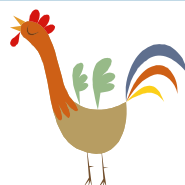


CORRECTION TO CELEBRATION DAY!



Please be advised that Celebration day is held on
SATURDAY 6th September 2008
NOT Sunday 6th September 2008 as recently advertised.

11.00am to 4.00pm
Collingwood Children's Farm
End of St Helier's St, Abbotsford, 3067
Melways Ref 44 G5

We ask that you would kindly contact the FCAV office by
Friday 29th August to confirm your attendance and to advise us

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2008 Annual General Meeting of FCAV
will be held on:

Friday 17th October at 7.00 p.m.
at The Northcote Town Hall
189 High St, Northcote
Level 1, Room 2A & 2B
(near intersection of High St & Bastings St)

People who are on the Newsletter mailing list, but who have not completed a
membership form lodged with the FCAV office, are not members and have no
voting rights at the AGM.

If you wish to become a member, please complete the membership form on
Page 11 by September 12th, 2008, to ensure membership approval at the
Committee of Management meeting.

Items/articles in this newsletter are not necessarily those expressed by the FCAV
Committee of Management. Information has been obtained from sources deemed
reliable.



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Welcome Jo-Anne McMahon - FCAV's Executive Officer



Hello & Nice to meet you all

I am writing this introduction to you all at the start of my journey with the FCAV with the knowledge that where my steps with the organization begin I am on a road that stretches a long way behind me &, hopefully, a long way ahead of me. Along that road I can see the wonderful history of this organization stretching out as scenery & feel quite excited about jumping on board. Looking back only slightly I can see two big signs reading, 'Julien Leith' & 'Cas O'Neill', & both are pointing forwards, into the future, showing me which way to go & encouraging me forwards.

Julien made a wonderful contribution to this organization & her commitment, hard work & dedication will not be quickly forgotten. She provided a lot of the structures & foundations that are still serving the FCAV well & I am very grateful to her for what she achieved as it gives me something to build on.

During her time with us Cas has done amazing things, & baked fantastic cakes, & I don't believe my transition into the role would have gone as smoothly without her. She is someone that everyone who encounters her speaks highly of & I can now add myself to her list of admirers. On behalf of everyone in the office, the committee & the membership I would like to formally thank Cas for coming in & doing great things as acting EO.

So now looking forwards you have me as the new EO & we also welcome Beth Parker as our Helpline Coordinator. Beth will tell you more about herself in her own introduction further into this newsletter, but I will say I am very happy to be working with her & believe she brings a wealth of valuable & relevant experience & will do great things to support & expand our long running helpline service.

That takes us back to me. I come to the FCAV office via Trentham, where I live in a rickety old cottage with my lovely husband & two dogs. I have a varied professional background encompassing both the corporate & welfare sectors. Over the years I have been a learning & development manager for Telstra, a functions coordinator for a hospital, a complaints manager & a professional cook. Most recently I have been working with the Recruitment, Assessment & Training Unit at Child & Family Services in Ballarat & prior to that in a similar role for Anglicare Eastern Region.

I bring to this role a strong background & working knowledge of Out of Home Care, as well as a myriad of relevant professional & personal skills & what I don't know currently I am excited about learning. I have been told I am someone with a lot of drive, passion & enthusiasm & I hope that is how you will all find me as well. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at Celebration Day & others at our upcoming AGM & am always happy to chat on the phone or via e-mail.

Continued ...

And speaking of the AGM, in this newsletter you will find important information relating to our upcoming meeting. I sincerely encourage anyone who wants to have a say about Out of Home Care at a broader, policy level to nominate & become involved in our Committee. You will be surprised at what a difference your single voice can make when you use it to represent a chorus of hundreds – so speak up, take a lead in the choir & put yourself forward!

Until next time,
Jo McMahon

News & Views - What's happening at the Help Line

Hi and welcome to *News & Views* from the Help Line.

My name is Beth Parker, and it is with great please that I introduce myself to you as the new Help Line Coordinator. I commenced my role as Help Line Coordinator on 14 July 2008 and I must say I am having a ball! In addition to working at the Help Line, I along with my partner Paul care for his two grandsons who are 12 yrs and 5 yrs old. The boys have been living with us for two and half years now and I can assure you, life as non-statutory kinship carers has not been dull!



Calling All Carers!!

But enough about me – I want to hear about you!! In particular I want to hear from any carers out there who are keen to join our great team of volunteer Help Line operators. This is an incredible opportunity to not only get to know other carers, but also to help support other carers.

We have all had those days where we struggle to remember why we got into all of this! The Help Line is a great way to put all of this back in to perspective. So, if you think you would enjoy the opportunity to man the phones, then please give me a call on (03) 9489 9770 or email me at b.parker@fcav.org - we would love to have you on board!

