



The Compassionate Friends

# Australian National Newsletter

No. 44 July 2007 Vol. 13 Issue 2

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## **Editorial**

Firstly, an apology from us for this newsletter being about a month late. We intend to do better in future, with the assistance of our correspondents around Australia and across the TCF world.

As I write this introduction I am on a Qantas (of course!) flight from New York to Sydney. I was in the city where I was born and raised to attend a family wedding. Why? Her mother and I were childhood friends and this young cousin and our son were good friends during the time he lived and worked in the US. We all know how hard these happy events are, but this was made a little easier when she told me how happy she was I made the trip and that she missed her cousin.

We became part of the TCF family when in May 2002 our son was killed in an MVA. Like many other families TCF provided an outlet for our grief, a source of comfort and a place to meet now friends as we left our old life and began our new life without our son.

I retired from teaching primary school in 2003 and Mike, after what seemed ages, completed his PhD last year. Last year we welcomed our first grandchild into our hearts. Each Thursday I can be contacted at the Sydney TCF office if you want to phone or stop by for a chat.

I was a bit hesitant to take on the responsibility of editing the National Newsletter, deadlines, asking for articles and knowing that the previous editors did such a wonderful job all made me a bit nervous. I hope that with you providing the material for the newsletter, your helpful advice and understanding we can continue to provide a high quality national newsletter.

### **Sue Berry**

When Sue told me I had volunteered to help her with this endeavour, I must admit to some apprehensions; mostly stemming from the need to meet a publication deadline without having much control over when material arrived. But also, having seen the high standard set by the previous editors, Chris and Maxine, I wondered if we could rise to that standard. On the positive side, I strongly support the goal to publicise TCF activities across Australia. By seeing what others are achieving, expectations can be raised and new initiatives stimulated. There is a wide disparity between the levels of resources available to the different state bodies. I have long been bemused by the funding vagaries brought about by the state system and strongly question why a grieving parent in the Northern Territory should get less support than one in Victoria. So I am happy to do anything I can to support a TCF Australia – thinking nationally and acting locally.

Your letters (email or via post) will be warmly welcomed. We would like to provide a forum for discussion of any matters affecting The Compassionate Friends in Australia.

### **Mike Berry**

Editors



## INTERSTATE NEWS

(in alphabetical order)



### **ACT and Queanbeyan**

Back on the receiving end of a request for a contribution for the newsletter, there is the usual blank as I try to think of something new or interesting to report. Maybe instead I'll talk about something that is an ongoing pre-occupation; the introduction and integration of new members into our TCF group.

Up to a point we have a protocol in place – when a newly bereaved parent makes telephone contact we tell them as much as they wish to know about TCF – time and place of meetings, other activities, resources etc; listen to whatever details they wish to disclose about the death of their child, supporting as much as we can. (Here I would like to mention again the *Initial contact memory jogger and follow-up form* – TCF Victoria's idea - where we note any relevant details which come up in conversation, and a space for ticking dates of sending information, return of form, follow-up phone call and meeting attended. Please let me know if you would like a copy of this for your files).

That first conversation will be followed by mailing an appropriate package of information including the latest newsletter and a New Member form to fill in and send back to us. On receipt of this form, the new member's name is placed on our newsletter mailing list.

Sounds straightforward, but of course it is all predicated on the newly bereaved person having the emotional energy available to attend to these details. So, if we don't hear from them, should we make a phone call – we want to be friendly and caring but when does this cross the line into intrusion? Should we send newsletters anyway? – but we hesitate to without a direct request and

also we don't have the details to send an anniversary card when the time comes.

As we know, groups are not for everyone and no matter how wide a range of services and support we offer, there will be some people for whom TCF is not appropriate. That's fine – it's just the people who don't respond at all after the first contact who stay in my mind, and I wonder whether perhaps we could have made their journey a little easier with our companionship.....Any comments or ideas on these issues could be included in the next newsletter.

