



Foster & Kinship Carers Newsletter

FCAT Committee 2011/12

President John Flanagan

0407918832

Vice President

June Boon

0417034885

JNR Vice President

Cheryl Armstrong

Secretary: Maggie Phillips

64318975

0400876907

Treasurer: Maureen Flanagan

Public Officer Anne Bailey

hot line 24/7 0437006876

North Committee:

Ian Booth

Secretary John Flanagan

Treasurer Maureen Flanagan

North West

Maggie Phillips

Anne Bailey

Secretary Pam Dalrymple

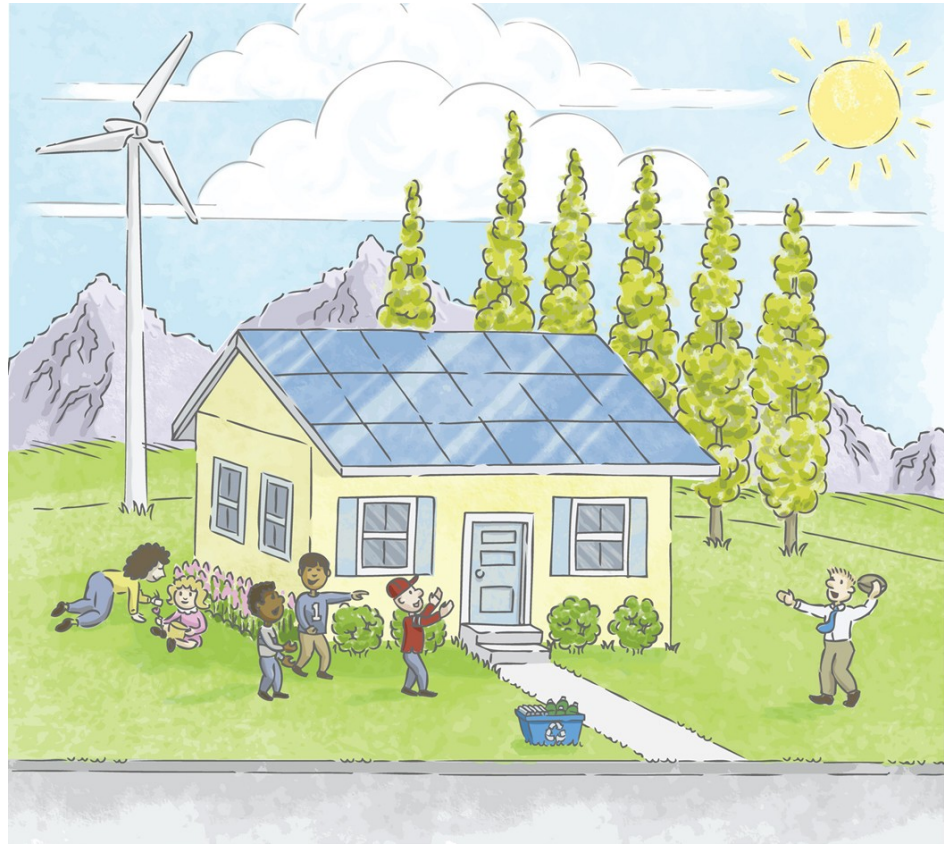
Hobart

Treasurer: June Boon

Secretary Lyn Cowen

Issue 3

September 2011



Spring is here and so are the school holidays more children will be out and about so be safe on the roads.

At the recent State Conference DCYFS C.E.O Mark Byrne spoke about piloting a new initiative whereby carers will be accredited in Tasmania and this will take some time roll out.

Also the HEART program.

Minister Brian Whiteman Launched a Gold Card for all Tasmanian Carers with available discounts at selected retailers, similar to a seniors card. More information will be posted on the DHHS website and follow the LINK.



REAL CARERS REALLY NEEDED FOR PART OR FULL-TIME FOSTER CARE. CALL 1800 REAL CARERS (1800 732 522).

FOSTER CARERS ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA [inc.]

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2011

It is with pleasure that I present my first annual report, I might add it has been a baptism of fire, with a whirlwind of meetings throughout the year. Stepping into the role of President and hopefully continuing what had already been established by Ken Abery. We continue to hold very successful social functions on both a State and Regional level. My thanks to all those Carers that worked to ensure their success.

