



Western Region
Disability Network

Network News

Newsletter of the Western Region Disability Network

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Volume 60

April 2007

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DISCLAIMER

The information contained in *Network News* may not reflect the opinion of the WRDN or its auspice, nor does the WRDN guarantee the accuracy of the information.

INTRODUCING THE NEW COORDINATING GROUP FOR 2007 - 2008

Nominations for the Coordinating Group for 2007/08 closed on the 23rd February 2007.

The nominations called for:

- 5 people with a disability;
- 3 carers; and
- 2 service providers.

These are the only people on the Coordinating Group who can vote on WRDN policies.

People with a disability

Five people nominated so everyone was accepted – they are:

- Ian Gray, currently a member of the Coordinating Group;
- Frank Hall-Bentick, has had many years experience in disability advocacy and working in Australian Government Departments;
- Robyn Hansen, a member of Speakers Bank;
- Luke Toohey, a mad keen Swans supporter;
- Christine Williams, currently Chair of the WRDN.

Carers

Two people nominated:

- Alba Gatto, currently Vice Chair of the WRDN; and
- Peter Thomson, currently a member of the Coordinating Group.

Service providers

Two nominated - they are:

- Carer Links West (represented by Libby Cross); and
- Scope (represented by Peter Reis).

Christine Williams was re-elected Chairperson and Alba Gatto was re-elected Vice Chairperson.

We still have a vacancy for a carer position. If you are a carer and would like to nominate, please complete the attached nomination form and return to us.

If you have any questions please ring Helen or Tina at the WRDN on 9687 7066 or Christine Williams, Chairperson WRDN on 9749 6949.

There are other positions on the Coordinating Group but these do not get to vote:

- *annecto* as the auspice (which has been represented by Annie Grant);
- the Department of Human Services as the organisation that funds the WRDN (represented by Sylwia Pichel-Smaczny);
- MetroAccess (which has been represented by Eilis Hughes); and the
- Northern Region Disability Network (represented by Ray Jordan).

THANKS TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE LEAVING US

We farewell Annie Grant from *annecto* to take up a position at Hobsons Bay City Council as Community Business Engagement Facilitator. We would like to thank Annie for the tremendous work she has put into the Network and wish her all the best in her new venture.

Eilis Hughes will also be leaving her MetroAccess position with Maribyrnong City Council to go on maternity leave this month. We thank Eilis for all the hard work she has done for the Network and wish her our very best for the future with her new baby. Eilis' role on the Coordinating Group will be taken over by Stephen Bell who is the MetroAccess Officer at Wyndham City Council. The MetroAccess position is co-opted, that is, it has been asked to help for a set time or project but it does not get to vote.

We also take this opportunity to thank the retiring members – Pauline Cadd (carer); Liz Ellis (person with a disability); Shirley Mottram (carer); Care Connect (service provider represented by Sophie Hart) and Vision Australia (co-opted service provider represented by Christi Tsafos). We very much appreciate the time and effort that they have contributed to the Network.

SPEAKERS BANK

The WRDN earlier this year applied to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for some money to expand the Speakers Bank. GREAT NEWS – the Network has been given a one-off grant of \$15,000. This was announced recently by the Minister for Community Services, the Hon. Gavin Jennings, at a launch of the Speakers Bank at Maribyrnong Council.

This money will enable us to employ a part-time Project Worker to help further develop the Speakers Bank program. The job description for this position is attached.

We are grateful to DHS for its generous grant.

BIMONTHLY MEETINGS

The topic for our next bimonthly meeting will be respite. It will be held at the West Sunshine Community Centre on Thursday 19th April during the daytime.

This meeting will be repeated at the Central Park Community Centre in Hoppers Crossing on Tuesday 15th May at 7.30p.m. This is to give people who otherwise cannot come to a daytime meeting an opportunity to attend at night time, as we know that respite is a very important issue for many families.

Thank you to Brimbank and Wyndham Councils for hosting these meetings.

Please see flyer and agenda for more information.

We also hope to run this topic at a meeting in the northern region very soon.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STUDENT

Liz Ellis who is a fourth year Social Work student at Victoria University has recently commenced her placement with the WRDN.



