

# the cornflower

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC NEWSLETTER

MND QUEENSLAND GALA FUNDRAISER

## ROARING 20S REIMAGINED

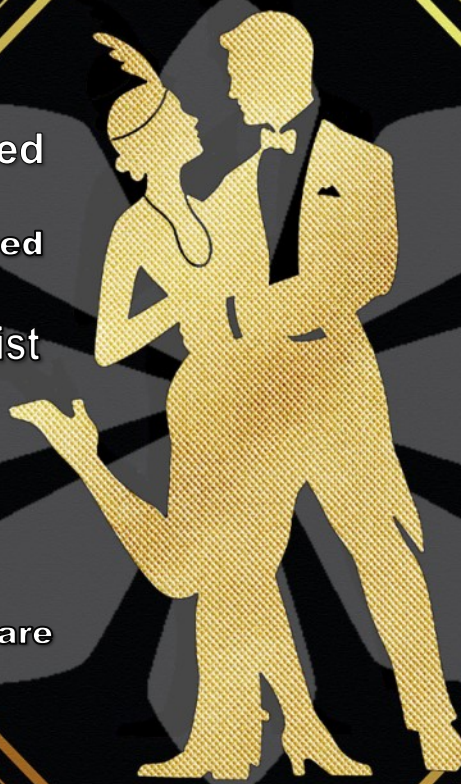
Gala Fundraiser Announced

MND Week 2020 - Get Involved

Wrap Up on Trivia with a Twist

Meet Sue Wells - MND QLD's  
Equipment Officer

Myths... Busted - Debunking  
some of the misconceptions  
around the NDIS & My Aged Care



6PM, Saturday 29 August at Mirra, Fortitude Valley

REGISTERED  
PROVIDER



## MND QUEENSLAND GALA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCED

We're excited to announce that we have launched ticket sales for MND Queensland's Gala Fundraiser 'Roaring 20s Reimagined' which will be held from 6PM on Saturday 29 August 2020 at Mirra, Fortitude Valley.

Fundraising is a critical part of our ability to provide services and support to Queenslanders impacted by Motor Neurone Disease and we're planning a fun gala with a 1920s/Gatsby theme to help fund our work. We'll have casino games to play (every entrant gets \$20 in funny money) plus there will be fabulous entertainment, a silent auction with fantastic items up for grabs as well as a raffle with great prizes. Guests will enjoy cocktails on arrival, a 3-hour drinks package, canapes, grazing table and a dessert bar.

We hope that you'll join us for a fun night and help us raise much-needed funds. You can purchase early-bird tickets now for \$125 at <http://tix.yt/mnd-qld-gala> (until Sun 24 July) or by calling us on 07 3372 9004. But hurry, tickets are limited and after the early-bird period they go up to \$140!



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Annual General Meeting of the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland Inc. will be held in Brisbane on Saturday 16 May 2020. Members will be notified of more details prior to the AGM.

## CONTACT US

**MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC.**

**ABN:** 75 990 922 939

**Street Address:** 35 Wedgetail Street, INALA QLD 4077

**Postal Address:** PO Box 470, INALA QLD 4077

**Web:** [www.mndaq.org.au](http://www.mndaq.org.au)

**Email:** [info@mndaq.org.au](mailto:info@mndaq.org.au)

**Phone:** 07 3372 9004

**Freecall:** 1800 777 175



### SOCIAL MEDIA

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/MNDAQ](https://www.facebook.com/MNDAQ)

**Walk to D-Feet MND:** [www.facebook.com/Walk2DFeetMNDQLD](https://www.facebook.com/Walk2DFeetMNDQLD)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/MNDQueensland](https://twitter.com/MNDQueensland)

**Instagram:** [@mndQLD](https://www.instagram.com/mndQLD)

### FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send your feedback or story ideas to [fundraising@mndaq.org.au](mailto:fundraising@mndaq.org.au).

### DONATIONS

You can make a donation by credit card by calling 07 3372 9004 or at [www.givenow.com.au/mndaq](http://www.givenow.com.au/mndaq). You can also post a cheque or money order (made out to MND Queensland) to the postal address above. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.