Funding: I have continued the process that was initially started by the previous executive to receive more funding to enable FCAT to have an employee, FCAT will not receive an increase of funding for the year. Which in turn will require the association to tighten up our budget, you may recall last year we ended the year in the red with a \$20,000 deficit. But good management of the budget throughout the year has put us in the black thank you Vicki. At all times our funding must reflect the work we do and that it is crucial to be more professional

Training continued this year, with First Aid facilitated by ESSET Australia for carer's with thirty six carers receiving their certificate of First Aid.

Australian Childhood Foundation facilitated two day seminars in each region "Connecting through Care" up to 90 carers took part . FCAT will continue to broker training in the future.

In November we have Sue Larkey International Author on Autism Spectrum Disorder will be in Tasmania to present day workshops in each region. Information will be forwarded to carers after the state conference.

Regular meetings with Mark Byrne C.E.O. DCYFS has enabled me to address issues that carers have.

Meeting with Commissioner for Children Aileen Ashford has also been productive.

MBF a new initiative to allow carers to have private health cover at reasonable rates, I encourage all carers to access this offer if they don't already have private health cover.

Big Day Out a great day was had by those carers that attended, thank you to CREATE who attended and did a workshop for the people, also face painting, jumping castles was a big hit with the children. A big thank you to Darren Buckland who helped with the pulling down of equipment, to Lodge members who cooked for the day.

The FAST program continues to be used by many Carers, serious complaints in care have declined, we are asked for advice on a daily basis.

More Carers have been trained as FAST Delegates and all have a working knowledge of DCYFS policies. If there are any carers who would like to become a FAST delegate please contact me for more information

The number of foster carers volunteering their service is on the decrease, but I would encourage foster carers to attend meetings and conferences as they are for you, it is a great opportunity to network and bring your ideas.

Yes we do have busy lives but together we can make a difference.

Thank you to the committee Maggie , Vicki, June, Wayne and Lesley.

John Flanagan

AGM of Southern Regional Committee August 2011

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2010/ 2011

My final report has come around quick; I wish to thank all of last year's committee for making my transition into the chair a smooth one.

As president I have had the pleasure to meet with departmental staff ngo's, politicians, the commissioner of children and outside agencies, all of which have been very supportive of FCAT and the role we play.

I have continued to meet with OoHC monthly, regardless of who was in the position, each of these meetings have been paramount in forging a new relationship between FCAT and DHHS. Some of the changes we have worked on over the last year have come together some are still being worked out.

I am proud of the introduction of the foodbank hampers, and continue to get good feedback from carers. Create is tapping into foodbank through FCAT to purchase supplies for their cooking programs they are running for the youth in care. FCAT is supplying snacks and bottled water at the department's staff room for children to have a snack if parents don't show for their access or at the department as part of the removal process.

A special corporate rate has been secured with MBF for all financial FCAT members, Mbf will be at the state conference in August carers will be able to sign up or switch by the end of July 2011.

A gold card is steadily being worked upon with DHHS.

Southern regional FCAT has moved into the new offices in Cambridge, we have three great big offices with a reception area, loads of free parking. We are fully stocked with Foodbank supplies for the hampers and the clothing pool is set up and back being used by carers. We are also stocking Buddy Bags at the office so as response can come to us to collect a bag and any other supplies needed to help set up the new placement.

I would like to thank the outgoing committee for all their work for the year and June thanks for all the extra things you do for the association, and for going the extra mile helping me! It's been a pleasure.

Lesley Buckland

PRESENTED BY

LOCATION

Hobart

DAY Mon

DATE 7th

Nov 2011

Launceston

Day Tues

DATE 8th

Nov 2011

North West

Day Wed.

**Date 9th Nov
2011**

*Doors open at
9.00am*

*Registration
includes morn-
ing tea and a
light lunch.*

Enquiries:

Tel/SMS:

0400876907

***“To know
someone with
Autism Spec-
trum Disorder
is not to know
Autism Spec-
trum Disor-
der.”***

AUTISM AND ASPERGER

Teaching Strategies & Behaviour Support

SYNDROME WORKSHOP

By Sue Larkey MA Spec Ed, Grad Dip Ed



Who should attend?

All Carers

Course Content:

Teaching Strategies: •What is ASD? •autism learning style •visual strate-
gies •social skills teaching play •transitions •how to motivate.

