straichaels Developing Independence The Independent

ISSUE 16 JANUARY 2014

From the CEO with John Gilpin



John Gilpin

Happy New Year everybody and Welcome to 2014!

I hope that you had a chance to rest up over the festive season with family and friends and are prepared for the year ahead. We are under no illusion that it is not going to be an easy one!

For instance the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) managed by the Agency (NDIA), still has a long way to go and will implement the birth to 15 cohort in July 2014, while support services such as ours are still struggle with the "in kind" rationale and functionality as it affects cash resources of the Association.



APPROACH PERSPECTIVE

Hard work for the Association but great news is the commencement shortly of the construction of 20 New Independent living units. The development application is with planning and building permit paperwork are with our building surveyors. Work is scheduled for late February early March to be fully occupied by December.

Another key project for the year is the conversion of our old school building into a purpose built community access centre catering for a mix of on-site and offsite programs. Talking of which our Day Program is often seen only as an on-site program when in fact is isn't'. We mix on-site activities with Community Access Programs (the site is just a home base!) Please feel free to contact the new Team Leader Ann Smith or Donald Richards for a schedule of activities.

So as you can see we have a lot of work to do in creating new homes, a new centre and more importantly creating new program supports for our participants.

As always we appreciate your support and if you

can help in anyway in 2014 it would be greatly appreciated!

Wish us luck !!

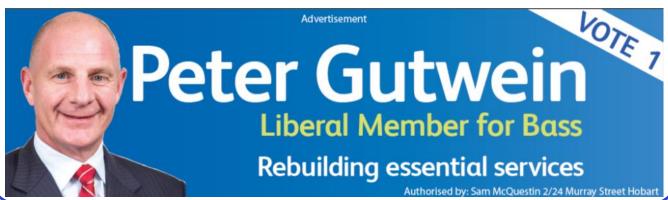
Take care and I will bring you up to date on how we are going in March.

John.

Funding and Donations Received

Myer LauncestonDIER

• Anonymous \$10,000



A Quiet Word - with Senator Helen Polley



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Senator Helen Polley

Soon Tasmania will be holding its state election and I would encourage everyone to be as engaged as possible. Not all Tasmanians follow politics particularly closely, but you might be surprised that some of the issues being discussed are of real interest to you.

One aspect of the state's political system that does confuse some people, particularly those new to the state or first time voters, is the way we elect our representatives to the state parliament. You may have heard people mention that unlike other states and territories in Australia, the Tasmanian lower house (called the House Assembly) operates according to what is called the "Hare-Clark" system. But

what does this really mean?

The Hare-Clark electoral system has been used since 1909. It involves candidates being elected from multi-members constituencies rather than single members being elected from single constituencies (as is most common in Australia for lower house elections, including at the federal level). To achieve representation candidates must attract a quota of votes and I think the best description was given by the ABC's Antony Green who said that: "The easiest way to mentally picture what is taking place during a Hare-Clark count is to think of the election as a giant pie. If you have 20 candidates all vying to fill five vacancies. At the start of the count, there will be 20 slices of pie, each of a size representing the vote received by that candidate. At the end of the count, there will be five slices, all the same size representing the quotas for the five elected candidates, and a smaller sixth slice representing the votes not used to elect a candidate.

At any stage in the count, if a candidate has more than a quota of votes (their slice of pie is too big), they are declared elected and a portion of their vote (or slice of the pie) equal to their surplus is separated and distributed by preferences to other candidates, leaving the elected candidate with an exact quota."

You may think that this system sounds very similar to how Senators are elected at the federal level (like me) and you would be exactly right. There are really only very minor differences between the Hare-Clare model and the Senate system and this concerns the fact that the Senate system favours parties while Hare-Clark gives greater weight to candidates.

There are five electorates and you may be surprised to learn that they are also the same as the electorates used to elect members to the Federal House of Representatives. Denison is based on Hobart's western shore, Franklin Hobart's eastern shore and the state's south. Bass covers Launceston, the north-east coast, Flinders and other islands in the Furneaux group. Braddon covers the state's northwest coast and King Island and Lyons basically fills in all the bits inbetween (with no disrespect intended!).

All of this is completely separate to how Tasmanians elect their upper house, called the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council consists of single member electorates and uses a preferential voting method just like the Federal House of Representatives. There are 19 members of the Legislative Council and those elected serve six year terms, staggered so that two or three retire each year and all elections held in May once a year.

