

Lilypad is a newsletter of Lotus Place.

Lotus Place is a dedicated support service and resource centre for adults who experienced childhood abuse in an institutional setting.



[www.lotusplace.org.au](http://www.lotusplace.org.au) / Southern Queensland / August 2021 / Issue 29

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## Remembrance Day 2021

Come together to remember, so we might say "never again!"



As part of Queensland Child Protection week (5th-11th September), Remembrance Day affirms the continued courage and determination of people in breaking the silence and being an ongoing voice for continued reform and justice within the child protection system.

Acknowledging adult survivors of childhood abuse in institutional settings who are seeking justice in response to the abuse of power by governments, church officials and clergy, professionals and carers from out of home care, faith communities, detention centres, schools, mental health and disability institutions.

### Remembrance Day Events South Queensland

**Brisbane** — 11am Wednesday, 8 September,  
Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA)

**Gold Coast** - 11am Thursday, 2nd September  
Musgrave Bowls Club

**Gympie** - 11am Monday 13th September Gun-  
abul Homestead

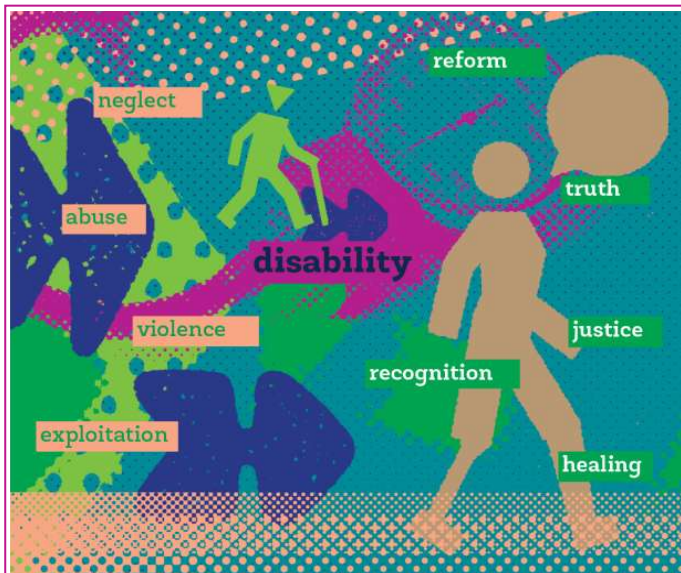
**Caboolture** - 12pm Monday 20th September  
The Mill Restaurant @ Caboolture Sports Club

**Reconciling Histories Project Showcase** A showcase of works in progress towards the visual expression of impacts of institutional abuse and the determination, hope and aspirations to heal. (invite enclosed)  
1pm Wednesday 8 September at The Edge, State Library Queensland (Following Remembrance Day Event)

## The National Redress

Micah Projects' Redress Team is continuing to assist people to submit applications to the **National Redress Scheme (NRS)**. The NRS provides support to people who experienced child sexual abuse in institutions

including, but not limited to, foster care, children's homes, youth detention centres, sporting clubs, schools, and religious institutions. To know more about the NRS and your eligibility, or to discuss if the NRS is the right option for you, please phone on **3036 4490** 9am-5pm Monday to Friday or



### Lotus Support Services–Micah Projects

A free, independent and confidential counselling and support service, available Queensland wide.

Supporting people engaged with the Disability Royal Commission.

**07 3036 4490**

[lotussupportservices@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:lotussupportservices@micahprojects.org.au)

Funded by Australian Government Department of Social Services

AN ACTIVITY OF  MICAH PROJECTS

## Second Anniversary Review of the National Redress Scheme

The Second anniversary review of the National Redress Scheme commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The review was conducted by an independent review, Ms Robyn Kruk AO. The Review was required by legislation and hoped to hear about the implementation, operation, and administration of the scheme along with people's experiences. During the Review, Robyn met with 81 survivors, support services, government agencies and ministers. Robyn received 226 submissions, which provided insight into the Scheme, how it operates, and how to improve the survivor experience. The Review also commissioned a feedback study in which 503 survivors, support groups and institutions participated.

