

Tradies to the rescue for The Linen SHIFT

There was a fantastic vibe in the air at the Arts and Industry Estate on Friday when a local team of builders gathered together to give their time and skills to help bring a dream into reality.

The SHIFT Project have been working tirelessly for the past year researching and planning for their social enterprise, The Linen SHIFT.

The SHIFT Project is a Byron-based charity that helps women who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

During the residential educational program that runs for a minimum of 12 weeks, participants have a safe place to live and get tailored counselling and support.

Boutique laundry service

As part of the program, they also volunteer at community organisations like Liberation Larder, and help with the currently small 'cottage industry' laundry service.

Currently boutique laundry service the Linen SHIFT operates out of the residence



James Cornell and volunteers from Balanced Earth and Raw Design Solid Plastering who were fed and watered by Three Blue Ducks and Stone & Wood. Photo Jeff Dawson

and is limited in scope.

By moving the enterprise into its own premises it will be able to grow and provide more employment pathways, work experience and support for residents of the program and other women in need in the community.

They are currently on target to open in March 2020. Michale Leung from

Balanced Earth has been a strong supporter of the project, and put out the call that help was needed.

Twelve local builders, plasterers and painters answered the call, he says.

'I could feel the whole team give it their all with such love and joy, we are grateful our skills can support your life changing

visions,' Michael said.

SHIFT Project founder Anne Goslett was brought to tears with their generosity.

'We feel incredibly humble to have such a wonderful local community,' she said.

A big thanks also to Three Blue Ducks, Stone and Wood, All Press and Sunrise Bottle Shop who kept the troops fed and hydrated.

Break 'n' enter at museum



Volunteer Dave Sharonowitz discovered powder when he opened the Museum Machinery Shed at 7am last week. Photo Jeff 'Sucker Since 1986' Dawson

The Brunswick Valley Historical Society was disappointed to discover that someone had poured a yellowish-green powder, possibly sulphur, through the roof vent of the machinery display shed covering all the displays recently.

They also discovered that a number of the smaller exhibits had been taken.

A representative for the historical society said that some local homeless people had been camping out the back at night, without creating problems; however, as more people joined the camp, with dogs and loud music, fights began to break out and staff started to feel

intimidated.

If anyone has information on the thefts they are requested to contact the police on 6685 9499.

Warrant arrest

Meanwhile, local police say they arrested a woman over a warrant for driving while disqualified around 6.30am on November 21 after discovering 'numerous unlawful camp sites' at the northern end of Sommerset Drive.

The police report claims plain clothes police checked on a vehicle parked next to the camp site and located the 47-year-old female owner, who had an outstanding warrant for her arrest.

Teens tackle abuse through new play, *Under Your Thumb*

Why is there so much open abuse in public discourse?

This is one of the main questions posed by Byron Youth Theatre's (BYT) latest production, *Under Your Thumb*.

The performance is this Thursday November 28, at the Brunswick Picture House from 6pm.

Exploring issues

Director Lisa Apostolides says, 'Youth audiences from previous BYT productions nominated that we devise a show exploring issues of abuse, in relationships, social media and in our wider world.'

'They are looking for answers, how we can change.'

The performance includes live music, dance, dramatic scenes and slam poetry.

It contains content that some people may find triggering and is most appropriate for those aged 15 and over.

BYT's Emily Wilson says, 'The process we take when devising a production involves lots of research, connecting with related



Young actors from the new BYT production. Photo supplied

organisations, interviewing all sorts of people, and sharing our own personal experiences.

'It gives us such a supportive and creative environment to pose questions and produce new theatre on important issues, by young people, for young people

and our community.'

Organisers say the production will tour local high schools, supported by representatives from the Women's Resource Service.

The development and production was made possible from government, NGO and philanthropic funding.