So there you have it! Make sure to be enrolled, read up on the issues and get involved, because after all elections are something that should never be taken for granted.

Senator Helen Polley Labor Senator for Tasmania

St Michaels - At a glance

St Michaels Association Inc. is a not-for-profit non-government organisation providing accommodation and support to people with intellectual and physical disabilities for over 47 years.

The vision of St Michaels is to *develop independence through maxi-* mising the individual qualities of Tasmanians living with a disability.

Our Mission is to support the physical and emotional needs of our clients and their families through the provision of personalised care programs, training and a variety of accommodation services St Michaels relies heavily on grants, local community support, donations and fund raising to meet our clients needs.

All proceeds received are redistributed back into the St Michaels Association Inc. community. If you feel you would like to make a donation, please complete the form **see page 15** and forward it to

Rod.Campbell@stmicha els.asn.au or post it to PO Box 306 Newstead, Tas. 7250

Thanking you for your consideration.

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New - Independent Living Units

St Michaels Association Inc. is proud to announce that an additional 20 Independent Living Units are to be constructed on the Hobblers Bridge Road Campus bringing the total number of Independent Living Units to 44.

Funds for this large project has been approved through the National Rental Affordability Scheme NRAS to construct the 20 new units.

CEO John Gilpin said "the construction of the 20 units was a major project for St Michaels and will be a significant boost for the disability community with planning well underway with the project due for com-







pletion by the second half of 2014 with full occupancy by December 2014".

Expressions of interest are extended to those Tasmanians with a disability which are looking to transition into Independent Living.

Please contact the Disability Service Manager Donald Richards if you are interested. Donald can be contacted on 6331 7651.

Thanks goes to the NRAS and Housing Tasmania for their ongoing support in this project.

Myer Christmas Tree

Thanks once again to the wonderful team at Myer Launceston for their generous donation of a Christmas Tree, lights and decorations benefitting all of the participants of St Michaels.

Donald Richards Disability Services Manager commented "it is just fabulous, the tree looks great and the guys had a great time putting it up."

Special thanks goes to the team at Myer for coming out and working with the participants to create this wonderful Christmas centrepiece.



Friends of St Michaels we need you!

St Michaels Association Inc. has been providing support services and accommodation services to Tasmanians living with a disability for over 47 years.

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During this time a group of conscientious workers have been volunteering their time and helping out to complete small projects such as gardening, rubbish removal, painting and some general handyman work.

Unfortunately as time has gone on this active group of volunteers has diminished to the point where there are now only 3 volunteers able to assist on a regular basis, and this group itself is getting older all the time.

"With the current manpower available we are finding that the number of basic jobs are beyond our capacity." Volunteer Glen Cornish said.

Glen went on to say "at the end of the day we get together, have a few laughs, have a bit of lunch and chat, its really just a social outing with a little bit of work in between" ideally we would like to see a few more people from the community come forward to assist."

St Michaels has recently been awarded funding from the National Rental Affordability Scheme to build an additional 20 Independent Living Unit on the St Michaels grounds in Hoblers Bridge Road bringing the total number of Independent Living Units to 44.

Whilst this is great news for the Association and provides an opportunity for those Tasmanians living with a disability that want to live independently it does pose another problem in how to keep the maintenance of the existing buildings and the 44 Independent Living Units up to standard and in good condition.

We are looking for people who are honest, friendly, willing to work and have a good sense of humour." Glen said.

We seek assistance from like minded people in the community to come forward and volunteer a little bit of their spare time. You can rest assured that every bit of assistance





is greatly appreciated and directly benefits Tasmanians living with a disability.

We recognise that more often than not those with spare time capable of assisting generally have other commitments and are often time poor. We are not asking for a lot of your time just a little on a regular basis. Our aim is to have enough volunteers available to equally share the load. "Ideally we would like a group of around 30 vol-



unteers, which would easily keep up with the maintenance and little projects that come up from time to time." Glen said.

So if you are a supporter and friend of St Michaels and would genuinely like to make a difference, do something worthwhile, help others less fortunate and have a bit of fun along the way we would like to hear from you. Please contact Glen today on 63272363 or 0419 305 490.

