



DONALD SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTRE

December 2017



The Hub is Back

The community hub proposal, rejected by members in meetings some months ago, is again being considered.

Members have recently been advised that discussions were again taking place on alternatives to the original four-level proposal. This was on the basis of agreement with our opposition to that proposal as not being appropriate for the Donald Simpson site.

Instead, we have been discussing a concept envisaging a smaller building of two levels off the northern end of the Centre and a larger building on the opposite end of the park where the Redland District Committee on the Ageing building now stands. The residential, respite and social enterprise entities would be located on that Wynyard Street building.

Our Board considered this option and resolved that it is a better option for the Centre than the original proposal with a number of reservations. Our concern is related to most of the park becoming a carpark, a loss of environment, traffic flow on the Bloomfield Street roundabout and in Wynyard Street with a primary school across the road with Wynyard Street being busy at start and end of school and during school events.

We have recently been advised that the Donald Simpson carpark is a public carpark which implies that we can have no control over parking or who parks there. In any new development, some tenants would have designated carparks while our members and visitors take their chances on busy days.

We have not seen a rationalization for any hub proposal, no risk assessment for the social impact on the current and future operation of the Donald Simpson Centre. A hub development has the potential to cut off some of our best options for renovation and growth of the Centre. The Board has been considering, over time, options for

renovation and expansion which would renew the Centre in line with today's expectations. We have not heard any consideration of the problems of traffic flow on the already dangerous Bloomfield Street roundabout. The fact that some of the national organisations, with access to government funding, will provide funds for the project seems to be the key factor in their inclusion.

The Donald Simpson Centre was built with public funding through three levels of government and by local fundraising. It was entrusted to the Redland Shire Council which now technically owns the building. Previous Councils further supported the Centre with annual operational funding which is being withdrawn by the present Council.

The Board was advised at its November meeting that there were three options for a hub to be considered soon by the Council. The first and preferred option is the original four level construction, the second is the split development and the third is colocation with a development in Doig Street on the present Council carpark.

We understand that all of the other parties who are currently located elsewhere favour the four-level option. There will be no renovation of the Donald Simpson Centre which leaves us with options for expansion limited with all of our neighbours in a brand new building.

It is our hope that Council will consider all of the factors raised here before they commit to a proposal which puts at risk a valuable facility greatly used and admired by Redland citizens and many from further afield.

Tony Christinson
Board Chairman

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From the Chairman

I don't want to dwell on past history except to say that 2017 will be recorded as a year of contrasts for the Donald Simpson Centre.

We have achieved much in strengthening our activities at the Centre as well as making our mark in and around the Centre.

There has also been the challenge involved with the loss of half of our Redland City Council Funding to be followed by a total loss in July 2018. This has grave implications for the Centre's future and for the leisure time of those who make the 50,000 visits per year to the Centre.

I am optimistic that we can rise above this setback and, with the support of our members and their families and friends, move on to make our Centre one of which we can be continue to be proud.

It has to be remembered that what belongs to the council belongs to us, the community. It is up to us to see that the Centre maintains its original purpose and continues to improve.

I am looking forward to a challenging 2018 and have no regrets about our performance in 2017.

I wish all of our members and their families and friends an enjoyable holiday season and look forward to working with you to ensure our Centre prospers next year and into future years.

Tony Christinson
Board Chairman

From the Manager

Season's Greetings to all members. The year has gone by swiftly and the year 2017 was not short of challenges, but the management and board have embraced it and we are working our way towards a bright and hopeful future.

DSC improvements for 2017 include the digital sign, air conditioning in the Foyer and going Solar. These investments are sure to yield good returns into the future. We also introduced 6 extra new activities this year and, as a special, we are starting evening activities as well. As part of an ongoing initiative to improve services for our members, you now have access to a Counsellor to talk to for a minimal fee of \$10 for a 45 minute session.

New activities are being considered for 2018 as I look forward to introducing Guitar and Ukulele tutoring.

Exciting news for 2018, and I am glad to let you all know this, is that we have been successful in securing a Queensland Small Grants Program to celebrate Harmony Day and to promote multiculturalism. This is the first time DSC has taken an initiative for such a project and we are planning a number of programs from the 25th March to 20th April. More details will be released early next year.

My sincere thanks to Chairman Tony Christinson for his continued support to myself and his foresightedness of various aspects of the centre into the future. Thank you also to the executive team and Board for their ongoing commitment and support.

DSC's asset is the team of staff and volunteers we have and the willingness to grow and learn as we move forward. Special thanks to my able support Vanessa, kitchen supervisor Ann Mason, cleaning staff Trevor and Paul, and also all administration team (Noni, Val Lyn, and reception staff), convenors and all volunteers.

