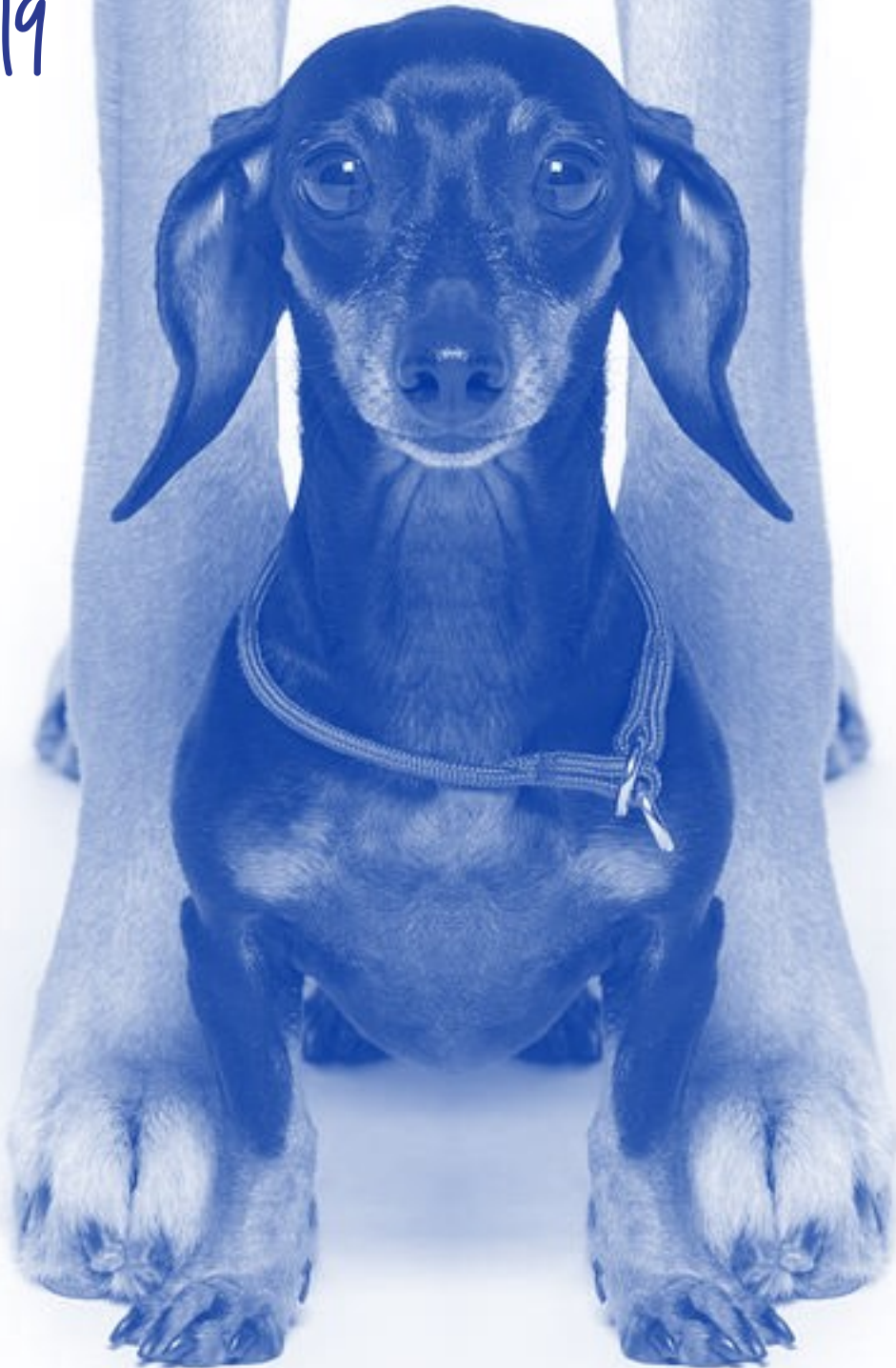




# BigDog

SUPPORT SERVICES

April 2019




Go Blue for Autism



# Newsletter

## Editors Note

Our sincere thoughts are with our New Zealand cousins on the tragic events that occurred in Christchurch. Such events remind us how precious life is and that we should treasure all of the members of our community and in  doing so, we should respect each other and their individual beliefs without ever having  to resort to any act of violence.