We had another successful weekend in the country in April and we have made a further booking for next year. Our other new venture 'knit and natter' has happened three times and I think will now be a regular part of the calendar. Meg Dennys has made an exquisite centrepiece for a second quilt wall hanging – lots of tiny stitched butterflies within the shape of a large butterfly. We must now get on with the individual memory squares; it won't be ready to take to this year's TCF NSW Gathering but perhaps we can aim for next year.

Very best wishes

Maxine and all in ACT and Queanbeyan



### **New South Wales**

TCF NSW is about to embark on our busiest time of the year, with our annual Residential Weekend for bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings just around the corner. This "Weekend of Comfort, Hope, and Companionship" will take place 14-16 September 2007, at the Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. This venue is possibly the most restful and beautiful that we have ever booked for this event.

The principle facilitator will be Dr. Judith Murray, a senior lecturer at the University

of Queensland. Dr. Murray, who is also a bereaved parent, is a noted Australian scholar and author. This will be her first presentation to TCF NSW and we are all looking forward to getting to know her. Bernadette Arena, a member of the staff at the Petrea King Quest for Life Centre, will be conducting meditation, relaxation and yoga exercises each morning.

Julie Dunsmore, who is well known for her work on behalf of TCF in years past, will be conducting a special program for siblings. Recognising the great need for opportunities for siblings to get together and share, this program is being offered at no cost to siblings under age 35. Julie, who is the President of the National Association of Grief and Loss, NSW, is a grief counsellor with extensive experience helping victims of the Bali bombing, counselling youth, and raising awareness of mental health issues.

Our AGM will also be held during the weekend, as will our annual Service of Remembrance on behalf of all our children. The Reverend Brenda Robilliard, who is chaplain at Westmead Hospital and is a friend to TCF of many years standing, will be conducting the service.

We would welcome any TCF members from other states or the ACT to join us at this weekend. Full details regarding registration may be obtained by e-mailing [info@thecompassionatefriends.org.au](mailto:info@thecompassionatefriends.org.au).

Two longtime volunteers at the Bereaved Parent Centre in Sydney retired at the end of 2006 and are much missed by everyone. Evelyn Hague had served as the Treasurer for TCF NSW and as the editor for the FOCUS newsletter, in addition to volunteering as a carer. Jean Thomas was a regular Centre volunteer and maintained the membership rolls database.

A second meeting with Julie Dunsmore was held in May to plan training for volunteer carers and for Chapter Leaders throughout the state. The first training

sessions will be for volunteers to work in the Bereaved Parent Centre and are tentatively scheduled for 29-30 September in Sydney.

As always, we welcome friends from throughout Australia to visit our Bereaved Parent Centre or any of our chapters any time you are in NSW, and we would love to see you at our Residential Weekend.

Judy



## **Queensland**

Hello to all the other national TCF Chapters, we hope your chapters are coping as well as you can.

Our big news is that we finally have a new photocopier, one that can do colour if required as well as many other great functions but the biggest bonus is that it staples (YIPPEE!!!!). This will save so much precious time that can be spent supporting our members. I applied for the funding in February and it finally came through in June, we are like kids in a lollie shop and look forward to printing our next newsletter.

TCF Qld has been a hive of activity (but then what's new) and at times a better word would be hectic.

We continue to receive new contacts on a regular basis and at times I have thought "How terrible, that means children continue to die" but then I tell myself children continue to die every day and that the only terrible thing is that many bereaved parents are still unaware that our organization is there to support them in their grief journey. Awareness is a continual topic in our drop-in-centre and we discuss, how, do we develop awareness of our organization in a significant manner. We would be interested in any feedback on how other chapters get awareness out to the community, professionals and Government agencies. Any helpful feedback in relation to this would be

welcomed on email [tcfgld@powerup.com.au](mailto:tcfgld@powerup.com.au) or telephone (07) 3254 2657.

