



BigDog
SUPPORT SERVICES

JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER

THE ELECTION



WE WILL MISS YOU

*Laurie
Stevens* 5/7/02



NEWSLETTER

Editors Note

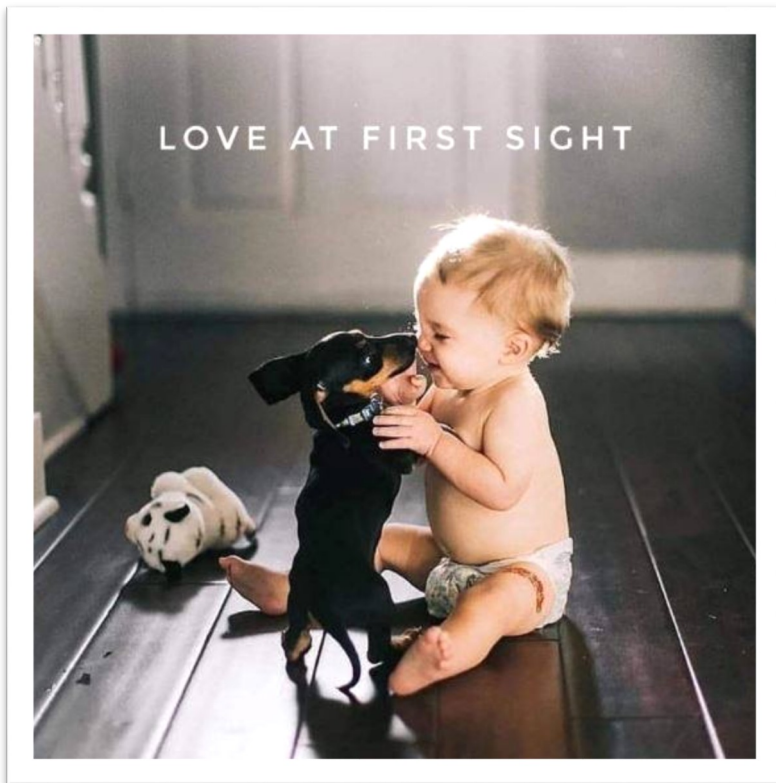
Steven



May proved to be a month of significant events for everyone here at BigDog. We lost one of our favourite people but we also welcomed a beautiful baby boy. Life can be like that.

Welcome to Courtney who joins the management team to learn all of the ropes (nautical term) with my hope that she will have a significant role if her old man (that's me) decides that he will retire, and ensuring that BigDog will continue to provide the very best in support options to our service participants and their families for a long time into the future.

Absolutely no thoughts of retirement in the future!



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News Hound COVER STORIES

The Election

Was shadow treasurer Chris Bowen's now telling comments before Saturday's vote, when he told Australia if people didn't like Labor's policies, they were "perfectly entitled" to vote against them, the telling statement?

Who will ever know!

Both the punters and the poles got it wrong. Now it's back to business.

Before the election, our Government made a lot of promises about the NDIS and supporting our community. These promises included:

- Introducing a new NDIS Participant Guarantee that will let us know how quickly we can access our plans and supports and when to expect them
- A 7% employment target for people with disability across the Australian Public Service
- A new \$45 million online information gateway for people with disability, their families and carers
- Investing another \$20 million into the Community Connectors program to help families and participants in rural and regional areas and from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds navigate the NDIS

But we know that so much more needs to be done to get the NDIS working the way it should for everyone who needs it.

We want the Minister to listen to us – the people who know what is and isn't working with the NDIS and what needs to be done to fix it.

We will miss you



It is never easy to say goodbye to anyone for the last time, but it is especially difficult when they leave us well before their time.

Such was the case with Michelle.

One of our original volunteers, Michelle was able to endear herself to everyone at our Toowoomba Day Service and it was an easy decision to have her join as a staff member.

Always willing to dress up for any occasion or DISCO theme, she represented the best of us.

We will miss you.

NDIS UPDATES

ndis
REGISTERED
PROVIDER



Participant Budget

Changes to the Participant Budget display

From Monday 27 May, you will notice improvements to the way your NDIS budget is displayed in the participant myplace portal. These changes will give you greater choice and control with your plan and improve your online experience.

You will:

- be able to see your plan start date and scheduled review date
- see what funds have been approved and spent in your plan for each support category
- have the option to view your funding in three formats: a table, showing all the details of your support categories and all funding amounts, a quick glance pie chart, summarising what percentage of your plan has been spent, allocated and still available or a support category funding breakdown bar, allowing you to quickly view each support category and what has been spent, allocated and still available
- Useful help text to guide you through the support budget screen

Self-managed support funding will now appear in the revised budget display table within the myplace portal.