The review has identified 38 recommendations and included items that aim to address the slow, complicated, and traumatising aspects of the scheme's application process. Federal Social Services Minister Anne Ruston has explained that 25 of the 38 recommendations will be implemented immediately by the government. Recommendations that require a change of legislation will be introduced to parliament after the winter break. The government have not agreed to change the standard of proof required for a redress claim and also has refused to accept the recommendation calling for the maximum payment to be raised to the Royal Commissions' recommended \$200,000.

In good news, elderly and terminally ill applicants will be able to access advance compensation payments of up to \$10,000. There are also a number of recommendations that are aimed specifically at improving the application experience. This includes expanding access to experienced, culturally appropriate, and trauma-informed professionals and improving a sense of fairness and integrity to the scheme.

The review can be found online at: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/document/1386>

If you require any assistance to access the review, please contact a staff member at Lotus Place.



# Melbourne University Study on the Benefits of Lotus Place Creative Writing Group

On the 24th and 25th of May 2021, three researchers from the University of Melbourne visited Lotus Place, to talk with participants and staff about Lotus Place's long-running creative writing group. Ash Barnwell, Cate O'Neill and Kirsten Wright heard about the group when they saw an article on the ABC News website last year. The University gave them a grant to spend two days at Lotus Place, finding out more about how participants felt



about the creative writing program.

The researchers were thrown into the deep end on Monday morning, joining a creative writing class. They were a little daunted to begin with - Kirsten said it was the first time she'd done any creative writing since high school!

But Edwina is a great teacher and the group was very welcoming, so the visitors enjoyed getting creative and hearing everyone's wonderful stories.

Over the two-day visit, 11 Lotus Place participants generously gave their time to be interviewed about their creative writing. The visitors were fascinated to hear about people's different experiences. Every person interviewed was very positive about the creative writing group and spoke about how it had helped their self-confidence, imagination and well-being. The next step is for the researchers to write a short report about what they learned. The report will be a way to share information with other community organisations about Lotus Place's unique approach to creative writing, and hopefully inspire more people to start storytelling projects. Ash, Cate and Kirsten will share their report with Lotus Place, so keep an eye out for it later this year.

## Staff Changes at Lotus

Find and Connect has had some staff changes in July. **Livi Chalmers** has joined our team and is the Find and Connect Support Worker on Mondays and Wednesdays. **Kelyn** will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays and **Lara** on Fridays.

We welcome **Bridget Minogue** to the Redress team, and we also welcome our new student **Alex**, who will be with us for six months.

If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, in need of support or just wanting to chat, help is available.

**MENSLINE** 1300 78 99 78  
**1800 RESPECT** 1800 737 732  
In an Emergency Tripple Zero (000)

**BLUE KNOT HELPLINE** 1300 657 380  
**BEYOND BLUE** 1300 22 46 36  
**LIFELINE** 13 11 14

# RECONCILING HISTORIES ART PROJECT

Recollecting. Reconnecting. Reclaiming the journey.

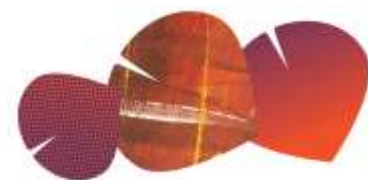


Reconciling History is about the recognition of history and what has happened and looking beyond the darkness. Acknowledging the past, living in the present and finding ways to look forward to a better future. In this case, illuminating the hope, strength, and the determination to heal through creative expression. Exploring the question—'How can we Reconcile History?'—is it possible for a person to recover from a traumatic past and experience healing?

During the workshops participants have been engaged in experimentation, exploration and having fun expressing their ideas in new and creative ways. Using a variety of techniques including explorations in traditional mark making and computer aided fabrication. Making new memories and recollecting moments of joy, strength and resilience, no matter how small. In the process developing a range of art making skills and becoming familiar with the space and equipment at the Edge.

Developing strength in individual and collective creative self-expression, which involves being curious and going with what has traction and meaning. Then being supported by the creative team to develop ideas and experiment (To see more go to <https://www.facebook.com/ReconcilingHistories>).

The exhibition of works in progress will be on display at **Reconciling Histories Project Showcase**, 1pm Wednesday 8th September at The Edge, State Library Queensland, continuing until 22th September.