St Michaels - Call for memberships

St Michaels Association Inc. has been serving the Tasmanian Community for over 47 years through the provision of care and accommodation services to those living with an intellectual and or physical disability. St Michaels is now calling for new members to join this innovative and trusted organisation.

There are 2 types of Memberships that are available including;

Member - full voting rights, cost \$25 pa.

Associate - non voting rights, cost \$10 pa.

Other benefits of being a St Michaels Association Member include invitations to St Michaels AGM and functions, personalised calendars and being on the mailing list of the bi monthly newsletter, The Independent.

If you would like to become a Member of St Michaels Association please contact John Gilpin for a membership form on 6331 7651.

Welcome Ann Smith

A typical warm welcome was extended to Ann Smith.

A welcome to St Michaels morning tea was held to mark the occasion (albeit post Christmas).

Ann commenced her new role at St Michaels as the Community Access Team Leader.

Ann has previously worked in the Disability Sector and brings to St Michaels a wealth of knowledge and experience.

All the best Ann in your new role.

See Ann for a new Activity Schedule for 2014



Croquet

Community Access participants recently attended the St Leonards Sports Centre, to learn how to play Croquet.

The participants had great fun learning how to play and learn the intricacies behind the game of Croquet.

Everyone commented that they were looking forward to the next time they are able to go.

Thank you to the member of the St Leonards Croquet Club for your assistance and support.

Disability Service Manager Donald Richards said "its nice to have such a beautiful facility available for our participants to share."







Innovation Award

St Michaels has been recognised for its innovative Personal Duress Alarm System by taking out the prestigious Leadership Award for Safety and Quality in Community Services as part of the DHHS Lake Maintenance Innovation Awards for 2013.

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The Award criteria is based on an individual, team, group or volunteer within the area of children and youth services, disability, housing and community services who has made an exceptional contribution in the area of safety and quality. They may have enhanced a culture of continuous quality improvement within their organisation which has led to an increase in the effectiveness, efficiency or sustainability of their service to Tasmanian consumers.

The Lake Maintenance Gold Award for Service Excellence was the THO -South Renal Unit for its home dialysis project.

Other Category Award winners included: THO-South Safety and Quality Unit for its Life Guard - Early Recognition and Response to Clinical Deterioration project.

Service Planning and Design, System Purchasing and Performance for its Telehealth Consultation pilot project.

Peer Education Project Team for its Elder Financial Abuse (You're worth it). Peer Education Project

Team - Donna Evans. If you would like further



information or to view the category winner videos please go to www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ about the department/ innovation awards/2013 winners

CEO John Gilpin and Disability Support & Community Development Manager Rod Campbell attended the Awards ceremony at the Blundstone Arena, Bel-

lerive.

CEO John Gilpin congratulated the Gold Award recipient and other category winners and said "it was wonderful to be recognised for the implementation of the Personal Duress Alarm system", "this innovative system has made a remarkable difference to the safety of our clients and staff!" John Gilpin also thanked Lake Maintenance for the Award, Wired and Wireless Communication Solutions for providing this innovative technology and the Tasmanian Community Fund and the WH Booth Foundation for their support of the system.

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Artistic talents...

Community Access participants regularly attend the Arts Program held at the St Michaels and soon to be extended to its Art Annexe. This program encourages the participants to explore their creative side.

The participants have a fantastic time and regularly get in amongst the action with paint, pens, paper, pottery to name a few. The group has great fun learning different modalities.

Everyone commented that they were looking forward to the next time they are able to go.

Thank you to Sarah Trousdale for your assistance and support.

Bowls ..

One of the favourite activities of our participants is the weekly lawn bowls program held at the West Launceston Bowls Club.

This program encourages the participants to learn about the game of lawn bowls and participate in mini competitions.

Some of the group have gone on to play in a regular competition.

Everyone has a great time and can't wait to return to the rink.

Thank you to the West Launceston Bowls Club and its members for your assistance and support.













St Michaels RTO



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Ms Chriss Kelly

It is with pleasure that we can announce that we are once again approved to provide accredited training and assessment services across the state until 2018.

Tenders/Contracts awarded by Skills Tasmania to STMA for the 2014 delivery year.

Our User Choice Traineeship Contract has been renewed for 2014

Cycle 4 All

and a forklift training has been approved by Work Standards Tasmania as a commercial fee for service program.

