

MANAGER - THOMAS JITHIN

My name is Thomas Jithin and it is my pleasure to bring forward this edition of the newsletter as the new manager for the Donald Simpson Community Centre.

It is with profound interest and great humility I take on the position as Manager for the Donald Simpson Community Centre, and I know that my previous work as the Operations Manager for the Education and Training Industry & the Sporting Industry, has given me the experience to develop strong relationships with the community and with various industry stake holders.

To be part of this wonderful organisation and a great community is truly the biggest asset of all. I am fortunate and grateful that I have around me a very strong and committed team of Board members, DSCC staff, convenors and volunteers to work with. I am looking forward to a new and exciting era whilst maintaining the harmony and culture that has made this centre successful over the years.

I am committed to working personally with each one of you, and I am willing to hear from our members if they would like to see any further activities included at the Donald Simpson Community Centre, or if you have any general concerns at all. I will look into all your suggestions, and I am open to making viable suggestion/change in consultation with the Board if it will benefit your community. You can reach me at manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com.

To fulfil our mission of enhancing and enriching the quality of life of mature citizens through activity and friendship, I look forward to working closely with various industry stakeholders and the Redland City Council. Together I believe we will be able to help the community and make a difference.

2015 has many programs, education seminars, and art show, Seniors Week activities, etc. lined up at the Donald Simpson Community Centre. You can keep up to date with events happening each month via our newsletter or emails. The Centre has an active webpage and Facebook page. Bring your friends or relatives along for any of these activities, or simply for a tour of the Donald Simpson Centre.

Kind regards

Thomas Jithin

Centre Manager

172 Bloomfield Street Cleveland 4163 PO Box 977 Cleveland

Telephone: 3821 1089 Fax: 3821 6833 Email: contact@donaldsimpsoncentre.com Web: www.donaldsimpsoncentre.com



Thomas, John and Merlin

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to be able to introduce the new Manager of the Donald Simpson Community Centre, Thomas Jithin. Thomas has lived in Australia for ten years, coming to us from Dubai. He has a solid business background and has worked with people in his earlier positions. The Management Committee welcomes Thomas and is sure that we can work together to ensure the welfare of our current membership as well as attracting new members into the Centre to maintain a solid membership base for the benefit of the community of the Redlands.

The Management Committee is engaged in a number of projects to develop a Centre that will continue to meet the needs of our current membership while seeking to develop it gradually to make it attractive to future members as has previously been explained.

We are involved in discussions with other organisations in examining the possibility of future expansion of the Centre to create a community hub which will bring together on this site a number of like-minded organisations which can share facilities and other resources in order to better serve their respective clients many of whom are common to a number of organisations. Such organisations could include, besides ours, U3A Redlands, STAR Transport and the Redland District Committee on the Ageing (RDCOTA).

This hub is, at present, an unformed concept but work is progressing to give it shape for consideration by the respective organisations which may eventually want to participate. Of course, the Redland City Council holds the key to the progress of this idea as it owns the Donald Simpson building and the Donald Simpson Park into which any expansion would extend. A not small consideration is the funding which would be required to plan and execute such a project. Needless to say, then, this is not a short-term project and members need not feel concerned that they will arrive for their chosen activity one day soon to find a Community Hub on the premises.

What can be expected however, as funds become available, is that there will be some renovations occurring to our present facility. Plans are being prepared for the renovation, when possible, of the kitchen, café, reception areas to make our area of first impression more attractive. It is also envisaged that the gardens around the front of the building will be remodelled to provide some colour and, hopefully, some herbs for our kitchen. Our wish list for the future includes remodelling of the stage and backstage areas of the auditorium, rainwater tanks and solar panels to reduce our reliance on the grid which is becoming ever more expensive.

We hope our members will support us in these endeavours by continuing to attend the Centre for activities and enjoying our café. Encouraging the next generation, who are our children, to participate in activities or to suggest new ones which they would enjoy.

We have introduced a few new initiatives which we hope will be supported. These include: creative writing; IPad tuition; petangue and therapeutic massage for members only.

All of these initiatives rely on our being able to attract funds to enable us to meet our financial obligations. We are seeking grant funding and welcome other suggestions from members for obtaining funds in order to maintain our service without increasing the costs for members.