# Creative Writing Corner

## The Easy Way out by Sherryl

*The Wide Road is the Easy Way out.*

*Staying in bed or heading up to the shops and not taking responsibility, is cheek to your parents, and things like that.*

*The narrow road is where you listen to people and take responsibility for yourself and for other people too.*

*Because if you treat other people with respect, you will be treated with respect, and you will begin to respect and like yourself. And the anger will go away."*

**Creative Writing Group** with Edwina starts up again in August.  
Will held on **TUESDAYS 11.30am!**

## Within the Debths by Pierre

*Within the depths of my pulsing heart's meridian highway of bleeding drack roses, never failing to spawn a new lineage of royal spiking veins.*

*Such an aroma germinates the brick cold corridors that makes life within such a sensory playground.*



## Enoggera Boys Home Reunion

**14 August, 11am—3pm**

Hillbrook Anglican School,  
45 Hurdcotte Street, Enoggera  
RSVP by 9 August to Lotus Place on 3347 8500

**Empower Arts** is a peer run group of Forgotten Australians helping and supporting other Forgotten Australians through various projects to raise awareness and funds to assist members of the community with costs associated with creative endeavours. If you would like to find out more, contact Colleen via Lotus Place on **3347 8500**.

## Men's Groups start up soon!

Register your interest by calling Lotus on 3347 8500

## Memorial Board For Deceased Queensland Forgotten Australians

A gentle reminder that the closing date for names to be added to the Memorial Board is

**12 August, 2021.**

**Nomination Forms are available at Lotus Place.**



The grant program provides Australia-wide assistance targeted financial support in the areas of education, employment, dental, health and wellness. Applications need to be submitted to Forde Foundation no later than **13 August 2021**. The Board will be assessing this round of grants on **16 September 2021**. Successful grants will be offered after this date. Please note the 4th round for 2021 will close on **13 November**.

# WHAT'S ON - August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2 Morning Tea 9.30 - 11.30am 2pm Tai Chi Group	3 Morning Tea 9.30 - 11.30am 2pm Tai Chi Group	4 1pm Guitar Group 9.30am Reconciling Histories Public Access Session @The Edge	5 11am Dance & Movement 1pm Lotus Art Group Gold Coast Group	6 10am Mindful Movement
9 Gympie Group	10 Morning Tea 9.30 - 11.30am 2pm Tai Chi Group	11 Ekka Public Holiday	12 11am Dance & Movement 1pm Lotus Art Group	13 10am Mindful Movement
16 Caboolture Group	17 9.30am Reconciling Histories Curatorial Workshop (@The Edge) 2pm Tai Chi Group	18 9.30am Reconciling Histories Public Access Session @The Edge	19 11am Dance & Movement 1pm Lotus Art Group	20 Opening 1.30pm Getting Ready 6pm - Moonlight Magic Dinner Dance
23 10.30 Visit from the Hon Leanne Linard, Minister for Children and Youth Justice 11.30 Creative Writing Group 2pm Tai Chi Group	24 10.30 Visit from the Hon Leanne Linard, Minister for Children and Youth Justice 11.30 Creative Writing Group 2pm Tai Chi Group	25 1pm Movie Session 	26 11am Dance & Movement 1pm Lotus Art Group	27 10am Mindful Movement
30 Morning Tea 9.30 - 11.30am 10.30 Bingo 11.30 Creative Writing Group 2pm Tai Chi Group	31 Morning Tea 9.30 - 11.30am 10.30 Bingo 11.30 Creative Writing Group 2pm Tai Chi Group			



**MOONLIGHT MAGIC  
DINNER  
DANCE**

Friday, 20 August  
6.30 for 7pm

Plaza Ballroom  
Brisbane Convention Centre

\$10 for participants in Micah programs such as Lotus Place. **Please contact Lotus by 6 August.**

## No Need To Explain

Hey everybody!

It has come to our attention that people are unaware that they are able to access a Support Letter from Lotus Place that documents what happened to children who were Forgotten Australians as well as communicating the subsequent mental health issues that could have occurred for you since.

Whilst we know that you are able to communicate this for yourselves. It might make things a little easier and less triggering for you to be able to hand someone a letter to explain who you are, it could also be used to be on record systems in hospitals, doctors etc. Please contact Lotus Place on 3347 8500 if you would like to know more about the Support Letter.

