

Lillypad

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



www.lotusplace.org.au | North Queensland | January 2021

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Happy New Year

Hi Folks and Welcome to 2021. We hope you are travelling well and ready for a good year of activities, entertainment and adventure! Because! Have we got an exciting list of plans and events for You!

We have the Arts program coming up which will feature various forms of art such as painting, welding, sculpture, clay work and more.....

We also have the camps included in our calendar. We'll host camps in the 3 regions of Townsville, Burdekin, Charters Towers and Ingham. Cairns, Tablelands and Herberton & the Mackay, Sarina and Whitsundays.

Due to an increase in participants accessing Lotus Place Support Services, we are also extending the outreach visits to the Tablelands from Cairns and out to Charters Towers from Townsville. We will alternate the peer groups between Cairns and the Tablelands and have organised a bus from the Atherton Community Centre to provide return transport to Cairns from the Herberton and Tablelands district.

There has been some role changes in the Townsville Lotus Place Office. We have Jacek who is now the DRC (Disability Royal Commission) Counsellor and Misty has moved into the Redress Support Worker Role. Lotus Place Support Services would also like to announce the appointment of Holly Whyte who is the new administration support worker, so please make her feel welcome next time you drop into the office.

We look forward to catching up with you all, visiting the regions and attending camps, art workshops and other events throughout the year and hope you can join me for a cuppa and chat, with a bit of adventure and fun along the way. Please call or drop in anytime, you're most welcome. Thank you – Jacqui

Upcoming Events: February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Townsville Peer Group 11am 382 Sturt St, Townsville City	3 Burdekin Peer Group 11am Burdekin Library – 108 Graham St	4	5	6
7	8	9 Townsville Peer Group 11am 382 Sturt St, Townsville City	10 Mackay Peer Group 11am Jubilee Community Centre	11	12	13
14	15	16 Townsville Peer Group 11am 382 Sturt St, Townsville City	17 Far North QLD Peer Group (Atherton) 11am	18	19	20
21	22	23 Townsville Peer Group 11am 382 Sturt St, Townsville City	24	25 Crafty Group – Sewing Tote Bags 10am 382 Sturt St, Townsville	26	27
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Australian Orphanage Museum Opening

We know that you are keenly interested in the Historic experiences of the 500,000 children who grew up in orphanages, children's homes, and other institutions and foster care in Australia up to the end of the twentieth century. We are excited to be able to announce and publicise the Australian Orphanage Museum, which will be located at 351 Ryrie Street, Geelong, Victoria.

Pending completion of the transition arrangements, the temporary Museum will continue to operate at 62 McKillop Street, Geelong. Details are at: <https://clan.org.au/australian-orphanage-museum/geelong-hosts-australian-orphanage-museum/>

The collection at the Museum is unique in demonstrating children's experiences of the Child Welfare system. It holds precious memories for those whose childhood was long ignored and has great significance also for the families of Care Leavers. Few if any children were allowed to have personal possessions. A childhood possession such as a doll, football socks, or marbles had more significance for these children possibly than for other children.

The Museum will also serve to remind the Australian community of this important part of Australian history. It is a means of broadening Australia's understanding of a part of childhood history which was long ignored and forgotten. The Care system often operated behind closed doors so most Australians, prior to the Senate Inquiry and the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse—and the National Apologies that followed—were unaware of the impoverished conditions and bleak reality for many of these children. The items and history on display bring this reality to light. Showing the collection and sharing the history, and what it represents of past attitudes to children, can inform our present perceptions of out-of-home Care and inform future policies and perspectives.

We warmly invite you to visit the temporary Museum. We think you will find many items that will stimulate thought and discussion. If you cannot come in person we have sample items on our website at <https://clan.org.au/australian-orphanage-museum/> and further items are available on eHive at: <https://ehive.com/objects?query=orphanage>.

We also invite you to consider contributing further items to the Museum so that our collection can continue to grow and diversify. All donations are duly acknowledged. We will do our best to make the Museum a meaningful experience for everyone who visits, but we know that there are people with expertise in museum policies and operations only too willing to suggest ways we can show items in even better ways. Your suggestions for improvements will be very positively welcomed.

Finally, we warmly encourage you to spread the word among others in your network. We want the Australian Orphanage Museum to be a community space that is always bursting with visitors.

Hooroo
Leonie Sheedy OAM
CEO CLAN
ceo@clan.org.au

Participant Farewell: Gavin Pryor

It is with heavy hearts we say goodbye to one of our Lotus Place family, Gavin Pryor, who passed away on the 17th December. Gavin was a regular in Townsville always coming along to peer lunches, fishing group and other events. Gavin's funeral was held on Friday 22nd January



NRL Footy Tipping Competition 2021

After the disaster that was the NRL 2020 season, we have dusted ourselves off and are raring to go again for 2021! It is free to enter and we will have bigger and better prizes!

The season kicks off on Thursday 11th March... so call Misty or Holly on 4722 8100 if you are interested in playing along!!

PS. GO COWBOYS!!!!

New Arts Project for Lotus Place in 2021

Reconciling Histories: Recollecting, Reconnecting, and Reclaiming the journey.

This is a visual art project is designed to build skills, inspire imagination and support creative expression for Lotus Place participants.

Workshops will be on between April and August 2021, finishing with a public exhibition in September 2021, during Child Protection Week. It is happening in Brisbane, Townsville, and Rockhampton.

Professional artists will work alongside participants in a supportive environment where all involved will be encouraged to build skills, express themselves and develop a greater understanding of their own creative ability.

Through this project we hope to increase awareness in the community and generate a broader conversation about this part of Australia's dark history.

If you would like to be involved or would like more information, please contact Lotus Place in your region. Or email lotus.arts@micahprojects.org.au

Creative Space

The craft group in Townsville has undergone a face change in 2021 based on participant feedback. Each month will have a set theme and project allowing you to attend if it's something that interests you!

February sees us dust off our sewing machines and coming along for a morning of sewing, community and best of all... a new tote bag made by you!

Date: Thursday 24th February commencing at 10am

Things to Bring!

- Sewing Machine
- ½ metre woven fabric for outside
- ½ metre woven fabric for inside
- OPTIONAL ½ metre fabric for pockets
- Scissors/ thread/ pins

If you would like to participate but don't have any of the supplies, please come along anyway we have plenty of spares!

If you are interested in learning a craft or skill, call the office and let Holly know so we can schedule it in!

What do YOU want to see in YOUR newsletter?

We want to hear from YOU. This newsletter is your voice. Is there something you want to share?

Send in your photographs, paintings, any newspaper articles you may have come across; a poem you wrote or a thought you had, and we will put it in the next newsletter.

If you have something, you'd like to share with the Lotus Place community, please contact us on (07) 4722 8100 or lotusnq@micahprojects.org.au



The lotus flower has its origins and roots in the muddy waters below the surface, yet above the water it 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.

Lotus Place NQ

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Open hours – Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday 9am – 3pm; Monday 11:30am – 3pm

Call anytime for support and referral over the phone

Lotus Place is an activity of Micah Projects