## FROM THE CEO'S DESK



**It seems too late to say Happy New Year, even if it is the first newsletter in the New Year... but I do wish all of you the very best that you can make it for 2020.**

Many of you may know that we have been very busy planning our future strategy. Staff, Board and our Members have all been very generous with their input; advice, concerns, praise and even some grumbles.... All have been appreciated and become a big part of our commitment to continuously improving. In the coming weeks we will be reaching out to all of our clients to get their feedback on the services we deliver, to find out what we do well and what we can do better... Please though, don't wait for an invitation to share your thoughts with us... we cannot be the best we can be without your help.

May I draw your attention to the section in this newsletter on Myth Busters. I commend this to you and to anyone in your circle of family, friends or community impacted by or interested in MND. We have encountered many people who have the wrong end of the stick about the disease that is MND, about us, our funding, our services, NDIS and My Aged Care. The sad part about these misunderstandings is where it leads to people missing out on services they want and need or for them paying unnecessarily for something we can help them with.

The MND journey is tough enough for those impacted without simple misunderstandings or mistruths creating other barriers for those seeking and needing help.

There will be an increased amount of communication from us to you in the next few months about the many exciting changes to MNDQA and how we can help each other so please ensure your contact details are current and call us immediately if you want to say or know anything.

Kind regards  
Ian Landreth



In recent years scientists have discovered that our gut microbiome potentially plays a role in a number of different diseases. Could this be the case with MND as well?

In MNDRIA's latest blog post, Dr Derik Steyn from the University of Queensland, explains the research findings behind a possible link with gut bacteria and MND.

You can read the article at <https://bit.ly/38lQorg>

# WALK TO D-FEET MND BRISBANE

From 9AM, Sunday 24 May at a new venue - New Farm Park

register online, get sponsored and help people with motor neurone disease



Register on the day or now at:  
[www.mycase.com.au/events/walktodfeetmndbrisbane2020](http://www.mycase.com.au/events/walktodfeetmndbrisbane2020)



## MND WEEK 2020 - GET INVOLVED & HELP RAISE AWARENESS

**MND Week is observed in the first full week of May each year to raise awareness of the needs of people living with MND and their families.**

This year MND Week runs from Sunday 3 May to Saturday 9 May and MND Queensland is planning some activities to help raise awareness and you can get involved!

In Brisbane, we'll have an MND banner across the Story Bridge to raise awareness in the general community (around 97,000 vehicles cross the bridge each day).

On Sunday 3 May we'll be participating in a national walk effort with a new walk in Springfield (Ipswich). Walks will be happening right across Australia on the same day in an attempt to boost awareness and attract media attention. Through this combined effort we'll see thousands of Australians coming together for MND. You can register for the Ipswich/Springfield walk now and start fundraising at [www.mycase.com.au/events/walk2dfeetmndsfield2020](http://www.mycase.com.au/events/walk2dfeetmndsfield2020).

If you live too far from Ipswich to get involved in this walk, why not consider getting a small volunteer committee together and host a walk in your local area? MND Queensland can help you make it a success by providing guidelines, setting up a registration website, supplying t-shirts and signage and promoting your event through our networks. If this is something that interests you, get in touch.

On Blue Cornflower Day (Fri 8 May) we will 'Light Up Brisbane' with the Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place lit up in blue. We will also be hosting a special tribute ceremony to remember those who we have lost to MND and support those that continue to battle MND. Join us at this free event from 5PM at Captain Burke Park, Kangaroo Point (under the Story Bridge) and light a candle in support of a loved one then jump on a free City Hopper ferry to view Victoria Bridge and Reddacliff Place.

Nationally the theme of MND Week will again be 'Make Aged Care Fair' to highlight the needs of people with MND who are diagnosed over the age of 65 and cannot access the NDIS and don't get all the support they require

through My Aged Care. This is another opportunity for you to get involved by writing to your Federal MP and ask the government to 'Make Aged Care Fair' for people with MND who can't access the NDIS and don't have the time to wait for My Aged Care Packages to be approved.