This is a feature of the system which will continue to operate as it always has by treating self-managed supports as “allocated” to the participant for claiming expenses and not “available” to anyone else.

Australian Unity hands 3000 NDIS clients back to the federal government

AT least 3000 NDIS recipients from regional NSW and Victoria will have to find new care providers after mutual company Australian Unity decided to cut back on disability services to concentrate on aged care in Sydney.

Australian Unity confirmed the decision after concerns were raised with the Newcastle Herald by the Public Service Association.

It did not dispute an assertion by PSA regional organiser Paul James that the decision was a consequence of the financial pressures facing NDIS providers.

The decision comes just three years after Australian Unity bought the NSW Government's Home Care agency in February 2016, picking up 4000 former government employees and 50,000 aged care and disability clients.

Australian Unity said the decision to "scale down" its NDIS services came after a review of its "Home and Disability Services" business.



In the World of DISABILITY



New NDIS Minister

Stuart Robert

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has appointed the first ever dedicated minister for the NDIS, as part of a major cabinet reshuffle in wake of the federal election.



Liberal MP Stuart Robert will enter cabinet as the minister for the NDIS after the scheme was taken out of the social services portfolio.

This appointment builds on Morrison's pledge to prioritise the NDIS, which has been beset by problems around access, pricing and implementation.

"Top of the list for improving services will be ensuring we deliver on the National Disability Insurance Scheme, working to our goal of the NDIS supporting 500,000 Australians by 2024/25," Morrison said.

"The NDIS is a major social reform and there is much work to do to improve the delivery of these services on the ground."

Disability groups have welcomed Robert's appointment, as well as Senator Anne Ruston's appointment as minister for social services – replacing Paul Fletcher who becomes the new minister for communications.

NDIS Staffing Cap

Senator's claim on NDIA is true

Greens senator Jordon Steele-John says the NDIA staffing cap was picked out of thin air.

One of the key criticisms of the NDIS is the NDIA staffing cap, which advocates say has created a bottleneck in the agency. In the 2014 budget, the Abbott coalition government introduced a 3000 person cap on direct employees of the NDIA. In 2015, the then Assistant Minister for Social Services, Senator Mitch Fifield, admitted the original plan was to employ about 10,000 staff to run the NDIA. [8] [9]

Since 2015, the cap has fluctuated slightly on several occasions, most recently in August last year when then Social Services Minister Dan Tehan announced the NDIA would be boosted to 3400 by 2020-21. The staffing cap has left the NDIA to outsource work it cannot complete in house, on which it spent \$600 million in the 2017-18 financial year.

Senator Steele-John has asked questions about the adequacy of the NDIA staffing cap in Senate estimates on at least two occasions - June 2018 and October 2018. In June 2018 he was told the cap was "provided by government based on the expected growth of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)."

This initial staff allocation for the NDIA was based on estimates of demand for resources at that time the scheme commenced. but did not address questions on how the cap was determined.

60 years of service

This year, QCOSS is celebrating 60 years of service to the community.

For 60 years, they have been fighting for social justice. Together with the community and community sector, they have led and will continue to lead the charge for social change.

In 2019, they are using their 60-year anniversary as a catalyst to refocus their efforts and their vision. They are shifting their focus from poverty and disadvantage to recognising the strengths of communities and working alongside them to achieve our shared vision: equality, opportunity and wellbeing for every person in every community in Queensland.

They will do this by:

- rebooting the system – overturning systems and structures that create and perpetuate inequality
- being in service – creating a service system that truly supports and reflects the community in which it operates
- starting a social revolution – building hope and optimism across Queensland through engaged, inclusive and thriving communities
- joining forces – mobilising a force for equality, opportunity and wellbeing
- leading together – inviting and motivating people and organisations to walk with them, because we are stronger together, and

- walking the talk - being a strong, sustainable, relevant leader to achieve excellence.

QCOSS believes that every person in Queensland – regardless of where they come from, who they pray to, their gender, who they love, how or where they live – deserves to live a life of equality, opportunity and wellbeing.

They are a conduit for change. They bring people together to help solve the big social issues faced by people in Queensland, building strength in numbers to amplify our voice.