Sue is unashamedly passionate about her mission – to inspire parents and
carers and teach them how to ‘Make it a Success’. Armed with the tools of
understanding and confidence much can be achieved.

“Sue has a remarkable ability to identify and briefly explain the difficulties ex-
perienced by a child with autism in a regular classroom and to suggest realis-
tic and practical strategies to improve abilities and behaviour. Her advice is
succinct and wise.” Dr Tony Attwood, World Renowned Expert on ASD.

Behaviour Support: •What are ASD behaviours? •what to do with special in-
terests •strategies for home •strategies for school (pre-school, primary and
secondary) •sensory issues in relation to toileting, sleeping, clothing, eating,
etc •repetitive and obsessive behaviours •dealing with anxiety.

Sue Larkey: International Author, Autism Spectrum Specialist, Teacher
Sue Larkey is uniquely positioned within the education system having taught
both as a primary school teacher and a special education teacher. She is a
highly qualified educator who has taught students with autism spectrum
disorder in the mainstream and special schools. She combines practi-
cal experience with extensive research having completed a Masters in
Special Education and currently working towards her Doctorate of Edu-
cation, focusing on inclusive education.

Join Sue for a

FUN, FAST MOVING, & EXCITING DAY.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2011

The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

The Gillard Government is encouraging all Australians to embrace National Child Protection Week 2011 and do their part to help build a society that protects children from abuse and neglect.

This year's theme is 'Play Your Part', and highlights the importance of working together to protect our children from abuse.

Protecting children and their right to a safe and healthy life is one of the most important responsibilities of all governments.

The Gillard Government, in partnership with state and territory governments and the non government sector, has developed a *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children* - an ambitious, long-term approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Australian children.

Through the first ever National Framework, the Gillard Government is leading the way on reforms that protect and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people right across the country.

State and territory governments rightly retain responsibility for statutory child protection, but for the first time, an Australian Government is taking a national leadership role.

We have made significant progress in the first two years of the Framework, including:

- National Standards for Out of Home Care
- More than 50 new Indigenous Parenting Support Services
- Eight new Communities for Children Plus sites across Australia for children at risk
- New information sharing processes between Commonwealth agencies, including Centrelink and Medicare, and state child protection agencies
- Increased payments for young people leaving care
- Trialling a new tool to assess the needs of vulnerable children and their families in four communities across Australia
- Establishing a network of 25 grandparent peer support groups

We continue to build on our progress through programs such as the new Family Support Program, a more than \$1 billion investment in support and services over the next three years, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged families.

The Gillard Government has provided \$300,000 to the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) to host National Child Protection Week events and activities around Australia.

In promoting National Child Protection Week, NAPCAN provides a valuable service to help prevent child abuse and neglect.

To highlight what we can all do, NAPCAN has developed new interactive and media resources, including a YouTube Channel showing how young people have broken the cycle of abuse and neglect, and an interactive website to showcase what Australians are doing – as parents, siblings, professionals, teachers, business and corporations – to keep children and young people safe in their communities.

Fact sheets and posters and more details about how you and others can play your part are available from www.playyourpart.org.au

Sincere condolences to Roxy Mulder and her family on the recent loss of her Husband Syd.

Roxy was a past State FCAT President and worked tirelessly for carers State wide. Roxy was chairperson for the Northern committee.

DATE	WHAT	WHERE	TIME	CONTACT
7th. October	YAG	Hobart	11.30am—3pm	Tenielle
22nd. October	Create Your Future Cooking Workshop	Hobart	10am—3pm	Kylie
28th October	Halloween Party-all Ages	Hobart	5pm.—8pm	Tenielle
5th. November	YAG	Launceston	10am—3pm	Tenielle
12th. November	Create Your Future Think outside the square workshop	Hobart	10am –4pm	Kylie
2nd December	Create Your Future Job readiness work- shop	Hobart	10am –3pm	Kylie
19th December	Create Your Future program-workshops plus camp	Hobart	T.B.A.	Kylie

Baptcare Family Services

Bringing care to life

1800171233 Level 1/8 Boland St. Launceston, TAS 7250

RAP

Provides children and young people aged 5 up to 18 years who have a disability and reside in the North and North West Region of Tasmania with; community based outings, camps, school holiday programs.



