



Laurel Times



Welcome to our last edition of Laurel Times for 2016!

It is that time of year again that we reflect on the year past and contemplate the year to come. If "Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful" (Joshua J. Marine), 2016 has been an extremely meaningful year!

A big Thank You to all of the Team at Laurel Place for their amazing efforts throughout 2016.

From all of us here - have a wonderful, safe and nurturing festive season!



As the SVAM Message Trees grow, we will grow too...

ALWAYS
KEEP FRIENDS
CLOSE. HAVE FAITH



This year for SVAM, Laurel Place held an art based activity called the Message Tree in the Maroochydore and Morayfield offices.

Clients were invited to think about and then record on colourful leaves, any messages that they had found helpful in their healing and/or messages that they would like to share with others.

The clients who took part said that they enjoyed this art activity and especially liked the placing of the leaves on this symbolic tree. Some added to the tree on each visit and others just left one important message.

It reminded us all about how important it is to support people to be included and feel connected to others in their community.

A big Thank you to Biddy, for her art work and to the staff who did lots of cutting out of leaves!

Positive vibes
Love & Light
you matter & so do

Christmas holiday office hours

- MAROOCHYDORE
- MORAYFIELD
- GYMPIE
- MURGON

CLOSING

5pm: Friday 23/12/2016
5pm: Friday 23/12/2016
5pm: Thursday 22/12/2016
4.30pm Thursday 22/12/2016

OPENING

9am: Tuesday 03/01/2017
9am: Tuesday 03/01/2017
9am: Tuesday 03/01/2017
8.30am: Wednesday 04/01/2017

If you require assistance during these closing times, you can phone the Sexual Assault Helpline on 1800 010 120. If the matter is urgent please contact the Police on 000.



Gympie office



Hi from Gympie, where it's been a flurry of activity!

As well as our everyday counselling, everyone has been busy out and about in the community participating in a variety of community education and awareness raising events!

Laurel Place Gympie was a major supporter of Child Protection Week in September, with Bec offering her services as MC for the very well attended breakfast, where a young man shared his, and others', perspectives of growing up within the care system.

Other key messages have been delivered at our local schools, James Nash, Gympie High, and Tin Can Bay, on topics such as sexual assault, consent, and sexting, including through our participation in the Deadly Young Person's program for Indigenous students. We also provided our Let's Get Savvy program for a local Get Set for Work program, for young people out of the school system.

Towards the end of 2016 we farewelled student Jane, whom we thank for her many contributions, and welcomed Sharon as the newest edition to our Gympie team.



The Elephant in the room - We're talking about it.

As well, we hosted the 'Elephant in the Room' open day at our Gympie office in October, for Sexual Violence Awareness month. This display of fabulously crafted elephants, enthusiastically created by our clients, was designed to invite people to stop avoiding the 'taboo' of sexual violence, and start talking about it.



The quality of the art and crafts was outstanding and included sculptures, paintings, collages and pencil colourings.



Recognition for valuable partnership with Gympie Police

In November Laurel Place Gympie were presented with a QPS Community Partnership Recognition Plaque.

On behalf of the Service, the Team Leader accepted the plaque as an acknowledgment of the importance of the need for a shared commitment to keeping our communities free from sexual violence.

Pictured from left: Sgt Greg Davies, Bec, Jan and Inspector Stephen Donnelly



Laurel Place Gympie look forward with anticipation to 2017, and would like to take this opportunity to wish our clients, and everyone associated with Laurel Place, best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.



Thought for the day: A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because her trust is not in the branch but in it's own wings. Always believe in yourself.

Laurel Place Inc acknowledges the Gubbi Gubbi people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices are located in Maroochydore, Morayfield and Gympie, and the Wakka Wakka people as the traditional custodians of the land on which Laurel Place is located in Murgon.



Biddy Adams.
Indigenous Community
Liaison & Support Worker

Listening, learning and sharing

Highlights of the recent quarter include an invitation to speak with the Gympie Elders Group and to share with them what services Laurel Place provides. We discussed Laurel Place's commitment to providing culturally-respectful services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients - how we are doing that now and how we could do it better. My thanks to the Elders and to REFOCUS for the invitation to share a morning in the company of such collective wisdom.

I also attended the North Coast Community Services Forum: 'Working with Indigenous clients - can we do it better?'. Here I am pictured left with facilitators Candice Butler and Sid Williams from QATSICPP.