Tony Christinson - Chairman, Management Committee

KICK UP YOUR HEELS With some Boot Scootin'Fun

The benefits of line dancing are many.

Do you know "According to Dr.Oz...?

Line Dancing is one of the best ways to help ward off dementia,

It also helps to keep bones & muscles strong.

But most of all its FUN FUN FUN!

Come and join this happy group, and see how line dancing has changed into a modern dance craze around the world. Dance to the latest hits from a diverse range of music, whilst you meet new people and exercise.

Monday 11.30 -12.30pm. (Beginners) followed by Improver, Intermediate & Advanced.

NEW BEGINNER CLASS THURSDAY



EVENING 6.30 -7.30PM.

Contact: Liz Keenan 3821 4379

elizabethkeenan15@gmail.com

Or just turn up to the Donald Simpson Centre.



Auction Bridge

A group of happy players meet on Monday afternoons 12-30 - 5.00 pm to play. Some members finish at 4.00 pm. We play for two hours, break for afternoon tea then resume at 3.00 pm.

New players are always welcome, as are people who would like to learn the game. Just front up by 12.20 pm or ring the Centre on 3821 1089 for more information.

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Mrs. Betty Fox. Betty led the group for many years. We miss her cheerful welcome and commitment to Auction Bridge.

Sonia Cox

Convenor

Education: that which reveals to the wise, and conceals from the stupid, the vast limits of their knowledge.

Mark Twain

Thursday Canasta

We have a very pleasant group of players but newcomers are always welcome. If you like playing cards, it won't take you long to get use to our particular kind of Canasta. Just be at the Centre by 12 noon and our regulars will show you the way.

We wish you all a pleasant Easter,

Rudi and Marti Convenors





Theatricals

Our latest production "Generation Gap" ended to rave reviews and wonderful attendances for all 3 dates. Our group is up and raring to go for our next show "England Swings". This is a musical comedy set in London in the 1960s. It presents a wonderful opportunity to go mad with costumes, props and, of course, the fab music of the 60s. "Georgie Girl", "Downtown", "Anyone who had a Heart" and "Ferry cross the Mersey" to name just a few. With artists such as the Seekers, The Beatles, Lulu and Cilla Black and so many other wonderful artists the theatrical team thoroughly enjoying the music so why not come and join us? We always need helpers and new talent so come in on a Tuesday morning and see what we do? Our auditorium is fitted with a hearing loop.

Show dates are Sunday the 16th of August, Saturday the 22nd of August and Sunday the 23rd of August. All shows begin at 2.00 pm. Tickets are only \$12 which includes tea/coffee and a yummy biscuit.

Why not come early to the show and enjoy the food available from our newly managed kitchen? Mary will have a selection of light meals, cakes and quality espresso coffee, available from 11.00 to 1.00 pm on show days.

Pilates

<u>Supporting Functional Fitness & Well-being</u>

When we are young, it's easy to get away without giving much thought to our core strength and the role it plays in supporting a healthy and functionally fit strong spine.

As time passes and the years roll by, inactivity and gravity forces us to sit and take notice of our changing bodies. Bone mass decreases and this increases the possibility of one day suffering from a debilitating fracture.

A regular Pilates practice will promote strength with balanced muscle development, as well as enhanced mobility and flexibility. Pilates "Strong Bones" incorporates the use of light hand weights (dumbbells) to assist in building muscle tone and bone strength.

Pilates will strengthen and tone your entire body, as well as correct and improve posture and spine alignment. Your joints will feel more fluid and mobile; you will feel fitter, more flexible and *FABULOUS*.

Whether you are just starting to exercise, an already fit and active person, or somewhere in between...the practice of Pilates is for everybody and everybody will benefit from a regular Pilates practice.

CLASSES

Tuesday 5.30 pm - 6.30 pm - Pilates Mat Work

Friday 10.00am-11.00 am - Pilates "Strong Bones"

DSC Members \$11 (Mats available)

Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Faye Keogh 0427 067 887
Registered and qualified personal

Stockland Cleveland Just Rewards Club

If you're aged over 55, we'd like to invite you to join the Stockland Cleveland Just Rewards Club. It's completely free. Members receive:

Just Rewards membership card, seasonal newsletters, special retail offers, entry into Just Rewards competitions, entry to special annual seniors events.