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BSC File No: #E2015/33146

10th July 2019

The S.H.I.F.T. Project Byron, Inc.
PO Box 242
Suffolk Park NSW 2481

Letter of Support – The S.H.I.F.T. Project Byron, Inc.

As Mayor of Byron Shire, I strongly support the S.H.I.F.T Project Byron and their initiative to provide educational programs within a supported stable housing environment for women to SHIFT from disadvantage to confidence and motivation for well being.

Due to cutbacks within the social services sector, the Byron Shire like other areas has experienced a rise in the number of homelessness in recent times. Women are particularly at risk when they face homelessness and this project seeks to provide a program to assist with breaking the cycle often experienced by focusing on self-education and physical wellbeing. Participants are then encouraged to give back to the community by participating in local volunteer work.

This project is one of utmost importance and necessity. The staff behind the project and the work they are performing under great pressures is to be applauded and assistance is greatly needed and appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or endorsement of this important project.

Kind regards

Simon Richardson
MAYOR



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LIBERATION Larder

1st August 2019

To Whom It May Concern

Liberation Larder Inc. is Byron Shire's Food Rescue Food Lifeline Service. We support the application to the ANZ Seeds of Renewal Program for the The Linen SHIFT Project.

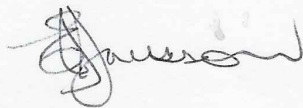
Liberation Larder Inc. has worked closely with The SHIFT Project in the Larder Kitchen, the Coffee Box & the Larder Vegetable Plot at The Farm. We know SHIFT has changed women's lives. We also know that previous SHIFT enterprises have played an important part in the change. The Linen SHIFT is an exciting opportunity for disadvantaged women to learn new skills, grow in self-esteem & earn an income. It will help them access or sustain housing, and has the potential to create enthusiasm in the women to seek out business opportunities for themselves moving forward.

The SHIFT Project has shown they are intelligent, creative, hard working & reliable in their approach to growing their service for the benefit of women at risk of homelessness. With each new project they take on they add to the social fabric of our community.

Liberation Larder looks forward to seeing this project up & running.

Yours Sincerely

Elizabeth Jackson



President Liberation Larder Inc.

0414 895 441

<http://www.liberationlarder.org>



15 April 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: The SHIFT Project

ETC is pleased to provide this letter of support for the SHIFT project.

ETC has been providing employment services for 30 years and has a total of 35 offices from Tuncurry in the south to Coomera on the Gold Coast in the north, including offices in Ballina, Lismore, Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads.

Our team of employment and training professionals understand the critical need for employment opportunities for vulnerable people in our communities.

We are very familiar with the SHIFT project as an organisation that supports women at risk of homelessness or who are homeless on the North Coast of NSW.

The SHIFT project provides a holistic approach in supporting each client individually with housing, personalised case management, employment coaching and counselling – and we are aware the program is having great success in helping change the lives of vulnerable women.

The SHIFT Project has created The Linen SHIFT - an innovative social enterprise laundry service that provides training, employment and support to women experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The project provides transitional employment coupled with training, mentoring and skill development to help women sustainably enter the workforce. Women are also provided one-on-one support to address underlying hardships. The program runs for three to twelve months and is flexible to the unique needs of individual women.

The Linen SHIFT is currently being run as a small-scale in-house training and employment opportunity for homeless women living within The SHIFT Project's residential property based in Byron Bay, NSW. The program is at a critical period of growth, and funding is required to assist in the expansion and relocation of The Linen SHIFT to a commercial venue in the industrial estate of Byron Bay.

Enterprise & Training Company



It's our understanding that the Linen SHIFT social enterprise will not only provide employment opportunities for women but the one-on-one additional support required to ensure employment continues and barriers are addressed alongside their experience.

ETC has no hesitation in supporting The SHIFT project's funding application.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on 1800 007 400 to discuss this application further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Birmingham', is written over a white background.

Sam Birmingham
ETC Team Leader Employment, Ballina

Enterprise & Training Company