

# COMMUNITY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2018 | EDITION. 17

## UNISSON WORKS

On October 18th, our commercial businesses held a wonderful BBQ lunch to celebrate the launch of their new name, Unisson Works! Unisson Works delivers real commercial benefits to a growing list of customers, though our two business units; Pack Works (our mail and packaging business) and Ground Works (our lawn and garden care business).

We celebrated the exciting launch with our supported employees, staff and families, enjoying a BBQ lunch, speeches and some take home gifts for our dedicated supported employees. It was such a nice day for all involved. If you haven't already, be sure to take a look at the new section of our website dedicated to Unisson Works: <https://www.unissondisability.org.au/unisson-works>



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# ONE YEAR IN REVIEW

November 13 marked our one year anniversary of rebranding to 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.

We knew it was important to reach out to the families of the people we support to ensure they felt happy with our name change along the way. At the 6 month mark, we surveyed a sample of our families one-on-one to find out what they think about our new name.

We were pleased to hear that an overwhelming majority were happy with our new name and how we communicated with them.

We have received positive feedback from families and the community and have had an increase in website traffic three times from the past year.

We are excited to see what the coming years bring, and if the past 12 months is an example on what we can expect, we are enthusiastic to take that journey with you!

# UNISSON DISABILITY

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

### WANT TO SHARE A STORY FROM A PREVIOUS EDITION?

We keep all the previous editions of our Community & Friends Newsletter on our website under the About Us tab. Visit [unissondisability.org.au](http://unissondisability.org.au) to view all our past editions.



## SUPPORT COORDINATION

Unisson provides a service called Support Coordination, where our experienced support coordinators work alongside you to plan your support. As an NDIS participant, we help you to understand your plan and connect you with the people and support that will enable you to live the life you choose.

We've developed a great reputation and relationship with the NDIA based on our extensive resources and efficient service. We'll maximise the hours of support in your plan while ensuring you feel heard and supported.

Whether you're preparing for your plan, reviewing your current plan or looking for support to start your plan, we can help. To begin your NDIS journey we can meet with you in person or talk over the phone to find out exactly what you are looking for.

- What is included in Support Coordination:
- A focus on meeting your goals
- Implementing your plan and coordinating supports
- A commitment to finding the best support services for you
- One-on-one meetings with us for personal support
- Navigating and getting the most of out the NDIS
- Mentoring and coaching
- Arranging emotional support
- Working with you to develop and build skills
- Assistance to monitor your supports and ensure you are getting the most out of your plan
- Ensuring you feel in control of your supports
- Assisting you to make decisions about the future

If you would like more information on how Unisson can assist you with our Support Coordination service, contact us on 1300 266 222 or email [info@unisson.org.au](mailto:info@unisson.org.au)



## MEET FRANCES SCOTT

UNISSON CLIENT, FRANCES SCOTT, 49, FROM EASTWOOD IS A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUAL WITH A PASSION FOR HER WORK, HER FRIENDS AND HER SOCIAL LIFE. SO, WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING SOMEONE TO SUPPORT HER WITH DAILY LIFE, IT'S IMPORTANT TO FRAN TO FIND THE RIGHT SUPPORT WORKER.

Empowering an individual's choice and control is something for which Unisson stands steadfast. By assisting Unisson clients to interview and hire their own support worker, it allows people like Fran to be in the driver's seat when it comes to their own day-to-day support.

"It's so important to us to work collaboratively with our clients, and through their involvement in interviewing and hiring a support worker, we are able to provide them with choice and control over who is involved in their lives," says Kate Bryant, Fran's Team Leader at Unisson.

So, when Fran needed to arrange a new support worker to assist her with her day-to-day activities, Kate arranged for Fran to attend all interviews and to share her opinions on who she felt she connected with best.

Fran thoroughly enjoys reading, creating art and going out and participating in her local community; all common interests which she wanted to share with any prospective support worker.

For Fran, being involved in the hiring process of her support worker has meant that she has found people who offer her more than just support. They are people who also share common interests and connections.

"I picked Lucy because she treats me nice, she reads books and I feel good about her. She helps me with budgeting, helps me with my lunch and takes me in the car," says Fran.

The experience has been rewarding for everyone involved, with Kate expressing how well the genuine bond between Fran and Lucy has been developing. "They connect on so many levels because of their shared interests and, without involving Fran in the recruitment process, we may not have known how well suited they were to one another."

Fran also says she enjoys choosing her own support people and appreciates the fact that Unisson staff treat her with respect and support her to make her own decisions. "I like Unisson because they treat me nicely and respectfully and always help me out," she says.

As Fran and Lucy continue to spend time together, Unisson continues to help people with disability to make important and personal connections with the people who provide support for them, day in and day out.