Steven



### In This Issue

- Go Blue for Autism
- NDIS Updates
- In the world of DisAbility
- Royal Commission
- Community News
- What's Happening at BigDog
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- Beautiful Visions
- Safety Matters
- Admin Updates
- April Events

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# News Hound Cover Story



## Go Blue for Autism

When someone has Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), it means that their brains are wired differently to other people. However the symptoms of ASD vary enormously from person to person.

People with ASD find it difficult to interact socially and communicate with others. As they often have difficulty understanding what other people are feeling and what interests' others, they might say the wrong thing.

They might talk for a long time about a topic they really like, as they are unaware that the topic is of no interest to others. They may not use gestures and body language, in the way that other people do. For example they may not use eye contact and may not smile. However, their ability to communicate can vary tremendously, with some people with Autism having no or limited speech, and others having extensive vocabularies.

Although people with ASD can find it difficult

to talk to people and make friends, they still have the same emotions as anybody else and love to have friends, even if it's hard.

People with ASD also like things to happen the same way. They might take the same route to school or the shops, or line up their toys in a particular order. If something is out of place or if routines change without warning, they can get upset or worried.

They may also be bothered by sudden loud sounds, bright lights or unexpected touch that do not bother others. They may become upset if someone hugs them or talks too quickly or loudly.

They often have intense interests in particular topics and may be extremely knowledgeable about their special interest areas. They can also have an amazing memory for detail.

Every person with Autism is different to another and has their own way of seeing the world, which makes them interesting and unique.



\*2015 Survey of Disability of Ageing and Carers (SDAC), Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016.



## Providers to get helping hand

### ABC Political Reporter Jade Macmillan

Disability service providers will receive a multi-million-dollar boost amid warnings many were at risk of failure under the NDIS pricing model.

Social Services Minister Paul Fletcher said the \$850 million increase to price limits for therapy, attendant care and community participation will take effect in July this year.

"This is important because it means first of all, more being paid to the providers, but very importantly it will help develop the markets within which these services are provided, particularly for example in rural areas or other areas where we want to attract more providers," he said.

"So we do believe that this will deliver a significant difference."

The organisation representing providers, National Disability Services, had launched a pre-budget campaign warning many not-for-profit organisations were becoming unviable and would have to exit the system or cut their services.

Acting chief executive David Moody welcomed the increase in prices, which he described as "unnecessarily lean", but said more information was needed.

"This is an issue [we] have been campaigning on for about six years or so, ever since the scheme's inception," he said.

"Whilst we welcome the over-arching figure of \$850 million, the level of detail ... is worthy of interrogation."



Ahead of the May election, our politicians must take action to make sure the NDIS works for everyone who needs it.

[www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au](http://www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au)

## Funding win for Disability Royal Commission

The announcement by Treasurer Frydenberg of more than \$500 million being set aside for a Royal Commission into the violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation experienced by people with disability, has left disability advocates overjoyed.

"This Commission has been a long time coming," said Chair of the National Disability and Carers Alliance (the organisation behind Every Australian Counts), Leah van Poppel.

"So many individuals and organisations have fought long and hard over many years to ensure the neglect, violence, exploitation and abuse of people with disability does not continue to be overlooked.

"The violence and abuse experienced by people with disability has been hidden in the shadows for too long. This Royal Commission will bring all these issues finally out into the light."

# In the World of DisAbility

## Pricing not the only issue

The **NDIS** is falling behind to get it on track we need:



1. Independent Pricing



2. Less red tape



3. Better planning



4. Sector safeguards



5. A focus on employment and a National Workforce Strategy

The extra money will come from existing NDIS funding, which has been underspent in recent years, and will not affect next week's federal budget.

Under the changes, hourly price limits for therapists will increase by \$11 per hour from \$179 to \$190.

Psychologist and physiotherapist rates will also rise depending on where they are based, with increases of up to \$51 per hour in some locations.

Price limits for attendant care, which covers the day-to-day needs of people with disabilities, will increase from between 5.6 and 15.4 per cent, depending on factors such as location, shift times and staff experience levels.

