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### *"Where Life Begins"*



### MISSION STATEMENT

***"To enhance and enrich the quality of life of the mature citizens of the City through activity and friendship"***

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Telephone: 3821 1089 Fax: 3821 6833  
Email: [contact@donaldsimpsoncentre.com](mailto:contact@donaldsimpsoncentre.com)  
Web: [www.donaldsimpsoncentre.com](http://www.donaldsimpsoncentre.com)

### Chairman's Christmas Message

How do you write a Christmas/end-of-year message without slipping into clichés such as "As we reach the end of another year...." or simply "Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year....."? It's not easy so I thought I'd admit that from the start and just write something.

We welcomed Manager, Thomas Jithin, to the Centre in March and by now most of you will have met Thomas and realised what a pleasant and capable Manager we have. I've dealt closely with Thomas since I met him at his interview and I can assure members that our choice was a good one and will be great for the Centre as Thomas settles in to the task he has of managing our Centre into an uncertain future.

Our committed volunteers have persevered with their efforts to maintain the operation of the Centre whether in the kitchen, around the Centre, and in the activities they convene. These dedicated people, who are paid only in terms of satisfaction, deserve the gratitude of all of us who frequent the Centre.

Revisiting that uncertain future mentioned above, I look forward to finding ways with all of you in positioning our Centre to cope with the diverse membership needs we can reasonably expect as we strive to cope with providing for the vast range of interests in our community.

Now, unable to conclude without saying what everybody else will be saying over coming weeks, "I wish you all a pleasant Christmas season and look forward to seeing you all again for an interesting and challenging 2016."

Chairman

*Tony Christusa*



## MANAGER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Seasons greetings to all members and friends of the Donald Simpson Centre.

We are nearing the holiday season and another year has gone swiftly by. As you all know, 2015 was the year I joined as the Manager of the Centre, and I have been very warmly welcomed by all to my new role and I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Those who have heard me speak at various venues, I kept highlighting that we are re-branding the Donald Simpson Community Centre. We have started small by having a new and improved look to our logo, being active on social medias, being more active with other social/community organisations, etc. We also have many of our members adopting the new look badge which is now available for purchase for all members. Next we will have Donald Simpson T-Shirts. Currently I am waiting to finalise the decision on color, and design to have it displayed and made available for all our members, which will be available by early 2016.

I am not sure how many of you think of making New Year resolutions? If you do, I would like to point you to our Website [www.donaldsimpsoncentre.com.au](http://www.donaldsimpsoncentre.com.au) It's a great place to get information about the Donald Simpson Community Centre including our fitness classes and trips. Your resolution might be to travel more, or to get back into a fitness activity. Whatever you decide I am sure we will be able to help you accomplish your resolution.

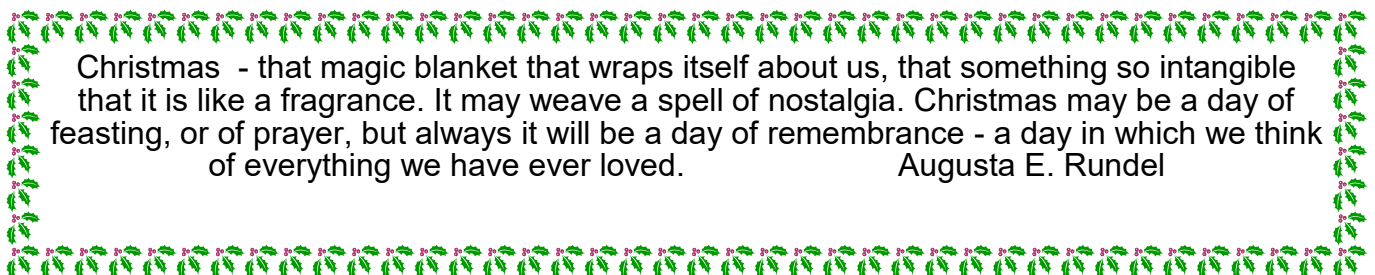
In our webpage there is a new photo gallery page, and for those who are into blogging, we have a space for that too. Check our Events page regularly to keep up to date with the information in and around the Centre. Most importantly, please share our website with your family and friends.

