

# COMMUNITY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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## WELCOME TO YOUR NEW UNISSON DISABILITY COMMUNITY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

### WE ARE NOW UNISSON DISABILITY

In November we welcomed an exciting milestone in the almost 100 year history of our organisation: the launch of our new identity, Unisson Disability!

This change of our name and the look of our organisation is a celebration of who we are and have always been: a leading provider of disability support, committed to creating possibilities for impact and connection for those we support. We can proudly say Unisson Disability truly represents a team effort and a unified vision.

Over the coming six months we will continue to provide you with more updates on how we're integrating this

new name and look into our organisation. You'll see us making more noise out in the marketplace as we become a recognisable presence in the disability sector under Unisson Disability.

If you have any questions or concerns about our new name, please contact Katrina Jackson, Manager, Marketing & Communications on 1300 266 222 or [info@unisson.org.au](mailto:info@unisson.org.au).

Visit us at [unisondisability.org.au](http://unisondisability.org.au) to see our new look.

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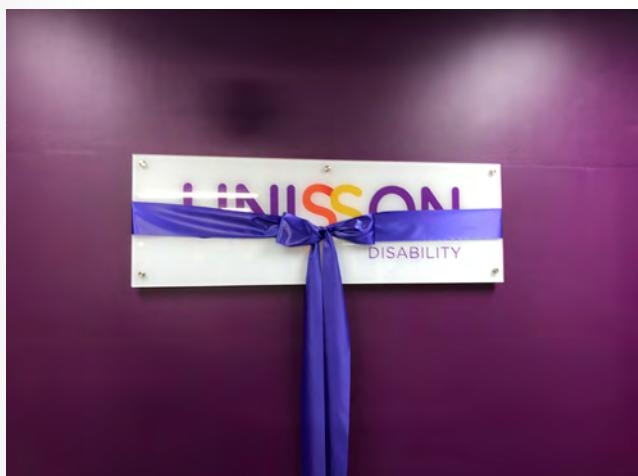
# UNISSON DISABILITY LAUNCH PARTIES

**TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW BRAND AND NAME** - we held various launch events in our local communities!

The head office at Pymble was host to a corporate launch event with board and company members, senior management, and suppliers as well as local members of government, council and the media.

Local morning tea style launch events were also held at Thornleigh, Frenchs Forest, Beaumont Hills and the Central Coast to celebrate in our local centres.

It was wonderful to celebrate with our staff, clients, families, and local community.



Mayor of Ku-Ring-Gai Council and Rebecca Fletcher



James Hardy and Rebecca Fletcher cutting the ribbon



James Hardy, Patriarch of Unisson Disability



Friends of Unisson Will and Lin Strachan and Rebecca Fletcher



Photos from the local morning teas



## MEET ONE OF OUR CLIENTS



Jing Tan and his Direct Support Professional (DSP) Dorine

### JING'S COOKING UP A BRIGHT FUTURE

There's no way twenty-year-old Jing Tan was ever going to let autism stand in the way of achieving his dream job. An avid cook, his ambition is to work in a kitchen. Filled with enthusiasm and passion, all he really needed was a helping hand.

With his family's support, Jing got in touch with Unisson and joined our Transition to Work (TTW) Program. From there, we helped him identify his goals, write his resume, and learn budgeting and money handling. He was also given job training and help with catching public transport independently.

Jing has now completed a number of Middle Eastern cooking courses, and spends two days a week being cooking up a storm with Unisson staff. Jing and his Direct Support Professional (DSP), Dorine, also work on meal planning and independent grocery shopping. With the support of Dorine, Jing has even been putting together a video resume to send to potential employers – a creative and unique way to stand out from the crowd while at the same time avoiding the need for a sit-down interview, something which is often difficult for people with autism.

"I love cooking, it's a real passion of mine," says Jing. "I'm currently working on my prep work on vegetables at the moment. I really like it!"

With the hopes of securing a kitchen-hand position at an RSL or a local restaurant for a few hours a week, Jing is continuing to work on new recipes and experimenting in the kitchen.



# MEET ONE OF OUR STAFF

TAYLA-JAE HEDGE, ACTING TEAM LEADER - ACCOMMODATION & SHARED LIVING CENTRAL COAST.

## WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO UNISSON?

I was a year away from finishing my degree in social science when it dawned on me I should probably put some feelers out in the air about where I could potentially start my career. I applied for a job at Unisson Disability as it was a very humble looking organisation and the way they presented themselves to the community was something I wanted to be a part of. It was also a great chance to gain experience in human services.

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT UNISSON?

I love that the staff feel like family. At Unisson nobody is ever too senior to take their time to have a chat with you. It is a really nice feeling.



## TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELF?

I lived in the Middle East for 3 years of my life and it opened my eyes to a whole new world. The experience living over there definitely contributes to the person I am today.

## WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE CRAVE BELONGING?

Belonging is an essential aspect of everyday life. If you belong you feel safe, wanted, confident and loved. No matter who you are, you belong somewhere in this world.

# HALLOWEEN AT COMMUNITY ACCESS

## BEAUMONT HILLS GETS SPOOKY FOR HALLOWEEN

This Halloween, Beaumont Hills Community Access Centre decided to celebrate and host a themed party for the participants and staff!

There were plenty of spooky decorations around the centre, as well as face painting, Halloween craft activities, costumes, and a delicious BBQ lunch!

It was a great success with plenty of laughter and fun. Thank you to Monika Sondhi and her team of staff at Beaumont Hills CAPS for their initiative and putting on a wonderful Halloween party for everyone to enjoy!



# SHARED LIVING HOUSE GETS AN UPDATE

## SMALL ACTS, BIG REWARDS

Unisson Disability's shared living house for young people on the Central Coast, is home to three young residents with complex support needs and high-level medical care. The home seeks to be a caring and comfortable environment where the residents, all of whom have spent lengthy periods of time in hospital, can receive the support they require but also enjoy the social and fun aspects of being young individuals living together.

With their unimpeded passion to enjoy life to the fullest and overcome challenges, the residents and staff of Friendship Place were the inspiration behind Lendlease nominating the property to be the beneficiary of their time and efforts on the company's annual 'Community Day'.

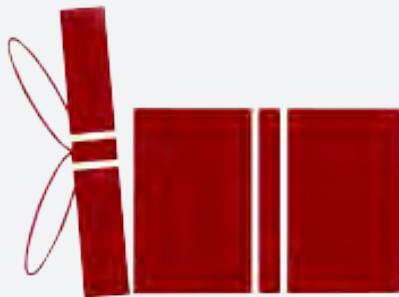
Community Day, one of the Lendlease Foundation's most popular programs, is the initiative which enables employees to nominate a cause of their choosing and volunteer their time and skills to make a meaningful and positive contribution to the local community.

It was an honour to welcome a team of 20 Lendlease employees from Erina Fair Shopping Centre to the Unisson residence for youth. The team kicked off the day's project early in the morning, and worked tirelessly for a full day revitalising the property's gardens and outdoor pergola area, building a herb garden, creating sensory gardens, providing fresh coats of paint, undertaking internal building repairs and AV upgrades, and even included a collaboration with renowned local modern indigenous artist, Grant Molony, to create a 12-metre-long mural in the garden.

According to Lendlease representative Tarita Potestas, "Our Community Day is all about giving back to our local community. When we heard about the amazing work being done at Unisson's shared residence for youth, and the inspirational residents, we knew this was a worthwhile cause. We were thrilled to volunteer our time to this project, and we can't wait to hear how the resident's and staff enjoy the new additions and improvements."

## CHRISTMAS APPEAL

### CHRISTMAS IS UPON US AGAIN



The season of giving and being thankful for what we have and the people we are fortunate to have in our lives.

We want to thank you for your ongoing generosity and support, it is with your help that we are in a position to offer more support services to people with disability.

This year we ask that you extend this generosity and support to Unisson Disability with the gift of a donation. Your donation – no matter the size - will help us to continue to focus on establishing unique and meaningful connections with the people we support.

To donate visit our website

[unissondisability.org.au/donate-to-unisson-disability](http://unissondisability.org.au/donate-to-unisson-disability)

Enjoy the festive season and thank you so much for your ongoing support of Unisson Disability.

# UNISSON

DISABILITY

BUILDING  
CONNECTIONS  
SINCE 1924

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017



# ANNUAL REVIEW

We are pleased to announce the release of our 2017 Annual Review. Thank you to all those who helped. Celebrating a year in the life of Unisson.

Unisson's annual review isn't just a progress report or a review of our achievements and highlights during the 2016 - 2017 financial year. It's also a story – a story about the people we work with every day and the people we support to achieve greater independence, and have a great life.

