Foundations Forum – 30 years.

I just wanted to say thanks to everyone who has come to celebrate tonight and mark well what I think is quite a significant milestone.

Most of you know me but for those who don’t I’m Rhiannon and the current Chairperson of Foundations Forum. I’ve only been part of this 30 year journey for four of them so really just a small part of it…so I feel privileged tonight to be amongst others who have contributed so significantly in sustaining Foundations Forum, a volunteer local organisation to NSW who is committed in supporting better lives for people who are marginalised in our society, through the knowledge and learning of SRV for 30 years.

As so many people here hold such wisdom and experience I thought I’d open this up tonight for few people to share some of the memories of their involvement with foundations forum or how they first heard about SRV, first PASSING experiences.

Before we begin some of you may recall Anita Tang - From what Judith has passed onto me Anita was part of group that came together who formed the network – which eventually became Foundations Forum

Unfortunately she couldn’t make it tonight but had these words to pass on:

"I was thrilled to learn that Foundations Forum is still going strong after 30 years. It is so important that there is a source of values-based training for people trying to create better lives for people with disabilities. SRV and PASSING workshops were not only effective in raising consciousness and changing practice, but also in forming connections amongst people with similar aspirations. Sorry I couldn't be there to share the celebrations"

The workshops, PASSING and other training opportunities we provide would not be possible if we did not have the involvement or accessibility to our Accredited Teachers of SRV (known for many years as Senior Trainers) during my time this has been Peter Millier, Jane Sherwin and John Armstrong. John sends his apologies and these words to share.

Jane Sherwin is here tonight and it’s great to have her with us tonight, I’d like Jane to share some words of her experience of teach in NSW.

Now I’d like to introduce you to Greg McKay who has joined us tonight as a friend of FF and also as chairperson of Values in Action in QLD a Local SRV group – Greg to share some words about importance of local SRV Groups

Thanks Greg – I think Greg’s sharing of importance of local groups reminds us why we are celebrating tonight and something I’ve reflected on over the last few weeks.

My personal exposure to SRV only came 4 and half years ago when I started my work with Family Advocacy – I’ve been fortunate during this time to be have been exposed to many learning opportunities, SRV theory courses, SRV international conferences…it has been such a rich experience for not only me but for my family along with making a significant contribution in the life of my sister and close others. The level of consciousness –which Wolf Wolfersberger and other teachers of SRV have imparted on me, has been something that I’ll always be appreciative of.

Although times are changing and we are entering perhaps a new era in not only the disability but also in the aged care sector, a future of” choice and control” - I still believe SRV is as relevant today as it was 30 years ago – a reason for us more so than ever to continue to provide valued based training opportunities and other ways to be able to connect with people who are wanting something different. We as the committee are looking at ways of drawing people in so we can continue to have conversations and build upon people’s knowledge and experience and consists rising. Any ideas are always welcome.

We encourage you to keep connected and support the work of Foundations Forum in years to come.

I’d like to say a big thanks to the current committee for supporting this occasion to happen, Wendy and Megan who are here tonight and Ken and Gary who couldn’t make it.

If anyone else would like to say anything please feel free to do so but to finish up I’d just like to raise a glass to Foundations Forum!