We are keen to see more activities at the Donald Simpson Centre, and am excited to let you know that we have re-introduced DARTS, and taken on new activities like TAP DANCING, PAPER CRAFT CLASSES, etc. I have been receiving requests to start a few more activities in the evening time slots, and we are looking for convenors who would like to do them too. More events, musical afternoons, more theatre performances, are all being planned at this stage for 2016, and will keep you all informed.

To conclude, I take this opportunity to once again thank my office team, Board Members, and all the volunteers at the Donald Simpson Centre, who have helped me accomplish tasks around the Centre to keep the Donald Simpson Centre as an evergreen Centre and as a second home to all its members.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and joyous and prosperous 2016.

Thomas Jithin, Manager



## The Christmas Carol

Many years before the early Christians sang carols, pagan songs were sung at the winter solstice, December 22, the shortest day of the year, as people danced around stone circles. It was not until the 12th Century that carols were formally introduced to church services. St. Francis of Assisi inspired composers and poets to deliver Christmas music. However it was not until the 14th century that the lighter, more joyous, carols were first sung.

It is thought the word "carol" is derived from the old French word "caroller" to dance around in a circle or "dance or song of praise." This in turn was derived from Latin "choraula" and the Greek "choraules".

During the Cromwellian period carols were banned but they were still sung in secret and so survived to this day.

The first public carol singers were called "waits", bands of singers made up of important local leaders. They only sang on Christmas Eve, often known as "waitnight" or "watchnight" because of the shepherds watching their sheep when the angels appeared.

Probably the best known carol, "Silent Night", was written by Joseph Mohr in 1818. Originally written in German, today it is sung in more than 180 languages. New traditions such as Carols by Candlelight have also become part of our Christmas celebrations.



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### Donald Simpson Community Centre Management Committee 2015 - 2016

Chairman  
Deputy Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer

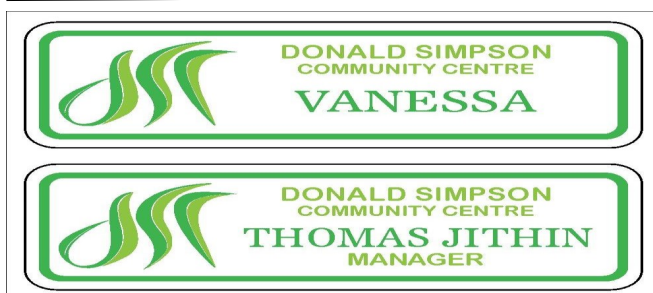
Mr. Tony Christinson  
Mr. John White  
Mr. Chris Sheehan  
Mr. Paul Barnes

Board Members: John Adams, Peter Armstrong, Jenny Chesher, Susan Denne, Marcell Gorman, Peter Mann, Robyn Robinson, Janette Sheehan

### Administration

Manager : Mr. Thomas Jithin  
Office Administrator : Mrs. Vanessa Wintour

Kitchen - Mrs. Mary Gardsen  
Away with a Difference - Mrs. Val Henry  
Out With A Difference - Mrs. Lyn Finn



*Have you got your new name badge?*

*See one of our staff at the office to place your order.*

*Only \$7.50*

## ACTIVITIES

### MONDAY

- 09.00 am to 12.00 pm - Mah Jong (Western Style) - Cheryl Gorrie
- 09.00 am to 11.30 am - Leatherwork - Ian Knight
- 09.30 am to 11.30 pm - U3A Life in Australia Lectures
- 09.30 am to 01.00 pm - Matilda's Quilters - Marie Innis
- 09.00 am to 12.00 pm - Remedial Massage (appt. necessary) -Diane Sant
- 10.30 am to 11.30 am - Tai Chi (intermediate) - Shane Coop
- 11.30 am to 12.30 pm - Tai Chi (beginners) -Shane Coop  
New course starts Monday February 1st at 11.30 am
- 12.30 am to 05.00 pm - Auction Bridge
- 01.30 pm to 03.30 pm - Ballroom Dancing (Practice Class)
- 11.30 am to 12.30 pm - Line Dancing (Beginners only) - Liz Keenan
- 12.30 pm to 04.00 pm - Line Dancing - Liz Keenan
- 01.00 pm to 04.00 pm - Scrabble - Lois Ward