LAUREL PLACE MORETON BAY

It's hard to believe it's our second quarter at the new Moreton Bay office. 1st December marks 6 months since opening.

We have been steadily trying to network with other local service providers, and have been most appreciative of the warm and positive welcome we have received. There seems to be agreement that a specialised sexual assault service has been needed in the Moreton region, and the steady referrals we have received since opening certainly confirm this.

Laurel Place Moreton is fortunate to have three experienced counsellors on the team. Miranda and Amanda work across both **Maroochydore** and Moreton offices, and more recently we have welcomed Carole to the Moreton team.

We are grateful to our funding body, Department of Communities, Child Safety, and Disability Services for enabling us to expand our service into the Moreton Bay region, and hope to make a positive difference to those members in the community in need of support.



LAUREL PLACE MURGON

In November, Laurel Place Murgon staff attended an informative tour of the Cherbourg Rationed Museum Precinct. The tour was led by Aunty Sandra Morgan who provided an opportunity for our staff to learn and reflect on the history of Cherbourg.



Throughout the tour it became evident how Cherbourg's history significantly impacts on the community, and how important it is that these considerations are held at the forefront of our practice and embedded into our day to day engagement with clients. As part of the tour we were lucky enough to view The Domo Girls, a recently released video showing powerful stories of loss, resilience, survival and healing. Listening to the experiences of the women, who as girls, were removed to the Barambah/Cherbourg dormitories was a very moving experience for all participating staff.

With Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients accounting for 43% of overall South Burnett clientele in our recent annual report, these visits will continue to be a priority for any new staff at Murgon.

LAUREL PLACE APPOINTS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Coral Gilbert recently joined our team as the Business Development Manager. Coral will assist the Laurel Place Board of Management, Manager and Team Leaders with current information, research, funding opportunities, networking, business modelling, consolidation and growth strategies, quality control and continuous improvement.

Coral has extensive experience in high level, local, and state government departments as well as in the NGO women's rights, domestic violence and rape crisis sectors and will be a strong advocate for Laurel Place.





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

4

It's coming towards the end of the year with our annual general meeting held in November, and as usual this year we encountered the normal frenzied rush to get all reports and audit done in time.



We are also busy getting ready for the upcoming holiday period, and I hope everyone gets to spend some quality time with friends and family.

It's been twelve months since we changed our name at Maroochydore to Laurel Place and updated the graphics on our logo. I think this has simplified our brand across our four locations.

Our new office at Morayfield continues to develop and work with the community of the greater Moreton Bay

area, who have responded positively with a clear need for services in this area. I am confident we have the staff and experience to offer a really superb service to a community where it is much needed.

In the current climate our organisation is confronted with ongoing change and external pressures, and it is a credit to our staff that we adapt and respond in this environment to meet the needs of our clients. It can be challenging to work within a sector where not all stakeholders, be it government or non-government, have the same sense of priorities. It is the intention of the board to support our workers as they continually meet the demand to provide counselling, support and intervention to those affected by sexual violence.



**NATIONAL
CHILD PROTECTION
WEEK 2016**

4th - 10th September

'Protecting children is everybody's business'

For this year's Child Protection Week children, young people and families were encouraged to write positive messages to themselves and others on origami hearts they made and decorated. Many of the children spent time identifying the activities, things and people that love, support and comfort them.



LAUREL PLACE INC

Services Against Sexual Violence

@ www.laurelplace.com.au

Sunshine Coast

Phone: 07 5443 4711

Fax: 07 5443 3550

Email:

admin@laurelhouse.com.au

31 Dalton Drive

Maroochydore Q 4558

PO Box 384

Cotton Tree Q 4558

Moreton Bay

Phone: 07 5499 2096

Fax: 07 5495 1514

Email:

adminmoreton@laurelplace.com.au

Shop 12/ 107 Morayfield Road

Morayfield Q 4510

PO Box 384

Cotton Tree Q 4558

Gympie

Phone: 07 5482 7911

Fax: 07 5482 4421

Email:

admingympie@laurelplace.com.au

12 Horseshoe Bend

Gympie Q 4570

PO Box 384

Cotton Tree Q 4558

Murgon

Phone: 07 4168 2079

Fax: 5482 4421

Email:

admingympie@laurelplace.com.au

76A Lamb Street

Murgon Q 4605

PO Box 384

Cotton Tree Q 4558

Visit our
website for
information on
becoming a
member