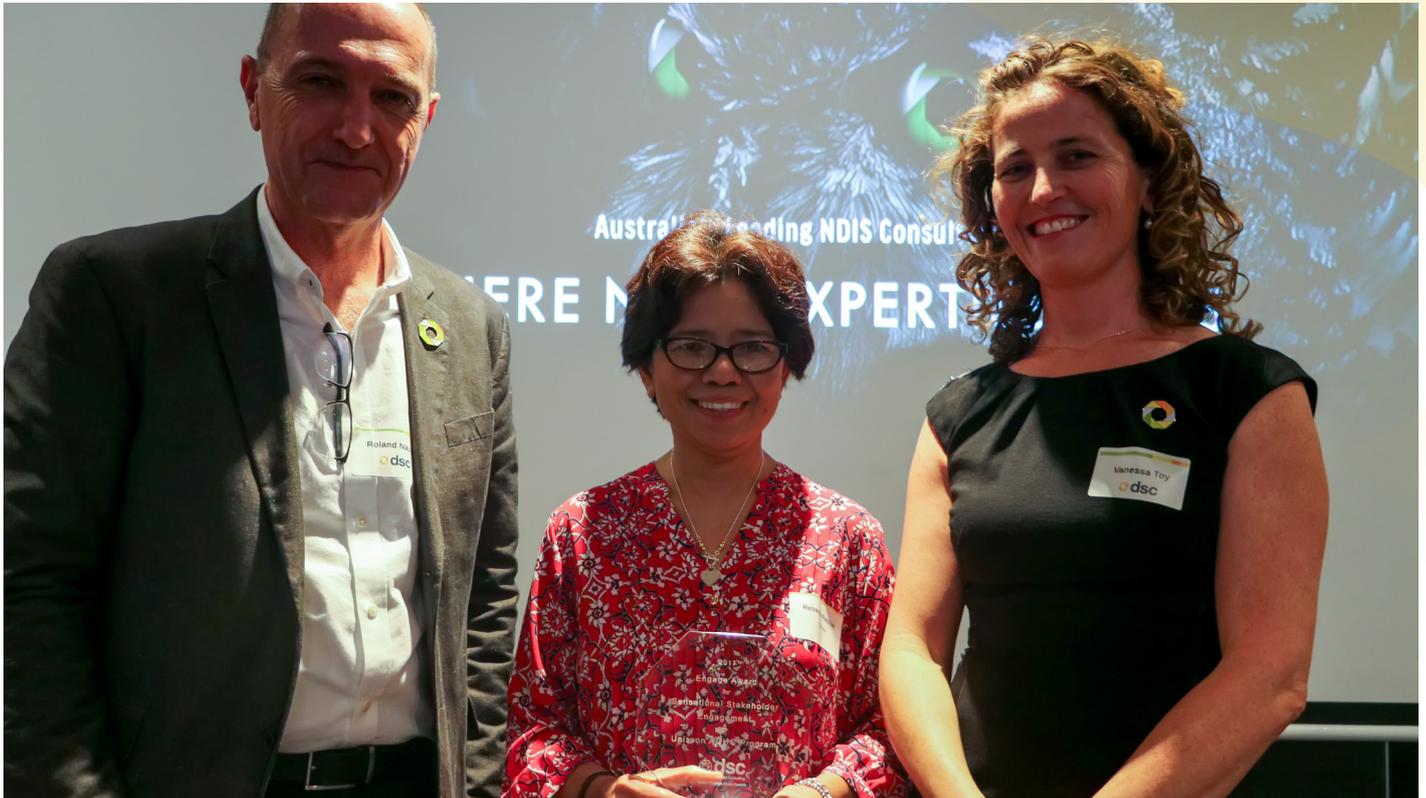


COMMUNITY & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN EDITION 2018 | EDITION. 14



UNISSON DISABILITY AWARDED 2017 SECTOR AWARD FOR 'SENSATIONAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT'

Late last year, NDIS consultants, Disability Services Consulting (DSC) granted Unisson Disability with their 2017 Sector Award for 'Sensational Stakeholder Engagement'. The Award was presented for our exceptional staff engagement and unique customer service program, The Art of Human Connection.