### TUESDAY

- 06.30 am to 08.00 am - Walkers for Health - Carmel Mohr
- 08.30 am to 12.30 pm - Theatricals - Janette Sheehan
- 08.30 am to 12.00 pm - Parchment Craft - Flor Birkett
- 08.30 am to 12.00 pm - Creative Design - Sheree
- 09.00 am to 11.30 am - Painting (Art) - Louris Le Sauvage
- 09.00 am to 11.30 am - Woodcarving - Ron Thompson
- 09.30 am to 11.30 am - German Conversation - Rose Link
- 12.00 pm to 04.00 pm - Art Class - Ruth Cunningham
- 01.00 pm to 04.00 pm - Chinese Mah Jong - Elizabeth Loi
- 01.00 pm to 04.00 pm - Social Dance - New Vogue/Old Time/Model -  
Elaine Brown/ Doreen Payne
- 01.00 pm to 04.30 pm - Remedial Massage ( appt. necessary) - Diane Sant
- 05.30 pm to 06.30 pm - Pilates Matwork - Faye Keogh
- 07.00 pm to 10.00 pm - Table Tennis(1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday) -  
Vicki Fairbairn/Helen Gentner
- 07.30 pm to 10.00 pm - Orchid Society (3rd Tuesday)

### WEDNESDAY

#### **Computer classes (One on One Bookings Only)**

- 08.30am to 10.00 am - Yoga - Taryn Collins
- 10.00 am to 11.30 am - Philosophy for Everybody U3A - Lindsay Shepherd
- 10.30 am to 12.30 pm - Tap Dancing - Robyn
- 10.00 am to 12.00 pm - Low Vision Group ( 2nd & 4th Wednesday) -Iris Cuff
- 12.15 pm - Genealogical Society (2nd Wednesday)
- 01.00 pm to 04.00 pm - U3A Watercolour - Carolyn West
- 01.00 pm to 02.30 pm - Gentle Exercise Tai Chi - Elva Arthy
- 06.00 pm to 09.00 pm - Table Tennis (3rd Wednesday (see above))

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As we get older, we get better at choosing in ways that will make us happy. We do a better job at picking activities that make us happy, and at spending time with people who make us happy. We're also better at letting things go.

Sheena Ivemgar

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **THURSDAY**

- 08.30 am to 01.00 pm - Cleveland Senior Citizens  
09.00 am to 12.00 pm - Computer Workshop - Trevor Bawden  
12.00 pm to 04.00 pm - Canasta - Rudi Moerke  
01.00 pm to 04.00 pm - Indoor Bowls - Gail Moore  
06.30 pm to 07.30 pm - Tai Chi - Shane Coop  
New beginners course starts Thursday, February 4th at 6.30 pm  
06.30 pm to 07.30 pm - Beginners Linedancing - Liz Keenan  
07.30 pm to 09.30 pm - Intermediate Linedancing - Liz Keenan

### **FRIDAY**

- 08.30 am to 12.00 pm - Handicrafts - Judy Coombs  
08.30 am to 12.00 pm - Parchment Craft - Flor Birkett  
10.00 am to 11.00 am - Pilates Strong Bones - Faye Keogh  
09.00 am to 12.00 pm - Indoor Bowls - Gail Moore  
01.00 pm to 04.00 pm - Table Tennis - Vicki Fairbairn/Helen Gentner  
01.30 pm to 04.00 pm - Classical Music U3A - Colin Grant  
06.30 pm to 09.00 pm - Table Tennis - Vicki Fairbairn/Helen Getner

### **SATURDAY**

- 09.15 am - Hearing Impaired Meeting (2nd Saturday) - Paul Barnes  
09.00 am to 12.00 pm - Table Tennis (Training and Practice ) (see above)  
11.00 am to 04.00 pm - Canasta - Lyn Osvatics

**WE NEED YOU !!**

**COME AND JOIN US**



#### **GROUNDS VOLUNTEERS**

We need an active volunteer to assist in helping around the centre for setting up with activity rooms, a bit of gardening work etc. Up to 5 vacancies available. Days and times you would like to work are flexible. Timings required are Monday to Friday 8am to 1pm and Monday to Friday 1pm to 4pm.