Please contact Centre Management (located upstairs in the Woolworths Mall) for more information to join. Phone: (07) 3286 4311

Parchment Craft

Hello to all readers of this Newsletter. Hopefully everyone had a good Christmas and New Year Celebrations with family and friends. To those who are hobby addicted, and mind you there are lots out there, have presented the outcome of their Christmas holidays, with extraordinary projects. For us in the Parchment Craft class, Myra Bearne is a good example of that addiction. She

dressed a doll, and finished two A3 size projects, a boat and a bride amongst other things. But in saying this, everyone in the class has improved and are creating wonderful projects of their own, a testament of which was the extensive range of display during the Art Show last year. Hopefully this year, we can better that.

The Parchment craft class has grown and is still growing, and at present, it is full to capacity. I am prepared to start another Parchment Craft Class on another day, depending on the availability of

Massage Therapy Available

at the Donald Simpson Community Centre. Monday 9.00 am - 12.30 pm Tuesday 1.00 pm - 4.30 pm Huge discounts for

Donald Simpson Centre Members only. Pamper yourself a little. Appointments necessary

> Health fund rebates may apply Contact: 0417 637 389

Diane: Diploma Remedial Massage

15 years experience.



the Activity rooms.

We are a bunch of jolly and lovely ladies who always have fun as everyone comments that they always hear laughter in our room. As the Convenor, I have always emphasized: "consider your hobby second, but treasure the friendship and camaraderie that is formed in this class first and foremost".

Tuesdays, 8:30-12 noon - Anyone who wants to start a hobby with or without experience with the craft are always welcome. For more information please contact Flor on 3206 4869/ 0438 320 648.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership subscription renewals are due at the end of June 2015. This is just a little reminder to forewarn you. There is no need to rush in now, all flustered because you think you have forgotten. It is still only \$16.50 per annum to be a member.



Out With a Difference

Sunday, 19th - Watercress Creek Olive Festival at Pine Mountain. With 3 different varieties of olives, and Tahitian lime trees grown, there are chutneys, cordials, olive products and jams, and many other gourmet foods available for purchase. Music will be played throughout the day. Lunch will be at

Brothers Leagues Club. BYO morning tea.

Wednesday, 22nd – Enjoy a day out in the Gold Coast hinterland with scenic viewing at Springbrook, the land of waterfalls and lookouts. We will visit "Canon Lookout" with views of the escarpment and waterfalls. We have a new venue for lunch today at Scuttlebutt Café.

Wednesday, 29th – Step back in time and discover the cinematic world of costumes of the Golden Age of Hollywood at the City Hall Museum. The exhibition will let you have a glimpse of the Hollywood from the 1920's to the 1960's.

<u>MAY</u>

APRIL

Wednesday, 6th – Be entertained by "The Tenors" – (Andrew Pryor and David Kidd) Caloundra RSL. Morning tea and lunch, (alternate drop) included. 40 people needed for this trip to proceed.

Friday, 8th – Treat yourself to a Mothers Day Luncheon at Flaxton Gardens in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast. Morning tea will be at Landsborough, then on to Montville where you will have time for a wander before going on to Flaxton where you will have views of the coastline from Noosa to Moreton Island.

Wednesday, 13th - Take this opportunity to take a guided tour of the new ABC Centre at Southbank. Your tour may include a visit to the state-of-the-art Media Production studio, an on-air radio studio as well as an insight into a variety of other ABC services. Groups of 15 will be taken at different times, giving each group time to visit the museum, or just wander around Southbank. Plenty of outlets for you to buy lunch are available.

Sunday, 17th - Wander the Village Markets at Burleigh Heads State School regarded as the best of boutique markets on the Gold Coast. Lunch today will include the very popular Seafood Buffet at Danny's Restaurant at the Coolangatta and Tweed Heads Golf Club.

Wednesday, 20th – Sit back and enjoy a cruise along the Pumicestone Passage whilst listening to a running commentary about the flora, fauna and history of the area. Morning tea and a buffet lunch will be served on board.