As the name suggests, The Art of Human Connection program focuses on building strong and long-lasting connections between our frontline staff, clients and their families.

At Unisson, we believe human connection is the key to delivering the highest possible standard of customer service to the people we support. The program is based on some key principles that guide our employees and give them the tools to build experiences with clients that have a substantial impact.

The principles of the program focus on learning about everyone's unique story, searching for common ground, always finding the 'yes', being authentic and creating memorable connections with each individual that we support.

The motto of our program is 'the support we provide is what we do; the connection we create is HOW we do it.'

Marketing and Communications Manager, Katrina Jackson says, "the successful rollout of The Art of Human Connection program could not have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment from all of our leaders and direct support staff."

"We are incredibly proud of this program. To be recognised with this award is reassurance that our approach is giving us a clear differentiator from other providers and contributing to the positive impact we strive for with clients and families."

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WHAT'S ON IN YOUR
COMMUNITY

UNISSON DISABILITY ART STUDIOS

DO YOU ENJOY BEING CREATIVE?

Our Art Studios are a great place to express your creativity, learn new skills and have fun at the same time!

We offer a variety of small group sessions where you will be supported by art professionals to experience and develop skills in a range of art forms. The studios are dynamic art spaces where you can explore your creativity and self-expression. There is also the opportunity to participate in our Unisson Art Exhibition.

ART

The Art Studio is a rich and supportive environment for exploring ways to express your creative self through the mediums of painting, drawing, mixed media and sculpture, and where you can refine your skills and learn new ones.

PAPER

The Paper Studio opens up a world of handmade paper where you will be supported in various techniques and learn the skills to create handmade paper art, decorative papers and sculptural paper work.

CERAMICS

The dynamic, creative program teaches and supports students to explore the potential of the tactile medium of clay, to make a range of decorative and functional items which reflect your own interests and creativity.

CONTACT US

To learn more about the art studios or to find out about class times, please contact us at info@unisson.org.au or 1300 266 222.

BELOW ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF ARTWORKS FROM OUR ARTISTS AT UNISSON DISABILITY'S ART STUDIOS.



'Camelot' Yvonne Stocker



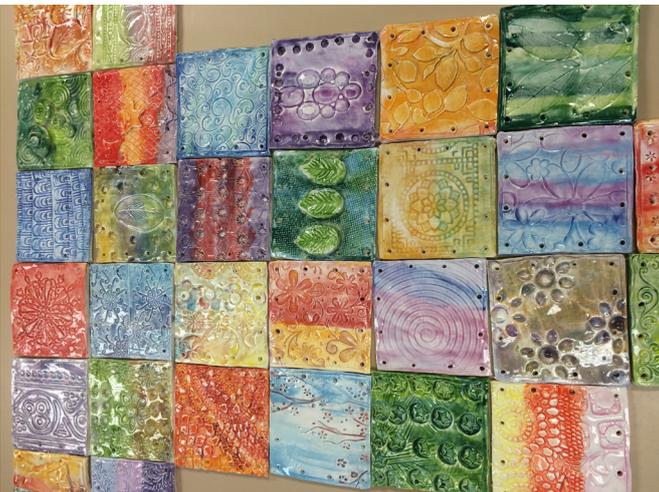
Robert Sharman



Mark Smith



'Red Apple' Juliette Lord



'Hearts' Collaborative

MEET ASHLEIGH LINSCHOTEN



Ashleigh and her Direct Support Professional (DSP) Amanda

ASHLEIGH LINSCHOTEN IS A 24-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WHO VALUES FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FUN.

Bright and bubbly, she radiates enthusiasm in all that she does. So, it's no surprise that she is at her best when in an environment where she can be social, outgoing, creative and independent.