Other ways you can get involved in MND Week include:

- Host your own '**Drink Tea for MND**' tea party. Invite some friends around for a tea party and instead of bringing something, ask guests to make a donation to MND Queensland. Got another idea other than a tea party? You might want to host an exhibition, put on a concert, have a performance or whatever creative idea you can come up with. Contact us to chat about it and we'll see how we can help make it a success.
- Looking for an exciting event (e.g. marathon) to do? Why not use MND Week to increase awareness and raise funds for us through your networks during this time. Check out **Everyday Hero** <https://nfp.everydayhero.com.au/motor-neurone-disease-association-of-queensland-inc> or **Go Fundraise** [www.gofundraise.com.au/beneficiary/MotorNeuroneDiseaseAssociationofQueenslandInc](http://www.gofundraise.com.au/beneficiary/MotorNeuroneDiseaseAssociationofQueenslandInc)
- **Sell MND merchandise** on consignment. If you work in a busy shop or office you might want to get some of our fundraising merchandise to sell and raise awareness and much-needed funds at the same time.
- Register for the **Walk to D-Feet MND Brisbane** event and commence fundraising by talking about MND Week. The walk is being held at New Farm Park this year on Sunday 24 May from 9AM. Register at [www.mycase.com.au/events/walktodfeetmndbrisbane2020](http://www.mycase.com.au/events/walktodfeetmndbrisbane2020).
- Look out for our **social media** posts and share them through your networks.
- Or you might just want to **donate** at <https://www.givenow.com.au/mndaq>

For more information contact Georgia our Event Coordinator by calling 07 3372 9004 or email [events@mndaq.org.au](mailto:events@mndaq.org.au).

### BLUE CORNFLOWER DAY TRIBUTE CEREMONY

Join us at Captain Burke Park, Kangaroo Point (under the Story Bridge) from 5:00PM on Friday 8 May as we view the Story Bridge light up in blue to mark MND Awareness Week & Blue Cornflower Day. We will also light a candle and have an honouring ceremony to pay tribute to those who we have lost to Motor Neurone Disease, as well as those who continue to fight this terrible condition.

**Never Give Up!**



## MND QUEENSLAND MERCHANDISE NOW FOR SALE ONLINE

Our range of fundraising merchandise helps us to increase awareness of MND and our brand in the broader community and importantly, it raises vital funds for us to be able to continue our work assisting families in Queensland impacted by MND.

In coming months we'll introduce some exciting new merchandise into our range so watch out for that. In the meantime we have new pens (with a stylus end and they also act as a mobile phone stand), plus a new style of trucker cap and new keyrings that also double as bottle openers. These join our existing products such as bandanas, tea towels, cornflower seeds, mugs, fluffy puppies, socks, pins and more.

We'll be soon restocking our ever-popular range of cute and cuddly jelly bears which are always popular with kids.

Over the years we have had many requests from people in regional areas wanting to access our merchandise, so we're pleased to let you know that our range of fundraising MND merchandise is now available to purchase online through our website using the secure PayPal system.

You don't need to be a current member of PayPal to - purchase our merchandise, just use your credit card and follow the prompts.

To view and purchase our merchandise, go to [www.mndaq.org.au/Get-involved/MND-QLD-Merchandise.aspx](http://www.mndaq.org.au/Get-involved/MND-QLD-Merchandise.aspx) or feel free to give us a call on 07 3372 9004.



# WALK TO D-FEET MND SPRINGFIELD

9am, Sunday 3 May, Robelle Domain, Springfield Central  
register, get sponsored & help people with motor neurone disease



register now for this national walk day at  
[www.mycase.com.au/events/walk2dfeetmndsfield2020](http://www.mycase.com.au/events/walk2dfeetmndsfield2020)



## MYTHS... BUSTED

**We've been hearing myths, rumours and false beliefs circulating about the NDIS and My Aged Care so thought we'd debunk some of the common ones for our readers.**

### **1. Disability organisations like MND Queensland receive funding from the government.**

Unfortunately, this is absolutely not the case. Historically the State Government provided some funding but the move to individualised funding, through both the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and My Aged Care, reduced our government funding considerably and it will stop entirely by the end of June. MND Queensland generates a small amount of income from our Equipment Service and the recent move into providing Support Coordination for NDIS funded clients. In order to provide services to Queenslanders with MND we are almost entirely reliant on the generosity of the public through fundraising activities and donations.