# MEET ONE OF OUR STAFF

## NATALIE RENWICK, DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

Last year we rolled out a program across the entire organisation focused on the art of building relationships, creating connections and finding the opportunity to say 'Yes' in everything we do. We believe the support we provide to you, and your family member is what we do, the connection and relationship we create with you, is HOW we do it well.

### WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO UNISSON?

I had been searching for a career path that would align with my morals and passions. I knew I wanted to help and support people in some way. I was searching jobs like working with children, guiding youth and supporting the elderly. I then found 'disability work' which encompassed everyone. I found after the first week with Unisson, I had found a career I love and am passionate about.

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT UNISSON?

Unisson has taught me so much by giving me significant training and have matched me up really well with the people I support. I love that I have been given independence, flexibility, and can bring my creative passions to my job.

### TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELF?

I have been an artistic person my whole life, from visual arts, singing, dancing, hula hooping, playing guitar and fire dancing. I put on performance nights over the central coast with three of my close friends to encourage people to also express themselves creatively, and play!

### TELL US HOW YOU PROMOTE A FEELING OF BELONGING THROUGH YOUR WORK?

Promoting a sense of belonging at work is something that I connect with deeply so I do try to be as present as possible for people I support, listening to their interests, researching and making suggestions of new activities they may enjoy. For example, I support a lady to attend an art gallery where I sketch out the picture she wants and then she paints it. This took a few months to work up to; getting her out into the community, slowly and surely. It was an activity she had been wanting to do but had not had the support, encouragement or comfort to do so. Now she socialises with the other people there and we have formed a connection with the whole group. She now has completed 3 artworks that hang proudly on her wall, symbolising all her progress and expression!





2018  
ANNUAL REVIEW

**UNISSON**  
DISABILITY

## ANNUAL REVIEW

We are pleased to announce the release of our 2018 Annual Review. Thank you to all those who helped celebrate 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 2017 - 2018 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.

## FAREWELL TO JAN & REBECCA

In October we said farewell to two members of Unisson, Board Member Jan Kneeshaw and CEO Rebecca Fletcher, with a dinner to celebrate their time at Unisson.

Jan had been a part of the Unisson Family since 1949, when her then three year-old brother Peter came to live in what was then the Sunshine Institute. Jan was one of Unisson's pioneering champions, with 27 years as our Director, she will be sorely missed.

Rebecca had been with Unisson for over 30 years, 13 of those as our CEO. As CEO, Rebecca was responsible for developing and communicating Unisson Disability's strategic direction, and leading and guiding its operations. She acted as the key point of contact between the Board of Directors and the Senior Leadership Team and was responsible for bringing to life Unisson Disability's vision, purpose and values. Rebecca will now represent Unisson as a Non-Executive Director on our board.



Rebecca Fletcher



Jan Kneeshaw and her husband Peter

## SOUTH COAST: HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Brett Ferguson, one of Unisson Art Studio's artists, approached the Unisson team expressing an interest to enter his work in an exhibition held by Link Housing at the Warringah Creative Art Space at Curl Curl. In the Unisson paper studio, Brett created four images of the area where his twin sister lives on the south coast, where he often visits. He selected the artwork he thought was the best and entered a pulp painting on handmade paper entitled "South Coast: Home away from Home".

Over the following weeks, the exhibition travelled to Wallarobba Arts Centre at Hornsby and North Sydney Community Centre, showcasing all the amazing artworks, including Brett's "South Coast: Home away from Home".

Brett has been showing art for some years now and produces artworks in a variety of mediums such as paper pulp, ceramics and painting, all of which have been exhibited at the Unisson Art Exhibitions as well as community art exhibitions such as the Warringah Mall Library.

If you would like to learn more about the Unisson Art studios contact us on 1300 266 222 or [info@unisson.org.au](mailto:info@unisson.org.au).



## 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

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

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



# HALLOWEEN AT UNISSON

## TRICK OR TREAT!

We had a FANGtastic time at Unisson Disability HQ celebrating Halloween on October 31st. Participants from our Community Access Program at Pymble dressed up in their best Halloween costumes and paid us a spooky visit, collecting chocolates from each department at head office.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the day, and look forward to continuing the spooky tradition.



The team at Unisson's Community Access Program in Beaumont Hills also got into the Halloween spirit by throwing a dress up party. Participants and staff transformed the centre with Halloween themed decorations, and dressed up in their spookiest costumes to enjoy a fun filled day of activities.

There were games, face painting, airbrush tattoos and even prizes for best-dressed, best dancer and a lucky door prize! The day was a huge success and lots of fun for everyone involved.



## PREFER ONLINE?

Send us your email address and receive your Community & Friends newsletter instantly online!

Call us on 1300 266 222 or email [info@unisson.org.au](mailto:info@unisson.org.au) to update your details.

## IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### JUNIOR CP GAMES

This is a multi-sport event for junior athletes from 8 to 26. It is about fun, participation and trying new sports, as much as it is about performance and winning. Limited accommodation is available, and each sport will have a separate registration fee. We encourage athletes to compete in the sports that they know well and are good at, and try ones that they are interested in. Leaving with new friends, new skills and new goals is the key.

Sports will include; Football, Swimming, Athletics, Race Running, Triathlon, Basket ball, Netball, Boccia, Table tennis and many more.

**WHEN:** Mar 29, 2019 – Mar 31, 2019

**WHERE:** Sydney Academy of Sport

**CONTACT:** Contact Peter for a registration form at [pking@cerebralpalsy.org.au](mailto:pking@cerebralpalsy.org.au)

### HEAR FOR YOU FILM FESTIVAL ONLINE

The Hear For You Film Festival landing page has been launched to show all the films made by deaf and hard of hearing teenagers for this year's festival.

Every two weeks one of the three winning films will be featured on this page, as well as providing information on 2019 Rock My World Film Making workshops.

**FIND OUT MORE:** <http://hearforyou.com.au/what-we-do/program-overview/film-festival/>



# IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Did you know that the library offers a free delivery service to people with disability?

The Home Library Service can deliver books, DVDs, music CDs, magazines and audio books to your home. You can select your preferences or have library staff select for you.

**WHEN:** Thursday's and Friday's

**CONTACT:** 1300 434 434 or [homelibraryservice@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:homelibraryservice@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)



## HEAR SPACE

The Deaf Society have recently launched a brand new service: HearSpace. It's a great new site for people who are hard of hearing and those close to them.

HearSpace is a place that connects people with services, resources and information to empower them to lead a better quality of life with hearing loss. From the closest place to get your hearing tested to communication tips for the workplace - HearSpace has you covered.



## MEDICINE WISE

The MedicineWise app allows you to easily keep track of medicines and access important health information any time and anywhere.



MedicineWise can scan your medicine barcodes and create a list of your medicines, set reminders for when to take them, attend doctor's appointments and record important health info such as medical conditions and allergies for you and anyone you care for. Available for iOS and Android.

# ARE YOU SOCIAL?

## 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 insightful 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 1pm on Monday 24 December. We will return on Wednesday 2 January.

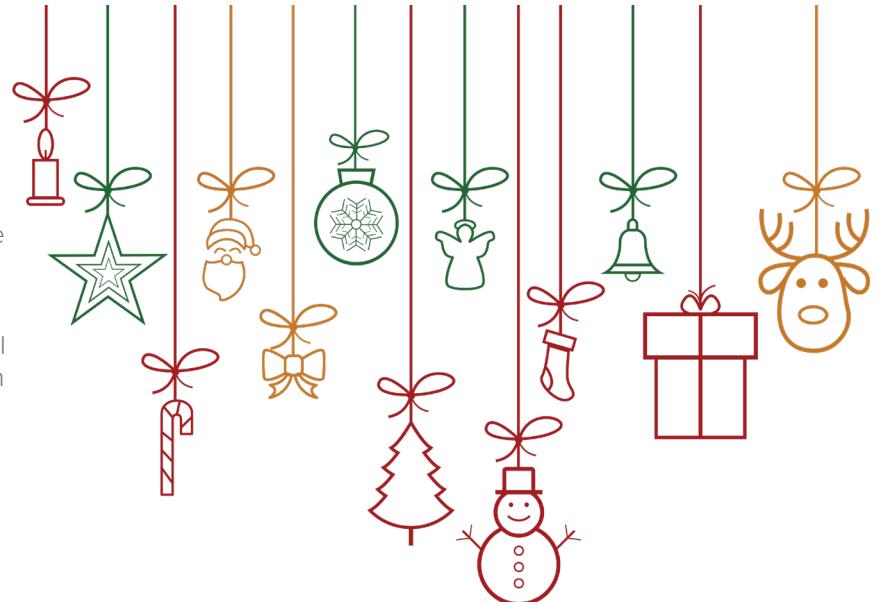
Community Access Pymble and Turramurra will be closed from 4pm December 20 and will reopen January 2.

Community Access Frenchs Forest and St Ives will be closed from 4pm December 21 and will reopen January 2.

Community Access Beaumont Hills will be closed from 4pm December 20 and will reopen January 8.

Pack Works will be closed from 4pm December 20 and will reopen January 9.

Ground Works will be closed on all public holidays



## JOB BOARD

**ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE OFFICER** – Pymble

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICER - PROPERTY & FLEET** – Pymble

**DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST** – Pymble

**FINANCE TEAM COORDINATOR REPORTING (MAT LEAVE)** – Pymble

**MARKETING COORDINATOR** – Pymble

**TEAM LEADER** – Thornleigh

**TEAM LEADER** – Community Access Turramurra

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

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