Please contact Thomas at [manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com](mailto:manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com)

#### **NIGHT SHIFT VOLUNTEERS**

We need a couple of volunteers to patrol the centre during night times when the centre has to be open for a special function. For expression of interest or more information please see our Manager – Thomas [manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com](mailto:manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com) or call 07 38211089

#### **CAFÉ VOLUNTEERS**

This role would suit a volunteer with some hospitality experience. You will assist with food preparation, customer service as well as other general support.

Please contact Thomas at [manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com](mailto:manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com)

#### **GARDENING VOLUNTEERS**

We would like to start up a team of garden volunteers to look after the front entrance garden and the herb bed at the Donald Simpson Centre. Time and days flexible.

Please contact Thomas at [manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com](mailto:manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com)



# Out With a Difference

**Wednesday, January 13th, 2016** - Enjoy a "country experience" today with a leisurely trip around the Scenic Rim country. After a stop at the Community Arts and Information Centre before going to the Beaudesert RSL for lunch.



**Monday, January 18th, 2016** - Visit the picturesque O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyard and sample their award winning wines. We will rerun to the village of Canungra where you may purchase your own lunch or BYO if preferred.

**Friday, January 22nd, 2016** - Join in the 20th Ginger Flower and Food Festival at the Yandina Ginger Factory. Learn about the "paddock to plate: process of ginger while taking in the spectacular array of ornamental ginger and heliconias.



**Tuesday, January 26th** - Celebrate Australia Day at the very popular Caloundra RSL. Morning tea, lunch and entertainment will all have a typical Australian theme. **C'mon Aussie, c'mon.** Minimum 40 passengers needed for this trip.

**Friday, February 12th** - There is no better way to celebrate St. Valentine's Day with a wonderful meal while marveling at the wonderful views from Flaxton Gardens in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. There will be short stop at Montville before lunch.



**Sunday, February 14th** - Visit the Mt. Tamborine markets where you will find a wide variety of fresh produce, plants and crafts. We will also visit Gallery Walk. Morning tea and lunch will be at own cost. If offered, bring your own.

**Wednesday, February 24th** - Lady Brisbane Lunch Cruise viewing Cunard's Queen Elizabeth cruise ship from the Brisbane River. Lunch on the Lady Brisbane will be chicken, cold meats and salads. We only have 30 places for this 3 hour cruise, so book early.



**Merry Christmas and a Happy 2016 from all in Out With A Difference**

# Out With a Difference



## MUSICAL COMEDY SHOW - BACK TO THE TIVOLI - TWIN TOWNS SERVICES CLUB SHOWROOM, 2016

FEBRUARY	WEDNESDAY, 17TH	10.30 AM QLD TIME
APRIL	WEDNESDAY, 13TH	11.00 AM
JUNE,	WEDNESDAY, 8TH	11.00 AM
AUGUST	WEDNESDAY, 17TH	11.00 AM
OCTOBER	TUESDAY, 11TH	10.30 AM QLD TIME
DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY, 14TH	10.30 AM QLD TIME

SOUTHBOUND COACH PICKUPS START AT BIRKDALE  
THROUGH TO REDLAND BAY.

**Southbound Coach Pickups Start at Birkdale  
Through to Redland Bay.  
Coach Only Option Available**

**PLEASE NOTE:  
WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY TWIN TOWNS THAT TIVOLI  
TICKETS HAVE TO BE BOUGHT 6 WEEKS BEFORE THE SHOW. IF YOU HAVE NOT  
PAID BY THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE  
"POT LUCK".**

**Bookings now open for**



**Wednesday, July 20th 2016 - "We Will Rock You" - the musical by Queen and Ben Elton, Lyric Theatre, QPAC**

**Wednesday, October 12th 2016 - 'Singin' in the Rain' - featuring Adam Garcia - Lyric Theatre, QPAC**

**Wednesday November 9th - "The Graduate" starring Jerry Hall, Lyric Theatre, QPAC**

## **David Brady- Chairman of the Board Deafness Forum Australia - Meeting at Donald Simpson Community Centre**

On October 29<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held at the Donald Simpson Community Centre to promote the installation of communication access systems within the Centre. These will assist people with hearing loss when they attend meetings and activities at the Centre.

Audio induction loops have been installed, and FM systems are available. A counter loop is also available at Reception. The installation of communication systems in Redland City Council facilities was also acknowledged.