For carers who would like to read the NOFASARD newsletter it can be downloaded off their website or it can be forwarded onto you by request. However here are some links you may like to browse for more information.

Born with a craving for alcohol Studies show in-utero alcohol consumption can cause ADHD, autism and other neurological conditions (back)

Women in Ireland who drink while pregnant are creating children three times more likely to crave alcohol, according to a leading specialist in the field. Studies also show in-utero alcohol consumption can cause attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism and other neurological conditions. Foetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs), can be trans-generational, passing down through one generation after another in some families. <http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/health/2011/0830/1224303178492.html>

Online Video Hunter's Story: Overcoming FASD (back)

Hunter was diagnosed at the age of 15 with FASD. His journey is an incredible one - this video gives a brief glimpse into his life and how he has "turned something that could have been a weakness, into a strength". <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXxJdU6MRYE>

Balancing FASD-justice scales

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder represents a major challenge to the court system, as detailed in The Herald's recent two-part look at FASD and justice.

<http://www.lethbridgeherald.com/opinions/balancing-fasd-justice-scales-81011.html>

National Carer Strategy (back)

For the first time in our history, Australia has a National Carer Strategy. The Strategy delivers on the Australian Government's commitment to better respond to the needs of carers, and helps to ensure carers have the opportunity to take part in all aspects of society, including the chance to participate fully in work, community and family life. To download a copy of the National Carer Strategy, go to http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/carers/pubs/national_carer_strategy/Documents/national_carer_strategy.pdf

MBF Health is the Exclusive Health Partner of the Foster Carers Association of Tasmania, providing FCAT members with access to a highly valued benefit of quality health insurance and access to the MBF Corporate products, competitively designed for the corporate market.

MBF Health would like to offer to all FCAT members who are interested in joining the FCAT Corporate Health plan the opportunity to be telephone consulted by our local MBF Consultants on the **29th September** at a time convenient to you.

Join the FCAT Corporate Health plan and receive:

Competitive corporate rates on your private health insurance with MBF Corporate Products inclusive of a 5% discount

A waiver of the 2 & 6 month waiting period on extras- so you can claim immediately on most extras

A Puma Voucher up to \$300 when you join as a new MBF Customer on Hospital and Extras as a Couple or Family

A Puma Voucher up to \$150 when you join as a new MBF Customer on Hospital and Extras as a Single

If you wish to compare or join the FCAT Health Plan, please click on the link below to register your individual telephone consultation time:

<http://regو.bupa.clientapps.odits.net.au/event/?evid=2b713ebce7a6167cb628f570442d7b24> North/N West FCAT Members

<http://regو.bupa.clientapps.odits.net.au/event/?evid=58af0ab1e44353b12e8e90d794679c14> Southern FCAT Members

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 7TH.-9TH 2011

Just a quick update on the conference.

We have 430 registrations as of Friday the 9th September. The QT hotel have asked us to cap the numbers at 450 so if there are any last minute registrations I would suggest people get them in quick.

The QT Hotel is full for the weekend however Surfers Paradise has no shortage of accommodation and if you Google up you will find plenty.

All preparation is up to date and Conference Committee and FCQ staff have been doing a great job. Everyone should have a great weekend.

NORTH WEST REPORT 2010/11

The year has definitely been a busy time for all. I would like to thank the committee for their time and effort this year .

Meetings: In 2011 social coffee mornings continued and response from carers was very positive. It appears all would prefer to have informal meetings. This has been successful with carers opening their homes across the Region with an open invitation for all carers to join us for morning tea. This also gives the opportunity for the team from OoHC to attend in a more informal setting. And issues are discussed, information shared, keeping carers up to date with current issues from the state ie:- policy, training etc. To date we have been to carer's homes in Ulverstone, Burnie, Latrobe with the next one to be held in Wynyard.

AGM was held on 6th July 2011 the newly elected committee for the North West are

Chairperson Maggie Phillips: Vice Chairperson: Anne Bailey , Secretary: Pam Dalrymple

State Representative for the Region: Pam Dalrymple Publicity Officer: Terry Flanigan

FAST: (Foster Care Advocacy Support Team) Many calls in the last year to support carers throughout the North West has proved to be an invaluable service. Most carers have required information only...others have required more.

Training: Esset Australia: Took First Aid sessions February with a number of carers attending and receiving their First Aid Certificate.