As well as supporting bereaved parents much of our time is spent fundraising so we can continue to reach out to bereaved families. The first event was on the 20 April with our fourth TCF Charity Golf Day at Nudgee Golf Course. The day was a resounding success due to the hard work from all concerned and also our Major Sponsor Rhino Finance, all our minor sponsors and all the companies who gave donations of goods. The month of May continued to be demanding on the drop-in-centre and all our dedicated volunteers as we held a book sale at the Logan North Library on 5 May which involved the Logan City Council Library donating all their old books but requiring TCF to staff the day. This was also a very beneficial day financially for our chapter. The following weekend we manned the ticket gates at the Ipswich Show for three days on 10, 11, and 12 May with all monies being donated to TCF. On the 24, 25 and 26 May I attended a three day International Conference at the University of NSW in Sydney, this conference was called "Living Hope" and was the first conference of its kind on 'The Postvention of Suicide'. The 3 days were non stop attending workshop after workshop on many subjects relating to suicide. I could write pages and pages on the knowledge I gained and the people I met during the three days but we don't have the room. I think the one statement, made by one of the international guest speakers, that completely stunned me was *"SUICIDE IS THE SECOND BIGGEST CAUSE OF DEATH ON THE PLANET"*. When this statement was made you could hear the gasps from everyone in the auditorium. Judith was a guest speaker at the Postvention of Suicide Conference in Sydney. I asked Judith about the statement on suicide as I was curious to know what the first cause of death on our

planet was, and again, I was astonished to hear that it was *"STARVATION"* (Judith advised me that this is what she believed was the first). When you think about the planet I believe she is right and when you measure suicide as the second I can see the need for us to step up work toward the prevention, intervention and postvention of suicide. The momentum didn't slow in June as we held our Annual Grief & Loss Seminar at Grace College at the University of Qld on 16 June with approximately 65 of our members and some professionals attending and our guest speaker being Dr. Judith Murray. The evaluation forms that have been returned have had very positive feedback on the entire day.

It is important to remember that all of these events and other things are happening at the same time that we are supporting bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings via the phone, at our drop-in-centre, monthly support meetings and coffee mornings, producing our newsletter, the posting of anniversary cards and maintaining our library. September will bring our Annual AGM and a new committee will be voted in, the new committee will be introduced to you in the next National Newsletter.

Caring thoughts to all from The TCF Committee Qld and

Joy

Qld Co-ordinator



## **South Australia**

Hi everyone and greetings from SA.

A few items to report on.

One of our Committee members recently undertook a survey/interview process with some of our member families, as part of his thesis on grief, and presented the findings recently to a gathering of our clan at our meeting room. All in attendance were most appreciative and

grateful for the time he took in interviewing the families and compiling such a professional presentation. We are hopeful that his findings can be published via our newsletter in the near future.

We have established a positive contact in the Port Pirie regional area, which we are hoping will result in the establishment of a chapter there. We have a number of member families in that region of the State and it looks promising. More news on this next time.

Our first social gathering for 2007 on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, at Fellini's Café, North Adelaide, was a great success and a good turnout ensured an enjoyable time was had by all. An account of the event can be read in our last newsletter, along with photos of us lot here in S.A.

We have arranged for our members, a one day workshop on Grief Management for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July, kindly run by Cherene Wessels, a long time friend and adviser to TCF here in S.A. We are hopeful that attending members will gain much comfort and some healing from the day.

That's all for now and best wishes to all from the committee here in S.A.

Baden



## **Victoria**

Last Edition I let you all know that the Board, staff and volunteers were in the process of reviewing our governance, & structure to ensure we will be well placed for the future support of bereaved families across Victoria. I am happy to report that we have made considerable moves towards setting up the new structure and are currently in the process employing a new staff member to co-ordinate and support Groups, the Library, Phone Friends and Magazine. For sometime we have felt we would like to provide greater support to these very important areas and in particular to our

wonderful volunteers who provide these services. We advertised the position on our website and in the magazine as well as externally and now have just completed interviews. I will announce the new appointment in our next edition.