Oh, and keep an eye out for *News & Views*. Over the coming months we will be bringing you all sorts of information, from Adoption matters to Zoo prices and everything in between, so if there is something you would like more information on, just let us know.

Welcome Beth!



Post Placement Support Service (Victoria) Inc.

presents a forum on

Sexuality and Identity

"Let's talk about sex" - Addressing sexual and gender identity issues for children raised in out-of-home care and adoption

Presenter: George Habib

George is a Senior Clinical Practitioner with Berry Street Victoria's Take Two program (Southern Region) and also works in private practice as a Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist

Date: Friday 29 August 2008, 7.00-9.30pm

Venue: Berry Street Victoria, 1 Salisbury Street, Richmond
(behind the Seven Eleven store on Church Street)

Cost: \$25 per person (\$10 concession); \$45 per couple
(subsidised by the Telstra Foundation)

Bookings and payment essential in advance

Send payment to: "PPSS", PO Box 1180, Richmond North, 3121

Registrations close: Tuesday 26th August 2008

Enquiries: Georgina Butler (0447 055 123)

We encourage you to become a member of PPSS – membership is free!!

The DOXA School West Melbourne

The DOXA School West Melbourne is an alternative education program for 11 -14 year old young people who are struggling to maintain their place in mainstream education.

Students are referred to the program for a range of issues including behavioural and learning difficulties; educational gapping or they may be experiencing problems at home that prevent them from doing well at school.

The DOXA School program involves a 6 months intervention, based at the West Melbourne School, where the school has reduced class sizes and where the learning is customised to suit student's individual needs. The school day contains both academic learning and social development activities.

Following successful completion of the 6 month program, students receive 12 months of Outreach support where a Youth Worker from the Doxa School visits the student at their referring school, on a fortnightly basis, helping them to implement strategies to enable them to experience success in education.

Students who are eligible for integration funding are not eligible for this program.

The program is fully funded by The Doxa Youth Foundation, thus there is no cost to families.

Referrals may be made only through the young person's school.

For more information http://www.doxa.org.au/programs/doxa_schools.asp

The Doxa School
300 Rosslyn Street
West Melbourne, 3003

Australian College of Natural Medicine

Present this voucher at the Melbourne Campus,
368 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne CBD, to receive a
COMPLIMENTARY Nutrition, Naturopathy, Herbal Medicine
or Homoeopathy Appointment



Valid: during August and September 2008

Please note an appointment is necessary for all clinics, please telephone 9662 9911

The 2008 Victorian Home Based Care conference was proudly supported by ACNM.



Project Coordinator

The Post Placement Support Service (PPSS) seeks to employ an innovative and energetic Project Coordinator to establish a *Mirror Families* pilot program within the home based care sector in Victoria.

The *Mirror Families* model aims to create extended families for life. It is an early intervention model supporting positive lifelong outcomes for vulnerable children and young people either at risk of being placed outside their birth families or those already in kinship, foster or permanent care.

The person employed in this position will work under the direction of the PPSS Committee of Management to:

- Contextualise the *Mirror Families* model within the current service system
- Consult best practice literature and partnering agencies in the development of a practice framework to guide the implementation of the *Mirror Families* model
- Plan for, and implement, a viable *Mirror Families* pilot project in three community service organisations in Victoria
- Guide the identification of non-statutory children currently in kinship care who are eligible to participate in the project
- Recruit, train, supervise and support *Mirror Families* team members
- Convene the *Mirror Families* Reference Group
- Manage the evaluation of the program
- Achieve long term sustainability for the program, through advocating to government and non-government organisations and preparing funding submissions
- Develop a dedicated *Mirror Families* website

Applicants should possess demonstrated management skills and experience, and a sound knowledge of the Home Based Care sector and its associated legislation. Relevant tertiary qualifications are desirable, and familiarity with the issues surrounding kinship care would also be highly regarded.

This full time position is offered in accordance with the SACS Award, Social Worker Class IV, and offers considerable flexibility to negotiate hours. Some evening and weekend work, together with occasional travel to Victorian regional centres, may be required from time to time. Generous salary packaging is also available.

To obtain a copy of the position description and associated *Mirror Families* outline, please contact PPSS at info@ppss.org.au or by calling 1300 760 566.

Applications addressing the key selection criteria, and including the provision of two professional referees, should be emailed to Christine Cook at chris@epsychs.com by Sunday 31st August 2008.

Orphan Australia Volunteers

FCAV would like to thank Newton, National Sales Manager of Orphan Australia P/L, for contacting us to organise 5 of their staff members; who wanted to put something back into the community; to wash our windows! Elwyn, Ian, Caesar, Mark & Hany all did a wonderful job. This has been a great improvement to the office environment.