Liz is a member of the WRDN and was also on the Coordinating Group representing people with a disability.

Liz is the Western Region representative of VICNORD (the Victorian Network on Recreation and Disability) and is the Chairperson of the Youth Disability Advocacy Service. Liz is very much looking forward to completing her degree and would like to work in the area of community development.

If you are interested in finding out more about VICNORD or the Youth Disability Advocacy Service you can contact Liz by email at wrdn.student@annecto.org.au or by phone on 96877066 from Wednesday to Friday between 10am and 3pm.

Hobsons Bay City Council Disability Advisory Committee

Hobsons Bay City Council is seeking nominations from community members for its Disability Advisory Committee (DAC).

Please see attached information and Nomination Form.



CLUB WILD

**CLUB WILD
NORTH MELBOURNE
Dance Party Friday 4 May
7.00-10.00pm @ Meat Market,
North Melbourne**

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW VENUE.
Cnr. Blackwood Avenue and Tyrone Streets.**

**7 – 10pm
\$10 entry, carers free
Café and T Shirts available.**

Featuring:

**The long-awaited return of the Big Bag Band
The Bipolar Bears
The Wild Divas with Akash
D.J. Vinnie
D.J. John
D.J. Flipper
D.J. C2
Chalker.....and more!!**

Wyndham City Council

is running a community bus to the Club Wild dance party on Friday 4 May.

This bus will pick up at 6.00pm and drop off at 10.45pm at the Youth Resource Centre, 86 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing.

Cost is \$5 per individual (carers free). This needs to be booked and paid for before the night at Bridge Street as seats are limited. Phone **Stephen Bell on 9742 8138.**

Entry fee of \$10 per individual (carers free) needs to be paid on arrival at the dance party.

Men and Boys' Abilities Outdoor Adventure Group

5-weekend adventure program for males with a physical disability, boys aged 9-12 years and their dads or significant male person in their life.

Places are limited. 26th May to 23rd June, Saturdays 10am – 2pm.

If you're interested in participating and live in City of Wyndham or Hobson's Bay, please contact Sandra Inserra at Anglicare Werribee on 9742 5300.



FUNDING OPTIONS

- [Positive Body Image Strategy 2006 - 2010 : Teenagers Go for your life](#)

The Office for Youth, Department for Victorian Communities has released a new strategy and grants round relating to positive body image for young Victorians. Grants of \$5,000 are available for projects that encourage healthy lifestyle choices, increased self esteem and confidence in young people. Victorian community based not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply.

Applications for grants close on April 16th.

For more information visit website at www.youth.vic.gov.au or phone the Grants Information Line on 1300 366 356 between 8.30am and 10.00pm.

- [National Disability Conference Funding Program](#)

The Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA) allocates funds each year through its Disability Branch to support national and international disability conferences held in Australia. **The funding round for 2007-08 closes at 2pm on Friday 27th April** and successful applicants will be notified by July.

For more information and application form visit website at http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/disabilities/access-conference_funding.htm or email disability@facsia.gov.au

National Youth Week

Heathdale Arts Fiesta

Wednesday 18 April from 5-8pm
Heathdale Community Centre
Kookaburra Avenue Werribee
Lots of activities
Free food and drinks
Phone 9742 3125

Moonlight Movie Night

Friday 20 April from 5-11pm
Braybrook Community Centre
107 Churchill Avenue Braybrook
Two free movies and free BBQ

Launch your Mind Body and Soul

Saturday 21 April 1-5pm
Free Health and Wellbeing Workshops and lots of activities
West Footscray Community Learning Centre
539 Barkly Street West Footscray – Phone 9688 0342

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER EXPO 2007 "CREATIVE FUTURES"

When: Wednesday 16 May 10am – 4pm
Where: Rydges Carlton
701 Swanston Street Carlton

Contact: 9885 0533 or visit website at
www.autismvictoria.org.au

Wyndham Council Disability Forums

To consult with local people with disabilities, parents, carers and networks regarding the review of the current Disability Strategy and development of the new Strategy.