Ashleigh attends Unisson's Community Access program in Frenchs Forest five days a week, and has found herself thriving in the social atmosphere. "It's great coming here to Frenchs Forest," she says. "There are so many different activities happening and I love going out with everyone – and I love getting the time to chat with each person here."

Ashleigh especially enjoys her time within the in-house ceramics studio, where she can express her creativity and continually meet new people. "Spending time in the ceramics studio is great," she says. "It's so relaxing, I'm being creative and getting to spend time with my friends. One of my other favourite things is playing tricks on the staff! I love making people laugh, and every day we always do something funny together."



MEET ONE OF OUR STAFF

RACHEL WALLACE-HOR, DSP AT PYMBLE COMMUNITY ACCESS & ART FACILITATOR.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO UNISSON?

I had just finished studying and was looking for a role that was active and involved working with people – working at Unisson seemed like a great fit!

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WORKING AT UNISSON?

I love the strong sense of community at Unisson. I love being able to go on random adventures with the people I support, and I also love being able to facilitate other people's creativity across the different art studios we have here.

TELL US SOMETHING INTERESTING ABOUT YOURSELF?

I really enjoy traveling and immersing myself in different cultures, so I have just booked tickets to Mexico!

WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE CRAVE BELONGING?

It is so important for everyone to feel they are part of a community and have support networks. We all need other people to bounce off and find inspiration from. It is fulfilling to be able to contribute to a collective and feel a part of something larger than yourself.



WARRINGAH LIBRARY

ART DISPLAY

In December, our Arts Studio organised for some of their artist's ceramic work to be displayed in the Warringah Mall library. The library received such positive feedback about the pieces that they have agreed to make the display a permanent fixture in the library with the artwork getting refreshed with new works each month. It is wonderful see the community supporting Unisson and its artists with this display and we hope to get more artworks out into the community for people to appreciate.

If you would like to support our artists with a display or know an establishment that would like to participate, please contact us at info@unisson.org.au or 1300 266 222.



BEAUMONT HILLS COMMUNITY ACCESS

SENSORY BOARD

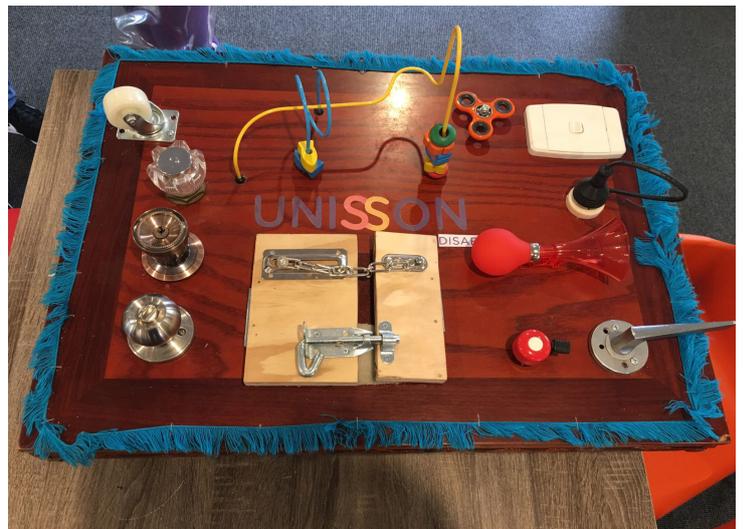
Community Access at Beaumont Hills wanted to create a sensory board and it also provided a great opportunity for the clients to get involved and help build it. The Team Leader of Beaumont Hills Community Access, Monika Sondhi charged Anthony Bekhit, a Direct Support Professional with Unisson, the task of building the sensory board.

Anthony got right to it and after some research, found a second hand shop in Parramatta who was willing to help. They purchased a box of materials, and sourced a broken low table for free which they fixed up.

The next step was to plan out where the different items would go and how much space would be best between each item. Client, Peter, assisted Anthony, showing him what was reachable and what needed to be moved to make it more accessible.

