

# COMMUNITY FOR COMMUNITY (C4C) PUBLIC FORUM

## Toowoomba: an accessible city

*Is Toowoomba an accessible city? Is there equity of access for the disadvantaged and disabled? How do you rate the city of Toowoomba for commitment to providing information, services and facilities that are accessible to everyone in our community? Are there aspects we can improve?*

*Join us as three local identities provide their views on accessibility in Toowoomba from a disability perspective in the areas of higher education, town planning and the legal system.*

**You are also invited to the launch of Sharon's new Physical Disability Educational Resource Kit *Another Day in the Life of Sharon Boyce* — A person with a physical disability. The launch will be carried out by Nicola Jeffers, Acting Regional Director of Child Safety, Youth and Families, Department of Communities representing the Honorable Curtis Pitt MP, Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, and a number of other dignitaries. The C4C public forum will commence directly after the launch. Light refreshments will be provided at the end of the C4C presentations.**

### Dan Toombs

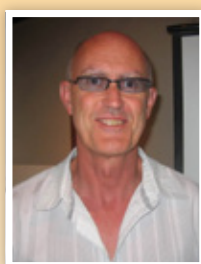
Dan Toombs is one of Australia's most awarded lawyers being the recipient of numerous state and commonwealth awards for his innovative work within the legal system. He has a long history of working with disadvantaged groups, particularly people with disabilities who have had the misfortune of colliding with the Queensland criminal justice system. His work has exposed major gaps within both legislation and court process that significantly predispose people who suffer mental illness, intellectual disability or an acquired brain injury to unjust outcomes. At present, he is writing a definitive legal text on the subject which will be published later this year.



Dan Toombs

### Col Davidson

Col Davidson is a local architect — Principal of CKD Architects in Toowoomba. Col has undertaken many projects in the local area in both the private and public sectors. His designs are distinctive but practical and he has embraced design that places access at the centre. Col is a member of the Rotary Club of Toowoomba East where he led ideas on the design of the Toowoomba Flexi School, a school for marginalised youth in the local area.



Col Davidson

### Sharon Boyce

Sharon Boyce works part-time in early childhood and inclusive teacher education at the University of Southern Queensland and also with students across Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, who have learning difficulties. Sharon is also doing her PhD at UQ. Sharon, together with Dr Michael Furtado, runs an educational consultancy *Discovering DisAbility & Diversity*, which has as its major focus the promotion of inclusive practices for educators across many diverse backgrounds. They design and deliver training in a variety of educational settings from early childhood centres, preschools, primary and secondary schools, industry and universities to individual private clients with particular needs. Their mission is to encourage, motivate and help people celebrate diversity and practice equity in all things.

Sharon Boyce has lived in Toowoomba all her life. She lives most of her life in an electric wheelchair, as she contracted Rheumatoid Arthritis when she was 11 years old. She has used the wheelchair for the past 20 years.

Sharon has not allowed her disability to stop her from doing what she wants. She works on a radio show reviewing movies and loves swimming at least twice a week. She loves painting and exhibiting her acrylic abstracts and is a curated artist. She has written and published an educational resource folder called *A Day in the Life of Sharon Boyce* — A person with a physical disability and will have the second resource folder *Another Day in the Life of Sharon Boyce* — A person with a physical disability launched tonight. She has written a children's adventure story dealing with discovery and disability. She is currently completing her book on Dyslexia and reading difficulties. She won the Queensland Disability Action Week Award in 2003 for this and her work with children. Sharon also recently won the Human Rights Award for Individuals (2008), for her work with community in disability and diversity awareness and for promoting inclusion across Australia.



Sharon Boyce

**Date:** Tuesday 29 March 2011  
**Time:** 6.30 – 7.00 pm (launch)  
7.00 – 8.30 pm (C4C presentations)  
**Venue:** QCWA Hall • 263 Margaret Street  
**Cost:** FREE  
**RSVP:** Monday 28 March 2011  
**Bookings:** Mary McGilvray • 4631 1414  
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