### **2. People with Disability are adequately looked after through the NDIS or My Aged Care.**

Again, most definitely not the case. The NDIS gets a lot of bad press but when you compare it with My Aged Care, people under the age of 65 have definitely got the better end of the deal. My Aged Care is designed to support people who need assistance due to advanced age and frailty. It is utterly inadequate to meet the needs of people with a significant disability. At the moment, people over the age of 65 are waiting around 12 weeks to even get an ACAT assessment which is required to determine their suitability for a Home Care Package (HCP).

Best case scenario is that the ACAT assessment will approve a Level 4 Package which provides approximately \$51,000 of funding for a whole year. The wait to actually get this funding is even longer, currently around 12-18 months. In the meantime, if you're lucky you may be able to access a lower level package which provides even less!

As My Aged Care is means tested, many people will be required to pay an 'income tested fee' on top of the 'basic daily fee' that many of the Service Providers charge. So, while we are fighting hard for our over 65's clients, the current system is discriminatory and failing older Australians, particularly those with a disability!

### **3. There is no point in me applying for the NDIS because:**

#### **(A) The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) reject most of the Access requests for the NDIS.**

Whilst we've read some alarming reports in the media about people being rejected for a variety of reasons, the

NDIA recognise that people with MND definitely need access to the scheme and access will be granted based on diagnosis alone. Evidence of the diagnosis will obviously be required but this can be provided by the diagnosing physician.

#### **(B) I won't get funding because of the means testing.**

The NDIS is not means tested at all and will not require any disclosure of income or assets in either the Access or Planning stages.

#### **(C) The Planning meeting is code for me having to justify my lifestyle and the help I need and I will have to spend ages preparing my case.**

This isn't the case, we do advise taking some time before the meeting to think about all of the things that you may need to help you live the life you choose, but the meeting itself is designed to be conversational and covers different aspects of your life to ensure that the funding provided is adequate and comprehensive and supports your choices. However, if it all seems a bit overwhelming, we can help you prepare.

#### **(D) They never give people all of the funding they need.**

Again, this isn't the case. It certainly is accurate to say that some mistakes have been made with people being given plans without adequate funding. It is important to be able to communicate all of your needs to the planner and again we can help you do that either through assisting you to prepare for the meeting or even attending it with you. And if a mistake is made and the plan provided isn't sufficient, there is a review and appeal process. This is another area we can assist you to navigate through and advocate on your behalf if you want us to. We've had a lot of success with these negotiations and enjoy a good working relationship with the NDIA.

### **4. I have submitted an access request but need assistive technology now so I'll purchase it and recoup the cost when a plan is in place.**

The NDIS will not reimburse for any items purchased before a plan was in place so please think very carefully about spending significant amounts of money before your funding has been approved. We realise that it is difficult to wait when the need exists now but we have seen people spend thousands on a wheelchair prior to a plan when, if they had waited a couple more weeks, there would have been no out of pocket expenses at all. With our equipment hire service, we can make pre-NDIS hire arrangements so if you need a piece of equipment right now but don't have funding yet, give us a call and we can help you with that.

### **5. It takes months from the Access request being submitted to actually get funding.**

We've heard these horror stories as well but our experi-

## MYTHS... BUSTED - CONTINUED

ence is that when the NDIA is made aware of the urgency of the need for a plan they move a lot more quickly. People with MND are fast tracked through the Access and Planning processes. We've worked hard with the NDIA to help them understand MND, the progressive nature of the disease and the urgency with which our clients need supports. The NDIA have been really receptive to this and we have been able to support some clients to go from Access request to Planning meeting in just seven days and on more than one occasion we have been able to assist our clients to get a plan in place on the same day as their planning meeting!

### 6. I have to travel to the nearest NDIA office to have my Planning meeting.

The location of the meeting is up to the Participant. The NDIA understand that some Participants have mobility difficulties and they will conduct Planning meetings in your home if you ask for it.

### 7. My NDIS Service Providers are letting me down but I'm stuck with them.

The NDIS is all about Participant choice and control. You enter into a Service Agreement with the Provider and if you're not happy you are entitled to change providers for any of your services. We would always recommend that you tell the Service Provider that you're unhappy and why and hopefully they will take the opportunity to fix the issues but if they don't you can look for another Service Provider that will better meet your needs. Don't forget to check the cancellation policy in your Service Agreement though so you know how much notice needs to be given.