They listen and engage with people with lived experience and share their success stories of what can be achieved with improved circumstances. By bringing stories to the forefront, we aim to increase understanding and connection within communities and beyond.

They create positive social change through their work in advocacy, policy development, engaging and empowering the social service sector and communities. They're committed to reconciliation and promote equity and opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Their vision for equality, opportunity and wellbeing for every person, in every community, is bold, and they can't do it on their own. We all need to join forces to make our shared vision for the future a reality.

BigDog supports QCOSS to achieve their social justice mission. Visit their website to find out more. www.qcross.org.au

Community PARTNERSHIPS



June/June Magazine

National Minimum Wage Increase

The Fair Work Commission announced its annual minimum wage decision yesterday, raising the minimum wage rate by 3%. This increase will commence from the first full pay period starting on or after 1st July 2019.

According to Justice Iain Ross, President of the Commission, "the decision directly increases the pay of 2.2m Australians, suggesting a real increase is necessary to help households still experiencing significant disadvantage".

The new National Minimum Wage (NMW) will be \$740.80 per week for full-time workers or \$19.49 per hour for part-time employees.

The annual minimum wage rise is smaller than in recent years but still boosts pay packets, given annual inflation sits at just 1.3%.

Most importantly, if you are an eligible employer of an adult apprentice undertaking an identified National Skills Shortage occupation and qualification, you may be eligible to attract the Support for Adult Australian Apprenticeships (SAAA) incentive of \$4,000.00.

WhatsUp in Disability

Stories in this issue include:

- Show Time
- Harmony Day
- Changing Lives
- Jet Star
- Victor's Moment
- NDIS Updates
- Assistive Technology
- Voting

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

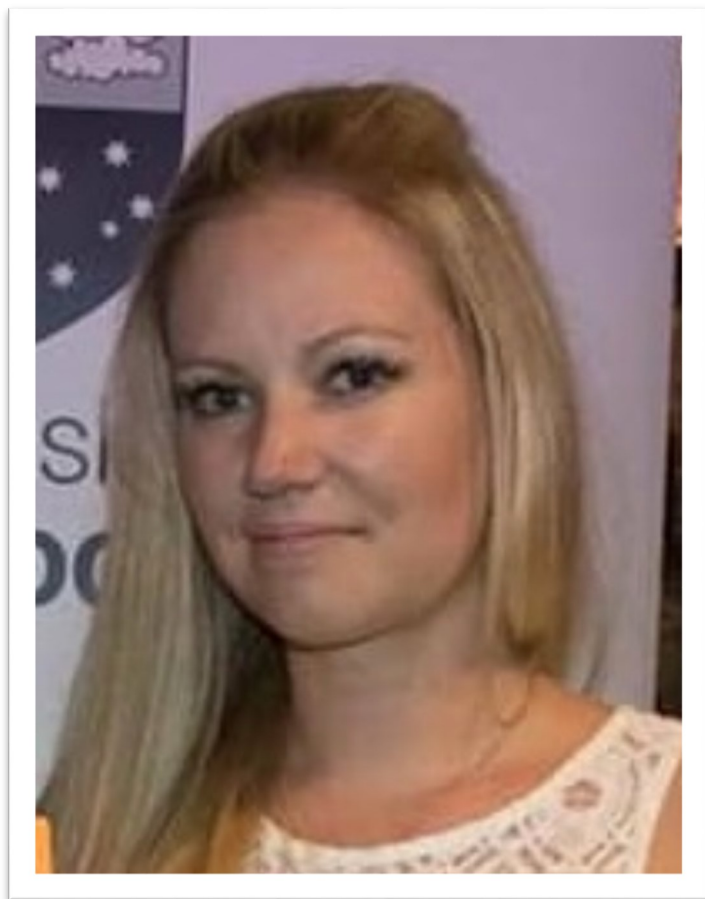
Phone 4632 6678

Online www.whatsupindisability.org

What's happening at



Welcome Courtney



Courtney joins the management team to assist in our preparation to comply to the new NDIS Commissioner Service Standards which come into effect from the 1st of July replacing the current Queensland Human Services Quality Standards.

With her experience as a lawyer she will be rewriting or reviewing all of our current policies as well as assisting in dealing with some outstanding NDIS matters including outstanding payments and participant reviews.

Courtney will also be learning other management roles to cover those positions during annual holidays or peak periods.

Renovations



New Bathroom at the Respite House



Steven moving office to Alexander Street

What's happening in

QUEENSLAND



New Initiative Announced

**Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors
The Honourable Coralee O'Rourke**

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Businesses, organisations and individuals will be able to better engage with Queenslanders with disability thanks to a new initiative of the Queenslanders with Disability Network.

