



## Social Activities



The Southside Singers are working on their performance techniques in preparation for some major performances over the next few months. The choir members were thrilled and honoured to be invited to perform at the Government House open day on 6th June for Queensland Day. The choir has also been fortunate to be given a grant of money from the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund to enable us to purchase staging equipment. The generous gift has enabled the choir to buy lighting and sound equipment as well as a new keyboard and digital camera. We would like to thank the Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund for assisting people with disabilities to have the opportunity of performing and presenting their abilities to society.



A new social group has commenced on the north side of Brisbane called the Northside Social Group. It is a group for people with disabilities, aged 18 to 40, who live on the north side of Brisbane. The group goes on outings on Saturdays to different places in and around Brisbane, and helps give people with disabilities the opportunity to meet new friends and to go to a range of interesting and fun places.

Northside Holidays had its first holiday in March. The holiday called "Mt Tamborine Getaway" took 4 clients and two staff members away for four days. The trip was a great success! All four clients were able to enjoy the many activities that were planned including a Paradise Country Farm Tour; a tour of the Glow Worm Caves; exploring Gallery Walk; a visit to the Witches Chase Cheese Factory, some rainforest walks and lots of nice restaurants for lunches and dinners. Further holidays will be held mid year and towards the end of the year.

For enquiries and information on any of our social support options, please contact Multicap Administration on 07 3340 9000.



### Vale Geraldene O'Leary

Geraldene has been part of the Multicap family for forty-two years, commencing at Day Services as a young girl in 1967, and moving into Apex House in 2005. Over the years, Geraldene and her parents have contributed to the rich history of our Association. Sadly, Geraldene passed away on 12th May and will be missed by the clients and staff who knew her. Our thoughts are with her family at this time.

## New Program at Nudgee

Nudgee Day Service has embarked on an exciting program to enhance daily living and independent skills while assisting the local school. The program involves washing, drying and folding the interschool sports shirts. The Nudgee clients receive the shirts from the students three times per week and are enjoying the benefits this program has to offer.



## Group Learns New Skills

A group of Multicap staff recently underwent training to achieve their Certificate IV in Business (Frontline Management). On the final day of their course, they delivered presentations on ways to enhance current Multicap processes. Some excellent ideas were put forward, which will be assessed and implemented over the coming months. Each member then received a trophy and certificate before enjoying a celebratory lunch. The group is pictured below at their graduation in April 2009. They are (left to right) Kiri Tupaea, Marie Verner, Maree Stenson, Aaron Vass, Cathy Rich, Helen Kennedy (Trainer), Mellissa Markham, Leanne Eason, Jill Binding, Mary Jane Humphries, Sharon Foster, and Manuel Garcia (in front). Absent on the day were Kym Pope and Patricia Stuart.



## Logan City Recreational & Sporting Club Donates to Marsden House

Our Marsden respite service was very fortunate to have received a donation from the Logan City Recreational & Sporting Club. This local sports club recently donated funds which were used to purchase much needed items for the service. A range of items were purchased including:

1. Wii console & game set
2. Outdoor BBQ
3. Linen
4. Towels
5. Doonas
6. Cups
7. Pillows

Multicap is extremely grateful to the sporting club for their wonderful donation. These purchases will have a direct benefit for the clients who access our respite service. Multicap is also pleased to announce that the sporting club has donated further funds to our organisation. This money will be used to purchase additional musical equipment to enhance our music therapy program and will benefit clients with disabilities who live in the Logan area. Multicap will provide a further story in an upcoming newsletter to highlight purchases from this donation. Once again, a big thank you to the Logan City Recreational & Sporting Club for their generous donations to Multicap.



## Organical Botanical Mechanical

Monte Lupo recently held an exhibition at Doggett Street Studios in Brisbane, entitled 'Organical Botanical Mechanical'. Isaac Patmore, Clairy Laurence, Fiona Bell, Cherryl Baker, Alex Van Ewyk Crombie, Brooke Redenius, Brett Patzwald, Liz Duffy, Julian Turner, Fiona Haynes, Peter Hughes, Saki Yamaoka and Jarrod Wendt all participated in the exhibition, which was a combination of found objects and clay sculptures. The combination of the objects enhanced the quirky personality of the individual works. Some artists combined old typewriter keys with beautifully sculpted lamps; and delicate flower sculptures with found objects, clay and resin combined to make individual stemmed flowers.



## Moreton & Gold Coast News

### No Rest at Respite

Our new Team Leader and the staff at our Marsden Centre-Based Respite Service have been very busy lately. Multicap has received funding to enable the service to be open for 50 weeks of the year, instead of every alternate week. Referrals from young people (18 to 35 years) wanting to access the new services have been rolling in from all over the Moreton region and we have now extended the offer of additional respite to families who live right up to the Brisbane river. We are currently giving preference to people who have ageing carers when accepting referrals.