You may have noticed the list of sponsors which has grown in the last 6 months. All their details are on each email sent out, our website, our foyer, and TV screens in the café. If you have a need of their services, please give them a call and let them know you are member of DSC and rest assured they will look after our members.

Lastly, special thanks to CREMATIONS ONLY, who has sponsored our Members Christmas party. Mama Juju and The Jam Tarts are lined up for entertainment. This Free Event For All starts at 9.30 am. The Hub Café will be selling Christmas delicacies on the day, and please welcome your family, friends etc. to DSC on our behalf.

A special visit from Santa amidst his busy schedule is sure to entertain all you grandkids, and the children in our community. Please see flyer for more details.

Thank you, to one and all, for your continued support of the Centre. DSC now has a new tag line, where we call our Centre "Your Meeting Place", and I, along with the Board, hope you continue to cherish this wonderful asset of the Redlands. I wish you all Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year for 2018.

Thomas Jithin
Manager



DONALD SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Board & Management invites
All members & friends

for an End of the Year gathering on
9th (Sat) December 2017
from 9.30am to 11.30am.



Special musical entertainment by
Mama Juju & The Jam Tarts

FREE EVENT.
Call 07 38211089 to RSVP

Hub Café would be open to purchase Christmas Delicacies

*This Christmas Event, is proudly sponsored by
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Uncle Bill

As a child, I used to visit uncle Bill,
Living in the country with aunt Jill.
Around their property with my cousins I would
run,
Playing with their animals was great fun.

When I began a job, I got out of touch,
And didn't see my uncle and aunt very much.
I was busy and time was tight,
But from time to time I would briefly write.

I used to ask, "How's uncle Bill?"
An answer came, written by aunt Jill:
"Uncle Bill is still around,
Slowing down, but in mind sound."

While thinking on my childhood past,
Recently I again asked:
"How's uncle Bill,
Is he with us still?"

The answer, in shaky writing, came:
"It is no longer the same.
I'm very sorry to have to say,
Uncle Bill passed away yesterday."

Suddenly it dawned on me,
As I quietly sipped green tea:
I, too, will go uncle Bill's way,
I'm afraid to admit and say!

Therefore, let me make the most of today,
Before like a bird in a tree, I will fly away!

Let me find out what this life is all about,
And how to ensure a smooth and happy flight!

Alex and Eva Peck (DSCC Members)
(A reflection on aging.)

DONALD SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTRE

2017-18 BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members elected at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 25 September are listed below. In brackets after each name is the number of years to finish their current terms.

Chairman: Tony Christinson (1 Year)

Deputy Chairman: Glen Morgan (2 years)

Secretary: Chris Sheehan (1 year)

Treasurer: Paul Barnes (2 years)

Jenny Chesher (1 year)

Laraine Dillon (1 year)

David Ferguson (1 year)

John Frith (2 years)

Marcell Gorman (2 years)

Peter Mann (1 year)

Noni Silman (1 year)

Frances Taylor (2 years)

The Board meets at 2.00pm on the 4th Thursday of each month except December.



Steps to Living Well

This group has been set up following our Information Session on "What Do You Know About Depression".

All are welcome to attend and discuss, in group session, anything related to good living, from how to enjoy visits to the Centre more and whatever else is appropriate to your health.

The group will meet at the Centre
on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month

Retired Psychologist

Sue Garnett, will support the group.

There will be the usual activity fee of \$5 per session.



DONALD SIMPSON CENTRE WALKING GROUP

The DSC walking group has now been active for more than 18 months and gives members the opportunity to take part in a program which promotes healthy exercise at a level to suit the individual members' needs.

Some of the early members of the group have now completed close to 150 walks at an average distance of between 3 and 5.5 kms.

New members wishing to join the group can contact Peter on 0417 706 849 or Trevor on 0402 353 630 or meet us in front of the DSC at 7AM on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

Peter Armstrong

Line Dancing

Line Dancing will close after our Christmas Party on Saturday, 16th December and will start again on Monday, 1st January, 2018.



Have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Line Dancers

COMING EVENTS

December 9	Members' Christmas Party
December 21	Centre Closure
January 2	Centre Re-opening
January 22	New Members' Morning Tea
January 25	Board Meeting

An Australian Christmas Poem

Author Unknown

Night Before Christmas in Aussie Land

"Twas the night before Christmas; there wasn't a sound

Not a possum was stirring; no-one was around
We'd left on the table some tucker and beer,

Hoping that Santa soon would be here;
We children were snuggled up safe in our beds
While dreams of pavlova danced 'round in our heads,

And Mum in her nightie and Dad in his shorts,
Had just settled down to watch TV sports
When outside a mad ruckus arose.

