

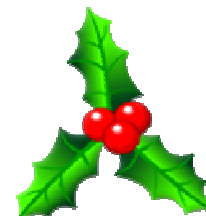


# Family Access Network Update

December 2007 Edition

Volume 62

Merry Christmas and Best  
Wishes for a Safe & Happy



Dear Readers,

I am pleased to advise that the FAN AGM held on 17 October was a very successful event which showcased the efforts of clients, volunteers and staff at FAN. Dr Deb Keys, Melbourne University Key Centre for Women's Health, spoke on the partnership research with FAN "Young Motherhood and Homelessness - An Opportunity for Change". The Annual Report includes the Strategic Plan overview, established by the FAN Board in consultation with the staff, that will guide FAN's activities until 2010. If you were unable to attend the AGM and would like a copy of the Annual Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of FAN's activities and programs, please contact Felicity at FAN on 9890 2673 or fan@fan.org.au.

An opportunity for a Treasurer to join the dynamic FAN Board is currently available, if you are interested in supporting the directions of FAN, have a very good understanding of the community sector, financial systems and governance principles please contact me. It is very encouraging that FAN concluded the activities for the year, with a surplus, which has enabled the introduction of a program and development reserve fund to explore further enhancements to FAN over the coming year.

The 2007/2008 Board of Governance, elected at the AGM:

Michael Smith	Chairperson
Helen Killmier	Deputy Chairperson
Colin Bellis	Secretary
Lynne Hillier	General Board Member
Chris Payne	General Board Member
Helen Buckingham	General Board Member
Sue Carlile	Manager—Ex Officio

The FAN team continues to be very active in responding to various partnership activities: the Integrated Youth Hubs resulting from Creating Connections Youth Homelessness Action Plan 2; ALSO Foundation and FAN's partnership same sex attracted pilot project "*alsorts*"; Resilient Kids - Wesley, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and FAN "*footsteps*" program for infants under one year and mothers; plus a range of collaborations in the Life Skills and Volunteer Programs notably the Peer Leadership Program, Girls with Attitude, Mums with Attitude and the newly emerging Young Dad's Group.

I am delighted to advise that the Life Skills and Volunteer Programs have been granted three-year funding from the City of Whitehorse and from The William Buckland Foundation, who have now become principle supporters. Exciting new programs are being developed, which will be more fully presented in future newsletters.



Kathy Desmond is in the final stages of the report, funded by DHS to demonstrate how FAN successfully approached self-assessment and outcomes required for the Homeless Assistance Service Standards (HASS), for circulation in the broader sector to enhance other services approach to HASS. It is anticipated the final report will be available on the Council to Homeless Persons website, which will sit alongside other sector driven guides, policies and tools to support the application of HASS.

The staff led Portfolio system is in its fourth year was recently reviewed, establishing opportunities for the self-directed teams to consider service gaps and develop enhanced responses/programs for clients. A number of initiatives at FAN, started as ideas in the Portfolios, the current list of identified projects will hopefully have the same outcome.

On behalf of the staff and board I extend warm wishes for the festive season and may you have a FANTastic 2008.

Regards,

Sue Carlile  
Manager

---

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Homeless Support Service Update

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. We have had a busy yet exciting few months, not only preparing for the Christmas and New Year period but also celebrating FAN's successful 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held in October. We received positive feedback from those who attended outlining the sensational display boards and the night representing the signature of FAN. The AGM was a great medium for clients to display their art work, providing them with a voice and an outlet to promote their talents, and a special thanks to Jess Portuguese for singing 'I Was To Try' by Delta Goodrem.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank FAN's student placement, Judy Nagel for her contribution to FAN's services, and wish her the best of luck with her future employment endeavours. Congratulations also to Rebecca Granata for successfully completing her degree in Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Studies) in November at Australian Catholic University.

FAN's client Christmas party will took place on the 12 December which was a fantastic opportunity for clients and staff to mingle over a Christmas lunch and to get into the festive spirit. Thanks so much to our resident Santa for making an early guest appearance and delivery of the pressies. Also a special thanks to our face painting fairy, the day was certainly enjoyed by all.



Christmas is a time of celebration, family and overindulgence, if ever there was an excuse: Christmas it is! However there are many who go without the necessities we unintentionally take for granted such as food and companionship. So this year we are asking people to donate non-perishable items to our organisation so we can assist those most in need don't go without. Please feel free to drop off these items during office hours.

A very merry Christmas to all and a safe New Year...



## The Private Rental Brokerage Program

Building partnerships and community connectedness with specialist services has certainly been the theme for October and November within the Private Rental Brokerage Program. The real estate promotions are progressing with many agents expressing an interest in learning more about the model and are looking forward to receiving the highly anticipated program brochure.

The Private Rental Brokerage Worker was delighted to attend the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place in November to promote the program on how it can assist Indigenous young people / single families in securing and maintaining private rental accommodation. This is a great outcome for the program and FAN look forward to building stronger relationships within Indigenous communities.