Friday, 29th – Don't miss our "Late Autumn" Mystery Tour. These trips are popular, so book early.

<u>JUNE</u>

Wednesday, 3rd – Dirty Dancing – Lyric Theatre – waitlisted.

Wednesday, 5th – Ipswich Heritage Guided Tour – Devonshire Tea and the Visitors Information Centre and lunch at Brothers Leagues Club.

Wednesday, 17th – Back to the Tivoli – a musical variety show, hosted by Wayne Cornell. Book early for this popular show. Coach only option available. Friday, 19th – Mango Hill Farm Tour at Peachester. Viewing by bus or foot. Lunch will be at the same venue – quiche, fresh garden salad, juice, dessert, tea and coffee.

Thursday, 25th – Arts Centre and Museum – Bribie Island. Morning tea at Spinnaker Sound and lunch at the Blue Pacific Hotel on the ocean side of the island.

Monday 29th - "Dare to Dream" presented by Disney on Ice. Brisbane Entertainment Centre, 10.00 am.

<u>JULY</u>

Wednesday 1st – Dirty Dancing – Lyric Theatre. Second show.

Monday 6th - Try a little retail therapy at Harbour Town Discount shops - many brand name stores with discounted items. Free morning tea in the Coach Lounge and many food outlets to buy lunch.

t With a Difference

Saturday 11th - Visit the Queensland Garden expo., now in its 30th year, for ideas for your spring garden. 55 nurseries and over 300 exhibitors represented. A "plant cloakroom" is available and many food outlets where you can purchase your lunch

Wednesday 15th - Christmas in July, Caloundra RSL. Featuring the Elton John Tribute Show. Morning tea, lunch and entertainment included. 40 minimum needed for this trip to proceed.

Thursday, 23rd - Enjoy a guided tour of the historic Caloundra Lighthouses. There will be time to browse the main street of Caloundra where you can purchase your lunch.

Wednesday 29th - Celebrate Christmas in Winter in the private function room at Buderim Tavern. Enjoy a warm fire and amazing coastal views while dining. Morning tea will be at Caboolture and there will be time for a stroll around Buderim.

AUGUST

Wednesday, 5th - Anything Goes - Lyric Theatre waitlisted.

Sunday, 9th - Spend the morning wandering around the 10 acres and 500 plus stalls of the Carrara Markets. There is something for everyone. Lunch will be at the Southport RSL.

Wednesday, 12th - Bay Breezes - Toorbul Point. Enjoy a leisurely drive to Toorbul Point for morning tea at Toorbul Esplanade. We continue on to Donnybrook where, weather permitting, we can stroll along South Esplanade taking in Pumicestone Passage views. Lunch will be at Caboolture RSL.

Wednesday, 19th - Back to the Tivoli - a musical variety show - presented by Wayne Cornell. A Seniors Week Community Event, this trip is one price only.

Friday, 21st - Pohlmans Nursery, Gatton. A Seniors Week Community Event, this trip is one price only. Includes morning tea, train ride and

Wednesday, 26th – Anything Goes – Lyric Theatre. Second show. Waitlisted.

Sunday, 30th - Australian Outback Spectacular -Myths and Legends. A stunning new show taking us on a captivating journey to the High Country where enchanted whispers and legendary yarns come alive. A new three course menu and drinks available now. "Australiana At Its Best"

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, 22nd Carnival of Flowers, Toowoomba. Includes 3 Chronicle Exhibition gardens. Lunch will be at the Harlaxton Hotel.

OCTOBER

Wednesday 7th - Strictly Ballroom - the musical. Lyric Theatre 1.00pm

Wednesday 14th - Back to the Tivoli - a musical variety show. Twin Towns Showroom. Coach only option available.

DECEMBER

Wednesday 9th - Back to the Tivoli - a Christmas Variety concert. Twin Towns Showroom. Coach only option available.

Thursday, 17th – The Nutcracker Battle With the Queensland Ballet. Playhous Theatre, QPAC

Cancellations

If you need to cancel a trip, please do so before the balance due by date. This date is not just plucked out of the air. It is the date when we have to pay for tickets and/or venues. Once we have paid, and there is no waiting list, you will lose your money. If we can on sell your ticket there will be a \$6.00 administration fee. If we, or the venue, cancel a trip (usually because of lack of numbers) you will receive a full refund. Money can be transferred to another trip or, if a cheque has been issued, it can be used to pay for a trip.