**Jenny Scott:** Many of you know that Jenny has been with TCF for over 20 years. She has been the face of TCF Victoria and very often the first contact that many of you have had with us. Jenny has decided it is time to retire and has set the date of retirement at the end of September. Jenny's contribution to TCF has been so wonderful and she has supported so many parents. We are sad to see Jenny retire and equally excited for her to move to the next phase of her life of relaxation and enjoyment. Jenny won't be leaving us altogether as she will be coming back as a volunteer to continue her wonderful support of many more bereaved parents.

**Research: Beyond The Death of A Child.** The Summary Report of this Research will become available on the website shortly. I know many parents have been interested in the results of the research so you will soon be able to download the short report directly. The Full Report will be available for purchase after 2 August at \$40 plus postage and handling. The Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser is launching the report at the on the 2 August. Please contact Laraine Rasmussen on 9888 4034.

### **2008 Compassionate Employer Recognition Award.**

The Compassionate Friends Victoria Inc & The Rotary Club of Geelong Central, announce the 2008 Compassionate Employer Recognition Program to be presented in March 2008. We are proud that Rotary is supporting this program.

TCF believes that employers who have shown extra care and compassion to employees – going above and beyond the normal policies of most companies in

helping employees who have suffered the death of a loved one, deserve to be recognised.

We are currently inviting nominations for the 2007 Compassionate Employer Recognition Awards

To nominate your employer please complete the Nomination Form, on our website

[www.compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au](http://www.compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au).

For further information please contact Laraine Rasmussen (03) 9888 4034 or email

[laraine@compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au](mailto:laraine@compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au)

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2008 AWARDS ARE NOW OPEN.**

**Nominations Close 3rd December 2007**

Proudly Supported by The Rotary Club of Geelong Central

The report is a very broad and brief due to time constraints, but hopefully for the next edition we will be able to elaborate on happenings around the centre.

Regards

John Hurley

President

TCF Victoria



**Western Australia**

For us in the West the winter months are somewhat quieter, but we are busy planning for a Street Appeal on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, we have our helpers out from 7am to 9am, then meet in Forrest Place, in the centre of Perth to discuss how the time went, collect the tins and back to the office to reconcile the outcome.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> we are holding a Quiz Night which is always very popular, and then on the Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September we are holding our Annual AGM with guest speaker, and hopefully a good new committee to be back up by some members re-electing to continue the excellent work done this past year.

We have also held workshops over the past few weeks on volunteering to try and get more people to help in the office etc.

Wishing all members a safe and loving day,

Christine Flux

Secretary

TCF. Western Australia.

**Mandurah Chapter**

Our second annual "Walk to Remember" was held on the third Sunday in March and with more walkers and more publicity we achieved our aims. This year the WA Water Corporation provided free bottles of water for everyone. Our Mandurah MLA David Templeman joined us once again and the piper from the Rockingham City Pipe Band led us as we walked from Halls Park, just over the old bridge, along the foreshore to the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre. We paused there to take some photos then walked back to Halls Park where we enjoyed a sausage sizzle, prepared for us by members of the Lions Club of Mandurah. Walkers were given a cap or hat with our TCF logo on them, plus the water and a sausage sizzle in return for their pledges of \$25 or more. Most were wearing the T-shirts purchased last year. Some walkers carried collection tins and we distributed flyers describing our organization and our services. Reporters from two local newspapers attended and placed photographs in the following week's issues. A photograph and item about the memorial walk was in David Templemans recent newsletter which has a wide local distribution.

We have great funding news with our biggest local employer ALCOA granting us the funding to take 20 members on a retreat weekend later this year. We usually can only do this each alternate year so this funding is a welcome bonus. This retreat weekend which means so much to the participants is only possible because of this funding so we are

extremely grateful to ALCOA for the grant.