Once everything was planned out, they began to attach all the items, thoroughly testing each item once it was installed. Halfway through they did a test run to see what items worked best and what stimulated them most.

The final touch was added, the Unisson logo, and the board was completed. All the clients had a go at testing out the board and Anthony was very pleased with the result 'All in all the clients thoroughly enjoyed this adventure as well as the staff. We hope the board will last a long time and be forever used.'

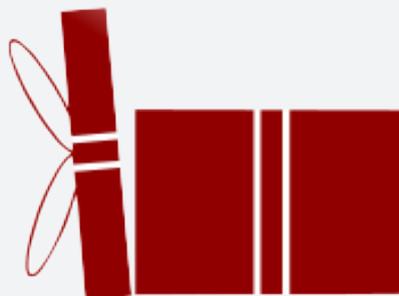


CHRISTMAS APPEAL

A BIG THANK YOU!

We have been overwhelmed with the level of support shown by our community, supporters and families. Whenever we reach out to you to support our organisation, the people we support and the work we do, we know that you always do what you can, when you can, to support us.

The results from the Christmas Appeal we ran at the end of last year was a testament to your generosity and support and we would like to thank you for helping us raise over \$10,000 a 54% increase on last year's result.



UNISSON

DISABILITY

BUILDING
CONNECTIONS
SINCE 1924

STRATEGIC PLAN
2017 - 2020

STRATEGIC PLAN

Our strategic plan charts how we will live our values, and communicate our approach to supporting people who access our services. We operate using a rolling three-year plan which is reviewed and refreshed by the leadership team and the Board every year. To view our updated Strategic Plan, visit our website unissondisability.org.au.

ART EXHIBITION

OF LAND, SEA AND SKY

Unisson Disability in partnership with Grace Cossington Smith Gallery and Abbotsleigh School are hosting an exhibition consisting of artworks by artists who attend Unisson Disability Art Studios.

The exhibition showcases artworks in paint, paper and ceramics which are inspired by the natural environment and reflect the diversity of creative expression, with each artist portraying a unique interpretation of their subject.

Join us for opening night to celebrate with canapes and champagne 5 April at 6pm.

Gate 7, 1666 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga

Contact us to RSVP at info@unisson.org.au or 1300 266 222 by March 29



Of Land, Sea and Sky

Artists: Suzanne Sorrell Landscape, Venessa Crane Untitled, Kerry Patterson Tweet

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

WANT TO SHARE A STORY FROM A PREVIOUS EDITION?

We keep all the previous editions of our Community & Friends Newsletter on our website under the About Us tab. Visit unissondisability.org.au to view all our past editions.



03	04	09	10
INSIDE	UNISSON LAUNCH PARTIES	ANNUAL REVIEW	UPCOMING EVENTS

WORK WITH US

Being a part of the Unisson Disability team gives you the opportunity to make a real difference in one of Australia's fastest-growing and most innovative sectors. At Unisson Disability, the opportunities for human connection are extraordinary. Expect to build strong friendships with the people you work alongside and support.

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR?

- People who are fun, great at building connections with others, and have a sense of adventure
- People who are compassionate and genuinely interested in improving lives
- People who share our values of integrity, collaboration, conviction and generosity
- People of all ages!

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Unisson Disability is a person-centred organisation. We believe that every person has a story. This applies not only to the people we support, but also to our approach to the people we employ. With a continuous focus on team building, leadership coaching and ongoing training, we seek to create a working environment that's unified with our core purpose: promoting everyone's ability to live a great life. Our promise to our team members is that we will help you develop your personal strengths and grow in your role.

Working with Unisson Disability allows you to support people who have similar interests to you and to work as part of a team that is passionately-committed from top to bottom. We consider the support we provide to be what we do, while the connection we create is how we do it.

Want to join the team? We'd love to hear from you. Have a look at our current vacancies on our website unissondisability.org.au/careers and follow the instructions on how to apply

VACANCIES AT MOWMENTUS

IS FINDING AND KEEPING A JOB ONE OF YOUR NDIS GOALS?