You are invited to attend one of the following -

On: Thursday April 26 from 11.30am-2.30pm
At: Kelly Park Centre (next to RSL),
Synnot Street Werribee (lunch provided); or

On: Thursday May 3 from 7.30pm-9.30pm
At: Central Park Community Centre
80 Lonsdale Circuit Hoppers Crossing
(light supper provided).

RSVP Stephen Bell on 9742 0867 or
Stephen.bell@wyndham.vic.gov.au

STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS



Maribyrnong City Council is organising a community bus to transport residents to and from the Club Wild Dance Party on Friday 4 May

Wheelchair access is available

Cost: \$4 per person (carers free)

Where: Pick up is at 6pm and drop off at 10.45pm at Maribyrnong City Council, carpark in Lawson Place (off Hyde St), Footscray.

Phone: Keith Wise 9688 0330 or email keith.wise@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

Bookings essential. Transport subject to sufficient number of participants.



CONFERENCES

- [Are we there yet? National Youth Affairs Conference 2007.](#)

This conference brings together young people, workers with young people, community workers, policy makers, academics and researchers from all over Australia. It will be held in Melbourne from 1-3 May. Due to an overwhelming response to this conference registrations have been temporarily closed. It is planned to re-open registrations on Wednesday 11 April with a limited number of places available.

Visit the website at <http://www.yacvic.org.au/conference/index.htm> for more information. You can also phone Larissa on 9267 3799 or email info@yacvic.org.au

- [Round Table Print Disability Conference](#)

The Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities will be holding its 2007 annual conference from Saturday 5 May to Tuesday 8 May in Adelaide. The topic is 'Print Disability: Developing Individual Lifestyles in a Technological Age'. Registration and payment should be received before Friday 20 April.

Visit website at <http://www.e-bility.com/roundtable/conference.php> or email roundtableadm@bigpond.com for more information.

- [Communities in Control Conference 2007](#)

From Advocacy to Policy - Communities Driving Change. This year's conference will focus on the need for community organisations to become central to the search for policy solutions and enable major impact on policy development for all levels of government in Australia. Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 June in Moonee Ponds.

Visit the website at <http://www.ourcommunity.com.au> or phone 9320 6800 for more information.



WORKSHOPS

- **17 April - [The Occasional Councillor Workshop](#)**

This workshop is aimed at introducing the participants to simple and practical strategies for assisting others. It will be held in Melbourne.

Contact David Cherry on 9646 0976 or email david@davidcherry.com.au for more information. Website is at www.davidcherry.com.au

- **17 April - [Acquired Brain Injury \(ABI\): A Family Perspective](#)**

One day workshop run by the Bouverie Centre in Flemington for professionals who work with individuals & families affected by ABI.

Visit website at www.latrobe.edu.au/bouverie or phone 9376 9844 for more information.

- **17 April, 15 June, 28 August and 15 October - [Down Syndrome and Dementia Workshop](#)**

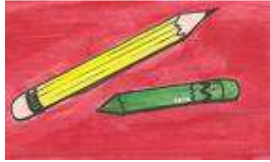
Alzheimer's Australia Vic is conducting a four hour workshop designed for disability workers being held in Hawthorn.

Email edu@alzvic.asn.au or phone Sue Lill on 9816 5750 for more information. Website address is www.alzheimers.org.au

- **19 April - [Active Clients - Active Choices Workshop in Geelong](#)**

This workshop explores the restorative approach to service delivery which underpins the Active Service Model. This course presents how to provide aged care and disability services in a person centred manner, without "taking over".

Phone Valerie O'Brien on 9579 2437 or email talksol@labyrinth.net.au for a registration form. Visit the website at www.talkingsolutions.com.au



MORE WORKSHOPS

- **Commencing Term 2** – [Lots of workshops at Yarraville Community Centre including Community Choir, Arts Smorgasbord, Cooking in the Kitchen and Visual Arts, Making Up Stories and Moving On](#)

Phone 9687 1560 or email yarracc@ycc.net.au for more information. You can visit the Community Centre website at www.ycc.net.au

- **26 April, 3, 10 & 17 May** - [Carer Information Program](#)

A series of workshops for carers of someone who has had a stroke, acquired brain injury or who has a neurological disability being held in Footscray by Brainlink (formerly The Brain Foundation).

