

The S.H.I.F.T. Project Byron, Inc. is an educational transition program for women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The aim of the project is to support women in the Northern Rivers experiencing these challenges, reintegrate into the community, moving away from vulnerability and towards wellbeing, self-worth and self-sufficiency.

We provide a holistic and focused education program that delivers the tools required to enable them to actively choose and maintain a healthy, empowered and self-sustaining lifestyle.

April Newsletter

A Note from Anne Goslett, Founder and Managing Director



Welcome to Autumn...as the rain finally comes, we are gearing up for an amazing year ahead. Lots has happened since our last newsletter, fundraising through IWD and further work on our Social Enterprise is bringing us closer to making it a reality.

I was amazed and delighted to be named Byron Shire's Citizen of the Year. Nominated by a past resident and backed by our community is an incredible privilege.

It's very humbling to be recognised for this when my work is my passion and I'm surrounded by such a hardworking team, without whom I couldn't do what I do.

In this edition, we introduce you to Jaqui Pearce, another of our community partners providing 'in kind' support to SHIFT. We are so grateful to be a part of such a generous and inclusive community.

Enjoy the read.

Warm wishes..... Anne.

Fundraising Results

In March we held our **International Women's Day** lunch event, our major fundraiser of the year. Huge thanks to our major event supporters, Sourdough Business Pathways, Elements of Byron and North Byron Events.

It was a sold out event with over 200 people joining in our celebration.

Our panel of Fay Jackson, Sharon Sweeney, Anne Goslett and Mandy Nolan touched us with their stories of their journeys to where they stand today as women who have achieved so much against pretty big odds.

The Awesome Mandy Nolan also MC'd and was our incredible Auctioneer.

It was an inspiring and thought provoking day and in total, we raised just over \$26,000 which is exceptional and allows us to continue to grow and support the women of SHIFT.

Big shout out to all the fabulous businesses that donated prizes for our raffles and auctions, they are listed on our website and we encourage you to support their businesses when the opportunity arises. In addition Sunsistas Womens Circle donated over \$1000 from their business group on the day and we had a local business supporter donate \$1000 towards the costs on the day.

Lastly of course - thank you to our wonderful audience who were so generous with their time, money and laughter.

International Women's Day 2020 is Sunday 8th March. We will be running our annual lunch on FRIDAY 6th March. Save the date. We would love to see you there!



Community Connection

A community which supports its most vulnerable is an empowered community. At The SHIFT Project we are blessed to have the support of a number of generous Community Members.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Jacqui Pearce. Jacqui has volunteered with us over the last year to support us as we build our next 5 year strategic direction.



Originally from Newcastle Jacqui had a rewarding and hectic time as a full time musician in her teens and twenties.

Making changes towards a better lifestyle she started working in a Shelter for Homeless Women and for the next 20 years worked with women experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, chemical dependency, mental health and trauma.

Highly qualified in Development and Business Administration (UWS) as well as coaching, training and facilitation credentials. Jacqui brings a wealth of skills including building cultural proficiency, workplace diversity, team development, change management, leadership, communication, conflict resolution and community development.

"I have really enjoyed working with the SHIFT team over the past twelve months or so.

It is lovely to work with a team with an inspiring vision being realised to make a difference in women's lives.

I have been privileged to live on Bundjalung country since 2015 and recently moved to 100 acres just near Kyogle to live with my partner and our animals and to have a go at regenerative farming.

Feminism, liberation and being of service to others keep me thriving and my passions are travelling, food, community development and living harmoniously with the land."

We give heartfelt thanks to you Jacqui for your insights and guidance over this period.



Participant Achievements/Comments

An update on Catherine, who we featured in our last newsletter.

She is now working full time in the child care centre where she did her placement. She has found a beautiful share house in the area and is living happily independently.

Participant comment.

This year, we were able to invite the SHIFT residents to our International Women's Day event at Elements. It was a slightly frightening and very brilliant lunch 'date' for them.

"I am so grateful to everyone who arranged and attended the SHIFT function at Elements on International Women's day 2019. I had a wonderful day with a highlight being the money boxes proudly displayed on the tables that we made during our weekly art/craft session. Everything looked absolutely amazing!"



Promotion and fundraising events

SHIT Preview Fundraiser

The Drill Hall in Mullumbimby have chosen The SHIFT Project as their worthy cause for their upcoming **preview** show of their production, SHIT, on the 8th May.

Tickets are just \$20 and 50% of ticket sales for this preview show go to SHIFT.

You can buy tickets, for this preview show only, direct from [SHIFT \(julie@shiftproject.org.au\)](mailto:julie@shiftproject.org.au) or from The Book Room, Byron.

SHIT is the latest project from renowned Australian playwright, Patricia Cornelius. The play examines the intersections between class and misogyny, centring itself around three women who have found themselves in jail after committing a horrific crime. Directed by Georgia Martin, The Age has described Shit as 'Provocative and tragic, bracing and bitterly funny'.

It's a win win, treat yourself to a stimulating evening of theatre on 8th May and support the SHIFT Project

An update on our Social Enterprise.

The Linen SHIFT - Laundry with a Conscience

We are in the process of developing a social enterprise laundry service, called The Linen SHIFT.

Currently, The Linen SHIFT is being run as a small-scale in-house training and employment opportunity for the women living within The SHIFT Project's residential property. The program is at a critical period of growth, we have too much laundry and too little space in the house and we need to take it off site. We have begun our search for funding to assist in the expansion and relocation of The Linen SHIFT to a commercial venue in the industrial estate of Byron Bay.

Having the Linen SHIFT in a commercial venue will also allow us to expand the service and support more women, who are not in residence, with some of the services within The SHIFT Project.

The project will provide transitional employment coupled with training, mentoring and skill development to help women sustainably enter the workforce. Women will also be provided with one-on-one support to address underlying hardships. The program will run for three to twelve months and is flexible to the unique needs of individual women.

Keep your eyes on this space for further updates and if you would like to speak in more detail about our journey, feel free to email julie@shiftproject.org.au.

Ongoing support for The SHIFT Project community

Membership renewals for 2019/20 will be due **1 July**.

As a Incorporated Association, we are required to have a membership base AND having members keeps us linked to our community.

Annual membership of \$10 ensures you will be kept up to date with our progress.

To renew, go to our website
<https://shiftproject.org.au/get-involved/>

Become a Member

If you would like to join the SHIFT community, annual membership is \$10pa. (renewed every July).

For information on how to join, go to our website
<https://shiftproject.org.au/get-involved/>

Donate to The SHIFT Project

Become an annual or regular donor. Donations can be made via PayPal or direct deposit. Go to www.shiftproject.org.au and follow the prompts.

A HUGE THANK YOU

to all those who have (and continue to) support us over the years. We cannot do this without you.....without the program participants and without the great support of the community.

For more information visit www.shiftproject.org.au

This newsletter has been written, crafted, loved ,edited and published
by Moyra Smith, Prue Mitchell and Julie Wells

The SHIFT Project Bryon, Inc. acknowledge the Arakwal People, Traditional Custodians of these lands on which we work, and pay tribute and respect to the elders both past and present.