Unisson Disability's Mowing & Gardening business, MowMentus currently has vacancies for supported employees to join the team.

MowMentus is an Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) that provides supported employment for people with disability.

The team who works for MowMentus take care of lawns and gardens for residential and commercial clients throughout Sydney. Our clients include municipal councils, state governments, retirement villages, hospitals and more.

Our staff provide on the job support and training; helping you where you need and making sure you develop new skills and remain successful in your work.

If you would like to learn more please contact us at info@unisson.org.au or 1300 266 222.



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER WITH SUNDAY ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITY

Northern Beaches Creative Leisure & Learning organises this program to enhance weekend leisure time by enabling people who share common interests to interact and socialise in a supportive and encouraging environment. The program requires a pool of volunteers who can assist either monthly or can be called on when necessary to complete craft activities and with meal preparation. If you have an interest or expertise in this area and have a little time to spare, phone Maureen on 9913 1474 for details.

THE NSW SPECTACLES PROGRAM

This provides government funded glasses and vision aids to eligible recipients including seniors, children, people experiencing homelessness, those living in rural and remote areas, people with disability and Aboriginal and multicultural communities. Under Vision Australia's administration, the Scheme has a new online application and assessment process which streamlines applications and product delivery for optometrists, and reduces waiting times for the delivery of glasses.

This website has key resources for providers and potential recipients, like the registration form, a list of providers (for recipients), a list of optical suppliers (for eye care professionals), appeal and feedback process. See www.visionaustralia.org/services/nsw-spectacles-program or phone 1300 84 74 66.



DATABASE OF PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS WITH DISABILITY IN NSW

Accessible Arts NSW collates a database of professional artists with disability in NSW so that they can easily connect people with opportunities. Contact Ann-Marie, Projects Assistant, on amrundle@aarts.net.au at Accessible Arts if you would like to join the database.



REGISTRATIONS FOR 2018 KURINGGAI CHASE FUN RUN (10KM) AND BARRY EASY WALK (5KM)

The sixth annual event is the major fundraiser for the Special Olympics Sydney Upper North Shore Region. This supports more than 400 children and adults with an intellectual disability in improving their wellbeing, confidence and health through supported participation. Post-race activities include a Special Olympics, Come 'n Try Community Carnival, BBQ (by Epping-Eastwood Lions Club), picnic and community market – from 9.30am at the Claude Cameron Grove.

WHEN: Sunday 18 March. Fun run starts at 9am, Easy Walk at 9.10am.

WHERE: Starts and finishes at Claude Cameron Grove, Wahroonga. Shuttle bus at Turramurra Station from 7:45am.

COST: adult / child (under 18) - 5km \$30 / \$20
or 10km \$40 / \$25.

Special Olympic athlete \$5 anytime any distance.

RSVP: For questions on registering your family/team, contact 0417 803 830 or kuringgaichase@gmail.com or go to www.kuringgaichase.com.au for information about the event and course map.



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

EARLY DAYS WORKSHOPS FOR CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

This free program is federally funded as part of the Helping Children with Autism package to provide free support and information to families and carers who have children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (or may be concerned that their child has Autism) between the ages of 0 - 7 Years across Australia. They are run by professionals with experience and knowledge in working with young children with ASDs. Professionals may attend the workshops only if they are accompanying parents or other family members in order to support a particular child.

WHERE: PENNANT HILLS
 West Pennant Hills Sports Club
 103 New Line Road
 West Pennant Hills NSW 2125

FRENCHS FOREST
 Autism Spectrum
 Building 1, Level 2
 14 Aquatic Drive
 Frenchs Forest NSW 2086



WHEN:	PENNANT HILLS	FRENCHS FOREST
Play and Social Learning	23 March	21 June
My Child and Autism	2 May	
Behaviour	15 June	5 April
Progression		21 May

RSVP: Register online www.autismspectrum.org.au/content/events-and-workshops or phone 8977 8353.