Australian Childhood Foundation presented a two (2) day workshop in May "Connecting through Care".

Sue Larkey: will be conducting a workshop in November, Sue International author , Autism Spectrum Specialist.

Big Day :Out Such a good day for Carer's , weather was far kinder to us this year with fun activities for children. Hopefully next year we will increase the activities for the children.

Children's Christmas Party: The children's Christmas party was the focal point of the committee toward end of the year...numbers were down due to conflicting with Special Christmas Party but a great time for all those who attended. The day was excellent weather was a bit windy but it did not stop the day from being successful...food was plentiful Meat was provided at cost from Wal's Butchers in Terry lands which is preservative free. The men did an excellent job with the cooking Robert, Bernard and Terry. Santa was the greatest hit of the day...thank you to Constable's Fiona and Teddy and Constable Ian.

Maggie

Chairperson NWC

Northern Foster Carers Committee AUGUST 2011

Hello everyone,

My name is Ian Booth, I've just been elected as your President in the north, so I want to introduce myself, and also tell you about some good things happening for you. Others that have been elected are: Percy Harris, Vice-president; Wayne Dank, Jnr Vice-President; John Flanagan, Secretary; Maureen Flanagan, Treasurer; and Eckhard Dahms, Public Officer. **You can contact me on my mobile phone: 0433 010052.**

Or by email to: northernfostercarers@yahoo.com.au

Noelene and I have been Foster Carers for 5+ years now here in Launceston, and we have 5 little ones with us, aged 2 up to 7. Life is pretty busy for us -I'm sure it is for all of us, but we do all we can to make a positive difference.

State Conference

We've just had our State Conference at the Tailrace Centre Riverside. I caught up with some of you but it would have been good to have had lots more of us there. At the AGM we elected our State Committee –

John Flanagan, President; Wayne Dank, Vice-President; Maggie Phillips, Secretary; Maureen Flanagan, Treasurer; and Ann Bailey, Public Officer.

Amazing MBF Offer

The FCAT have negotiated a very special deal with MBF just for Foster Carers in Tasmania and kids in their care. This is being offered in August and September, and Maggie Phillips will be getting the information out to you as soon as she can. Don't miss this offer!

Foster Carers Discount Card

Mark Byrne announced at the Conference the launch of these cards in September. There has been a lot of work done on this and currently there are 150 businesses in Tassie that are offering discounts. There'll be more information coming through very soon, but it will work using your photo id card. So if you haven't got yours done yet, call in at Child Protection in Cameron St. It won't take long.

Regional Morning Teas

We've decided in the North that we will only have a meeting every second month, on the 4th Wednesday. So our next meeting will be 26th October at 9.30am, at the RAOB hall in Newstead. I'll let you know more of our agenda closer to the date.

Every other month we are going to have a morning tea, and we'd like to have these in various parts of our region so that we can meet with you, and also give you the opportunity to hear first-hand what's happening. But this will give you the opportunity to communicate your concerns and your ideas also. So our next morning tea will be on the 28th September. Where we go will depend largely on responses from you. This could be in someone's home, or another suitable venue locally. So, looking forward to hearing from you.

There are developments happening all the time. We can arrange for someone from Child Protection to meet with us and talk about any aspects we'd like. John Flanagan is also keen to meet with you as our State President when he can. So keep in touch, keep the ideas and suggestions coming. Until next time,

Ian Booth Chairman, NFCC

Teaching Strategies & Behaviour Support

By Sue Larkey MA Spec Ed, Grad Dip Ed

Registration Form

DATE: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Agency: DCYFS [] Life Without Barriers [] Glenhaven Family Care [] Kennerley Children's Home []

TO REGISTER: Return form 10 days prior to work shop

HOBAR []

Launceston []

North West []

Please tick you your location	Mon 7th November	Tuesday 8th November	Wednesday 9th November
VENUE ADDRESS	9 Tinsbury Rd Glenorchy	11 Birch Ave. Newstead	15 Marine Place Plaza Burnie

Time: 9.30 am– 3.00 pm

Registration includes morning tea and a light lunch	Special Diet	Child Care
Special Diet needs please tick the box with information attached...		

If you require child care please attach information of child, any special needs child has. Carers are responsible for providing morning tea and lunch for their child. Late registrations will not be accepted.

Please return completed form to P.O.Box 610 Wynyard