Loud squeaking and banging woke us up
from our doze

We ran to the screen door, peeked cautiously out,
Snuck onto the deck, then let out a shout.

Guess what had woken us up from our snooze,
But a rusty old Ute pulled by eight mighty "roos.
The cheerful man driving was giggling with glee,
And we both knew at once who this plump man must be.

Now I'm telling the truth, it's all dinky-di,
Those eight kangaroos fairly soared through the sky.

Santa leaned out the window to pull at the reins,
An encourage the 'roos by calling their names.

"Now Kylie! now Kirsty! Now Shazza and Shane!
On Kipper!, on Skipper! On Bazza and Wayne!
Park up on that water tank, grab a quick drink,
I'll scoot down the gum tree, be back in a wink!"

So up to the tank those eight kangaroos flew,
With the Ute full of toys and Santa Claus too.
He slid down the gum tree and jumped to the ground,

Then in through the window he sprang with a bound.

He had bright sunburnt cheeks and a milky white beard,

A jolly old joker was how he appeared.

He wore stubby red shorts and old thongs on his feet,

And a hat of deep crimson as shade from the heat.
His eyes - bright as opals - oh! how they twinkled!

And, like a goanna, his skin was quite wrinkled!
His shirt was stretched over a round bulging belly
Which shook when he moved, like a plate full of jelly.

A fat stack of prezzies he flung from his back,
And he looked like a swaggie unfastening his pack.
He spoke not a word, but bent down on one knee,
To position our goodies beneath the yule tree.

Surfboard and footy-ball shapes for us two,
And for Dad, tongs to use on the new barbeque.

A mysterious package he left for our Mum
Then he turned and he winked and held up his thumb;

He strolled out on deck and his 'roos came on cue;
Flung his sack in the back and prepared to shoot through.

He bellowed out loud as they swooped
past the gates,

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all,
and good on ya, MATES!

Out With a Difference



Friday, 26th January, 2018 - Australia Day Festivities - Highfields Pioneer Village - Museum and Park. Celebrate Australia Day with a visit to this fascinating Pioneer Village. There is a full program during the day with something different to see every ½ hour. Morning tea will be at Marburg and damper and tea will be available at the venue. There are also plenty of outlets where you can buy your lunch. This will be a longer than usual day, back in Cleveland approximately 5.30 pm. Members cost \$48.00. Bookings close 12th January, 2018.

Wednesday, 31st January 2018 - A Summer's Day Touring - North Coast. Enjoy a leisurely summer's day touring through parts of the North coast. After morning tea at Ewen Maddock Dam we travel through Eudlo, Woombye and Palmwoods. Time permitting we will have a stop at Palmwoods. Lunch will be at the Chancellor Park Tavern, a new venue for us. Lunch will be buy your own from Chancellors Lunch and Bar Menu. Members cost \$37.00. Bookings close 17th January 2018



Wednesday, 7th February, 2018 - Murwillumbah - After morning tea along the way we take a scenic trip across the range towards Murwillumbah in Northern NSW. Here we will take the opportunity to browse around the unique shops in this township. From here we travel to the Tumbulgum Tavern on the Tweed River for lunch. Members cost \$63.00. Bookings close 17th January, 2018.

BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

AND A SAFE AND HEALTHY 2018

FROM LYN, NONI, SUSAN, FLOR, CAROLYN AND ANNE

Out With a Difference

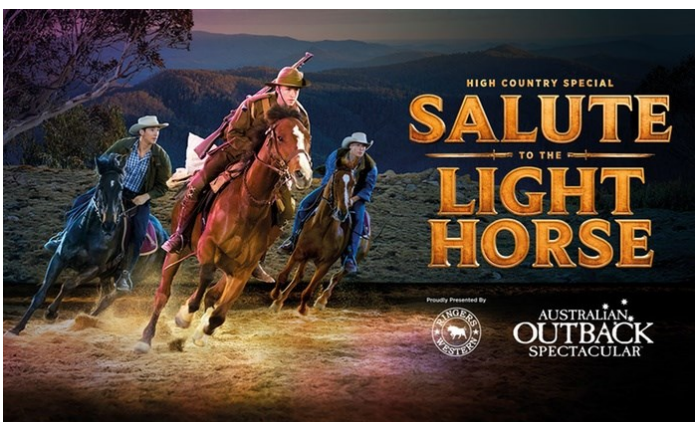


Sunday, 11th February, 2018 - Tamborine Mountain Country Markets - These markets offer a large range of fresh fruit and vegetables, wonderful local cheese, plants, herbs flowers, arts and crafts, lots of home made things and much, much more. There is something to suit every taste. There is also a variety of food stalls. We will go into Gallery Walk in time to purchase your lunch before heading home. Members cost \$36.00. Bookings close 1st February, 2018.