Mr Fletcher said market trends and wages costs were taken into account when setting the new limits.

"What it reflects is careful ongoing work by the National Disability Insurance Agency, overseeing the scheme, to constantly review price levels to make adjustments where appropriate," he said.

"We've listened to providers and to participants and that's really underpinned this decision to increase prices that are paid."

Mr Moody said pricing was not the only area of the NDIS requiring urgent changes.

"Amongst the other asks that we would have as part of our federal election campaign would include a significant improvement in the quality of NDIS planning under the scheme, with participants to ensure they're getting supports they need when they need them," he said.

Mr Moody said "clunky" IT systems and a national workforce strategy also needed more attention.

Mr Fletcher said the Government was continually making improvements to the NDIS.

"Of course, with a scheme as large as this, rolling out as quickly as it is, there will be issues arise from time to time. We need to get on to those and fix them," he said.

"But you know, mid-2016 there were 30,000 Australians supported, now [there are] over 250,000 and the estimate is that by the time of completion it will be 460,000 Australians."

Watch the report by Hon Paul Fletcher MP on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6osTg LH4SoQ>

# Community NEWS

## PCYC Toowoomba

### Breaking the Cycle

#### Mentors Needed

Would you like to support young people to learn to drive?

Can you spare an hour or more a week?

If so, we'd love you to join our team of volunteer driver mentors for PCYC's Braking the Cycle program.

Find out more and register online - <https://www.pcyq.org.au/.../personal-and-l.../braking-the-cycle/>



### Funding Partnership

During 2018 DISCO commenced negotiations with Aurora Training regarding the creation of a preferred supplier arrangement to enable our clients to access direct support opportunities and create linkages that had the potential to benefit both organisations and offer clients a 'one-stop-shop' focused on improving education pathways for young people.

### First Aid Training

BigDog already provide placement for students studying Certificate III in Direct Support through Aurora Training Institute and it was a simple choice to work with them in ensuring that all of our support staff receive the very best first aid training. First Aid training will be available over several dates in June 2019.



# Community Partnerships

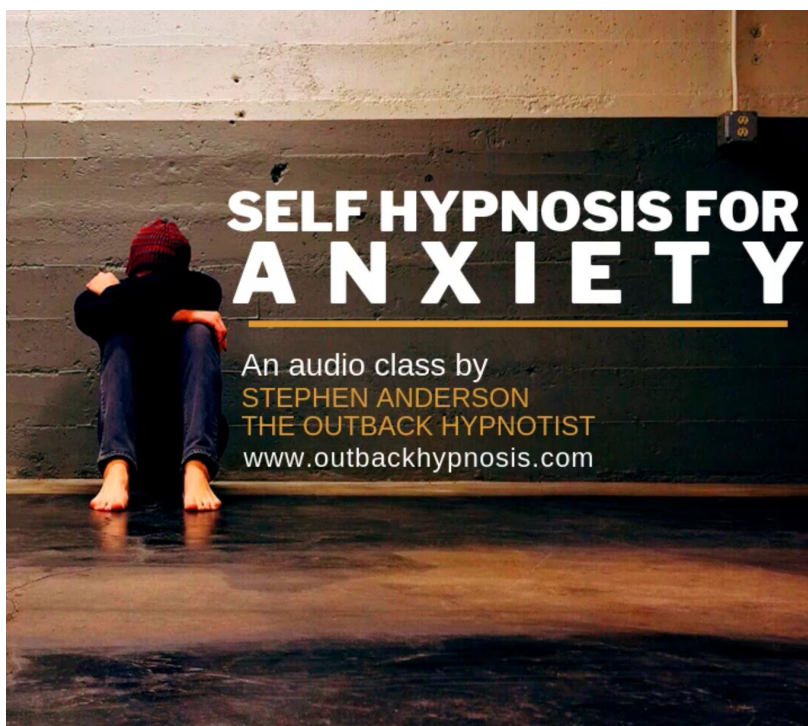
## Stephen Anderson

### The Outback Hypnotist

If you are suffering from any kind of anxiety, this self-hypnosis audio will help you crush that anxiety so you can take control of your life again.

Practice and start replacing your anxiety with calmness and confidence.

