



Merry Makers Central Coast Inc.

Providing social activities for people with an intellectual disability living across the Central Coast since 1987

Volume 2
March 2014

"Let's Dance" – Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of "Let's Dance", the new Quarterly Newsletter for Merry Makers Central Coast. We are undergoing changes at Merry Makers to help improve the services we provide for you. One thing that we realise is that unless you attend one of our dances or outings, you probably won't hear about our upcoming events. This newsletter is the first step in rectifying this problem.

Please fill out your details on our mailing list so that we can post or email you a copy each quarter.

Please Spread the Word

We would love to have more clients join Merry Makers so they can enjoy our dances and outings. Please spread the word to friends, housemates, family etc. about Merry Makers.

About Merry Makers

Merry Makers Central Coast is a non-profit organisation that is run by a group of passionate and dedicated volunteers with the aim of bringing fun and enjoyment into the lives of adults with intellectual disabilities.

The main event that Merry Makers Central Coast hosts are the **Thursday Night Dances** which are held at the Entrance Public School hall between 7pm and 9pm.

The evening usually starts with everyone's favourite dances, the hokey pokey and the chicken dance followed by a variety of music and dancing.

Dance games with prizes are often a feature of the evening and fun is always had dancing the limbo or the Scottish reel. The evening finishes with some refreshments and a bit of a chat.

Once a month Merry Makers Central Coast hosts an outing or a dinner dance. Our day outings, usually held on the second Sunday of each month, have taken

the Merry Makers group to many places including ferry rides, train museums, animal parks, sports events etc. Our dinner dances, which are usually held every 3 months, are held at the Toukley Senior Citizens club hall and include a live band and a smorgasbord feast.

Our New Website

Merry Makers now has a website at merrymakerscentralcoast.org.au. It is pretty basic at the moment but will continue to grow and improve. Some of the features of the website are the Calendar showing the upcoming events, the Outings page showing details of the previous and future outings and the Photo Gallery with lots of pictures of our dances and outings.

Save These Dates

- ❖ Saturday March 8th – Dinner Dance.
- ❖ Sunday Apr 13th – Bowls & Tennis at Norah Head Sports Club.
- ❖ Sunday May 18th – To Be Advised.
- ❖ Saturday Jun 14th – Dinner Dance.

Last Quarters Outings

Xmas Dinner Dance

The Christmas Dinner Dance was a great success with over 120 people attending. The dinner dance was held at the Toukley Senior Citizens hall on Saturday 14th December at 6pm.

The night started off with an amazing feast of ham, chicken and pork with choices of delicious vegies and salads, followed by a choice of scrumptious deserts.



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After desert we were treated to some hilarious entertainment by some of the Merry Makers Volunteers singing an Aussie version of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Check it out on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti3st2WrSdY>

The party really got started after this with lots of dancing and fun. And to finish the night we had a special visit from Santa who had gifts for all of the clients.

Be sure to check out the photo gallery on our website for some highlights of the night.

Australian Reptile Park

Everyone had a great day at the Australian Reptile Park. We all met at around 10am on Sunday the 9th Feb at the main entrance to the park where we got VIP treatment with a fast entry and a large undercover reserved section for us. We had over 80 clients, staff, carers and volunteers attend so it was a really great turnout.



First up was some morning tea. After that we were free to wander until lunch time. Many of us went and

watched the amazing Reptile Show at the show pit. The show was very informative and interesting.

For lunch we had a really nice selection of rolls from Subway, with some delicious cookies for desert. After lunch we were off to watch the Venomous Snake Show in the show pit before moving up to see Elvis the Crocodile being fed in the crocodile pit.

Volunteers

Merry Makers Central Coast is run by a team of passionate and dedicated volunteers. If it wasn't for the hard work carried out by these volunteers, Merry Makers would not be able to operate.

We are always in need of more help. If you are interested in helping us out, or know someone who may be able to, please do not hesitate to contact Volunteering Central Coast or contact us direct on 4396 1808.

At the moment we are looking for help in these areas:-

- ❖ Dance Volunteer (To assist and join in dance on Thursday nights. 7pm to 9pm.)
- ❖ Hall Set-up Person (To set up hall for dance every Thursday nights – start 6.30pm until 9.15pm)
- ❖ Driver for Coaster or Sprinter (Drive a community transport vehicle on Thursday nights to pick up intellectually disabled clients to transport to and from a weekly dance evening. Pick up 5pm and drop off at 10.15pm.)