QDeNgage will provide consultancy, engagement, training and speakers for Queensland businesses and organisations.

“Thanks to QDeNgage, Queensland businesses and organisations will be able to improve their engagement with people with disability,” Mrs O’Rourke said.

“This new initiative will help businesses and organisations undertake disability inclusion health checks, conduct disability inclusion training for staff, and host customer and consumer engagement sessions with people with disability.

“Through QDeNgage engagement consultants will work with business, services, researchers and Government to plan, design, deliver and evaluate services, products, environments and policies to deliver on quality, accessibility, affordability, inclusion and innovation.

“The aim of this work is to make businesses, products and services more inclusive and accessible for Queenslanders with disability.”

QDN CEO Paige Armstrong

said QDeNgage consultants had a diverse range of skills, knowledge and abilities.

“Consultants can assist organisations to design, deliver and evaluate their services, products, and policies to include the perspective of people with a disability,” she said.

“A lot of organisations are seeing the real value in engaging a QDeNgage Consultant and we are looking forward to working with businesses, organisations and Government agencies who want to give themselves this market edge.”

QDN chairperson Nigel Webb said by involving people with disability from the beginning, businesses and organisations could design products and services that meet the needs of customers.

“QDeNgage can help you connect with 20% of the population who identify as people with a disability and grow your market share and deliver inclusive services and products,” he said.

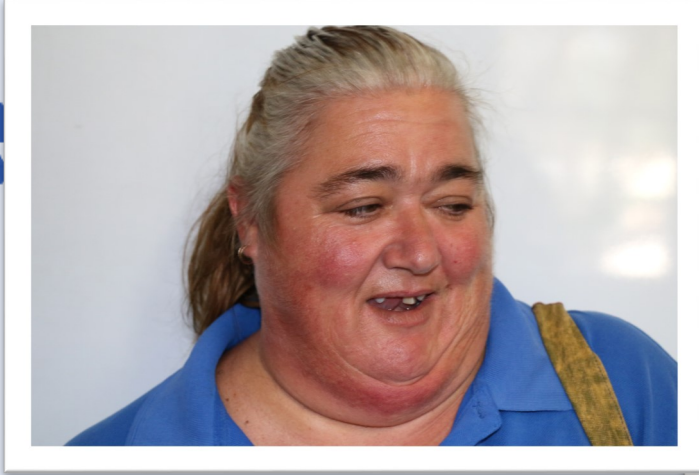
“One in five Queenslanders identify as having a disability and want to be customers and consumers of all that business, industry and the community has to offer.”

“We want to create thriving communities where Queenslanders, regardless of their ability, can be included and participate in their communities, be resilient and enjoy social and economic wellbeing,” she said.

<https://qdn.org.au/our-work/qdns-work/gage/>

Photograph

GALLERY



Getting that perfect photo ID can be a bit of a challenge for some





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**Lawn mowing
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From
\$46.20
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A well maintained yard provides a great look and feel to any home and increases the appeal of your property

**Bookings
4632 9559**



Day Service with SHARON

Lunch at Pizza Hut

Wednesday 12th
June

After a busy morning of activities in the community we will be going to the Pizza Hut for their all you can eat buffet lunch complete with pizza, pasta and desserts to tempt us.



ONLY \$17.50



Biggest Morning Tea

Thank you to everyone who attended. We were able to raise \$58.75 to send to the Cancer Council to support those impacted by cancer.

Remember, each month we have a fundraiser chosen by our participants so please support these activities with your attendance and donation of a gold coin.

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



Wear White at Work Morning Tea

10:00am Wednesday 19th June

'Wear white at work' and donate a gold coin to show your support for mental illness sufferers and families of suicide victims. Each year we have to come to terms with the suicide of thousands of fellow Australians (men, women and children). For those left behind by these tragedies the hurt is unimaginable. The White Wreath Association provides 24-hour support for anyone who is in need, by providing advocacy, assistance and support to both families and individuals who have been affected by a mental illness or suicide.

Together we can continue to provide families and individuals with the support and care that they need in order to reduce suicide rates in Australia.

Rockhampton with SUZANNE



Signage

The new signage certainly stands out at the new Rockhampton office. With the office clearly visible from the main road there has been a noteworthy increase in enquiries about our services.