We have be awarded 2 Skills Fund 2014 Contracts (as follows)

Legend:

ADE = Australian Disability Enterprise

DES = Disability Employment Service (WISE Employment)

LLAN = Language Literacy and Numeracy for functional workplace skills development.

Skills Fund Existing Workers - LLAN for ADE's (133 places at the following businesses across the state.

(Registered Training Organisation) RTO ID 60067

St Vincent Industries TasTex Blueline Laundry Start Fresh (Colony 47) Vincent Industries

Skills Fund Mind the

Gap - LLAN for DES (60 places for job seekers registered with Wise Employment at the following locations.

Burnie Devonport Launceston George Town

User Choice – 2014

Traineeships in Certificate I in AgriFood Operations, Certificate I Warehousing, Certificate II in Horticulture and Certificate II Warehousing.

Delivery is for people

with a disability as recognised by Centrelink.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our ADE partners and our contacted trainers for a fantastic 2013. We look forward to another successful year of delivering quality training programs across the Access and Equity environment.

For further information please contact Ms Chriss Kelly Quality and RTO Supervisor Ph. (03) 6331 7651 0408 902 365 Christine.kelly@ stmichaels.asn.au

The successful Cycle 4 All Program is up and running once again thanks to the generous donation from the Department Infrastructure Energy Resources.

The program is designed to equip participants with the relevant skills and understanding in how to use a bicycle as a means of transport.

During the program participants will be treated to a number of personal training sessions provided by Luke Porsbro-Pedersen of Revive Fitness designed to condition the body to the rigors of cycling. After the conditioning stage participants receive training in how to change a tire and general bike maintenance and an introduction to cycling from AustCycle specialist coach Andy



Boote. This stage includes basic cycling skills, route mapping/ planing, trail riding and group riding. At the completion of the program the participants will ride a 9 km course from St Michaels Campus in Hoblers Bridge Road to the Tail Race Reserve, Riverside for a celebration BBQ and certificate presentation.

Congratulations on eve-

ryone who is participating in the Cycle 4 All program, we are sure you will enjoy the experience and possibly go on to use a bicycle as a means of transport.

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Eagle's Edge -



Fenton Jones

In Bordeaux , southwest France , some drunken revellers recently horsed about on a night out when they 'borrowed' a circus llama and took him for a tram ride.

According to the *Huffing-ton Post*, the adventure began when five young men, departing a nightclub in the early hours of the morning, decided to stop by the local circus to play with the animals – as you do.

According to reports, they initially tried to coax a zebra to join them on their night out but the animal refused so they settled for Serge the llama, who is clearly a wild party animal!

The fun-loving llama happily followed the group around town and even hopped on a tram with them.

However, the tram conductor didn't find the situation so amusing and asked the passengers to depart the tram.

The human party animals then left Serge in the care of tram workers until he could be returned to the circus.

with Fenton Jones

Initially the director of the circus filed a complaint against the llamanappers, leading to them being detained on the following afternoon; however, when the circus established Serge was unharmed the complaint was withdrawn.

The night out made headlines worldwide and caused a storm on social media, where a Facebook page in support of Serge's five party companions attracted 773,000 'likes'.

But at least these party animals did not fall "fowl" of the law and were charged with cruelty to Serge... <u>however there is</u> <u>a serious side to this.</u> There is a Duty of Care owed to animals, and anyone responsible for an animal must take it seriously!

Animal cruelty includes overt and intentional acts of violence towards animals as well as animal neglect or the failure to provide for the welfare of an animal under one's control. In addition to this, it is important to remember animal cruelty is not restricted to cases involving physical harm. Causing animal's psychological harm in the form of distress, torment or terror may also constitute animal cruelty.

You are responsible for the welfare of animals, either if you own animals or look after animals. This applies whether your animals are pets or livestock. You may be deemed to have the care or charge of an animal if you are:

•The animal's owner •A person with control, possession or custody of the animal

 An operator or manager of commercial premises involving the animal
 A share farmer

•A chief executive officer or a director of a company that owns the animal

Additionally, employers can be held liable for the actions, or inactions, of their employees in relation to the welfare of an animal.

There is a legal requirement that animals unable to provide for themselves must be given appropriate and sufficient food, water, shelter and exercise. Section 8 of the Animal Welfare Act 1993 gives the legal interpretation of what "appropriate and sufficient" means in terms of food, water and shelter.