We want to show you – our valued supporters, community partners, volunteers, the government agencies whose help we couldn't be more grateful for, the families who give so much of their time and support, and anyone who is considering becoming part of the Unisson story – exactly how your support is making a difference. A copy can be found on our website.

## CARERS BBQ

### IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL CARERS WEEK

and to say a huge thank you to all of our wonderful friends and families that are unpaid carers, Unisson held a Carers Week BBQ at our respite cottage in Hornsby. It was a wonderful opportunity to get together, enjoy lunch and say thank you! To all of the unpaid carers who go above and beyond each day - we care about you.



## JENNINGS LODGE

Unisson Disability recently collaborated with a smaller disability support provider, Jennings Lodge, to take over the support of two shared living houses.

Jennings Lodge was a small organisation established in the early 1980s, with shared living accommodation located in Baulkham Hills.

With the changes to the disability sector and the roll out of the NDIS, Jennings Lodge reached out to Unisson Disability to come together in support of their clients. With both organisations sharing the same key values, Jennings Lodge felt that Unisson Disability was the best organisation to take over the support of their clients and shared living houses.

The wonderful staff at Jennings Lodge have also become part of the Unisson team, and we extend a warm welcome to you all. We look forward to working together to support the clients at Jennings Lodge

### UNISSON IS RECRUITING

Know anyone looking for a job in their local area? Unisson Disability is currently recruiting for Direct Support Professional roles. With the rollout of the NDIS, Unisson is working with more and more clients every day. This means that we are always looking for people to join the Unisson team and support our new and existing clients.

For more information call us on 1300 266 222 or visit our careers page [unissondisability.org.au/careers](http://unissondisability.org.au/careers)

# IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES – 25 DECEMBER 2017

- **WHERE:** St Mary's Caring Parish Service (Open House) in Parish Hall, 50 Whistler Street, Manly (next to the church)  
**WHEN:** from 11am with meal served at noon.  
**RSVP:** If possible, contact Madeline Le Surf (Coordinator) on 9949 2699; or just turn up. Volunteers to prepare and serve the meal are welcome.
- **WHERE:** Pioneer Club House, Lot 2 Quirk Rd, Balgowlah. Street Mission Program  
**WHEN:** serves lunch 11am-2pm.  
**RSVP:** No booking required. Phone 9907 9999.
- **WHERE:** Narrabeen Baptist Church, 13 Grenfell Ave, North Narrabeen NSW 2101.  
**WHEN:** 12.30pm  
**RSVP:** Contact James Dawson on 9913 8678.

Check with your local Council about meals on Christmas Day.



## EARLYED SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS (3 DAYS EACH) AT EARLYED FORESTVILLE:

- Language & Literacy through Music – This group program uses music to support language & literacy learning and provides opportunities to practice language in a social environment while keeping learning easy & fun!  
**Mon-Wed 22–24 January, 10am-11.30am.**
- School Skills – In the Classroom & Playground - offers a fun group experience for school aged children and preschoolers with a disability or delay about to start school. This program aims to foster skills in the developmental areas your child needs for school!  
**Mon-Wed 22-24 January, 2pm–3:30pm.**
- Friendship Skills Lego Group - for children with expressive language skills, to practice social skills in a fun and collaborative environment, while building with lego! For school aged children & preschoolers able to engage in conversations.  
**Mon-Wed 15-17 January, 10am–11:30am.**

**WHERE:** EarlyEd, Forestville Memorial Hall, 3 Starkey Street (cnr Warringah Road), Forestville 2087.

**COST:** Each costs \$460. Can be covered using NDIS, HCWA/Better funding, private health insurance, Medicare, private funds.

**RSVP:** Bookings essential so contact EarlyEd on 9923 272 or [earlyed@earlyed.com.au](mailto:earlyed@earlyed.com.au)



## LAUNCHING VISUAL ARTS AT CAMPERDOWN

In 2018 Studio ARTES Inner West will launch a brand new Visual Arts program in Camperdown, in association with Roomies Arts that has a long history in the Inner West of professional artistic development for artists with disabilities. Free introduction days will be run on the following dates.

