



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

Our Area Coordinators

Ralph Schier - North East Area
Jane Sawyer - North West Area
Christine Hayden - West Area
Leoni Schar - West Moreton Area
Moira Ross - Peninsular Area
Ensha Reiya - Inner South Brisbane
Deanna Cosmas - Outer South Brisbane
Lorraine Chester - Gold Coast Area
We need Coordinators for Outer North, Central, South West, Logan and Bayside areas. Please contact the office for more information if interested.

Our Management Committee

Rebecca Pini - President
Kim Richards - Vice President
Patricia Van Den Camp - Treasurer
Amanda Goddard - Secretary
Janelle Green - Committee Member
Christine Hayden - Committee Member
Ralph Schier - Committee Member
Rosanna Wullems - Committee Member
Chris Goddard - Committee Member
Barbara Harvey - Committee Member
Irene Henley - Committee Member
Doreen Awabdy - Committee Member

Our Staff

Rachael Bakker - Administration Officer



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Friends and Volunteers,

Many of our Friends and Volunteers may not be aware that Group61 has been working closely with Wesley Mission Brisbane over the past few years. We are pleased to announce Wesley Mission Brisbane will acquire Group61 as of 1st of July 2016. We are excited, about this amazing opportunity for Group61 to go from strength to strength and we look forward to sharing this journey with you.

Under the proposed change, the governance of Group61 will sit with Wesley Mission with our current Management Committee operating as an Advisory Committee focussed on the continued successful direction and growth of Group61.

The Management Committee fully supports the move, which will put Group61 on a more secure financial footing at a time when it is becoming harder to obtain funding.

To all our valued Friends, Volunteers and Area Coordinators, be assured that Group61s' model and name will remain the same. Our office address will change and you will be advised of the new location in the near future.

The reorganisation has the full backing of John Fox, our much-loved founder of Group61, who agreed it was an exciting development.

A Special General Meeting will be held at Group61s' office 5/288 Newmarket Rd, Wilston at 10am on Thursday, April 7, to facilitate this crucial change by passing the following motion:

"Group61 Inc is to be wound up and deregistered as an incorporated association and transferred to Wesley Mission Brisbane in accordance with Clause 51 of the Group61 Inc Constitution."

Please be assured that Wesley Mission, who share Group61's values and mission, will continue with ensuring that those in our community isolated through mental illness receive the best possible support through friendship.

If you have any questions, Rachel Watson who is the Manager, Service Innovation and New Business for the Wesley Mission is happy to take them. Her contact details are below.

T 3621 4342 E r.watson@wmb.org.au W www.wmb.org.au

RBWH Community Connection Program

From July 2014 through to early 2016, Group61 undertook a Pilot Community Connection Program at the RBWH. The project was funded by Partners in Recovery Northside (PIR) and in phase 2, PIR with Communify. Group61 was on-ward from October 2014 through to November 2015 assisting patients in the recovery phase of their illness and then with their transition from hospital to home.

Group61, in mid-2016, deepened evaluation of the program working with Dr Geoff Waghorn and his team at the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research. This collaboration has produced a final evaluation report and completion of the Pilot Project.

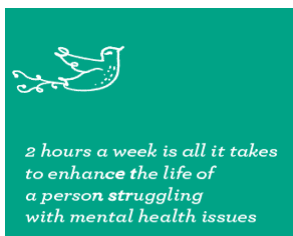
Evaluation of the project outlines the significant benefit of community connection for patients in their recovery process. Group61 would like to thank all project partners for their support throughout the project: Partners in Recovery Northside, Communify, Wesley Mission, Arafmi, QCMHR, RBWH, Open Minds, Brook RED and Burnie Brae.

Thank you to Sharon Munn



A good reflection that you will be missed when you leave a job is the amount of farewell lunches and dinners you receive and there where plenty for Sharon Munn. Group61 would like to thank Sharon for the last two years, leading the growth of the organisation to where we

are today. Her work on the RBWH Community Connection Program was tireless. Wishing you all the best Sharon.



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Redlands Community Support Project

The Redlands Community Support Project is progressing well under the guidance of Irene Henley. We are two months into the project and it has been received well. The 6 month project will continue until the end of July and the results so far look great.

Group61 is pleased to announce that a similar Community Support Project in Redlands has now been adopted in Caboolture thanks to funding by Partners in Recovery. As in the Redlands, a Project Support Consultant will be engaged (1 day a week) to assist a Volunteer Area Coordinator to build community capacity, recruit Volunteers and Friends and collaborate with the local community groups for their support.

Training Course Success

Our last Level 1 Mental Health Training Course was our biggest ever with 26 attendees. Thank you to Wesley Mission for providing the new venue. The feedback has been really positive and we look forward to welcoming our new Volunteers to Group61. Our next training course will be held on **16 April** – please contact the office for details.

Date Claimers

Special Meeting

10am Thursday 7 April, 2016

@ Group61 5/288 Newmarket Road, Wilston QLD
Attendees – Committee Members and Members of Group61 (Volunteers are considered members)
RSVP is essential – Ph 3352 4022 / info@group61.org

Level 1 Mental Health Training Course

Saturday 16 April, 2016

Group61 Special Meeting #2

10am Thursday 30 June 2016

@ Group61 5/288 Newmarket Road, Wilston QLD
Attendees – Committee Members and Members of Group61 (Volunteers are considered members)
RSVP is essential – Ph 3352 4022 / info@group61.org

DATE CLAIMER - Group61 Celebration Function

12noon Thursday 30 June 2016

Watch this space....Please put this date in your diary. This event will be open to Friends, Volunteers and Area Coordinators.