The Zonta Club of the Peel Region partly funded our Mothers Day Luncheon on Friday 11 May which enabled us to arrange a caterer and allow the volunteers to enjoy the event. As usual this was lovely and well attended. Two of our members Tina & Eddie Pearce continue to hold meat raffles on the last Saturday of each month which are well patronised and bring in a steady income for us.

One truly lovely happening was when a local quilters club made a Memorial quilt for our use and presented it to us last week. What a fine example of a community group helping another one. We plan to use the quilt at International Children's Memorial Day events.

Once again we held awareness events throughout the region on and around 15<sup>th</sup> June which is the date we recognize as the anniversary of the first TCF support group meeting in Australia. Displays were held in six major shopping centres, guest speaking engagements went well and publicity in the local papers was obtained. We are lucky to have so much support from the community.

The Promotional Package which we produced last year with the help of funding is still being sent out and we are pleased with the response with some schools requesting more packages.

Two of us attended the recent Marcia Hines concert at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre. We were very touched when Marcia sang the song that she'd sung at St Andrews Cathedral, at the conclusion of the Sydney International Gathering, in response to my request. She also asked the audience if they knew of The Compassionate Friends Mandurah and we were so pleased to hear them call out "yes". We met her afterwards and had a photograph taken with her. She is certainly a special, caring and lovely lady.

The show was arranged by Mirvac and we have now received a grant from that company's community development fund which is being used to purchase a quantity of books, videos and other much needed items for our resource library.

Several new volunteers with excellent skills have recently joined us at the centre and are helping us to make progress in many areas. Their support is invaluable as the numbers of bereaved families who need our services continues to rise.

On behalf of all at TCF Mandurah I say thank you to Chris and Maxine for the effort and time put in as editors of this newsletter for the past two years and welcome to Sue and Mike. Chris, our chapter is happy to have you remain as the Australian IC delegate and thanks for being prepared to continue in that role.

Regards to all

Margot McAllister

President TCF Mandurah



## **National Organisation**

Just a small note to indicate that the formation of a National Body for TCF has not been forgotten, but overshadowed by many events within the TCF Victoria community.

I intend to recommence email contact with the various committees in September this year. Would the various state committees email me a contact person and email address that I can start communicating with. Please reply to my email address of [jfhurley\\_tcfvic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jfhurley_tcfvic@yahoo.com.au)

My aim is to have a National Body commenced by late 2008, prior to the National Gathering in May 2009. It may be ambitious but it will be good to have something to aim for. Any thoughts in the mean time would be more than welcome.

Regards

John Hurley  
President  
TCF Victoria



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



### *International Council*

#### Chairperson's report

**On the International scene** – it has been quite busy during the past 3 months.

- A bereaved dad in **Ghana** would be interested in starting a group - info sent.
- I have linked newly-bereaved parents with Sue Zucherer in **Germany**.
- Sent out info re our only TCF members in **Japan**
- Answered a request for a contact in **Jersey** - nearest is Guernsey.
- Given out details of TCF in **New Zealand**.
- Barbara Wilson wanted info on TCF in **Australia** for professionals.
- I have sent her an International Contact list.
- Supplied details of TCF and similar groups in **France**.
- I have answered numerous requests for contacts in **Ireland**
- Currently in email contact with a bereaved Mum in **El Salvador** who is already running a support group and would like to become part of TCF.
- On July 9, I am meeting up with Stephanie Jeans - who works in the Johannesburg office. We have been in email and telephone contact recently and I'm looking forward to seeing her.

**On a personal note** - Jim and I will be out of the UK from mid-July until September.

Pat Loder, Executive Director for USA, will answer all International Council emails during that time and our UK Office will deal with anything coming via our own website.

We will visit some TCF members in Boston, Massachusetts first, then fly on to Denver and tour Yellowstone National Park. We are hoping to meet with Arlene Priest from Billings, Montana. Arlene, like us, has attended all four International Gatherings - only nine members worldwide can make that claim! It will be good to see her again. Wish us a safe journey.