Thanks to Solly for making this much larger space available in the same building that we have been in for the last 2 years. It didn't make the move any easier, just less distance to move

A lovely free lunch

Author Ian D.R. Wilson

Illustrator: Wendy Keen

Thank you to Ian who dropped in a copy of his delightful story entitled 'A Lovely Free Lunch'.

The story starts with:

In a pond in a creek sit two little green frogs, enjoying their day sunbaking on logs.

Filled with cliffhanging events, it ends with a great moral and a funny twist. Fun reading.

BigDog Day Service Rockhampton

206 Murray Street,

Allenstown, Rockhampton 4701

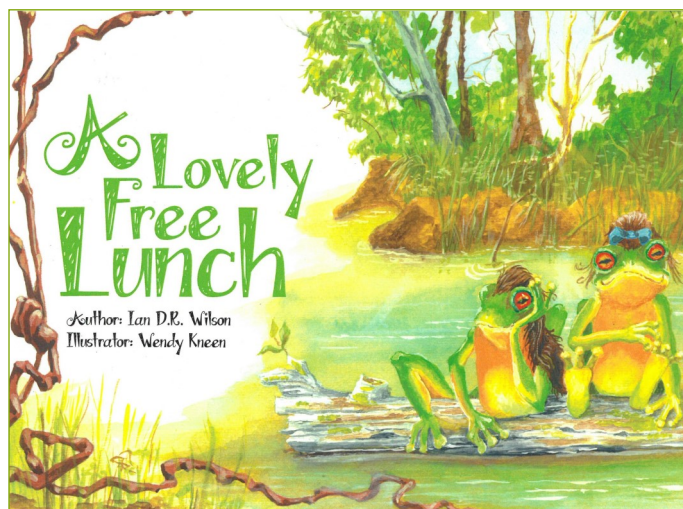
Coordinators

Suzanne Smith or Sarah Long

Phone: 4573 4611

ssmith@bigdogsupport.com.au

slong@bigdogsupport.com.au



Safety matters with STEVE

Staff Training and Performance Reviews



**DARLING DOWNS
FIRST AID TRAINING**

CPR Training has been booked

Saturday 6th July

Session 1 8:00 am and Session 2 noon

In an emergency situation, CPR – or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation – can be a truly life-saving technique. Support workers must have a current CPR to be allowed to work.

To enrol and participate in this course you will need a Unique Student Identification number. You can create your USI by visiting www.usi.gov.au If you have done this training at BigDog, then Lyn will already have your USI

Cost to do the CPR training is \$65.00

disABILITY AWAREness An Introduction to Disability

Thank you to the following people for completing the training and submitting their certificates

Alyssa T, Ann P, Brianna, Chisato C, Courtney C, Dane, Gavin S, Juliette S, Karen C, Kira, Kylie S, Mark R, Mikaela, Phill J, Richard N, Russell M, Sarah L, Sharon P, Steven P, Tina A.

If your name is **not** amongst the above, you need to have this completed before you undertake your performance appraisal in June

<https://disabilityawareness.com.au/courses/introduction-to-disability-awareness>

This training is designed to introduce you to four key topics that begin to increase your knowledge of disability.