### 8. I can only use Providers that are NDIS registered.

This only applies to people whose funding is NDIA managed. The NDIA seem to be moving away from NDIA managed funding and are favouring Plan Managed or Self-Managed. Often you'll find that some aspects of a plan are managed one way and others differently. So if you are Plan or Self-Managed, you can choose any Service Provider you wish. Those providers are not obligated to charge the rates specified in the NDIS price guide though. That means that sometimes you can save money going down that route but it can also be more costly as there is no cap on how much they can charge. You can always negotiate rates with your Service Providers though. If we are Coordinating your plan then we can help you with these discussions with service providers.



## THANK YOU THIRD-PARTY FUNDRAISERS

**We want to acknowledge the wonderful efforts of these fabulous fundraisers who took the time & effort to do something positive to help people with MND.**

**Matthew Goldstiver** - Matthew's younger brother Nathan was diagnosed with MND 18 months ago and he decided to chop off his hair that he'd been growing for a couple of years and raised \$1,430. Thanks Matthew!



**Crown Law Choir** - raised \$1,800 for us during their Christmas Carol performances at the Brisbane City Justice Buildings in December. One of their founder's, Conrad Lohe QC, passed away in 2019 after a short battle with MND, so the choir wanted to do something to support others experiencing MND.

**@kyliebournemosaics** - Kylie Bourne raised \$2,907 at her recent exhibition opening. She donated her beautiful piece called 'Tree of Love and Hope' (pictured right) for auction and it sold for \$1,100. Thank you to the people of Miles in south-west Queensland who supported Kylie's fundraiser.





## TRIVIA WITH A TWIST - A FUN NIGHT OUT

Friday 7 February saw our debut Trivia with a Twist event take place at the Metro Community Hub, Woolloongabba. With a sold out crowd, our teams really got into the spirit of the evening and a lot of laughs were had.

While the traditional trivia rounds caused a few scratched heads and puzzled looks, the team challenge rounds were an opportunity for teams to use a different type of intelligence and to score some great bonus points.

The Spaghetti and Marshmallow Tower round challenged engineering and building skills, while the Toilet Paper Bride and Groom round produced some gorgeous outfits and big laughs. The movie round attracted a lot of popular one liners, amidst some fine acting moments, but the hit of the night was the Shark Tank round, where some amazing ideas were produced and pitched. I think MND Queensland could almost close down our fundraising department and rebrand as the Social Enterprise Team to develop some of the ideas that were presented! It was a hotly contested round with some seriously viable busi-

ness ideas put together in under 10 minutes!

The night was also a fundraising success with almost \$4,000 raised. The cash bar proved very popular, and may or may not have added to the outcomes of the creative team challenge rounds. A big thanks to Fourth Wave Wines, Stone & Wood, Slipstream Brewing, Buchi Kombucha, Woolworths Inala, and Newstead Brewing for their generous donations.

The winning teams and raffle winners also received some great prizes donated by Escape Manor, Strike Bowling, Breakout Brisbane, Fox in a Box, Netherworld, Blue Room Cinebar, Catchment Brewing and Escape Hunt. Please support our generous sponsors whenever you can, to thank them for supporting our fundraising efforts for MND Queensland.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made this event a fun night out. Many thanks go to our wonderful volunteers who made the night run smoothly.





## ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIPS - GET A BARGAIN & SUPPORT US

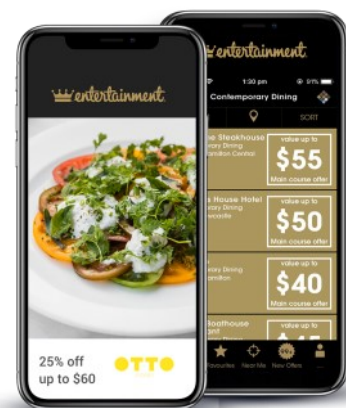
MND Queensland has been selling the Entertainment Book for years to supplement our fundraising income. There has been a big change though with the books being completely phased out in favour of membership to a phone application. This change is very handy as you always have the fantastic discounts and offers with you everywhere you go!

