



Wednesday, 29 August 2018

Retirement just got greener

Avid bowlers from our Fraser Shores Retirement Village at Hervey Bay were “bowled over” with joy at the long-awaited turning of the sod for the new bowling green

One committed bowler and current resident, Ron Smith, was a bowling coach in the 80s and hopes the new greens will provide an opportunity to teach other residents in the village.

“I can’t explain how happy I am because it’s been so long, we’ve waited a long time for this and I never thought I’d see the day, but it’s happened and I’m very pleased about it,” he said.

Former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Kelvin Kerkow OAM attended on the day, turning the sod of the new bowling green site and sharing stories with residents.

“I came up last year and had a bit of a talk to the residents and we discussed options of a new bowling green and it’s all happening now, so they all pretty excited about it,” Kelvin said.

“There is lots of opportunity to get them out and about and enjoying the sun and the weather and put a few bowls down and have a go at the game.”

Kelvin Kerkow said when the bowling green was finished at the end of the year; he also planned to coach residents who were interested in learning the game.



Work commenced on the bowling green on 15 August 2018

Generosity shines at St Andrew’s

There were checked shirts and Akubra hats a plenty when employees at St Andrew’s War Memorial Hospital gathered and raised over \$1,000 for drought relief last week.

It’s a cause close to the heart of the hospital; more than 40 per cent of St Andrew’s patients travel from rural and regional areas to access their specialist medical services, many through their Rural Connect program - a personalised concierge-style coordination service.

They donated to *Fiver for a Farmer*, an initiative supporting farmers struggling due to our current drought.



The team at St. Andrew's wearing flannos and the fundraising spirit

Act of kindness warms local community

In South East Queensland, this winter has had some of the coldest days on record.

Concerned about the poor insulation within most of their clients’ homes, the team at Intensive Family Support Services (IFSS) Logan, including the team’s case workers sought to find a small-scale solution that they could execute immediately, to provide immediate warmth to the vulnerable and complex families they work with.

IFSS Logan purchased 400 blankets, one for each child and each adult or couple within the service.

Feedback received from this act of kindness was the largest response received from any project at IFSS Logan.

"It has been so cold, I had the children sleep in the bed with me, thank you so much"

"Even if we got our own blankets, we would never have been able to afford this sort of quality"

"Thank you! Our blankets are really old and thin"

"Thank you! Last year was nowhere near this cold"

"Thank you! I was going to buy some this week but ended up spending my money on food"

Congratulations to the team at IFSS Logan for ensuring the comfort and safety of their clients through one of the colder winters in Queensland.



Blankets ready to warm local families

GroundWater Gathering 2018 "was powerful and energising"

The Inaugural GroundWater Gathering was hosted by Child and Family Services on 16/17 August in New Farm, Brisbane.

Both the event and program were developed by Child and Family Service's Working Together Advisory Group and used Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural processes to provide a truly unique and engaging space for participants to learn, explore ideas, and share cultural knowledge and practice from a child and family perspective.

Opening the event with a smoking ceremony and including a ceremony table and traditional food tasting at the event, helped place culture as the central focus throughout the two days and created a space in which participants were open and ready to share and learn together.

One hundred participants attended, including identified employees and other professionals who engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and communities.

The program brought inspirational speakers alongside multidisciplinary expertise from across the community sector, specialising in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community engagement and culturally appropriate service delivery.

CEO Craig Barke shared UCQ's bigger picture and future direction. There were presentations on key child and family topics from the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, Blue Card Services, Headspace, Family Matters, Centacare and Anglicare.

Employees from our own innovative programs and services also shared.

Spoken word artist, dancer and student, Joella Warkill, moved participants with her piece *Unapologetic*, and a message for our Women in the essence of this year's NAIDOC theme, *Because of her, we can*.



The event focused on participants sharing their own knowledge and stories, and building connections through yarning circles, exploring a broad range of questions including:

- *working effectively with Mob*
- *becoming a Carer for our Mob (building on the Keep our Kids Connected campaign)*
- *child and family services' strategic direction*
- *improving Foster and Kinship Services*
- *engaging well with Mob*

Feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive and it's clear that the GroundWater Gathering will have an ongoing impact for all participants, and flow on benefits for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities we work with.

Here is some of the feedback from our participants:

"..a great opportunity to learn and grow, and to support other Indigenous people in UCQ"

"[An event like this] is vital to closing the gap. To come together under culture is extremely important for growth and self-development. Cultural awareness is a must."

"Each presentation was deadly. I will take back the knowledge I've gained from these 2 days. Very resourceful, very empowering, very valuable. Enjoyed every moment."

"Great variety of speakers – both in a personal and professional capacity"

"Joella Warkill was an inspirational speaker; she brought a tear to my eye"

"Hats off to Joella, very powerful and inspiring to all young leaders"

"It was great to share and discuss barriers that affect Indigenous people"

"It was amazing to be a part of honest, genuine conversations about my own experiences as a child with Indigenous people and what the First Nation people need from me in order to convey my overwhelming want to understand and connect to their stories."

"The yarning circle was awesome - listening to other sisters and brothers telling their yarns."

"Community connections, relationships and inclusion – hopefully the first of an ongoing journey"

If you would like to know more about the event or the program, contact Child and Family's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership and Engagement Advisor, Krystal Beazley krystal.beazley@uccommunity.org.au.

All photos by Krystal Beazley

Movie memories, 1939 style

Blue Care Brassall Aged Care Facility dug deep into the memories of residents, recreating a night out at the movies, circa 1939.

Social Wellness Coordinator Trish Fechner organised the *Golden Oldies* Black and White Movie Night, using the expertise of Joel Archer of Golden Oldies; a company that incites nostalgia by playing movies and recreating the magic of the 'good old days'.

"Wizard of Oz" was on the bill, and twenty residents stayed up to watch! Family was invited to attend.

Joel was great with the crowd, sharing quips and fun. Old favourites were available too; treats like Jaffa's, soft drinks and Drumstick ice creams.

The movies provoked smiles and excitement, but it was when the Drumsticks came out that the real joy was on display!

"This is like a real movie now," and "I haven't had one of these in years!" were a couple of notable comments.

Visiting family members shared their enjoyment with employees on the way out, particularly pleased that Brassall had created such an entertaining event the residents were excited to stay up for!

The evening was a huge success for both residents and employees!

The service has also started a fortnightly gardening club, and enrolled in Delta Dogs, a therapy dog program for residents at the end stage of life.



David and Brenda with their Drumsticks

Everyone has the right to be proud of who they are

A year this week we launched the [UCQ Ally Program](#), supporting us in living our commitment to being a safe, welcoming and inclusive organisation for every person, no matter their gender or identity.

Our Allies are advocates for LGBTI inclusion – a supporter, a friend, a person who wants to see change and is prepared to help bring it about. To find an Ally, [click here](#)

This Friday is **Wear It Purple Day** - a day celebrating diversity. Everyone is encouraged to get involved - recognise the day at a staff meeting, hold a morning tea or have a conversation with colleagues. There's a range of supporting resources [here](#).

Celebrate diversity. Wear purple this Friday 31 August.

