



Northern Beaches Interchange

Respite Recreation Support

July 2008 - Issue 4

Welcome to the July edition of the NBI newsletter. As well as the usual stories, this month's newsletter features :

Meet the Program Coordinators The focus of this issue is a series of stories under the heading "Meet the Program Coordinators". These articles from the coordinators' perspective are intended to complement the 'consumer perspective' that was the focus of the last issue. We have asked some of the coordinators to provide a brief introduction of themselves and their relationship with NBI.

JWS - the Interview A humorous and very brief interview with a consumer of our Saturday Program - James Whittaker-Smith. We find out what JWS thinks is fun.

Loosely Woven Concert A promotional note for an event that will raise some funds for NBI being held by local group - Loosely Woven. Check them out - they're a great band.

Hands Can Talk Workshop An upcoming training workshop being hosted by NBI for carers and volunteers who are interested in learning some sign language to improve their communication with young children.

Don't forget - if you want more information about NBI and our services you can check out our website www.nbi.org.au

Meet the Program Coordinators . . . Part 1

Micaela Becattini - Respite/Recreation Coordinator

I am the Respite/Recreation Coordinator for the Saturday and School Holiday Programs.

I was born and grew up in Italy where I completed my degree in Educational Science and my Master Post Degree in Clinical Pedagogy. I worked in my private practise and for the Italian Government with people of all ages, with and without disabilities.

I came to Australia four years ago and since my arrival in Sydney, I have worked in Community and Disability Services. I initially worked at Sunnyfield as a Community Support Worker. This was followed by a job at the Spastic Centre as a Team Leader and then back to Sunnyfield as a Day Program Manager. After three challenging years, I came to NBI in January 2008 and began work as a Respite/Recreation Coordinator.

It has been very hard moving from my country - learning a new language, a new culture and a different system of work. I am still learning day by day and I am improving my knowledge in dealing with different challenges.

I am very glad to be working here at NBI. It's the first time I've worked with kids since I arrived in Australia. I have found NBI to be a very friendly and supportive environment. I have brought with me different experiences and I have shared a lot of information. I hope that my relationship with NBI will be strong for a long time.

Jessica Kristevic - Respite Options Coordinator

Hi I'm Jess and I have two separate roles at NBI. I coordinate the Respite Options flexible respite program three days a week and also work as a supervisor on the Peer Support Group recreation program two days a week.

I was born and grew up on Scotland Island on Sydney's Northern Beaches. I attended Manly Selective Campus for high school. I then completed a Bachelor of Health Science (Rehabilitation Counselling) through the University of Sydney. My first university placement was at NBI back in June 2003. I did six weeks of work experience and spent the majority of that time working on the Peer Support Program. At the completion of my placement, I began volunteering for Peer Support until May 2004 when I was offered casual work with the program. I became permanent part-time in November 2004.



At the completion of my degree I applied for the Respite Options coordinator position at NBI and was successful in securing it in February 2006. I love my job and find the variety exciting and challenging. I know my relationship with NBI will be long lasting and I'm proud to be associated with such a great organisation.

Lauren talks to James Whittaker-Smith (aka JWS) about the Saturday Program

Lauren : Hi JWS. Thanks for talking to me today.

James : Oh, no problem. Anything for you Lauren. Actually, it's like being on the 7.30 Report.

Lauren : Ha ha, I guess it is. OK JWS, so tell me, what's your favourite thing about the Saturday Program?

James : Dancing and singing and chatting with the staff, yeah, having a good time.



Lauren : Finally, what do you want to be when you grow up?

James : I want to be a singer and I'd call myself The Ultimate James.

Lauren : Ha ha, I think that's a great name. Well thanks again for chatting with me James.

Lauren Rice works on the Saturday Program.

THANK YOU TO THE MACQUARIE GROUP FOUNDATION

NBI would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Macquarie Group Foundation for their generous donation which will assist us in our work supporting families with a child with a disability.

Loosely Woven - Celebrate the Beauty of the World

Come along to Loosely Woven's concert fundraiser - *Celebrate the Beauty of the World* - 23 instrumentalists and singers present a free light-hearted acoustic concert with any donations going to Allawah Hospital and NBI.

When : 7pm on Friday, 8 August 2008

Where : St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 56 Raglan Street, Manly



We look forward to seeing you all there.

Meet the Program Coordinators . . . Part 2

Lisa Davis - Respite Options Coordinator

I started work with NBI about 16 years ago. Initially, I worked as a respite care worker for the Options Program and then later went on to do some casual work on the Saturday and Peer Support Programs.

In 1999, I applied for the position of Options Program Coordinator and started in that role part-time. By 2003, I was working full-time as coordinator. I took two years maternity leave and returned to the role of Options Coordinator in May 2006.

I feel that NBI is an organisation that is responsive to the needs of the many families that use our services. I am proud to be part of an organisation that works to see the whole family as the service user.

Liz Jewel - Host Coordinator

I am originally from the UK but have lived in Australia for 14 years.

My working career has been varied and sometimes challenging. I originally started out working as a residential social worker and then moved to work with children and young adults with learning disabilities in both educational and vocational settings.

Since living in Australia I have worked for CanTeen and the MS Society before returning to work for Northern Beaches Interchange as the Host Coordinator. My previous experience with NBI had been working on the Respite Options, Saturday and Peer Support programs.



I have found the role of Host Coordinator extremely rewarding and love working alongside the host volunteers who play an integral part in ensuring the program's success.

Hands Can Talk - Sign Language Workshop

On Wednesday, 27 August 2008, NBI will be holding a basic communication and songs sign language workshop at the Nelson Heather Centre in Warriewood. This 2½ hour workshop will be open to all parents and Host, Peer and Saturday Program



volunteers and is free of charge. It will be presented by Aileen Ryan, sign language consultant, tutor and author.

A flyer will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Information for Options Staff

ID Cards for Staff

The long awaited Options Staff ID cards are now ready for your close up! If you would like one of these cards to use when out working in the community, could you please bring in or post a 3cm x 4cm photo of yourself that can be stuck onto the cards. Your card will then be laminated in the office and returned to you.

These cards are to prove you are a paid carer for NBI when out with clients in the local community. Please call Jess on 9970 0500 if you have any questions about the cards.

MLAK Keys for Staff

The Master Locksmith Access Key (MLAK) allows people with disabilities and their carers to have 24 hour access to public facilities (like toilets, lifts, Liberty Swing) by using a universal key and lock. The 200 facilities in NSW are marked with the symbol denoting the key. If you would like to obtain one of these keys, please drop by the office to pick up an application letter or call Lisa or Jess on 9970 0500 and ask them to mail one out to you. You will then have to take this letter to one of the locksmiths below and buy a key for \$10.50. Please keep your receipt, attach to your next timesheet and NBI will reimburse you for the cost. These keys will remain the property of NBI and must be returned to a coordinator when you cease employment with NBI.

Barrenjoey Security Group

6 Waratah Street, Mona Vale
Ph : 9997 1311

Integrated Lock Systems Australia

533 Pittwater Road, Brookvale
Ph : 9938 9699

Alsafes Security Products Pty Ltd

Unit 1/91-93 Old Pittwater Road, Brookvale
Ph : 9939 4855

Hancock Locksmiths

18a Whistler Street, Manly
Ph : 9977 2006



Don't Forget . . .

NBI Bush Dance to be held Saturday, 23 August from 5 - 9pm at the North Narrabeen Community Centre. Invitations out soon!