There are all sorts of discounts and deals on offer (such as 25% off, or buy one get one free) for fine and casual dining, fast food, accommodation, travel, shopping, experiences and much more! The hundreds of deals included in your membership can save you thousands of dollars and they are constantly being updated now via your electronic membership.

MND Queensland earns a 20% commission from each membership that we sell, so you can feel even better as you're enjoying your fancy dinner or beauty treatment knowing that you're also helping us help families impact-

ed by MND in Queensland.

The memberships are valid from the date of activation and there are also savings when you buy a Multi City membership or Multi Plus (two year's membership). As well, up to four members of your household can use the same membership!



Get your membership/s now and start saving and support the work of MND Queensland at

[www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/2221j21](http://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/2221j21).

**Order and activate your membership in March and receive an extra three months membership for free!**

## MND QUEENSLAND'S NDIS SERVICES ASSISTING THOSE IN NEED

**Over the last year MND Queensland has been working to deliver services and support under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).**

For those under the age of 65 with MND, the NDIS can fund a range of supports to assist you live your best life and enjoy independence and participating in your community.

Late in 2019 MND Queensland was registered to provide Support Coordination under the NDIS. Our expertise has seen a number of people benefit greatly from their NDIS packages and this is an area we seek to grow to meet the needs of Queenslanders with MND.

Our Equipment Service has also been operating under the NDIS providing the rental of essential pieces of equipment

to assist people with MND and their carers.

If you are newly diagnosed and you're looking for help to navigate the NDIS, or your current NDIS plan is coming up for review, contact us so we can help you get the most out of your package.

For those over the age of 65 that cannot access the NDIS, we will continue to always do our best to support you through our MND Advisory and Equipment Services and you are also welcome to contact us at any time to discuss your needs.

We can be contacted by calling 07 33782 9004 or by emailing [info@mndaq.org.au](mailto:info@mndaq.org.au).

## WALK TO D-FEET MND GOLD COAST 2020 9AM, Sunday 29 March, Hollindale Park, Main Beach



## LEAVE A LEGACY BY INCLUDING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

**MND Queensland has been the beneficiary of bequests over the years that have helped us grow and serve the needs of Queensland's MND community.**

Leaving a gift in your Will is a way to share your values even after you have passed.

Unfortunately creating a Will can be difficult and confronting and is something many people put off doing until it is too late. Dying without a Will can often mean loved ones have to battle with institutions such as banks, superannuation funds and the tax office to settle your estate, and in the meantime, thousands of dollars can go in administration when it should have been going to those you care about or the organisations that you value, like MND Queensland.

If you are creating or updating your Will, after you have looked after your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to MND Queensland to help us deliver quality services and supports to Queenslanders impacted by this terrible disease.

MND Queensland has prepared a bequest flyer to help you get the wording right in your Will and you can call us for a copy on 07 3372 9004 or download it at [www.mndaq.org.au/Donate/Leave-a-Bequest.aspx](http://www.mndaq.org.au/Donate/Leave-a-Bequest.aspx)

We strongly recommend that you speak to a professional when developing your Will to ensure that your final wishes are carried out properly.

We also encourage you to notify us if you have included MND Queensland as a beneficiary of your Will so we can thank you personally for your future gift and discuss ways which we may be able to recognise your contribution.



## REMINDER - MND QUEENSLAND 2020 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE

**MND Queensland values the commitment of our members and we want to remind you that 2020 memberships are now due.**

As a valued member you will continue to receive our newsletter, *The Cornflower*, and you'll be kept up-to-date with all of the latest news, events and support group meetings in your area. In addition, you'll receive invitations and discounts to special MND Queensland events and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be on 16 May.

MND Queensland's AGM is an ideal opportunity for members to have your say in our future direction and vote for our Board of Directors.

As an official member of MND Queensland, you are lending your voice to our organisation and this gives us a greater influence when talking with all levels of government. Members who are actively involved in the organisation can influence the content of the conversations too.

Our members also demonstrate their ongoing support of the aims and objectives of the Association and are a part of a collective generating better outcomes for people with MND.

If you live in Queensland and have MND or receive direct services from us, membership is only \$5 a year. For all other supporters the annual membership fee is just \$25.

Your membership fee helps to cover the cost of our membership program and also allows us to reach out to more people with MND and their families.