Tony Christinson, Chairman of the DSCC, pointed out that Peter and Jill's persistence in explaining the need for people with hearing loss to have assistance is commendable and the main reason that this has eventuated.

He also could not understand why some people could not see the reasoning behind this as it was obvious to all, that as a person in a wheel chair needed a ramp to get into the centre, a person with hearing loss would need assistance to hear.

It is believed that this action by the Centre and the Council has set a benchmark in communication access provision, ensuring social inclusion for those who have a hearing loss. Hopefully, other organisations will follow, knowing that the outcome is more than positive. While this remarkable achievement is an overwhelming success, all agreed that this is only the tip of the iceberg in relation to other matters that effect people with a hearing loss.

During his comments to the group, David mentioned the importance of lobbying the Federal Government for Hearing Loss to become the 10<sup>th</sup> National Health Priority - given the high incidence of hearing loss, its predicted increase across all ages, the implications for health and the importance of addressing the isolation and social exclusion that is often currently the lot of those with hearing loss.

The meeting was Captioned, had a Auslan interpreter and trialed a desktop loop device.



*Pictured from left to right:  
**Tony Christinson**, Chairman of the Donald Simpson Community Centre (DSCC)  
**Paul Barnes**, Convenor of the Redlands Hearing Impaired Support Group (RHISG) and Treasurer of the DSCC;  
**Jill and Peter Lindley**;  
**David Brady** Chairman of the Board of Deafness Forum Australia, and CEO of Hear for You Victoria;  
**Alan Beard**, deputy Mayor of Redlands  
**Shirley Edwards**, Secretary CICADA Queensland.  
**Thomas Jithin** Manager of the Centre.*

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### **CENTRE HOLIDAYS**

**The Donald Simpson Community Centre will be closed from Thursday, 17th December, 2015 - Sunday 3rd January, 2016.**

**We re-open on the 4th January 2016**

**Have a safe and happy holiday**





## “England Swings”

Don't know about England, but the Donald Simpson Centre was certainly swinging at the last Theatricals productions. There was record attendance at the three performances and it was almost standing room only. Listening to the audience after the show, all we heard was “this is the best yet”. The performers, music, costumes and scenery all received rave notices. Thanks also to all the volunteer helpers, from front of house, raffle ticket sellers, ticket sellers, kitchen helpers to all those who pre-sold tickets. All helped to make the shows the success they were.

### AUDITIONS

Auditions are about to begin for Donald Simpson's Theatricals 2016 production “The Fabulous Fifties”. Our show goes into rehearsals every Tuesday morning January 2016. I am looking for singers, dancers and guitarists.



Auditions will be one on one, private and confidential. This is your chance to join the most professional senior group in the Redlands.

For an audition call Janette 3206 3331

### MELBOURNE CUP, 2016



“Who Won ?”

For the first time for many years, Melbourne Cup celebrations were held at the Donald Simpson Community Centre. Doors opened at 1.00 pm and happy punters, many wearing their favourite hats and in their best finery, arrived. They were met at the door by Elaine and Sue who were inundated with eager participants in our sweeps. Several were overheard saying, “never heard of this Prince of Penzance”. After the race others were heard to say “was going to back it because of the woman jockey.” If only.

Our thanks also to Matilda's Quilters and Chris Roberts for their raffle donations. We had quite a number of prizes to distribute. Finger food and drinks, a glass of bubbly, red or punch, were served. Good value at only \$10.00

per person.

We were well-entertained by members of our theatrical group, still glowing after their very successful concerts in August. Don't miss the next ones.

Janette Sheehan judged the hat competition. There were two categories, the most stylish and the most original. She had to ask for audience participation to help make a decision.

Many thanks to all our volunteers who either came in especially, or moved out of their comfort zones, to help with the day, and also join in the festivities. Congratulations to our Manager for organising a successful day.

*Singer, Dawn Moore*



## DSC CAFÉ NEWS



The Kitchen has been busy during 2015 with lots of changes ..... We are now open until 3.00 pm Monday to Friday, we have daily specials to tempt you, and lots of new meals we can prepare for you at very affordable prices. So pop in and have a look at what we can offer. You might be surprised.