Deposits

We require that a deposit be paid when booking in person, or within 5 working days if by phone. If bookings are heavy, and you have not paid a deposit, we will assume you have decided not to go and will book someone else. You will not be notified.

Membership Cards your card when booking trips. We do need to enter your membership number on our booking sheets to avoid confusion when we have members of the same name.

Ten Years Ago - Front page of April 2005 "Over Fifties Flyer" Donald Simpson Centre - First to use ecoBiz in Queensland

The Donald Simpson Centre will be one of the first sites in Queensland to complete ecoBiz. This new program encourages various businesses to become more eco-efficient.

Redland Shire Council is the first local government in the State to use ecoBiz to help local businesses and it has encouraged the Donald Simpson Centre to adopt this new process.

As well as driving the program, Council is keen to be involved directly, to experience what it is like firsthand.

The term eco-efficiency generally means reducing costs (in energy, waste and water),

while keeping the same supply of goods and services.

Eco-efficiency is important to all businesses to ensure that goods and services are delivered as cost-effectively as possible.

We are delighted the Donald Simpson Centre has

embraced the program. This means some changes as measures are carried out, including; installing energy efficient lighting;

Replacing kettle boilers with more efficient

instantaneous zip boilers;

Replacing the small freezer with a refrigerator/freezer, so the cool room can be turned off when not in use;

Planting shrubs/trees to shade the western walls of the centre, to reduce cooling costs.

Erecting signage about energy efficiency; and providing information on how to be ecoefficient at home.

At the Centre, people can be eco-



Ernie Harrison and Mayor Don Seccombe

efficient by:

Turning off lights, air-conditioning, appliances and computers when they are not in use and using some of the Helpful Hints on display in the Centre to save money at home.

This is a new business project in the Redlands which will benefit people who take it on board.

AUTUMN /WINTER FASHION PARADE

Donald Simpson Community Centre, 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland Saturday, 30th May 2015

10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Featuring

utumn Collection by two local retailers

Entertainment

Light Lunch

Door Prize

Raffles

Contact Janette for more information 3206 3531

Tickets available at Donald Simpson Centre, 20th April, 2105 - Price \$15.00

BOOK NOW

Tai Chi

Tai Chi for Health and Arthritis courses are an ideal way for people to improve their Health, Relaxation and improve one's Balance and their General Wellbeing. Course content includes;

Tai Chi for Health and Arthritis Form

Relaxation Techniques

Qigong (Chi Kung)

Balance Exercises

Gentle Exercises for Strong Bones

New Tai Chi for Health and Arthritis courses are starting on Monday 20th April at 11.30 am and Thursday 23rd April at 6.30 pm. Ideal for all ages and is not combat orientated. Including all levels of performance from beginners to advanced levels everyone is welcome.

For more information and bookings please phone; Shane Coop

3841 5574 or 0418 878 545



ERNIE HARRISON'S BLANKET DRIVE

Our annual Blanket Drive is still going to happen. Clean blankets are collected here each year to be forwarded on to those in need.

Ernie Harrison started this drive in his early days here, and over the years many blankets have been collected. Because of the great success of this venture, it was moved and carried at the 2014 DSCC AGM that the blanket drive be known as the Ernie Harrison Blanket Drive. It is hoped that Ernie will continue to help promote this activity.

Blankets are being collected now.

Ballroom Dancing

As we commence 2015, we welcome back everyone and are looking forward to another wonderful year of dancing. Our Christmas Dance was well attended and a great night was had by all.

Our dances are held on Tuesday afternoons and the second Saturday night of the month, excluding January and October.

New dancers are always welcome, but need to have some knowledge of sequence dances. Classes will commence on !3th April at 1.30 pm.

On Saturday 14th February, we held a St. Valentine's dance which was very successful, and another theme dance was our St. Patrick's Day dance on Saturday 14th March, also a success.