Assisting with
Self-Medication



Social Role Valorisation

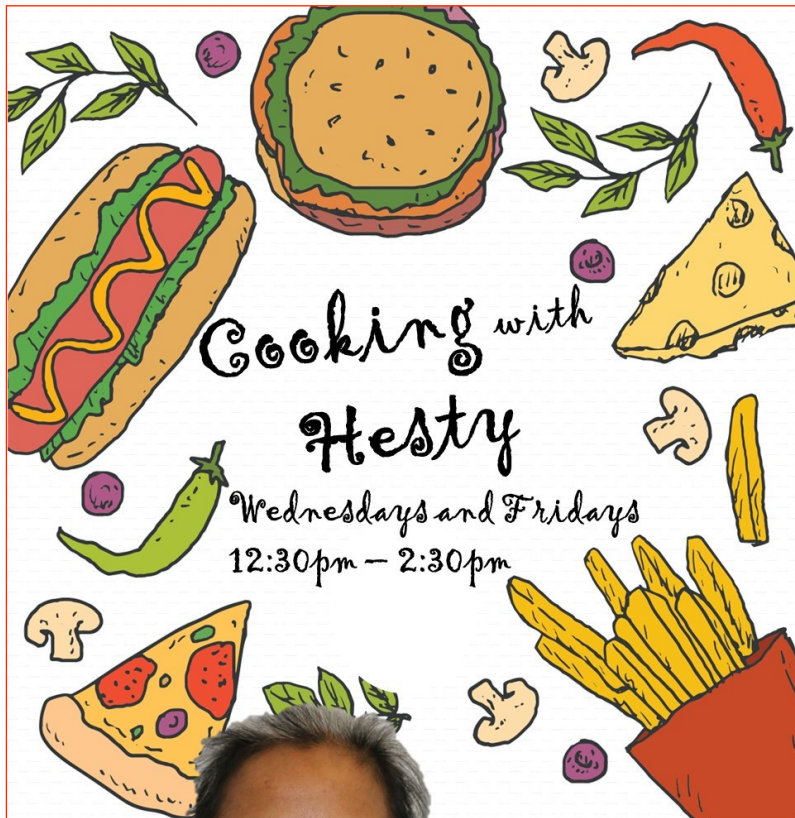


Staff information with ANN

easyemployer™
complexity simplified



 Effective
Communication

We are able to get in touch via sms/email which eliminates the frustration, time and cost associated with making phone calls. Also, we can broadcast messages to our entire organisation or a small subset of staff dependant on what department they are in, what role they perform, what roster they are on or what group they belong to. It's communication made easy!



Cooking with Hesty
Wednesdays and 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



Birthdays



June

5th	Lane N
6th	Kamie B
7th	Steve A
11th	Bradley R
15th	Noelle H
20th	Gary C
	Jay B
21st	Sam L
29th	Narelle W

Have a great day!

THE DOG House



TUNE INTO
TONY WIGAN SHOW
THURSDAY 3-6pm

What's happening in JUNE



D-Day 75th Anniversary

6th June 1944 - 2019

"Ok, Let's go!" - the immortal words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower were spoken at Southwick House, setting in motion the greatest combined operation of all time.

Each year, thousands of people descend on Normandy in France to pay homage to the soldiers, sailors and airmen who took part in D-Day, Operation Overlord and the Battle of Normandy. Veterans and their families, political figures, re-enactors, military vehicle enthusiasts and thousands of other men, women and children pay tribute to the those who fought to liberate Europe and remember those who never returned.



World Environment Day

5th June 2019

World Environment Day is the United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment. Since it began in 1974, the event has grown to become a global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.

Each World Environment Day is organised around a theme that draws attention to a particularly pressing environmental concern. The theme for 2019 is "Air pollution".

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE TOOWOOMBA RUGBY LEAGUE

Team of the Century

Jersey Auctions

History Displays

TRL Hall of Fame Inauguration
- Inductee Announcements

When: Saturday June 22, 2019
 Where: Rumours
 What: Two- Course Meal
 How Much: \$75 per head - Table of 10 - \$700



Women on the Move - Enterprise Legal Event

158 Margaret Street Toowoomba

5:30 pm Wednesday 12th June 2019 Free event

WOTM is a NFP organisation with all monies raised going towards OzCare Manna House.



Sunrise Way Fundraising Dinner

Rumours International Ruthven Street Toowoomba

6:45 pm Saturday 15th June 2019 Tickets \$145.00

Australia's funniest and loved comedians Fiona O'Loughlin

This is a great opportunity to enjoy an evening out with friends while learning more about the important role Sunrise Way plays within our community and hearing stories of incredible courage and resilience from former residents who have successfully completed our program and returned to the community.

JPs in the Community

Justice of the Peace

This service is available at the Paul Myatt Community Centre 11-15 Alexander 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



Toowoomba Chamber - Business@Dusk

Reward Hospitality 12 Prescott Street Toowoomba

5:30 pm - 7:00pm Wednesday 19th June Tickets \$25/\$45

Toowoomba's premier networking event.

Regional Disability expo

Hervey Bay • Townsville • Rockhampton
Mackay • Toowoomba



BigDog WILL BE GOING!

The event not to be missed for people with disabilities, family, carers and friends plus community minded people providing products and services, all in one central space.

This is truly a unique event aimed at bringing the disability community together to celebrate life, age, empower, learn, share and experience latest technologies. Along with ample exhibits, visitors will be able to attend a variety of FREE workshops.

Topics covered at the expo include:

- Health and Fitness
- Employment and Education
- Post School Options
- Advocacy
- Social Activities and Recreation
- Transport and Vehicles
- Independent Living Services and Products
- Assistance Products
- Support Services Providers

disabilityexposc.com.au

FRIDAY 14TH JUNE

Everything disability under one roof!