Thank you very much for your hard work, it is much appreciated and was a pleasure meeting you all! Orphan Australia also provided FCAV with everything you could possibly think of to wash the windows.

Orphan Australia Pty Ltd is an Australian pharmaceutical company dedicated to providing novel, highly specialised products to treat serious or life-threatening conditions where treatment choice is limited or inadequate.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies proudly presents:

***THINK CHILD, THINK FAMILY, THINK COMMUNITY:
BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF ADULT SERVICES TO RESPOND TO THE
NEEDS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN
PROFESSOR DOROTHY SCOTT***

A free public seminar on Thursday 11 September 2008

11:30am - 12:45pm

State Library of Victoria

Conference Centre, Village Roadshow Theatre

Entry 3, La Trobe Street, Melbourne

Professor Scott will discuss the major policy and practice challenges in protecting children from abuse and neglect. The presentation will explore new opportunities for building the capacity of adult-focussed services in light of a national approach to child protection. Professor Scott will also reflect on recent international experiences in using family-centred approaches to tackle disadvantage.

Professor Dorothy Scott is the Foundation Chair in Child Protection and the Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia.

The seminar abstract and Professor Scott's bio are available at:

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/seminars/seminars.html>

Download the seminar flyer at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/seminars/2008/dscottflyer.pdf>

To RSVP or for further information please contact Ren Adams
on email aifs-seminars@aifs.gov.au or phone 03 9214 7891

The Australian Institute of Family Studies presents this seminar as a partner of National Child Protection Week 2008. For more information please go to: <http://www.napcan.org.au/NCPW/index.htm>

Attachment Issues

Attachment Issues & Your School – from <http://www.postadoptioncentralsupport.org/>

What are attachment issues?

‘Attachment Issues’ is a phrase being used at present to describe a variety of behaviours which may arise after a child has lost his/her ‘primary carer’ and has experienced emotional abandonment in early years. These behaviours can show themselves in many ways – children become overanxious to please, desperate to do anything to escape another abandonment. Some act out their chaotic feelings in chaotic behaviour. Others turn in on their own pain and withdraw, unable to relate to others. Either way, this can present major problems to the schools they are in.

How does this affect the children at school?

What sort of behaviours can result from attachment issues and why

Poor concentration	maybe because	Scanning the room all the time for danger. Sights, smells and sounds can trigger desperate feelings of panic as reminders of past trauma.
Turning around	maybe because	Danger may come from behind
Talking all the time	maybe because	Life feels safer that way
Constant asking of the teacher apparently trivial questions	maybe because	It feels too dangerous to ‘get it wrong’
Ignoring instructions	maybe because	Too much anxiety to be able to listen
In trouble at intervals	maybe because	Panic sets in when in crowds
Disruptive behaviour	maybe because	Contact with birth family may be just coming or has just happened
Trying to create chaos and mayhem	maybe because	It feels chaotic inside so it feels safer if its around outside as well
Refusal to be helped with new work	maybe because	I was left helpless – I’ll never be helpless again
Lying, stealing, secret lives	maybe because	Life may feel like a lie – I am not sure who I am or what the truth is. I don’t know the difference between fantasy and reality
Special “explosions” around maths and spelling	maybe because	It is clear when maths and spelling is wrong, and being wrong may lead to rejection AGAIN
Sulkiness at meetings with head teachers or others in authority	maybe because	The child has no words to describe his/her feelings - looking sulky is a cover up
Behaviour suddenly deteriorates	maybe because	A new sibling has arrived, or there is a painful anniversary or changes at home

Attachment Issues

PRACTICAL WAYS TO HELP

Feelings

- Validate the child's feelings e.g. "You feel really angry today about this, don't you? It seems as if you are finding this really hard".
- The child will probably deny it at the time but will know inside that he/she IS BEING LISTENED TO. In that atmosphere, the need for 'dramatic' behaviour may lessen.
- Try not to tell them "don't be silly", "its only trivial", "it doesn't matter". It may be trivial to you but not to them.
- You are the responsible adult in the child's life at school. If you show the child you are trying to hear what he/she are saying through their behaviour, the panic may subside gradually and the behaviour improve.
- Constant scanning for danger, especially behind them, can make children sensitive people, who would enjoy and be good at caring for someone else.
- The child desperately needs the message "I want you here". Avoid threats of removal, exclusion etc. That is the greatest fear. If he/she needs to be removed from a room, try to put it positively e.g. "lets go to see Mrs. X".