## Christmas Events: Mark Your Calendars!

Family Fun Day—Tuesday 7th December at Hanlon Park, Stones Corner

Christmas Dinner—Thursday 16th December at Yeronga Services Club



# WHAT'S ON - September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 1pm Guitar Group	2 11am Dance & Movement 1pm Lotus Art Group Gold Coast Group Remembrance Day	3 10am Mindful Movement
6 9.30am Reconciling Histories Showcase Setup/Install @The Edge	7 10am Memorial Day Event – Remember those who have passed away (at Lotus) 11.30 Creative Writing Group 2pm Tai Chi Group	8 11am Remembrance Day Event at GoMA 1pm Reconciling Histories Showcase at The Edge, SLQ	9 11am Dance & Movement 1pm Lotus Art Group	10 10am Mindful Movement
13 Gympie Group Remembrance Day	14 Morning Tea 9.30 - 11.30am 11.30 Creative Writing Group 2pm Tai Chi Group	15	16 11am Dance & Movement 1pm Lotus Art Group	17 10am Mindful Movement
20 Caboolture Group Remembrance Day	21 9.30am Reconciling Histories Review Session @The Edge Morning Tea 9.30 - 11.30am 10.30am Aging to Perfection 2pm Tai Chi Group	22 1pm Movie Session	23 9.30am Reconciling Histories Showcase Pack up @The Edge	24 10am Mindful Movement
27	28 No Activities Due to Organisational	29 No Activities Due to Organisational	30 11am Dance & Movement 1pm Lotus Art Group	(1 <sup>st</sup> October) 10am Mindful Movement

## Aging to Perfection

A group for the young at heart that will help you sail through your golden years, 'like the young people we still are inside'!

If you're interested you're most welcome to join us. If you have any questions ring Lotus and ask to speak to Mal. (Wednesdays to Fridays on 33478500)

Aging to Perfection group offers people an opportunity to get together and share their experiences, discuss ideas and gain practical insights and information on ageing well.

We have guest speakers to come in and share their knowledge with us on relevant topics, so please join us!

**When: 10.30am, Tuesday 21st September at Lotus Place Stones Corner.**



The Macleay island group with Anne Livingstone and one of her workers and one of her students.

# Lotus Open Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9am-3pm	9am – 5pm	12pm-5pm	9am-5pm	9am – 5pm
<b>Due to COVID-19 THERE IS NO CASUAL DROP IN</b> <b>it is <u>important</u> to confirm before attending Lotus Place</b> Please phone Lotus Place on 3347 8500				
<b>Creative Writing</b> 10am – 12pm  <b>Gympie Group**</b> <i>(monthly)</i> 11.30am – 1.30pm  <b>Caboolture Group**</b> <i>(monthly)</i> 9.30am - 12pm	<b>Morning Tea</b> <b>Lotus / The Edge</b> <i>(expression of interest to attend)</i> 9.30am—11.30am  <b>Creative Writing</b> 11.30am – 1pm  <b>Tai Chi</b> 2pm - 3pm	<b>Guitar Players Group</b> <i>(monthly)</i> 1pm - 2.30pm	<b>Gold Coast Group**</b> <i>(monthly)</i> 11am – 2pm  <b>Dance &amp; Movement</b> 11am-12.15pm  <b>Art Group</b> 1pm-3pm	<b>Mindfulness Movement</b> 10am – 11am
<b>**held externally;</b> Up to date information is available on our website <a href="http://www.lotusplace.org.au">www.lotusplace.org.au</a> under ' <b>News &amp; Events</b> '				



The lotus flower has its origins and roots in the muddy waters below the surface, yet above the water is a beautiful resilient flower. After a consultative process the Lotus Flower was chosen as both a metaphor and image to represent the journey from adversity to hope.

46 Cleveland Street, Stones Corner Q 4120  
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101  
Phone [07 3347 8500](tel:0733478500) or [1800 16 11 09](tel:1800161109) | Fax [07 3347 8590](tel:0733478590)  
[lotus@micahprojects.org.au](mailto:lotus@micahprojects.org.au) | [www.lotusplace.org.au](http://www.lotusplace.org.au)

Lotus Place is an activity of Micah Projects

