



TransitCare

NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BRANCH MANAGER

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. We hope you like our fresh, new design. Thank you to all of our clients who sent in Christmas messages, card, presents and delicious treats - our staff and volunteers really appreciated your consideration and thoughtfulness.

We ended 2019 with a bang at our Christmas party at Riverview tavern and fun was had by all, including TransitCare CEO, Terry O'Toole who was in town.

Our Thursday drop in sessions continue, and this was very well patronised over Christmas, with only one week missed during the holiday season. We are also kept busy on Sundays but we still have more capacity if people wish to go to church, go shopping or visit friends and family.

It was exciting to receive an early Christmas present – a new Toyota Prius which replaces the Honda. This has been a very reliable car over the years, but the time has come for it to retire. Don't forget to keep an eye out for our new car. It looks a little bit different with updated decals but still comes with the great TransitCare TOTTTS service.

Our monthly luncheons will continue at different locations around town as this seems to be a popular option. Jenny has a lot of trips planned for later in the year when the weather is cooler, so watch this space.

URGENT INFORMATION - Payment of Invoices: We are still having difficulty with some client accounts where we cannot match up money paid to the invoice with the client account.

This is because clients are not providing the invoice number when making payment through the banking system. When paying your invoice through the bank, can you please ensure that you quote your INVOICE NUMBER only on the method of payment, not your name or your client ID number. We only need your INVOICE NUMBER so that we can match this up with your account.

More flexibility and increased choice in transport funding for NDIS participants: Minister for the NDIS, Stuart Robert, has announced more flexibility and increased choice for participants accessing transport funding in their plans. From 1 March 2020, NDIS participants will be able to flexibly use their plan's core support funding to claim service provider costs associated with transport to and from NDIS funded, community-based activities.

This change will give participants more autonomy in their plans, and greater choice and control over the services and supports they need and participants will have a fair and consistent process to cover their transport costs with providers. For more information, contact your plan manager, support coordinator, NDIA or your service provider.



Facebook: If you or your family are on Facebook, don't forget to like and follow the TransitCare Community Flyer Facebook page. We post lots of great stories and photos of our clients, volunteers and staff out and about. We are nearly up to 400 likes and would love to increase this.

Public Holidays: Please pay close attention to our Easter and public holiday closure dates advertised in this newsletter and make bookings accordingly. As always, our drivers and vehicles will be operating but, as the office will be closed, bookings must be made in advance.

If you are 65 years or over, and don't currently travel with us, please give our TransitCare team a call on 1300 153 636 to find out how we might be able to assist you.

Dean Warren
Branch Manager

MEET A MEMBER

HILARY O'LEARY

I was born in Brisbane in 1931 on 1st April (at 3pm, so after midday). I had a younger brother, Vincent, who married a girl from Charters Towers and moved there with his work. I went to school in Brisbane.

My first job was in a Brisbane solicitor's office, I then joined the National Bank. Both sides of my family lived in Brisbane, my paternal grandfather was an army man, he was in the army band, and together with a friend started the C.M.F. (Citizens Military Forces - now called the Army Reserves) in Brisbane, the first such organisation in Australia. Grandfather and Great-Grandfather were from Aldershot, England and were also army men. Great-Grandfather was Inspector of Military Forces in India.

My maternal grandfather was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and worked as a 15 year old cabin boy on a ship that came to Australia. He liked it so much he decided to stay here (an original boat person). He was a champion cyclist and played the bagpipes, which I love. My mother played tennis and lawn bowls. Father worked at General Motors, in Fortitude Valley in Brisbane, and sailed 12' and 16' skiffs competitively on the Brisbane River and Sydney Harbour.

I married Gerard, a newly graduated Dental student, and at the time, married women didn't work at the bank, so I had to resign. We were sent to Charters Towers where Gerard opened his first practice, and had two children. Dr. Tim O'Leary (no relation) of the Royal Flying Doctor Service was Godfather for Therese, the oldest. We moved to Townsville, and we were obviously settled in, as the next six children were born here, five under the direction of Sister Baines (I think everyone knew Bainsy), the last baby was born at the Mater.

The next years were busy raising eight children and working at school canteens, remedial reading, designing school uniforms, serving on committees



for school, Girl Guides, Sea Scouts and soccer. As the children grew up, my interests broadened and I volunteered at Meals-on-Wheels, St. Vincent de Paul, and telephone counselling at LifeLine.

I always had an interest in arts and crafts, and together with a couple of friends, we started the North Queensland Potters Association. I also joined the Porcelain Artists Assoc. (which due to an ever-ageing membership, has now dissolved).