We strongly encourage everyone reading this article to join. Why not ask your family members and friends to join as well? Our membership is made up of people of all ages, from all walks of life and generally are people with MND, their families, carers and loved ones as well as health professionals.

Please join us today and help shape the future of MND Queensland by becoming a member. Membership application and renewal forms can be downloaded at [www.mndaq.org.au/Find-help/Membership](http://www.mndaq.org.au/Find-help/Membership) or if you are renewing your membership and using a credit card, you can call Leigh on 07 3372 9004.





## MEET SUE WELLS - MND EQUIPMENT OFFICER

**MND Queensland's Equipment Service is coordinated by Sue Wells. Our equipment is always in high demand and as a part-time worker, Sue is kept very busy looking after requests via phone and email and organising deliveries. We thought we'd ask Sue a few questions to help you get to know her a little.**

**You've been with MND Queensland for quite a while now. Can you tell us a bit about your history here?**

I started working at MND Queensland in general admin about two years ago and progressed into the position of Equipment Officer. For the past year I have been getting familiar with all the assistive technology available out there of which there is quite a lot. It's been a challenging year especially with the advent of the NDIS and changing our processes and procedures to cope with this.

**Can you tell our readers a little bit about the MND Equipment Service?**

The service provides a wide range of equipment to help our clients with their everyday lives. From beds and power wheelchairs to communication devices and respiratory machines. The list can be found on our website. We continue to grow and diversify our equipment inventory every month, whether this be through equipment donations or grants. We try to stock those items which are in most demand.

**What is it about this sector that attracts you to work with people with MND and their families?**

I feel as though I can really make a difference to our clients' comfort. Just seeing someone who unfortunately can no longer communicate realise that by using an eye-gaze device they can once again interact with the world makes me feel like I have made a difference. Providing equipment to a person to facilitate them being able to stay at home surrounded by their family gives me personal satisfaction.

**What have you learnt about MND since working at MND Queensland?**

I actually didn't know much about MND when I first started working here and have learnt a lot. The nature of the disease is so unpredictable and every client has their own journey. There is no set prescription for what a client may need. Their needs may change daily and we need to be aware and responsive to this.



**What is the most rewarding part of working for MND Queensland?**

Just to be here for our clients and families when they need us. To be able to solve that issue when no one else has been able to.

**What advice can you give people to help streamline their access to our Equipment Service?**

Get to know your Allied Health Professionals so you have a good support system around you. They can guide you and be responsive to your needs. Ask questions about what equipment is out there. There may be things available for an issue you have that you don't know about.

**Are there any other comments that you'd like to share?**

Just to let people know we are here if they need us. So please reach out and we will try our hardest to help and if we can't, then hopefully we can refer you to someone who can.

**MND Queensland Gala Fundraiser**

### ROARING 20S REIMAGINED

Join us from 6PM on Saturday 29 August 2020 for a night of fun and games to raise vital funds for MND Queensland. You'll enjoy a cocktail on arrival, 3-hour drinks package, canapes, grazing table, dessert bar, plus fabulous entertainment, dancing, casino games and more! Plus we'll have a fantastic raffle and a silent auction with great items up for grabs. Dress code - Gatsby/cocktail.

Early-bird tickets for this special event are \$125 each (inc. \$20 funny money) & are available at

<http://tix.yt/mnd-qld-gala>

**29 Mar - Walk to D-Feet MND Gold Coast**, 9AM, Hollindale Park, Main Beach. Register now & start fundraising at [www.mycause.com.au/events/walk2dfeetmndgc2020](http://www.mycause.com.au/events/walk2dfeetmndgc2020)

**3 May - Start of MND Awareness Week/Walk to D-Feet MND Springfield** (national walk day) - 9AM, Robelle Domain, Springfield Central. Register & fundraise at [www.mycause.com.au/events/walk2dfeetmndsfield2020](http://www.mycause.com.au/events/walk2dfeetmndsfield2020)

**8 May - Blue Cornflower Day Tribute Event**, to be held from 5PM at Captain Burke Park, Kangaroo Pt.

**16 May - MNDQA Annual General Meeting**, invitations to be sent to members prior to the AGM.

**24 May - Walk to D-Feet MND Brisbane** 9AM, New Farm Park (near the Powerhouse), New Farm. Register now and start fundraising at [www.mycause.com.au/events/walktodfeetmndbrisbane2020](http://www.mycause.com.au/events/walktodfeetmndbrisbane2020)

**21 Jun - Global MND Awareness Day & Motor On for Motor Neurone Disease Car Rally**  
[www.mycause.com.au/events/motoronwinter2020](http://www.mycause.com.au/events/motoronwinter2020) & Bundaberg Early Holden Club MND Car Run.