**WHEN:** Wednesdays, 10am-1pm, on 24 January.

**RSVP:** To register, visit  
[www.studioartes.org.au/studio-artes-inner-west](http://www.studioartes.org.au/studio-artes-inner-west)

# STUDIO ARTES

INCLUSION EQUITY RESPECT

# IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## NBI'S AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Northern Beaches Interchange has a place to hang out and have fun after school. Anyone of school age can attend but transport is not provided so transport to/from Arranounbai would need to be arranged.

**WHEN:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays – 3pm-6pm

**WHERE:** Arranounbai School, 5 Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest 2086

**COST:** \$67.05 for the 3 hour session (assuming 1:1 support is not required), \$134.16 for 3 hr session (where 1:1 support is required). Can be NDIS funded or privately funded.

**RSVP:** Contact David at [nbi.org.au](mailto:nbi.org.au) on 02 9970 0500 or [davidt@nbi.org.au](mailto:davidt@nbi.org.au)



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PREPARATION FOR POST SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM (PEEP)

This transition and orientation program benefits young adults on the Autism Spectrum who have completed school and plan to attend TAFE, a training course or university in 2018. It helps understand what will be expected of you, and lessens stress and anxiety. The course is limited to 6-10 people who commit to attending the 20 hour program. People can participate by video conferencing (discussed after EOI submitted). For information, see [www.autismstep.com.au/wp](http://www.autismstep.com.au/wp)

**WHEN:** January-February 2018

**WHERE:** Somewhere in Northern Sydney.

**COST:** Costs may be under the person's NDIS plan

**RSVP:** Send your expression of interest (headed Peep) with your name, phone number and email to Berinda Karp of Autism STEP Australia, on 0407 063 843 or [autismsteapaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:autismsteapaustralia@gmail.com). Then program details and costs will be sent to you. The current course starts Monday 27 November, with Mon / Wed sessions over 3 weeks at The Luke Priddis Foundation, 1/496 High Street, Penrith 2750

## INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUNDS ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES

[www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/services/disability-services/accessible-playgrounds](http://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/services/disability-services/accessible-playgrounds)

- Baranbali Park, Seaforth - Wheelchair-accessible, with bike parks and pathways and next door to a community garden this park is suitable for all ages. The play equipment includes a Liberty Swing. To open the gate and unlock the Liberty Swing you need an MLAK (Master Locksmiths Access Key). Address: Cnr Fromelles Ave and Baranbali Ave, Seaforth.
- Bert Payne Park, Newport - A fully-fenced accessible playground next to the beach and surf club. There are BBQ facilities, shade cloths, public toilets and plenty of parking. Playground features include a trampoline at ground level and climbing platform with a ramp. Address: Barrenjoey Road, South end of the beach, Newport.
- Bruce Bartlett Reserve, Collaroy Beach - A fun playground for all with its carved sandstone sculptures, musical elements and an interactive water play area. Along with a Liberty Swing, there is a carousel, spinner, rocker and 6-seat swing set. You need a MLAK (Master Locksmiths Access Key) to access the liberty swing or ask one of our lifeguards! Address: Pittwater Rd (opp Alexander St), Collaroy Beach.
- North Steyne Major, Manly Beach - Right on the beachfront, find play equipment for children with special needs including a pod swing, carousel, sensory play boards and an accessible Butterfly see-saw. Address: Between Denison St and Steinton St, Manly Beach.

# WE WANT YOU

HAVE YOU CONNECTED WITH US THROUGH OUR SOCIAL PAGES?

Our social pages are our platform for educating the wider community about some of the challenges facing people with disability. It is a platform that we use to share inspiring and informative information from around the world and within your local community.

We invite you, to follow our tweets, our Facebook page as well as our other sites and tell us what you think about our posts. If you're already our friend, please remember to comment, like and especially share the information we post. We need you to help widen our community and extend our social reach!



## CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES

Please note the Pymble Corporate Office will be closed from end of business Friday 22 December. We will return on Tuesday 2 January.

Community Access Pymble will be closed from December 23 and will reopen January 8.

## JOB BOARD

**DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ROLES** – Located across Sydney, Central Coast and Hunter Regions.

Visit [unisondisability.org.au/careers](http://unisondisability.org.au/careers) to apply.

## THE NEWSLETTER IS DIGITAL

If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email please visit our website [unisondisability.org.au](http://unisondisability.org.au) and register to have your news sent to your inbox! Or email us at [info@unisson.org.au](mailto:info@unisson.org.au)