The maximum penalties for offences are ;

(a) a person can be fined up to \$13,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both ; or

(b) a Company can be fined up to \$65,000

The legislation does not provide for a minimum penalty thus it is within the discretion of the Magistrate to impose a penalty as they see fit.

RSPCA inspectors have a range of powers to investigate cases of animal cruelty and to enforce animal welfare law. These powers are similar in nature to those afforded to police officers. In the course of investigating animal cruelty offences, inspectors are empowered to:

enter property;

seize animals;

•seize evidence of animal cruelty offences;

•issue animal welfare

directions/notices; •issue on-the-spot fines;

and

•initiate prosecutions under animal welfare legislation.

A system of infringement notices enable the less serious animal welfare breaches can be dealt with quickly and efficiently. What this means is that people who are cruel to an animal (and that includes neglect) are more likely to be charged and convicted than previously.

DO YOU I NEED A LAWYER?

If you are faced with charges or believe you might be, Felicity Radin at Bishops Solicitors has the necessary legal skills and the experience needed to help you deal with the situation and obtain the best possible outcome. Felicity will advise you of your rights and help you to understand your options. You should see Felicity if you don't know whether to plead guilty or not guilty or if the court advises you that you should obtain legal advice. Call Felicity today on 6334 1667.

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Things we do...

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Would you like a copy of a photo? See P15 for details









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Things we do...













Would you like a copy of a photo? See P15 for details

Things we do...

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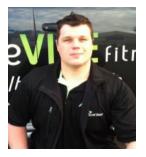
Would you like a copy of a photo? See P15 for details





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Time to Revive - with Luke Porsbro-Pedersen



Luke Porsbro-Pedersen

Cycle 4 All 2014

This year Revive Fitness is working once again with a group of St Michaels participants, support workers and Andy Boote a specialist cycling trainer from Austcycles as part of the Cycling 4 All Program.

Our goal over the next 10 weeks is to assist the participants with their strength and fitness and provide them with the relevant skills to assist them in riding a bicycle as a means of transport.

Our aim is to focus on improving their general fitness, balance and coordination whilst improving their strength through developing the posterior chain of muscles. This will allow them to pedal more easily and use the electric assistance as little



as possible. This preconditioning training will lead to a fitter, healthier, stronger rider as well as providing them with a more independent lifestyle which could eventually lead to using a bike as a means of transport.

In addition to the Cycling 4 All Program, Revive Fitness also provides assistance to the Wednesday St Michaels gym group.

We will have updates in the coming newsletter on how everyone is going.

Contact Luke today on 0423 043 250 if you Want to Get Healthy.









Revive Fitness - We are here for you!

A company dedicated to improving the quality of life for its patrons. Call Luke today on 0400 818 266 to discuss your training needs for 2013. Specialising in

- Outdoor group training sessions
- Personal Training sessions at Pycsam health and fitness Launceston
- Corporate Training sessions
- Corporate Team Building sessions
- Assisting you in reaching your Goals
- Strength Training and conditioning
- Rehabilitation for old and new injuries
- Pelvic floor workouts for all mothers



⁵⁰ Glen Dhu Street, Launceston, Tas. 7250 Ph. 0400 818 266

Recipes to make your mouth



Tom Yum Kung Compliments of Neil

st michaels

Ingredients

2 L chicken stock

6 crushed wild chilli's green

1 small knob galangal bruised

6 Kaffir Lime leaves crushed

2 ripe Tomatoes roughly chopped

2 tablespoons "Neil Perry" roast Chilli Paste

1 teaspoon Palm Sugar 3 tablespoons Fish sauce

4 small red eschalots finely sliced

3 Limes juiced

6 large cooked King Prawns

3 tablespoons sliced straw Mushrooms

500 g cooked Hokkien egg noodles Ccoriander leaf to serve

Method

Bring the stock to the boil in a large saucepan.

Add the chillies, galangal, lemongrass, lime leaves, tomatoes and roast chilli paste and stir well to combine.

Add the palm sugar and fish sauce and allow to simmer for a minute.

Add the sliced eschallots and check the balance. It should be a little on the saltier and sweeter side at this point as the heat is yet to develop.