And if you want to download the audio click here [www.outbackhypnosis.com/self-help-hypnosis/](http://www.outbackhypnosis.com/self-help-hypnosis/)



## Mar/Apr Magazine

### WhatsUp in Disability

Stories in this issue include:

- Our new editor
- Murray's Story
- International Wheelchair Day
- Lady Tulip
- COAG report
- 10 pin bowling
- RADAC meeting
- Wellbeing

Steven Paull President



To obtain a copy of WhatsUp in Disability magazine or to be an advertiser, please contact WhatsUp via:

Office 4/33 Bell Street, Toowoomba

Email [admin@whatsupindisability.org](mailto:admin@whatsupindisability.org)

Phone 4632 6678

Online [www.whatsupindisability.org](http://www.whatsupindisability.org)

# What's happening at



## Beauty Basics



Do you get the feeling that the above advertising slogan may not be true in this case?  
How does it work when you don't have a cake to start off with in the first place?  
Craig and Monique showing off their makeup after helping out in the beauty basics course.

## Cruising the Reef

### Whitsunday Cruise

The countdown is on for our April cruise and Noelle and Juliette will be providing support for the cruise 9th - 13th April.

The cruise includes all dining room meals and the basic soft drinks package.

Steven and Ann will also be going on this occasion as additional backup if needed.

All participants will be required to have their Travel Insurance paid before departure due to Government Laws as well as a current photo ID such as a Passport, Driver's Licence, Adult Card so that they can board the ship.

**Cooking with Hesty**  
Fridays  
12:30pm - 2:30pm

The ultimate cooking experience for anyone with NDIS funding under Capacity Building Support Category 09\_007 Skills Development in a Group  
Bookings are essential



# Beautiful Visions

by Liz Schneidewin



## Jetstar Star

### Coffee with Cops

This was a huge hit at the Emerge Café in Toowoomba. It was great to see so many familiar faces there.

Special thanks to Sergeants Scott McGrath and Tony Rhen, it was a real pleasure to speak with you about some of the most prevalent problems in our community.



Elizabeth Schneidewin, Kim Stokes, Constable Kristy Toohey and Josh Marshall,

### The Hostess with the mostess

Georgia Knoll won hearts around Australia when she snuck into the background of a live news report from Mackay.

After the footage went viral, she was invited to Channel 7 Sunrise Brekky Central, where she quickly became one of their all-time favourite guests.

She hit the couch, danced with the Cash Cow and learned how TV is made... but Georgia's big career dream is to be a flight attendant.

When Jetstar got wind of it, they invited her to be part of their crew for a day!

After a full day of training Georgia was ready to take off.

Georgia rolled in with plenty of confidence and she welcomed passengers on board, did the safety demonstration and served passengers.

Georgia made a great impression and her recipe for success, "Just be yourself."

"The passengers were quite nice. I was just helping them with their meals."



# Photograph Gallery

Find us on:  
facebook.



## Harmony Day

## Everyone Belongs





# Utilising Consultants

## How many NDIS Consultants does it take to change a light bulb?

A panel of experts to determine if everyone is indeed in the dark..

Two to request a medical test to see if anyone can function adequately in the dark so light is not supplied to those that don't need it.

One to determine if a light bulb falls under assistive technology that requires further testing, rejections and reviews for all concerned.

Two to work out if dark is a change of circumstances that requires a different form to be filled in 6 months after the bulb blew.

One to review the form and bury it for three months.

One to request a cheaper light bulb.

Three to change the plan and allocate light bulb funding.

Fifty at the call centre to listen to people in the dark.

Five to give staff training what a light bulb is.

Three to work out which category in the plan a light bulb should be paid under and hide the information on the NDIS website and word it so nobody can understand it.

Twenty in the complaints department to skim read the letters from the people in the dark and call them up anyway knowing half the story or less.

A team to arrange to distribute candles, but you need to pay for your own lighter.

And the list goes on ...



# Day Service with Sharon

## April Fundraiser

Wednesday 17th April 2019

Morning Tea - Gold Coin Donation

All funds raised during April will help Autism Queensland continue to provide vital services for children and adults living with autism.