Wednesday, 21 February, 2018 - Maleny Cheese Factory - tasting and talk. Maleny Boutique Cheeses has been operating its cheese and yoghurt factory since 2004. This dairy uses milk from fresh milk suppliers in the local area. The handmade range of cow and buffalo milk cheese is of high quality and authentic flavour. After an 11 minute talk about the different products a morning tea of scones, jam, cream tea and coffee will be served. Products are available for purchase. We will then stop in Montville where there will be time to browse and purchase your own lunch. Members cost \$48.00. Bookings close 31st January, 2018.



Sunday, 25th February, 2018 - Australian Outback Spectacular Presents - The Light Horse High Country Special. Anzacs and the legendary heroes of the Light Horse Brigade are celebrated in this show. Join in the competitive spirit of Australians as stockmen and women from rival stations test their riding prowess. All is accompanied by a musical score especially written for the show. A 3 course meal is served at your seat during the show, plus wine, beer, lemonade and tea or coffee. Members cost \$100.00. Bookings close 12th February, 2018



Out With a Difference reserves the right to alter or omit any part of the itinerary or change the reservation, features and/or means of conveyance without notice. OWAD reserves the right to cancel the tour should it not reach minimum numbers and clients will be notified prior to departure should this occur.

Check www.donaldsimpsoncentre.com/trips calendar for further details

Away With A Difference

Taiwan & Colours of the Lantern Festival - Tuesday 6th - March 18th, 2018 - Includes return economy flights from Brisbane to Taipei with China Airlines, luxury accommodation, meals as per itinerary and English speaking guide. Excursions include Taipei 101 Observatory (own cost), Martyrs Shrine, Yehliu Park Rock Formations, woodcarving village of Sanyi and Chung Tai Monastery. We have a Sun Moon lake cruise, see the spectacular Taiwan Lantern Festival, have a traditional foot massage, visit the Liuho Night Market, Stone Umbrella, Cave of the Eight Immortals & Stone Steps, stunning Taroko Gorge, enjoy the Taiwanese Tea Plantation Cultural experience and much more. Tour cost \$4,525 per person twin share., plus taxes. Price based on minimum 20 passengers ex Brisbane. Places still available.



The Savannahlander & Tropical North Queensland - 9th - 17th June 2018 - Tour highlights include - Spirit of Queensland; The Savannahlander; Stony Creek Falls; Kuranda; Dimbulah; Chillagoe Cave; Town Tour; Mt. Surprise; Einaseigh; Forsayth Night Tour; Cabbold Gorge Cruise; Undara; and much more. Price includes: Spirit of Queensland Railbed - Brisbane Cairns; Economy flight Cairns to Brisbane - Coach charter while touring, Savannahlander, 7 nights accommodation, all meals and attractions per itinerary. \$2,690 per person twin share . Currently fully book. Waitlist available.

Spectacular Canada & Alaska - 24 days/23 nights - August 4th - 27th - Tour highlights include Butchart Gardens, Jasper, Banff and we travel on the "Going to the Sun" Road in Glacier National Park in Montana. Visit a silver mine in Idaho then on to Washington State where we spend a night in Spokane. We then journey on to take in the sights of Seattle. After an overnight here we travel back to Vancouver via the Capilano Suspension Bridge where we board the "Star Princess" for our cruise to Alaska. Ports of call include Juneau, Skagway, and Anchorage. We fly back from Anchorage to Vancouver to connect with our flight to Brisbane. Cost \$13,480.00 per person twin share. Includes meals, accommodation, tours, transport and gratuities as per itinerary. Air and Land only option available.



*Best wishes for a Happy Christmas from
Val and all at Trade Travel*

Bookings open for all tours; Brochures available.

Download full itineraries and prices from our website.

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The Donald Simpson Centre wishes to thank our sponsors, listed below, and urges members to support them whenever you have a need for the services they offer.

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We also happily accept DVA referrals.

Call 3286 6608 to schedule your appointment.

Invitations for Recipes for our Cookbook

2018, is shaping up to be a very exciting year as we have been successful in securing QLD Small Grants Program to celebrate Harmony Day & Multiculturalism. As part of this initiative, we intend to release a cookbook. Members are invited to send in a recipe. There will be 5 sections you can contribute to; Entrée, Soup, BBQ, Mains, & Dessert. Those who would like to send in a recipe please ensure you explain the country that the recipe has come from, and to make sure the ingredients can be bought or sourced locally. Last date of the entry would be 10th FEB. Please email all recipes to manager@donaldsimpsoncentre.com



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