Our Winter Ball will be held on Saturday 13th June. There will be live music and prizes. Tickets need to be pre-paid and cost just \$10.00. Contact convenors

Elaine - 0413 686 982 /07 32076964 Doreen - 0407 157 556

Indoor Bowls

I would like to welcome all our new members to our bowls. Our competitions are starting up this month and the next on April 1st. Hopefully we will do well this year. We have a few on the sick list at the moment. We hope you will be back with us soon. Indoor bowls are on Thursday afternoons at 1.00 pm and Friday mornings at 9.00 am every week.

Congratulations to our teams who came first (pictured below) and third in the annual Redlands Sporting Club competition. A great start to the year, with more to come.

Stop Press: Our winning team have just won the Bonnie Moore Shield.



Bill Wilson, Gordon Giles, Warren Uren, Gail Moore

Ian Black -

One of our energetic table tennis and indoor bowls players, Ian Black made front page news on a recent copy of the Redland City Bulletin when he finally received his service medal.

It took 40 years, apparently because of a computer glitch, for the ex-soldier, a former Australian Defence Corporal, to finally get his medal. He says that even though it was a long time ago, it is important for him to be able to display his Australian Defence Medal, which is awarded to personnel who completed four years of service, during this year's Anzac Day parade.

lan worked as a physical training instructor for the Defence Force and represented the army in cross-country running in various parts of Australia. He still keeps in touch with friends made when in the service.

Ian has lived in the Redlands for 30 years, and has been a member of the Donald Simpson Centre for 12 months.



You are invited to attend a session
On

Senior Safety

"Strategies relating to elder abuse, including use of enduring power of attorney, & what protection and services are available"

Presented By: Les Jackson Coordinator, Elder Abuse Prevention

Venue: Donald Simpson Community Centre

Address: 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland

Date & Time: Wednesday 22
April at 10.00am

Morning tea will be provided courtesy of Bendigo Community Bank, Victoria Point

Hearing Loop will be available for this session



Victoria Point Community Bank^a Branch

RSVP: 3821 1089 or contact@donaldsimpsoncentre.com

PLEASE NOTE: Lecture

Wednesday, May 27 - 10.00 am to noon Internet Security: Ken Dickson.

Designing the new DSC logo

by Joy Hinckley

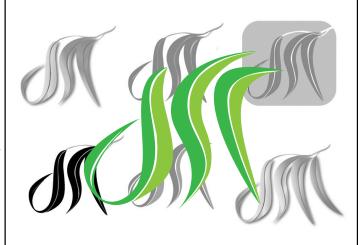
Did you notice it, on the front page? A bright new logo for the Donald Simpson Centre. Tony Christinson

asked me to come up with a logo for the centre which reflected the special place that it is. I asked Tony and Noni, "What makes the DSC special?" and they summed it up for me: *The Donald Simpson Community Centre is a place, nestled among the trees, where new life and growth happens for older people.*

New life, growth, and parklands...this immediately suggested beautiful fresh green leaves. I decided

to try to make a logo which portrayed the initials "DSC" as leaves.

The logo concept started as a more realistic rendering of the three leaves attached to a branch, with the colours going from autumnal to spring. I decided this was too illustrative and not graphic enough to be a logo. It went through quite a lot of refinements and trials (including one with an extra "C" for "Community") before the final form took shape. Here are some of the variations (without the colours, of course).



MATILDA'S QUILTERS

We are having a wonderful year so far with increased membership and attendance numbers way up. Our Show and Tell segment each week produces some extraordinary items. We are continuing with our

monthly workshops which are quite popular. We have a trade table each month where members can bring along things to sell and they can either donate totally to Matilda's or pay a commission of 10%.

We are all looking forward to our celebration of the 20 year anniversary of Matilda's beginning at the Donald Simpson Centre and we still have a few original members who attend the centre regularly. Some of the ladies have put together a scrap book to show the progression of Matilda's over the years. This will be put on display at our luncheon planned for beginning of May.



Already this year we have celebrated three big 0 birthdays, and our oldest attending member turned 94 and is still stitching!!

We are still producing items for charities in our local community. Whenever someone requests something for a charity, I am amazed at how quickly our ladies respond so positively. Thank you to all the wonderful members who support us each week. Marie (Convenor)

Donations

Thanks to donations of plants from our treasurer Paul Barnes, we now have a herb garden at the Donald Simpson Centre. Donations from members will be gratefully received.