To all you kitchen volunteers - a big Thank You. Your valuable support throughout the year is greatly appreciate. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mary G. - Kitchen Convenor

### THANK YOU FOR THE MEN.

When I started to write a short paragraph entitled "Where's the Allen Key?" as a gentle tease at the valiant efforts of two of our men volunteers at putting up our new shed I realised I was not being fair. I should be thanking them for giving it a go.

Why do they do it? How do they do it? Why should they do it? We are used to seeing the women bustling around the place but the men are seldom noticed.

Our men volunteers do so much around the Centre, from convening a number of activities to opening up the Centre, almost at dawn some days, to setting up tables and chairs for some activity or seminar. Even singing and dancing in our popular concerts.

They do the shopping, make us an early cappuccino, build sandwiches, wash dishes, help with lunches, collect the rubbish, clean up around outside, keep the flag flying and much, much more. One has even been known to get out the jumper leads to nudge a flat battery into consciousness.

They carry heavy boxes, bring us morning tea, nearly always with a cheery grin. We do hear an occasional grumble, generally good natured. If having morning tea is to be served to a group, the men are there to pour hot water from those heavy kettles. Our welcome morning teas for new members are made much easier by their efforts.



Our chairman, treasurer, secretary and members of the board are all volunteers, and all of whom work hard to make our Centre the success it is.

What's more, every so often, and much to our delight, mine anyway, we even get a compliment or two. We really appreciate a pat on a back now and then. A smile and a "g'day darlin'" is good for the heart.

Thank you blokes, for all your help, hard work and consideration. We really do appreciate it.

P.S. Ladies, your work is also much appreciated..



**DISCLAIMER:** Whilst Management and the Editor of The Donald Simpson Community Centre Ltd., endeavour to assure the reliability of materials and/or advertising printed in the "The Newsletter." neither the Management nor the Editor, can assume any responsibility for the views expressed in this *Donald Simpson Community Centre "The Newsletter."*

# Away With A Difference

*With tour leader, Val Henry*



## **Western Country Explorer - 11th - 19th March 2016**

Highlights includes: Celtic Country, Tamworth, Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo, Coonamble, Lightning Ridge, Amigo's Castle, Chamber of the Black Hand, Roma, Toowoomba. Luxury coach travel, 8 nights quality accommodation.

## **A Big Week Outback - Longreach & Winton - 17th -**

**22nd May, 2016 -**

Highlights include: Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey, Longreach Cattleman's Bar & Grill, Camden Park Station Outback Style Dinner, Stockman's Hall of Fame, Qantas Founders Museum, Dinner & Legends Larrikins Show, Starlight's Spectacular Sound & Light Show. Options of rail and flight or flights both ways can be arranged.



## **Great Singapore Shopover 2016 - 8th - 14th July**

**2016** - Includes Return economy flights, 5 nights luxury accommodation at the Orchard Parade Hotel. Optional touring for non shoppers can be arranged.

## **Exotic Mauritius - 23rd August - 4th September**

**2016** - Highlights include Chamarel - Grand Bassin Temple & Sacred Lake, Black River Gorge, Waterfalls & Coloured Earth, Interaction with Lions and Cheetahs, Mahébourg Seaside Markets, Creole Style Luncheon at Falaise Rouge, shopping Villages of Crepe & Floreal, Trou aux Cerfs Volcanic Crater, tour of 150 year old Eureka Mansion.



## **Exploring Townsville - 14th - 19th October -**

Highlights include - The Spirit of Queensland revolutionary railroad, Scenic town tour, Charters Towers, Magnetic Island, Lucinda sugar loading jetty, Hervey's Range Heritage tearooms. 4 nights accommodation at Holiday Inn, flight Townsville/Brisbane, all meals.

## **STOP PRESS**

Richard Kinnon, our host for "The Big Week Outback Tour" to Longreach and Winton will be a guest speaker at the Donald Simpson Centre on Thursday, November 26th at 2.30 pm. Come along and hear about the how our graziers are coping with the drought conditions. Learn about life in the Outback from an Australian Stockman. All welcome.

***Happy Christmas and every good wish for 2016.***



*WISHING  
A MERRY*

*YOU ALL  
CHRIST-*

*MAS  
&  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM*

*The Board, Management & Volunteers  
of the  
Donald Simpson Community Centre Ltd.*

