

High Street Happenings



Tuart Place

T Together...we build
U Understanding
A Acceptance
R Respect ...and
T Trust



Taking Tuart Place ...to Lotus Place



Margo O'Byrne is a Forgotten Australian-Care Leaver and is on the Board at Tuart Place.

Margo and Pip were invited by Lotus Place in Queensland to provide the Keynote Speech at the 'Remembrance Day' event in September.

Their presentation to 200+ Queensland Care Leavers was accompanied by a photo slide show of the history of Tuart Place and advocacy by WA Care Leavers over the last 15 years.

Our photo shows (L-R), Margo, Pip, and Vanessa, a Queensland Care Leaver who also spoke at the Remembrance Day event.



Farewell and thank you to our lovely volunteer, Yoyo!
 We will miss having your expert assistance in the computer lab and we wish you all the best for your new job!



They say that LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE...

Q: Why did the dragon hate to fight knights and swordsmen?
 A: He was tired of tinned food.

Q: Why do dragons sleep during the day?
 A: So they can fight knights!

Q: Why did the Dragon cross the road?
 A: He wanted to eat some chicken.

Q: How can you tell how much a dragon weighs?
 A: Well, they come with scales.

Telling our stories

Over the years, Mal has had the chance to speak with many published authors who are Tuart Place participants. This is his interview with Margo O'Byrne, who's book "Left Unsaid" was published in 2009.

Why is it so many of us need and want to tell our story?

For me it helped me "make sense of my childhood". Which leads to questions like these: "Why was my childhood not like everyone else's? Why was it all chaotic in my mind? Why did I feel that I had no structure to my childhood?" At a certain point you feel you have to find out. And like so many others you feel you have to record it. You have to write it down, and that's the start of the writing journey. I had no real idea of where I was going or even how to write a book at all. It was truly a journey of self-discovery and sometimes I didn't know where it would lead; I only knew that I had to get it out, as I said "to make sense of it". For me and many others the writing of the book was unsettling, even painful at times. In my case I went back to visit all the places of significance in my past. Can you imagine going back to revisit the *thirteen different schools I was sent to!* And the memories that bought up?

Why do we write these books?

Well, I will tell you: *it is healing*. And *yes* it did help to make sense of my life And as others have said it has been healing not only for me but for all the others who have gone through similar situations and know that they weren't the only ones. It's a shared story for all of us Forgotten Australians. And for all of you who are thinking of writing I would earnestly say "Do It!"



James and His Dream Bus Restoration

It has always been a dream of mine to get hold of a bus to be able to take my family on camping trips. Well this year it has finally come true.

My mate Sean and myself went to an auction 2 years ago and found what I was looking for. It was a bus! It had formerly belonged to an Aged Care place. It was a bit rundown and needed a lot of repairs.

In addition, the bus was unlicensed and so it needed to go "over the pits" and that's the hard bit, as one wrong thing and the whole vehicle gets failed. It needed a lot of work including electrical rewiring, brakes, removing seats and refurbishing the inside entirely. If you think this is a lot of work you are right!

Anyway, 2 years later we finally made it. It has been one of the most satisfying things me and Sean have ever done. I now take my family out on regular country camping trips and me and my kids love it. It's great to share these outings with my family at last. The grandkids love it too. We go nearly every weekend when we can manage it. As you can see we are all keen dirt bikers too. They say "follow your dreams". I did and it has certainly worked out for me.



AGED CARE FINDER SUCCESS AT TUART PLACE

Tuart Place's care finder service has is a really great service for older Care Leavers, and Tuart Place's new care finder Jane is loving meeting and talking to all of us!

As we all know most of us have come from various Institutions and government programs and are wary of anything seen as "institutional". This is where Tuart Place's care finder service is so good. It has become our trusted bridge to access aged care services that help us to stay in our own homes, or support us to move into other accommodation when we feel the time is right.

Since starting the service three and a half years ago, our care finders (Marg, and now Jane) have assisted so many Tuart Place participants. Here are just two examples of the sort of difference this program can make in a person's life.

Tuart Place's care finder, Jane, would love to chat to you about how she can help you too.

It's a great idea to think about your aged care needs early, so you can make the decisions that are right for you.

"Carol"

I'm in my 60s, and have been really lonely for a while now. I was referred to Tuart Place's care finder service because I am a Care Leaver. I am pretty shy, and I was really scared to come to Tuart Place at all. By the end of my first day, I had a good feeling about the place, and decided I would keep coming. I have been back every week since! It might not seem like much, but it has totally transformed my life. I come to Tuart Place every week, and I have even joined in on some special outings and events. Thanks to Tuart Place and Jane, I have found an instant group of friends, and at last I have found somewhere I belong.



Leah's Scam Talk, 9 September 2024

By Fran

STOP AND THINK "COULD THIS BE A SCAM?"

This was a very timely talk. We all hear about this term these days and the bottom line is we all need to learn about this aspect of the I.T./Computer age and this was well attended by Tuart Place Care Leavers.

Leah is a former Bank Manager, and gave a fabulous presentation. And yes it is frightening and that's why this talk was so valuable to me and I think all of us.

And scariest of all was how "real" and convincing some of these scamming experts are. Fortunately, Leah also had typical examples of these which she handed out for us to keep. And they are typical of what I and many others have received over the last few years.

For all of us it is pretty disturbing but the only thing we can do is attend talks like these and be careful. Remember if your are not sure of where it is coming from - don't open it. This applies for both Personal computers and mobile phones.

Here are some of Leah's other tips...

AVOID CALLS WHERE THERE IS A DELAY BEFORE ANSWERING

DESTROY ALL DOCUMENTS WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFO.

CHECK YOUR BANK STATEMENTS

BE CAUTIOUS WHEN SOMEONE IS TRYING TO GET YOU TO MAKE A QUICK DECISION

REACH OUT TO YOUR BANK TO QUERY UNKNOWN TRANSACTIONS.

"Tim"

I'm getting older, and have had a lot of trouble getting around for years. Even taking a shower was getting too hard for me. When I talked to the care finder at Tuart Place, she said she'd be able to get a package set up for me that would make it easier for me to stay at home. It has been such a good change in my life! They put special equipment in my bathroom so I can shower by myself again, and someone comes to help me clean the house. I can get someone to drive me to places I need to go too. It has changed my life. I feel safer when I am at home and out and about - I know I can do things, I am enjoying myself, and it's easier to stay in touch with the people I love.

