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Finding My Place

“A good life, an ordinary life, a life like anyone else.”

Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Toowoomba

Overview

A one day forum for sharing stories by and about people with disabilities who have taken their place in their community.

Join presenters **Marlena Katene, Rodney Mills, Sean Fisher, Lisa Bridle and others** as they share their experience of school life; moving into their own homes; having jobs; building friendships and following their passions and contributing to their community.

The presenters who live with disability and the people who support them will share their thinking and the down to earth strategies they have used to get started and keep going.

It's never too early or too late to start planning for a good life. This is a rare opportunity to hear from and ask questions of people who didn't listen to everything they were told they couldn't do.

Who should attend?

This will be of interest to people with disabilities, their parents, families and friends as well as people who support people with disability in paid roles.

Presenters:



Marlena Katene is a young leader who inspires others by living a fast-paced life as a journalist, business owner, world traveller, author and presenter.



After many years in the 'too hard basket', **Rodney Mills** now lives in his own home and is a teacher and a trainer, running his own business presenting to the community. He worked for 10 years in a paid job at the organisation that used to support him.



Sean Fisher attended his local school and since graduating 5 years ago has been building strong connections and friendships with his community through paid work and the everyday activities of a busy 24 year old.

Lisa Bridle, Sean's mother, has a background in social work and is now the Senior Consultant at CRU, assisting families achieve their own vision for their family.

More presenters will be announced soon!

Date: **Wednesday 3rd April 2019**

Time: **9.30 am – 2.30 pm**
Registration from 9am

Venue: **City Golf Club Albatross Room 254 South Street Toowoomba**

Cost: **\$150 Full Fee**
\$ 65 People with a disability and family members

A light lunch will be provided.

Register by Tuesday 19th March through the CRU website www.cru.org.au

Cancellations:

To view CRU's cancellation policy please visit this link: <http://cru.org.au/about/policies/#cancellation>

For self-managing & plan-managed NDIS participants, see the Learning Objectives on the event's page. You can decide if this is a reasonable & necessary support to help you (or your family member) achieve your goals.



Community Resource Unit Ltd.

Expanding Ideas; Creating Change

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Finding My Place Presenters

Marlena Katene (Gold Coast, QLD)



Marlena lives on the Gold Coast and is a young leader who inspires others by living a fast-paced life as a journalist, business owner, world traveller, author and presenter. As well as running a successful jumping castle business, “Burleigh Bouncers”, Marlena has built up an extensive portfolio of interviews with a particular focus on musicians and entertainers (The AAC Journalist). A passionate disability advocate, she has travelled extensively throughout the world and Australia to promote an inclusive and positive life for all people with a disability, regardless of limitations presented by impairment.

Rodney Mills (Brisbane, QLD)



For many years, **Rodney** was put in the ‘*too hard basket*’, by services, when exhibiting ‘*challenging behaviours*’ on an almost daily basis. His family was exhausted and there was little hope for his future. Today, Rodney lives in his own home, is a teacher and a trainer, has worked for 10 years in a paid job at the organisation that used to support him, and is now running his own business presenting to the community. Rodney is passionate about people with disability having a voice and leading meaningful and inclusive lives in the community. His journey has taken him around Australia and the world, including the United States and Canada. Rodney loves to travel and is driven to share his experiences, connecting *with* and inspiring others to achieve their dreams regardless of labels or abilities.

Sean Fisher & Lisa Bridle (Brisbane, QLD)



Sean attended his neighbourhood primary school in Brisbane and graduated 5 years ago from a large Catholic boys school. Since then, he has been a valued member of the Operations Team at Multicultural Development Australia (MDA) and for the past 2 years has also worked part-time at the Brisbane Convention & Entertainment Centre.

Lisa Bridle grew up in Dalby and is a social worker with a background in community development. Lisa is mother of 3. Since Sean was born, she has been developing her own skills as an advocate through supporting Sean’s school inclusion and as an active member of family advocacy organisations. Lisa has been the Senior Consultant in Leadership Development at Community Resource Unit since 2010.

Her work in family leadership development assists families to have a positive vision of an inclusive life and developing the skills they need to pursue that vision both as an individual family and as part of collective efforts for change. If you would like more information, please contact Lisa using the details on the front of this flyer.