**27-28 Jun - Lindmar Open Garden** - volunteer stall & BBQ, 9AM-3PM, 130 Blewers Rd, Morayfield.

**1-31 Aug - Ice Bucket Challenge Month** - register, raise funds and take the chilly challenge for MND

**29 Aug - MND QLD Fundraising Gala** - Roaring 20s Reimagined - casino night fundraiser at Mirra, Fortitude Valley. Tickets at <http://tix.yt/mnd-qld-gala>

**13 Sep - Walk to D-Feet MND Toowoomba** - watch out online out for more information soon

**18 Oct - Walk to D-Feet MND Redcliffe** - keep an eye on our social media for more information to come.

**8 Nov - Motor On for Motor Neurone Disease Car Rally** (Christmas theme) - more information to come.

If you, or someone close to you has been impacted by MND, you are welcome to join in on our free MND Support Group Meetings. The meetings sometimes have special guest speakers to help educate, but importantly, you will meet other people who are experiencing, or have experienced MND so that you can share and learn from one another.



**Location:** Bayoo Room, Cairns North Community Health,  
381 Sheridan St, Cairns North.  
**Frequency:** 25 Mar, 27 May, 24 Jun, 29 Jul, 26 Aug  
**Time:** 10:00AM to 12:00PM  
**RSVP:** Anne Kavanagh, 07 4226 4481, 0400 739 674 or email  
mailto:Anne.Kavanagh@health.qld.gov.au

**Location:** Carlyle Gardens Restaurant & Bar, 60 N Beck Drive, Condon  
**Frequency:** 16 Apr, 21 May, 9 Jul, 20 Aug  
**Time:** 10:00AM to 12:00PM  
**RSVP:** Sharon. sharon@mndag.org.au. 0424 408 657

**Location:** Magpies Sporting Club, 1 Glenella Rd, Glenella  
**Frequency:** July meeting to be advised (contact Sharon)  
**Time:** to be advised (contact Sharon)  
**RSVP:** Sharon, [sharon@mndag.org.au](mailto:sharon@mndag.org.au) or 0424 408 657

**Location:** Pine Rivers Health Centre, 568 Gympie Road, Strathpine  
**Frequency:** Normally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of the month. 28 Mar, 18 Apr, 23 May, 27 Jun (to be confirmed) 25 Jul, 22 Aug  
**Time:** 9:30AM to 11:30AM  
**RSVP:** Graeme & Liz Holver 0458 021 783

**Location:** Gold Coast Business Hub, Level 2 “Kay House”,  
35-39 Scarborough Street, Southport  
**Frequency:** Bi-monthly, 11 Apr, 13 Jun, 8 Aug  
**Time:** 1:00PM to 3:00PM  
**RSVP:** Lorraine by calling 0408 661 212 or email her at  
lorraine.livatt@bigpond.com

I would like to donate: \$.....(write amount) ☐ I'd like to give this amount monthly via my credit card

I am paying by: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque/Money Order (made out to MND Queensland)

**For direct deposit donation details, please call 07 3372 9004 or email [info@mndaq.org.au](mailto:info@mndaq.org.au)**

**My Details:**

Name:.....

Address:.....

Suburb:.....

State:.....Postcode:.....

Phone:.....

Email:.....

**Card Number:**

**Card Expiry:**  **CSC:**  (3-digit CSC on back of card)

**Cardholder's Name:**.....

**Cardholder's Signature:**.....

**Send to: MND Queensland, PO Box 470, INALA QLD 4077** ☐ Please send me information about leaving a gift in my Will

**Or, if you are using a credit card you can call us on 07 3372 9004 or donate online at [www.givenow.com.au/mndaq](http://www.givenow.com.au/mndaq)**