Established in 1967, Autism Queensland has a proud tradition of family-centred practice for individuals of all ages and the families, professionals and others who support them.

For more information about Autism Queensland please visit their website. [www.autismqld.com.au](http://www.autismqld.com.au)



**I'M going BLUE**

**Autism QUEENSLAND**

Gold Coin Donation

**Go blue for autism**

Morning Tea

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**BigDog**

### BigDog Day Service Toowoomba

Paul Myatt Community Centre

11-15 Alexander Street

North Toowoomba 4350

#### Coordinator

Sharon Price

Phone: 4512 6020

[dayservice@bigdogsupport.com.au](mailto:dayservice@bigdogsupport.com.au)



# Rockhampton with Suzanne

## School Holiday Program

### Packed with exciting activities

This is a popular time for us, with the opportunity of meeting new families and their young people. Looking forward to 2 weeks of fun and educational activities.



## We have now moved!

### NBN Is connected

Everything has been moved to the new space, same building but around the corner.

We now have more space as well as separate offices for Suz and Sarah, a reception area with a lounge and TV (for those long waits)

## Festival of the Wind

### Emu Park

Sunday 14th April 2019 8am - 7pm

Emu Park Lions Festival of the Wind - Australian's Best Family Kite Festival

Entry is free - fireworks early evening

[www.festivalofthewind.com](http://www.festivalofthewind.com)

## Painting Rockhampton

### A Youth Mural Project

Rockhampton Art Gallery Tuesday 9th April

Have you ever wished to paint big on a public building? Here is your chance to learn how to plan, design, stencil and paint a mural.

This is an exciting opportunity to get paint not just on your hands but on a fresh new mural in our city. You will be guided and supported by the artist educator throughout the project.

\$160 four-day course

## BigDog Day Service Rockhampton

206 Murray Street,

Allenstown, Rockhampton 4701

### Coordinators

Suzanne Smith or Sarah Long

Phone: 4573 4611

[ssmith@bigdogsupport.com.au](mailto:ssmith@bigdogsupport.com.au)

[slong@bigdogsupport.com.au](mailto:slong@bigdogsupport.com.au)

# Safety matters with Steve

## 5 year strategic plan for work health and safety

### Queensland 2019 - 2023

#### Embracing innovation and technology

Promoting and supporting innovation and technology designed to help businesses identify and respond to existing, emerging and evolving work health and safety challenges.

Fostering a focus on innovation and technology helps duty holders to make work health and safety improvements in their workplaces and be better prepared to respond to their work health and safety challenges and changing work environments.

#### Designing healthy and safe work

Routinely considering higher order risk controls first in the risk management process to predict and design out physical and psychological risks.

As industries and workplaces review and adapt their work practices, they must also consider the impact of change on health and safety practices and the physical and psychological work environment.

#### Fostering a culture of health and safety

Instilling leadership, attitudes and behaviours in Queensland workplaces and communities that positively value work health and safety processes, experiences and outcomes.

When the leadership, attitudes and behaviours of people show they care about work health and safety, managers and workers will feel enabled and empowered to drive work health and safety improvements for everyone at their workplace.

#### Regulating effectively

Work health and safety laws were established because our society believes it's important to protect workers and other people against harm to their health, safety and welfare from risks arising at work.

Businesses should expect sound and consistent advice on how to comply with their work health and safety obligations so that workers and others are not exposed to known hazards and unacceptable risk. Effective regulation ensures duty holders comply or face serious sanctions and penalties. Regulator priorities should focus on ensuring duty holders comply with their obligations.



New signage at Alexander Street

# Staff information with Ann

## Rostering and Timesheets

easyemployer

Email:

Password:

Login

Online login

Phone App

BigDog Support Services

Clocking

Roster

Timesheets

Availability

Leave

Notices

No rostered shifts starting soon

Start Shift

## Birthdays



### April

10th	Mark R
	Manny S
16th	Joan WMc
17th	Chisato C
18th	Caitlin M
21st	Michelle T
23rd	Dane TA
26th	Pheonix T
30th	Sharon P

Have a great day!

THE DOG House



TUNE INTO

# TONY WIGAN SHOW

THURSDAY 3-6pm

# What's happening in April



## Queensland Youth Week (QYW19)

Held from 3rd to 14th April 2019, is an annual celebration allowing us all to reflect on young people aged 12 to 25 and the positive contributions they make to Queensland communities.