Words


- Try to find a way to reach the child other than through words. Words may be very difficult for children in care, and yet they are expected to use words at school a lot of the time. If a child won't tell you 'what it is', he/she can face more rejection. Maybe he/she CAN'T!
- Think for the child.
- Use music, dance, drama, play, art, poetry whenever possible to give the child alternatives to words as a means of expression.
- If you confront the child head on and use scathing language, you may be reinforcing the child's belief that he /she is totally valueless – so valueless that he/she was 'given away'.

Day to day at school

- Explain clearly any changes in routine and staffing. Explain the arrival of supply teachers. Explain why the regular teacher cannot be there. Otherwise the child will think the teacher has left because of him/her.
- Check that teaching material does not make it harder for the child e.g. my family, family trees, genetics, sex education. Revealing information may make the child feel uncomfortable and different.
- Could another seat in the class be better e.g. next to a wall so there is less danger.
- At lunchtimes or noisy times is there someone a child could be with who will be reassuring – maybe an older pupil or adult helper. Ask the child who he/she would feel safe with.
- If a child is going into 'overload', have strategies to help defuse the situation e.g. listen to a tape, paint a picture, change to a less stressful activity.
- Look for creative talents and gifts.

North and West Metropolitan Region

THE START PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF  **orana family services** IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE NORTH WEST REGION

REGISTRATIONS OPENED

The KIC START Conference 2008

take a walk on the
wildside
the practice of care

Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th October 2008

Dr. David Ziegler International Keynote Address.

Dave Ziegler, Ph.D., psychologist and family therapist who directs a treatment centre in the mountains of Oregon. His areas of expertise include psychological treatment for the most challenging children, treatment of traumatic disorders, brain development and implementing neurological research into the treating disorders of childhood. He has written extensively, including multiple articles, an assessment instrument on attachment and four books: *Raising Children Who Refuse to be Raised*, *Traumatic Experience and the Brain*, *Achieving Success With Impossible Children*, and his latest *Beyond Healing, the Path to Personal Contentment after Trauma*.

Over 30 Workshops, an opportunity to view 'best practice' in a range of areas associated with infants, children and young people in care. Meet with colleagues; explore new ideas in a supportive, learning environment.

A CONFERENCE FOR OUT OF HOME CARE PROFESSIONALS AND CARERS

Registrations Open Now – Early Bird Discounts Available – see attached registration form.

More info go to www.start.org.au or request a brochure from lbray@start.org.au

**For Further General Information and Group Registrations
Please Contact: Leanne Bray 9302-2700 lbray@start.org.au**

The KIC START Conference 2008

take a walk on the [Wildside](#) the practice of care

Date: Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th October 2008

**Venue: Treacy Conference Centre
126 The Avenue, Parkville, 3052
Melways Edition 29 Ref Map 29 F12**

Cost: Early Bird Registration – Booked & Paid prior 1st September
\$245.00 - Workers \$190.00 - Foster Carers

Full Price – After 12th September
\$275.00 - Workers \$220.00 - Foster Carers

Questions to Leanne Bray, Orana Family Services, Ph: 9302 2700, lbray@start.org.au
Participants will receive a letter of confirmation with map and details about parking

To give carers and workers in the Out of Home Care sector a wider access to START training, a series of START training DVD's is being developed that will be available via START's Web page. For this reason, we wish to notify you that the KIC START Conference will be filmed for this purpose.

REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT DETAILS

Agency: _____ Program: _____

Contact Person: _____ Contact No: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Names of attendees _____

-----No. Attending ____ X \$ _____ Total \$ _____

-----No. Attending ____ X \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to:

Orana Family Services, Attention: Leanne Bray, PO Box 2086, MEADOW HEIGHTS VIC 3048

THE START PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

THE NORTH WEST REGION

Foster Care Association
of Victoria Inc

ABN 30 747 010

P O Box 729
NORTHCOTE, VIC, 3070

Phone: 9 4899 770
Fax: 9 4899 119
E-mail: Admin@fcav.org

DARE TO CARE

We're on the web!
<http://www.fcav.org>

FCAV Staff

**Executive
Officer**
Jo McMahon

**Office
Coordinator**
Jenny Clayfield

**Helpline
Coordinator**
Beth Parker

Finalists!

FCAV have been nominated as a finalist
in the Northcote - Preston Leader
Business Achiever Awards 2008,
in the Community Business/Not for
Profit Category !



On line Forum for Carers

Hi, my name is Donna and I am a foster carer. I have recently started an online foster carers forum where foster carers across Australia are able to talk together, support each other and share their foster carer experience. It is not an advocacy service, it is a place to chat with other carers. So far the users of the forum have found it a great resource. We have over 100 carers Australia wide who have joined us. I would love to see this resource expanded as I know carers sometimes feel isolated.

The forum is secure, it is locked and membership is by application only for the safety of carers and children. The forum address is

<http://forum.ozfostercarers.com/index.php>

You are very welcome to join in and chat!

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