Thank you also to Janette and Chris Sheehan for their donation of a projector.

Our travel convener, Lyn Finn, is also very appreciative of the many donations she receives for her bus raffles.

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FRIDAY CRAFT

Our Friday Craft group meets on a Friday morning from 8.30 to 11.30 am. Come along and join us, even if it is just for a "cuppa" New faces are always welcome.

Please note that our annual "Big Morning Tea" is on again this year on Friday, 8th May.

Way With Lour leader, Val Henry Ifference

The first quarter of 2015 has passed and our touring program is well under way. 25 folk celebrated Christmas in Coffs Harbour and with lots of sightseeing and attractions included in our tour, a great time was had by all. Our dining experiences were "something else" as all meals at our Motel including "Christmas Lunch" were served in the Bavarian Restaurant, we soon came to appreciate the German influence in our menus.

Our short break to Melbourne in January again showed us the variance in Melbourne weather, We went from grease spots at the Aust Open (high 30's) to a cool change (low 20's) over night. The Forest Glade Gardens and astonishing "Stokes Collection" of antique porcelain, china, tapestries and paintings amazed us as this is the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and is a private collection available for group viewing by appointment only. Those who took the 2 free days option travelled the Great Ocean Road and saw the little penguins at Phillip Island.

30th April – 2nd June, 2015 - Spain & Portugal. 18 day land tour followed by a 12 day Mediterranean Cruise from Barcelona to Venice. 35 very excited folk will be flying with Emirates to Singapore for a stopover which includes local sightseeing and a visit to the "Gardens by the Bay" complex. A short transit in Dubai then on to Madrid. A very comprehensive land tour of Spain & Portugal is followed by cruising to Rome, Mykonos, Istanbul and other interesting ports before arriving in Venice. As usual this tour is tailored especially for our group so it will be really special.

24th July 2015 - Cook Islands (10 days) incorporating the "Te Maeva Nui Festival—the major or most important celebrations" the granting of self rule in 1965. Lots to see and do on this South Sea Island, including meeting and dining with the friendly local folk in their homes, Lagoon cruising and an afternoon/evening visit to Te Vara Nui Polynesian Village. Great trip!!

<u>SEATS STILL AVAILABLE</u>. 11th - 18th July, 2015. "Christmas in July on Norfolk Island." This is a very special tour featuring evening concerts with Glenn A Baker and featuring Normie Rowe, Susan Prentice, John Rowles and the Legends of Rock. Island Tours, Fish Fry at Puppy's Point and a Progressive Dinner to Island homes as well as a fabulous "Christmas Lunch" feast, great accommodation, all breakfasts and most dinners are included in our package. This is a very popular event. Book asap. Seats still available.

24th September 2015 - Spring in Tasmania (13 days). A comprehensive tour visiting the beautiful Table Cape Tulips, Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens, Cradle Mountain & Dove Lake, West Coast Wilderness Railway, Grindlewald, and many other outstanding attractions.



Table Cape Tulips

20th-30th December - Royal Caribbean's "Legend of the Seas" CHRISTMAS CRUISE (11 days) departing from Brisbane. We cruise to Mare, New Caledonia, Lifou, Loyalty Island and Mystery Island, Champagne Bay and Port Vila, Vanuatu, before returning to Brisbane. A truly wonderful way to celebrate Christmas with friends.

23rd December - 1st January,2016. (10 days)

Christmas in Victoria's South East Coast & High Country. After flying into Melbourne, we travel by coach to Leongatha (1 nt) Lakes Entrance for our Christmas celebration, (2 nts) then into the High Country with its magnificent scenery of the Southern Alps. We stay in Myrtleford (3 nts) before journeying back to Melbourne (3 nts) to celebrate New Years Eve. Lots of amazing attractions, sightseeing, great accommodation and meals. This tour will be subject to 20 passengers travelling as coach costing is involved. Please deposit early to ensure trip proceeds.

2015 Touring Program,

Bookings open for most tours; Brochures available.

Download full itineraries, prices and contact details from our website.