ARTISTS INVITED TO APPLY FOR A ROOKWOOD SCULPTURE WALK 2018

HIDDEN is the signature annual event of the Rookwood General Cemeteries Reserve Trust. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, HIDDEN was established to encourage public use of the historic Rookwood Cemetery and enable the greater community to explore Rookwood Cemetery - the oldest, largest and most multicultural cemetery in Australia. Submissions are open for established and emerging artists to apply before 12 March. See:

www.hiddeninrookwood.com.au/call-for-entries

CALL FOR ARTISTS
 OPEN UNTIL 12 MARCH 2018
HIDDEN 2018
 ROOKWOOD CEMETERY SCULPTURE WALK
 10th Anniversary
 1 September – 1 October

Graphics inspired by artwork by Wendy Edwards.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

MANLY MEALS ON WHEELS - MEALS, LUNCHES AND SOCIAL OUTINGS

Delivered meal (chilled, hot or frozen) to frail / aged and people with disability and their carers who live in Manly and surrounding suburbs – \$6 main meal, \$4.50 petite meal.

Pickup chilled / frozen meals at Manly Seniors Centre by clients or their advocate – \$6 main meal, \$4.50 petite meal.

WHEN: Monday

WHERE: Community Lunch at several accessible venues:

- Seaforth Sporting Pavilion – 1st Monday monthly, limited bus transport (\$2 return).
- St Matthews Church Hall, The Corso, Manly – each Tuesday 11.30am-1pm.
- Manly Seniors Centre, 275 Pittwater Rd, Manly - each Friday 11.30am-1pm, limited bus transport (\$2 return)

COST \$10 + Lunch.

See the meal options and schedule at www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/services/seniors/meals-on-wheels. Desserts, salads, soups, sandwiches, omelettes & juice available.

RSVP: Contact mow@manly.nsw.gov.au or the staff:

Food Services Coordinator – Tom Miles (9976 1467 or tom.miles@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

Food Programs Coordinators - Janice Pieper (9976 1468 or Janice.pieper@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

Carmen Dowling (9976 1469 or carmen.dowling@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)



Meals on Wheels New South Wales

ONLINE WHEELCHAIR ACCESS DIRECTORY

This has valuable information about accessible travel (bus, train, light rail, ferry, accessible taxi, airlines, pets, concessions etc), recreation (airbnb, tripadvisor, various sport venues, beach conditions, beach wheelchairs etc), services (mobility parking scheme, MLAK, Sydney accessible parking, NRMA Assistance Scheme), concessions (vision impaired, companion card). Hotspots and places in Sydney with photos and brief descriptions. See: wheeleasey.org/useful-info



ARE YOU SOCIAL?

HAVE YOU CONNECTED WITH US THROUGH OUR SOCIAL PAGES?

Our social pages are our platform for educating the wider community about some of the challenges facing people with disability. It is a platform that we use to share inspiring and insightful information from around the world and within your local community.

We invite you, to follow our tweets, our Facebook page as well as our other sites and tell us what you think about our posts. If you're already our friend, please remember to comment, like and especially share the information we post. We need you to help widen our community and extend our social reach!



THANK YOU

We would like to extend a big thank you to all our clients, families and friends for supporting us through our rebrand from Sunshine to Unisson Disability. We appreciate the overwhelming positive response we have received to our new name and we look forward to building connections for the people we support for many years to come.

If you would like to know more about our rebrand or if you have any questions, please contact Katrina Jackson info@unisson.org.au or 1300 266 222.

JOBS BOARD

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ROLES – Located across Sydney, Central Coast and Hunter Regions.

Visit unissondisability.org.au/careers to apply.

PREFER ONLINE?

Receive less mail that clogs up your letterbox and help the environment. Send us your email to receive your Community & Friends Newsletter online.

Provide us with your email address and our newsletter will be delivered direct to your inbox!

Call us on 1300 266 222 or email info@unisson.org.au to update your details.