## The Children's Program – Early Years

The Children's Program-Early Years continues to further develop and deliver a tailored service response for vulnerable young families and accompanying children within the homelessness sector.

FAN is excited to announce a successful submission with the St George foundation, for the opportunity to incorporate further parent/child activities such as day trips and outings, specialised art and craft activities and school holiday programs. The funding will also be used to invite other childhood professionals to contribute to the running of diverse workshops from a number of theoretical and intervention perspectives such as play therapy, positive parenting, and recreational activities.



## Life Skills Program Update

On behalf of FAN, we take this opportunity to thank the William Buckland Foundation for being the major funding contributor for the Life Skills Program for the next 3 years. The City of Whitehorse, The Lord Mayors Charitable Fund and The Rotary Club of Box Hill and The Lions Club of Box Hill have also contributed funds towards specific programs.

### Young Mums Group:

Over the course of the past 10 years there have been numerous mothers and children who have attended the group, strong support and friendship followed and some women are still in contact. A number of women have gone on to further their education and now work within the sector. Together with previous staff, all are invited to celebrate the Young Mum's Group 10 year anniversary on 11 December, This was a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends, swap stories and reminisce.

This has been a busy 12 months with 28 mothers including 8 pregnant women and 37 children attended the group during this period. We have some great activities planned for 2008 and the group will recommence on Tuesday 15 January 2008. Please phone the office for a Calendar of Events, all women aged 15-25 years and accompanying children are welcome to attend.

### Walking Group for Women:

This is a great opportunity to get some exercise and meet new people at the same time, with the group meeting at FAN every Monday morning at 10am and children in strollers are also welcome. We go at the pace of the slowest walker, so wear flat comfortable shoes and bring some money for a coffee. The Walking Group will recommence on Monday 15 January 2008.

### What's new for 2008?

There are some great activities planned for 2008, including cooking programs, budgeting, driver education and Peer Leadership Programs and workshops that focus on activities for men. If you would like to be one of the first to know when these events are scheduled, please phone the office with your email address. In the meantime we wish you all a very safe holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the near year.

*Carol Martyn, Co-ordinator, Life Skills Program*

## The Volunteer Program Update

International Volunteer Day is officially recognised on 5 December 2007 and we take this opportunity to genuinely thank each of the 26 volunteers who have been involved with FAN over the past 12 months.

Congratulations also to all Mentors who recently completed the Volunteer Induction Training and are now officially part of the "FAN family". A number of volunteers are now either linked with a young person or in the process of being so. By all accounts, feedback has been extremely encouraging and we look forward to hearing how the friendships develop over the coming months.

Volunteers will soon receive a 6 month training calendar and early in the New Year an invitation for volunteers and young people they are linked with to join FAN in a social event.



*Mentors* who are linked one-on-one with a young person and meet for a minimum of 2 hours a week at a time and place that is convenient with both parties. Where possible the aim is to link up Volunteer Mentors who have similar backgrounds, such as those who are parents with clients who also have children etc. Similarly some Mentors have certain skills or talents they would like to share with young people, such as computer, cooking or music skills. Mentors and clients organise activities that cost little or no money and have a focus on friendship and sharing experiences.

FAN is currently recruiting:

*Mummy Mentors* for pregnant and/or parenting women  
*Mentors* who are able to support both men and women  
*Same Sex Attracted Mentors*  
*Child Play Supervisors*

*For more information please contact Carol Martyn, Co-ordinator, Volunteer Programs*



## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS

- Alfred Felton Bequest
- Anglicare, Box Hill
- Box Hill Lions Club
- Canterbury Council of Churches
- Caroline and Derek Youth - Orcadia Foundation
- City of Whitehorse
- David Tolstrup and Countrywide Tolstrup Financial Services
- Department of Human Services
- Highfield Road Uniting Tennis Club
- Kevin Treacey (KevCom) & Gerard Bradford (Hitme Studios) Have contributed their services at significantly reduced cost
- Leo & Peggy Sorani
- Lords Mayors Charitable Fund
- Lord Mayors Youth in Philanthropy Program
- Maragret Ogilvie - Disadvantaged Youth Fund
- Mr Allen Rogerson
- Mr & Mrs Fred Fahey
- Mr & Mrs I & T Mahlstedt
- Mr & Mrs L & D Clarebrough
- Mr & Mrs Ted Long
- Nance Moresby
- Olive Clark
- Percy Baxter Fund
- Rizzo's Bedding
- Robert Leydon
- Rotary Club of Box Hill
- St Dominic's Parish, Camberwell
- St George Bank Foundation
- William Buckland Foundation



# Family Access Network Update

If undeliverable please return to  
Family Access Network Inc  
PO Box 141  
BOX HILL VIC 3128

