

FCAV e-News September 2011

What's happening at FCAV?

Exciting Announcement! The Board recently approved the design of a new logo for the Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV). May 2012 sees FCAV celebrate 20 years of service supporting carers and it was agreed by the Board and staff that it was a great time for a change of the FCAV logo.

The launch of the new logo will be conducted by **...oid design** at this year's FCAV Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, **21st October from 10.30am to 12pm** at Cristina Re, Cnr Langridge & Oxford Sts, Collingwood.

We also want to acknowledge and thank the wonderful efforts of Janice Hughes and her daughter Kristy who developed the original logo. We hope you can join us for the AGM and the launch of the new FCAV logo. RSVP your attendance by 10th October 2011 at admin@fcav.org.au or call us on 9489 9770.

Strengthening Carers 2011 Report: FCAV are proud to release our research paper "Strengthening Carers 2011".

The report highlights a number of very positive areas of support for carers across the home-based care sector, with 75% of carers indicating they found their agency and agency worker to be a key support for them. The report also highlights those areas in need of improvement or enhancement, with 23% of carers calling for increased access to respite services and 57% of carers indicating the general level of caregiver reimbursement no longer adequately meets the costs of care needs for children and young people in care.

We would like to thank the carers who gave of their time and their experience to help inform this research. It is our hope the research and the resulting report will help to guide the sector in better identifying and meeting the needs of carers. You can view the report at <http://fcav.org.au/news-a-events/latest-news/118-strengthening-carers-report-2011-just-released>

QLD National Conference Competition Winners: Our congratulations to **Noel Pearson** and **Tracey Alford** who will be winging their way, courtesy of FCAV to this years national foster and kinship care conference in sunny QLD—**enjoy!!**

Great school holiday deal at Wonderland Fun Park



WONDERLAND FUN PARK HARBOUR TOWN DOCKLANDS

The wonderful team at Wonderland Fun Park at Harbour Town, Docklands have a great school holiday offer for foster carers this September. The **\$45.00 Family Pass Deal** includes:

- ❖ Unlimited rides wristbands for up to 4 children (additional children are charged \$11.80 for unlimited ride wristbands)
- ❖ Unlimited rides wrist bands for 2 carers/adults
- ❖ 1 bag fairy floss per family
- ❖ 1 bag popcorn per family
- ❖ 1 carnival toy per family
- ❖ An ice cream for each child
- ❖ Entry to the live show for all family members

Carers must remember to take either their WWCC **or** their Carer Card with them and they need to let the ticket office know that they are **foster carers** when they purchase their package. This park is fantastic and is best suited to pre-schoolers and primary aged children up to about 12 years (no really scary rides but you need to be over 100cm for two of them!). There's a bungy trampoline jump and a rock climbing wall too! Teenagers will be excited to know that the park is located in a factory outlet retail zone so they can shop whilst the younger members of their families go on rides! You can literally spend the whole day there and the kids have an absolute ball!

For further information on all the school holiday events on offer contact Wonderland Fun Park on 9602 1311, email fun@wonderlandfunpark.com.au or head to the website at www.wonderlandfunpark.com.au.

If you get along to Wonderland Fun Park, please remember to thank the ticket box staff for this great carer deal.

Upcoming Training/Conferences/Workshops/Consultations

23 September: START & Uniting Care Orana training in the North & West region: ***Where do I come from, Where do I belong?*** Guest speaker: George Habib. For registration enquiries contact Sonja Krajcar on 9415 6466 or go to the website: www.start.org.au.

Wednesday's, 5 October to 9 November: A 6-session group parenting program for kinship carers, permanent carers and adoptive parents that helps children learn to understand and regulate their emotions. Venue: Post Placement Resource Centre, 135 Mt Alexander Rd, Flemington. For further details call PPSS on 9020 1833.

7-9 October: Australian Foster & Kinship Carer Partnership National Foster & Kinship Care Conference 2011. QT Gold Coast International Hotel, 7 Staghorn Ave, Surfers Paradise, QLD 4217. For further information go to the website: <http://afkcp.org.au/events/>.

14 October: Prime Focus Consulting training in the Eastern region: ***Bouncing Back, Building Resilience*** Guest Speaker: Kathy Walker. For registration enquiries contact Sonja Krajcar on 9415 6066 or go to the website: www.primefocusconsulting.com.au.

10 November: FCAV Regional Road Show in Mildura—Grand Ballroom, Mildura Grand, The Quality Hotel, Seventh St, Mildura. Free to carers and care teams from Mallee Family Care, Mallee Accom & Support Program and Centacare. RSVP to Mallee Family Care by calling 5023 5966.

10 November: Prime Focus Consulting: **Back by popular demand: Dr Dave Ziegler—The C.O.P.I.N.G Workshop.** For registration enquiries contact Sonja Krajcar on 9415 6066 or go to the website: www.primefocusconsulting.com.au. FCAV will be giving away two tickets (valued at \$125 each). The FCAV October Newsletter will have more information.

28 November: 2011 Kinship Care Forum. For further information contact Chris Galea at the Office of the Child Safety Commissioner on 8601 5884 or Andrew Minge at Post Placement Support Service on 9020 1833.

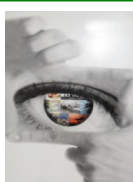
2011 Robin Clark Awards

The Robin Clark Awards held on 6 September aim to recognise and encourage exceptional work that improves the lives of vulnerable Victorians. This year saw a new award identifying foster carers with the very deserving winner of the ***Robin Clark Memorial Award for Changing the Definition of Family***, going to **Margaret Pawsey**. Margaret, a carer with Anglicare East has spent the last 48 years fostering children.

There were also two very deserving winners in the Aboriginal care awards with the **Aboriginal Carer of the Year Award** going to **Victoria Laurie**, a carer with Mildura Aboriginal Co-op, and a new award **Carer of Aboriginal Children Award** acknowledging the work of non-Aboriginal carers going to **Barbara Harvey**, also a carer with Mildura Aboriginal Co-op.

We will showcase the awards night in our October Newsletter, but until then, congratulations to Margaret, Victoria and Barbara — **we think you're awesome!**

As Eye See It photographic exhibition



As Eye See It is an exhibition of black and white photography which represents the work of over 60 children and young people living in out of home care with 13 community organisations. These photographs and the accompanying stories give a vivid picture of how the young people see their world, and what matters to them. The exhibition will run from 9 Sept to 19 Sept at The Atrium, Federation Square, Melbourne. For more information please go to <http://www.ocsc.vic.gov.au/aseyeseeit.htm>.

Carer Playgroups

Adoption & Permanent Care 'Forever Families' Playgroups

Jika Jika Community Centre, 2 East St, Northcote. Every second Thursday 1pm to 3pm. Cost: \$2 per family. Call Dan Barron on 0422 050 689 or email Dan at weemankelsey@hotmail.com for further information.

Port Melbourne Family & Children's Hub, 415 Graham St, Port Melbourne. Every second Thursday 10am to 12pm. Cost: \$2 per family. Call Belinda on 0421 610 931 or email Belinda at bsmitharbutnot@gmail.com for further information.

Grandparent & Carer Playgroup—held in the Baptist Church, Holts Lane, Bacchus Marsh every Monday from 10am. For further info call Lisa Trott-Kelly at Moorabool Shire Council on 5366 7100.

Please Note: In the FCAV August Newsletter we included information about a research survey being conducted by Tim Broady and we quoted an incorrect website address for those carers wishing to participate. The correct website address for carers wishing to participate in this research is www.surveymonkey.com/fostercarerresearch.