The theme for 2019 is 'unlimited' - celebrating the boundless energy young people bring to our communities and encouraging them to look to the future and see limitless possibilities.

## Easter 2019

Easter is the most important feast day on the Christian calendar.

Regularly observed from the earliest days of the Church, Easter celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead, following crucifixion. It marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, and the last day of the Easter Triduum (starting from the evening of Maundy Thursday, through Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday), as well as the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

The resurrection represents the Triumph of good over evil, sin, death, and the physical body.

HAPPY  
Easter!







### Justice of the Peace

This service is available at our administration office at 232 Ruthven Street Toowoomba (please make an appointment)

The **JPs in the Community Program** is also available through major shopping centres, libraries, court houses and hospitals.



### Contact Us

#### BigDog Support Services

232 Ruthven Street  
Toowoomba QLD 4350

PO Box 234  
Harlaxton QLD 4350

**(07) 4632 9559**

**1800 22 44 32**

0427 408 698 (On Call)

[www.bigdogsupport.com](http://www.bigdogsupport.com)



### The ABBA Show

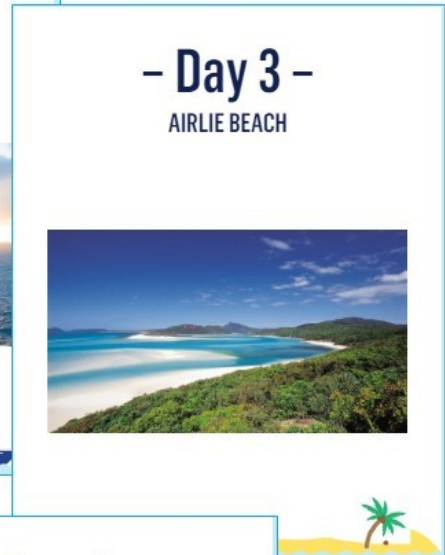
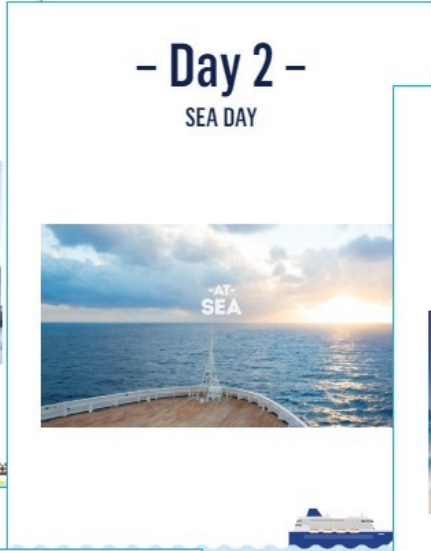
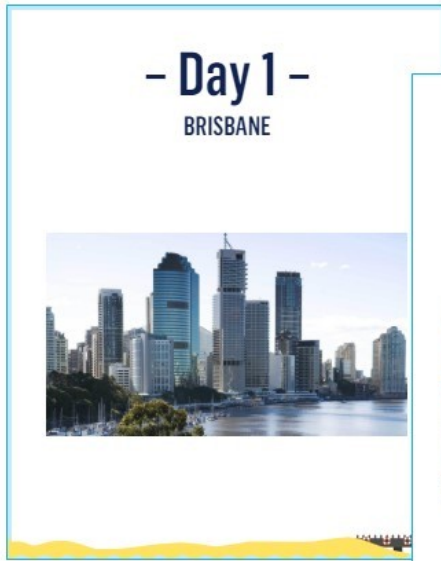
**Empire Theatre 56 Neil Street Toowoomba**

Wednesday, 10th April 2019 at 8 PM – 10:30 PM

Far from being 'just another cover band', The ABBA Show is a full-scale theatrical production featuring more than 2 hours of live musical performances with a live backing band, replica costumes, theatrical lighting and effects and all the dancing an ABBA fan can handle.

# What's happening at **BigDog**

**P&O** CRUISES  
LIKE NO PLACE ON EARTH™



Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019



# I'M CRUISING!

