDS & CROSSROADS DANCE (17 clients attended)

Due to popular demand we again headed up to Lismore for another night of fun and catching up with friends and work colleagues from around the district that come to attend these Crossroads dances. (NOTE: From time to time throughout the year we will endeavour to hold more additional *volunteer* outing nights so that clients can enjoy themselves at this much loved get-together.

24/7/10 SUMMERLAND HOUSE WITH NO STEPS (27 clients attended)

This was another different outing. We had lunch in the restaurant which was nice. We enjoyed chatting and socialising with each other. After lunch we walked around the grounds and looked in the gift shop and nursery. This was an enjoyable, relaxing outing!

28/8/10 BIALA COUNTRY HOE-DOWN (21 clients attended that had booked in with Fun Club. Others attended that had not booked in). What a hugely wonderful fun night! The people from Biala Supports Services Inc. did such a marvellous job organising the event! So many people were made very happy! It was great to see the carers and people from the community come and join in. The band was great and interacted with everyone and taught people folk / bush dances. There will be another Hoe-down in 2011 I have been told. It would be great to see lots more carers there! It really is a great night! The venue in the grounds of Biala Special School has a lot of undercover areas and is very good too! There was sausage and steak sandwiches with fillings and sauces and tea, coffee and cake for sale for dinner. Also soft drinks were for sale.



18/9/10 CRYSTAL CASTLE (17 clients attended)



Well...this was another different, interesting and fun outing! It was good walking around the grounds and in the little show rooms looking at everything and was very relaxing at the cafe for lunch. The food was abundant and delicious too. The cafe staff were very nice and patient too! Some of the clients had their faces painted which looked great!

15/10/10 FUNDRAISING FILM NIGHT TO SEE THE FILM 'A GOOD MAN' (7 clients attended. Other clients attended who had not booked in with Fun Club). Although not many clients attended with Fun Club it was still an interesting night. The movie was funny and sad and we felt glad to be able to share in the lives of the wonderful family, their friends & work associates that the film was about. What a positive outlook they have in life! I feel privileged to have been able to share in seeing this small feature about their lives. The film organisers were just lovely and spoke respectfully and compassionately with the Fun Club members. The night had gale force winds and rain, so all things considered there was a good turnout and the night was a great success and rewarding.



26/11/10 CROSSROADS XMAS DANCE – Volunteer held night (12 local clients attended)

What can I say that I haven't already said before about the Crossroad Dances...everyone loves them! Jenny Anderson and Wendylee Playford (Biala Support Services Inc Manager) and myself volunteered our time and I think we enjoyed ourselves more than the Fun Club members. Wendylee is quite the dancer. A trainee volunteer, Vicki, also joined us and she is a 'natural' who chatted well with everyone and was the life of the party. The Crossroads organisers, Graeme & Marilyn McAlpine said they rely on good attendance at the dances to be able to continue to hold these great dance get-togethers.

27/11/10 FUN CLUB XMAS PARTY & DANCE AT THE BALLINA BOWLING & RECREATION CLUB (33 clients attended + 1 Carer). We had dinner in the restaurant that is now under new management and has been renovated and refurbished and looks great. I organised a special banquet menu with the manager / chef especially for Fun Club that catered to people with special dietary requirements also. The food was delicious and abundant. Unfortunately some members of the general public decided to sneak and take some of our food. I went and spoke with them and informed them that the food that they had taken back with them to the poker machines was for a special occasion and not for the general public. They looked stunned and guilty. We had fun dancing, although the band was not as good as other bands that we have seen at the Club before. It was the band's first time at the club. Some clients put complaints into the club because the band started late and did not play for long before having their breaks. But, overall it was a really great night!



Well guys, that's it for this newsletter!

Please have a happy & safe Christmas and New Year! See you in January 2011.



Take care!



Yours truly, *Rhonda Honda*