Add the lime juice, remove from the heat and taste again. If the balance in flavours is correct, then add the prawns and straw mushrooms.

To Serve

Divide the noodles amongst serving bowls and pour the soup over. Finish with coriander.



Prawn Laska Compliments of Peter

Ingredients

0.5 cup Laksa Paste 16 Green King Prawns head and shell removed 3 cups Coconut milk

3 cups chicken stock

20 ml Lime juice

30 ml Fish sauce

2 teaspoons Palm Sugar

1 packet Glass Noodles Pour over hot water and sit for 3 min

8 Vietnamese lime leaves

2 birds eye chillies

1 Kaffir lime leaf shredded very fine

160 g bean shoots

0.5 Lebanese cucumber deseeded and finely sliced

4 tablespoons Fried red shallots Bought or Deep fried in peanut oil

Method

Fry off laksa paste for a minute until it becomes fragrant

Add the palm sugar and dissolve

Add the fish sauce – and fry for 5 seconds to release the flavour

Add the coconut milk, and bring to the boil for 5 minutes

Add the stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 10 minutes

Season with the lime juice

Turn heat off and place in the prawns for a few minutes until just turned opaque – they will continue to cook in the bowl

Place noodles in each bowl (about a cup each)

Place the bean sprouts on top

Place the cucumber on top

Place the prawns on top Pour in the soup

Garnish with, kaffir lime, Vietnamese & corriander leaves, chili & fried shallots.

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Photos

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Services offered at St Michaels

Community Access (Day Program)

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Is an adult training program for people with special needs that require support in the development of the life skills that they may require to live independently in the community. The program operates from Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 3 pm, most weeks of the year.

Transitional Accommodation

Merton House Adult Accommodation is a transitional program that provides accommodation and training for adults who are preparing to live independently in the community. The program operates overnight from 3.00 pm to 9.00 am Monday to Friday and 3.30 pm to 9.30 am Saturday and Sunday. The residents attend

day programs within and outside the organisation.

In Home Tenancy Support

Program started in 1995. The goals in this program are to give people assistance in their own home environment in the areas of life skills, personal care and budgeting and banking to maintain and develop their independent skills.

Community Housing

The Association also supports three Community Homes as a part of the Community Integration Program (CIP). Each home accommodates 4 residents who are supported overnight 3.30 pm to 9.30 am, 7 days a week, with day support provided on Saturday and Sunday and the residents attending their day programs during the week.

Student Accommodation

Student Accommodation for students under the age of sixteen who are attending special units in the education department. Accommodation is provided from Sunday evening to Friday morning during school terms.

Youthbreak

Youthbreak is provided to young people up to the age of 25 in the Desmond Wood Complex from Friday 4.00 pm to Sundays at 4.00 pm when funding is available.

Individual Programs

St Michaels Association provides contracted support to individuals to meet their specific needs. This support may be in their home, day or night, or at an educational or work facility. This program currently extends through to the Southern Region where we provide support to young children with accessing their educational programs.

Social Club

Social Club is held in the hall at St Michaels every Saturday Night from 6.00 pm to 9.30 pm. This is a time for clients to get together for a meal and engage in leisure activities of their choice such as card or board games, singing, dancing or enjoying a footy match on TV with a friend.

Independent Living Units

Independent living units are the most recent development at St Michaels Association. Each of the units provide independent living in a safe, supported environment. These units are more suited to clients with higher skills, requiring minimal assistance.

Registered Training Organisation

St Michaels are a Registered Training Organisation that provides accredited training for Tasmanians with a disability in partnership with Rural and Equity Training. Including Certificate I and II in Warehousing Operations, Certificate I in Agri-Food Operations and Certificate II in Horticulture.

Did you know?

The St Michaels Hall and kitchen facilities are available for hire.

If you are interested in hiring the facilities please call Lisa on 6331 7651

Details

The Independent will be distributed electronically on a bi-monthly basis.

General Display and Classified Display Advertising space is available if you would like to <u>advertise your</u>

business.

Please contact Rod Campbell on 6331 7651

Contact Details

St Michaels Association Inc. 22 Hoblers Bridge Road PO Box 306 Newstead Tas 7250 Phone (03) 6331 7651 Fax (03) 6334 2132 admin@stmichaels.asn.au www.stmichaels.asn.au Find us on Facebook for regular updates