### Mudgeeraba Star Team

Our Mudgeeraba team work with a couple of young men who have been getting additional support from the Special Response Service (SRS) team at Disability Services. The SRS teams and a whole range of professionals gather together to create a multidisciplinary approach to assisting these young men, as well as others whose positive behaviour support plans require some type of restrictive practice. Requirements set out in the Disability Services Act 2006 mean that our staff must be up to speed on every aspect of assessment, strategy development and implementation of positive behaviour support plans, as well as monitoring outcomes.

Our Multicap staff who work at this location are becoming highly trained. Recently staff were invited to a workshop on Autism, with Doctor Robyn McCleary-Hooper speaking. At lunch time everyone filed out for lunch; however only our team came back inside to sit down and have a very lively discussion with the SRS specialists. We are proud of their passion for learning.

### Other news...

The Robina Centre-Based Respite Service received high praise from a recent audit. The auditor claimed that the place was run like a fine motel, even down to the lovely way that the towels are fan folded and placed on the beds.

Two of our other services, based at Waterford West and Logan Reserve, are wonderful homes for the people who live there. The young men at Logan Reserve are very emphatic about wanting to stay in their home because they really like it, even when life has its little ups and downs.

## Staff News

Multicap regularly welcomes new staff into our organisation across all locations. Each of these staff members has attended a 3 day training program covering topics such as "Orientation to Disabilities", "Introduction to Multicap", "Assisting with Medication" and "Workplace Health and Safety".

We have a new Coordinator, Tom Digan, who has responsibility for Eight Mile Plains Day Service, Kuraby Day Service and Ellen Grove Respite. Tom is already having a positive impact on our service delivery and we are pleased to have him as part of the team.



## Music Therapy News @ Multicap

It has been a busy start to 2009 for the Music Therapy department at Multicap!

Recently Kylie Hinde, Music Therapist at Southside Day Services, spent a couple of days in Longreach conducting music therapy sessions on a volunteer basis for students in the special education units in both the primary and secondary schools. The sessions were very well received both in the schools and in the wider community, with the visit gaining media coverage for Multicap and its Music Therapy program.

In other news, for the past five weeks Multicap has been a training ground for five Music Therapy students from the University of Queensland. The first year Music Therapy students, who are supervised by Multicap's Music Therapists, Kylie Hinde and Cheryl Mow, have been observing and assisting in Music Therapy sessions at numerous sites across Multicap. Both clients and staff have enjoyed their presence. As they complete their placements here with us we would like to wish them well for their bright futures ahead in the music therapy world.

Finally, we are very excited to be revealing some new developments to the Multi-Sensory Room at the Southside Day Service. Kylie has been developing a theme work program, which consists of five themes. For each theme the Multi-Sensory Room is transformed with props and effects to help clients to experience and learn the theme through each of the main senses: touch, sight, taste, smell and hearing. Themes include: Forests, Traffic Safety, Waterfalls/Streams, Space, and Camping in the outback. A BIG thanks to Wombats Op shop on the Sunshine Coast for donating material and other items for the themes; and thanks also to John Hinde Electrical for repairing pieces of sensory room equipment free of charge. For enquires or room bookings please contact Multicap reception (07) 3340 9000.



Music Therapist, Kylie Hinde, with a group of Longreach students



Russell, who lives in Multicap's house in Highfields, Toowoomba, recently spent a day with his parents, Glenda and Alan. Below is an extract from the letter written by Glenda to Linda (the Service Coordinator) following this visit:

*"Today is three months since Russell moved into his Multicap residence, and we see an amazing change in his outlook and his demeanour; and we congratulate you and the staff for all you have done to achieve this great result. Even though we did have an unexpected problem of a flat tyre, Russell became a little agitated, but remained in control of his feelings. He is much more affectionate to us and others, and is able to communicate his positive feelings much more. He is imparting more awareness of social behaviour such as appreciation (saying thank you), shaking hands or hugging, and not being so impatient. When we left his home at Highfields, he came to each of us for hugs to say goodbye, and Alan said his eyes were very gentle when he cuddled me. He seems to have begun to recover his identity, and to like himself and other people again. I realise he will still have his "cycles" but we are grateful for the glimpses of the gentle and happy person we know is still within Russell, and look forward to seeing more of that person as the months go by. The one-to-one care by staff during the past three months, and the affirmation, encouragement and support are definitely showing positive results."*

Sincerely,  
Glenda

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