Phone Alba Gatto on 9329 7305 for more information or to book your place.

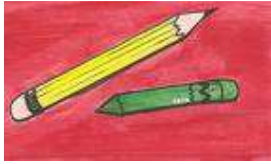
- **27 April (residential) and 11 May (community)** – [‘Dementia – A National Health Priority’](#) - Keeping you and your Organisation out of Court.

A six hour workshop for Directors of Nursing, managers, registered staff, care managers, community care co-ordinators. For more information and to register phone 9816 5750 or email edu@alzvic.asn.au You can visit website at www.alzheimers.org.au

- **29 April** - [Theatre Workshop](#)

Rawcus Theatre Company is holding a two-hour drama workshop for people with disabilities who are interested in performing in South Melbourne.

Contact Cathy Horsley at City of Port Phillip on 9209 6530 for more information or email chorsley@portphillip.vic.gov.au



....AND MORE WORKSHOPS

- **7 May** - [SCOPE Workshop: Sensory Books – Anyone can read](#)

For anyone interested in developing individualised sensory-focused books for adults. Session will be held from 9.15am – 12.30pm in Glenroy. Applications close Friday 27 April.

Phone 9843 2000 or email crc@scopevic.org.au for an application form.

- **8 May** - [Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health](#)

This workshop entitled "Developing Consumer Feedback Mechanisms that are Accessible and Relevant to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities and Consumers" will be facilitated by Cara Brough.

You can email Vivien Fox at vivien@ceh.org.au for a flyer and registration form. Visit website at www.ceh.org.au

- **15 May** - [Protecting the rights of people with a decision-making disability](#)

The Office of the Public Advocate is holding a free Law Week workshop in Melbourne for health and community care workers to explore practice issues related to autonomy, advocacy, risk and rights, guardianship and administration.

Bookings are essential – call 9603 9566 to book a place at the workshop.

- **1 June** - [SCOPE Workshop: ABI, Stroke and Communication](#)

One day workshop to be held in Box Hill about Acquired Brain Injury, stroke and communication for speech pathologists, speech pathology students, allied health assistants, nursing staff, communication coordinators. Applications close Friday 25 May.

Email crc@scopevic.org.au or phone 9843 2000 for an application form.



Vietnamese Social Group



Bring your ideas to:

**Where: Brimbank Men's Shed
32 Withers Street
Sunshine 3020**

Light Refreshments provided

When: Thursday 17th May, 2007

For details and RSVP

Time: 10am – 12am

Phone: Cuc Lam on 9362 3743/0408 038 089



Beyond the Veil - 7th of June

Due to popular demand a [second Beyond the Veil](#) forum has been scheduled for Thursday 7th June and is now open for bookings. It will be held at a bigger venue.

Only 150 places available.
First 'Beyond the Veil' forum booked out in 8 days!

Prioletti Consultants

Contact Phone: 0438 846 584

Contact Email: priocons@ihug.com.au

<http://www.prioletticonsultants.com.au/>

WYNDHAM BASECAMP 3030

Wyndham Basecamp 3030 provides an overnight activity based respite service for families who have a child with a disability.

EXCITING NEWS

Mac Plus Supa IGA Hoppers Crossing (Woodville Shopping Centre) is going to donate 1% of sales to Basecamp 3030 effective from now.

All we need is for people to shop there, leaving their docket saying it is for Basecamp 3030. This could raise a substantial amount of money for the respite service.

The owner is only doing this for four different groups and Basecamp 3030 was accepted as one of them.

Please let people know that this is happening as it will be a great fundraiser.

Louis Joel Community Centre

would appreciate donations of 8 ply wool which is needed for volunteers to knit up items for babies in Africa who have HIV.

The wool or any other donation can be dropped off at the Community Centre at 5 Sargood Street, Altona (Mel. Ref. 54 G11).