Gerard has now passed, as has my second child, John. The remaining seven are well settled, Therese, after working at SBS as a News editor, retired in Sydney. Christine, Librarian, now retired, lives in Townsville, as does Jennifer who is a School Librarian. Patricia, a designer, and Kathleen, an Accounts supervisor are both on the Gold Coast. Mark, an Engineer, and Tony, an Accountant are also here in Townsville.

Having chastised my own mother when she was in her 80s, for having so many 'seats' around their Caloundra home, I now find I also have many 'seats' here at Rangewood.

PS. There is at least one other 1st April at TOTTS. Hope these memories bring back your recollections of similar circumstances from your years gone by.

MOVIES AT WARRINA CINEPLEX

Come along and see the latest release movies at Warrina Cineplex. Every Tuesday and Thursday Warrina offers a deal for a movie and morning tea. If you would like to attend, please ring us to book your transport. Doors open at 10am with morning tea, movie commences at 10.30am.

Transport: \$15 return

Cost: \$10 movie and morning tea



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

MORNING MELODIES - THE MUSIC OF BUDDY HOLLY

Where: Townsville Civic Theatre

Cost: \$12.50 show + \$15 return transport.

Time: 10am arrival for 11am show start, ends at 12.30pm.

Light refreshments are provided before the show.

TUESDAY 17 MARCH

THE VILLE FOR LUNCH

Where: Spin Café at the Casino

Cost: \$10 for roast lunch + \$15 return transport.

Time: 11.30am – 1.30pm

Tuesday's meal deal is Roast of the Day.

MONDAY 30 MARCH

MONTHLY MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Where: To be advised

Cost: \$15 return transport, lunch at own cost.

There will be raffles, and any donations are gratefully accepted.

Time: 11.30am – 1.30pm

WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL

MORNING MELODIES – 1RAR BAND

Where: The Townsville Civic Theatre.

Cost: \$12.50 show + \$15 return transport.

Time: 10am arrival for 11am show start, ends at 12.30pm.

Light refreshments are provided before the show.

TUESDAY 14 APRIL

SIMPLY TOPS FOR LUNCH

Where: Simply Tops

Cost: \$15 return transport, lunch at own cost.

Come and have fish and chips at this award winning eatery.

Time: 11.30am – 1.30pm

MONDAY 27 APRIL

MONTHLY MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Where: To be advised

Cost: \$15 return transport, lunch at own cost.

There will be raffles, and any donations are gratefully accepted.

Time: 11.30am – 1.30pm

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY

ROLLINGSTONE PUB FOR LUNCH

Where: Rollingstone Pub

Cost: \$20 return transport. Lunch and ice cream at own cost.

We enjoyed this outing so much last year, we're allowing extra time to truly appreciate this lovely region.

Time: 10am – 3pm

MONDAY 25 MAY

MONTHLY MEMBERS LUNCHEON

Where: To be advised

Cost: \$15 return transport. Lunch at own cost.

There will be raffles, and any donations are gratefully accepted.

Time: 11.30am – 1.30pm

GOLDEN OLDIES AT THE VILLE

Take a step down memory lane and reminisce with free live music shows most Thursday mornings. These shows are in the Grand Ballroom at The Ville Casino, and there will be complimentary tea/coffee available. The Spin Café is also offering \$10 Roast of the Day lunches following the concert for those that are interested. To take up this offer, please ring us to confirm dates (as it is not available every Thursday).

Dates: 5 March, 12 March, 19 March - further dates to be advised.

Time: Doors open at 9.45am, show goes to 11.30am, if you want to stay on for lunch and/or a flutter at the Casino, just let us know what time you want to come home.

Transport: \$15 return

Cost: Free for show, \$10 roast of day lunch (if you like)

FUN AND GAMES

SUDOKU

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HAVE A LAUGH



What do you get if you cross an apple with a Xmas Tree?

A Pineapple

Some months have 30 days, others 31, how many have 28 days?

All of them

What do you call a lady attached to a clothes line?

Peg

Why did the golfer wear two pairs of trousers?

In case he got a hole in one

Why did the scarecrow get a promotion?

Because he was outstanding in his field

Why wouldn't the skeleton go to the party?

He had no body to go with

Why did the doughnut maker sell his shop?

He got fed up with the hole business

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

EASTER - GOOD FRIDAY 10 APRIL AND EASTER MONDAY 13 APRIL 2020

Bookings for travel over the Easter period and for Tuesday 14 April must be made prior to 10am on Thursday 9 April 2020.

LABOUR DAY - MONDAY 4 MAY 2020

Bookings for travel on Monday 4 May and Tuesday 5 May must be made prior to 10am on Friday 1 May 2020.



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