

Included.

Inclusion Access Newsletter

Issue 5, January/February 2023



Meet the Team

Welcome to our January to February Newsletter.

I'd like to introduce you to another member of our board, Dr Sharon Boyce. Sharon is an educator, author, speaker and disability advocate from Toowoomba. She has dedicated her life and considerable talents to promoting a true understanding of disability, diversity and complex health issues. Over the years she has received many, many awards including: 2016 USQ Alumnus of the Year; 2012 Regional Achiever Award; 2008 Human Rights award for Individuals and the 2003 Disability Action Week Award.

Sharon is the founder of Discovering DisAbility & Diversity. She delivers positive and lasting change to the community across government sectors, health and education, and regularly delivers keynote and conference presentations, both nationally and internationally, in the areas of inclusion and awareness. It is impossible to list all of her awards and accolades in this little newsletter but if you want to know more about her, just google her name and you will find pages and pages of information about Sharon's incredible and continuing achievements.



Dr Sharon Boyce - Board Member

Hidden Abilities Event

Hidden Abilities is an exciting opportunity to find out for ourselves just how amazing the disability community is. It is a variety show featuring presenters and performers from around the country as well as the city. Performers include international inspirational speaker, Tom Nash; Singer/songwriter Dan Acfield; Opera sensation Tim McCallum; as well as brilliant local performers Evie Heffernan, Cameron from Endeavour, Toowoomba and the Wilsonton State School Signing Choir.

There will also be a SILENT AUCTION happening on the side with fantastic items on offer including Broncos supporters packs; original artworks and accommodation packages for two at an exclusive Brisbane hotel. We'll be announcing more items in the coming weeks, so keep your facebook notifications buzzing to find out more. Tickets and more information will soon be available from [Trybooking.com](https://trybooking.com) at the incredible value of \$50 per person, with companion cards welcome while seating is available.

We have already received many generous donations from the community to help make this show a reality. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation or even donate your time as a volunteer for this event, please contact Liz on 0407 037 206. We would love to have your help.



With International Inspiration
TOM NASH

HIDDEN ABILITIES
A performance with a DIFFERENCE

and Singing Superstar
TIM MCCALLUM

PLUS amazing performers
from the community

SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2023 1:30 pm
THE ANNEX - TOOWOOMBA CITY HALL
BOOKINGS THROUGH
TRYBOOKING.COM



Out and About With Liz

Do you ever travel by air or want to? Travel by air offers a myriad of unique challenges to people with disabilities, as I discovered when I travelled solo to Sydney in January to meet with an experienced organiser of Not-for-profit events.

Most airlines have systems in place to make travel by air achievable by people with disabilities, but you do have to make sure you contact the airline before your date of travel to let them know of your particular needs. Although I booked online through Flight Centre, I had to make a separate phone call and send an email to the airline I was travelling with (in this case, Virgin Australia) to let them know details of the dimensions of my chair, including its weight and information about my power assist motor and battery.

One of the biggest challenges I found in travelling solo for the first time was deciding how to organise and handle my luggage. I chose a backpack so I could steer my chair unhindered, which also encouraged me to travel light with carry-on only. This is another choice that made my journey easier overall.

Solo travel with a disability was, for me, an exciting experience and one that I would like to try again in the future. But my advice overall? Plan, plan and plan some more. Make a lot of lists and take the time to imagine your journey - not only the fun parts, but also the challenges that might get in the way of an otherwise unforgettable experience.



Liz waiting in line at the airport.

Contact Us

That's all from us for this instalment. If you have any stories to share with us, we would love to hear from you. Take care, friends.

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