Yours in Compassion,

*Margaret Pringle*

Chairperson

TCF International Council

#### International News

We have quite a bit of international news for this edition with contributions or information from Argentina, Germany South Africa, Switzerland and UK

Our IC chairperson Margaret Pringle is off on six weeks holidays until the beginning of September with her hubby Jim, they will be staying with TCF friends in Boston for a week and then flying across to Denver so they can tour Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks areas. We all wish Margaret and Jim well on their holiday. Whilst Margaret is away Pat Loder (TCF USA) will be dealing with IC enquiries.

Margaret has recently answered many queries from bereaved parents abroad, wanting to start a group/chapter in their own area. Some have been successful - some never respond after receiving the information. Margaret has also linked many newly-bereaved parents with their nearest group.

An invitation to an event in Leipzig has been included and if you check out [www.tcfsa@mweb.co.za](mailto:www.tcfsa@mweb.co.za) you will find information about the South African AGM. The USA Annual Conference takes place in Oklahoma City from 19 July. Finally don't forget the World-Wide Candle-Lighting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at 7:00 pm in each time zone around the world.

Further information on the IC may be obtained contacting me (Chris Dennys) directly.

We have some important detail missing from the TCF Heritage Site Register which I would like to bring up to date and I request that state president's, coordinators or chapter leaders provide me with updated details of their heritage site so that we can let every body know of these important sites of the celebration of our dearly missed children and siblings. A form is available at the end of the newsletter for updates or notification of new sites. If you have any site that you would like to have included in the register please let us all know about them.

Yours in compassionate friendship

Chris Dennys  
TCF International Council  
Australian Representative

## **5<sup>th</sup> International Gathering**

**Buenos Aires Argentina**

**6-10 May 2009**

I only have a small amount of additional information on the TCF 5<sup>th</sup> International Gathering at this stage.

An email has been received from Covitour Congressos in Buenos Aires, the official travel agency in charge of the organisation of the gathering. They have confirmed the dates for the gathering and hope to soon provide information about the venue, tentative program, hotel packages, land services, web-site, etc.

The Covitour web-site is fairly interesting and an enormous amount of information can be gleaned from this site and additional links to other Argentinean sites. If you are planning on organising any side trips in Argentina or other South American countries this is a good site to start your research.

Hopefully we will be able to provide additional information over the coming months as the gathering plans are further developed.



Web-site: <http://www.covitour.com>

**TCF Germany**

# *Invitation*

*10 years*



Patron: Prof. Dr Thomas Fabian, Mayor, Councillor for youth, social, health and educational matters, town of Leipzig, Germany

## *Greetings*

On the occasion of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary we welcome you to the beautiful town of Leipzig.

We would like to celebrate this anniversary together with all the people who encourage the association of Verwaiste Eltern and engage in their many tasks.

A big thank-you to all who have supported us over the past years and who will continue to do so.

Let us continue our walk together, because new ways are created as they are walked...

It would give me great pleasure to meet you on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Bundesverband Verwaiste Eltern in Deutschland e.V.". Please find hereafter our programme.

Yours very sincerely,

**Petra Hohn**

Chairperson

## *Programme*

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

7.00 pm

Benefit concert in the Nikolai church in Leipzig with Luci van Ort and Sebastian Krumbiegel

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

11.00 am

Ceremonial act in the Ratsplenaarsaal - Neues Rathaus Leipzig

Address of welcome by the Patron Prof. Dr Fabian, Mayor and Councilor of the town of Leipzig

1.00 - 2.00 pm

Guided tour of the Rathaus tower

3.00 p.m.

Opening exhibition "Words which help" in the rooms of the BARMER health insurance, Ludwig-Erhard-Strasse 49

### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Regional gathering of the associations and groups of Germany in the rooms of the BARMER health insurance, Ludwig-Erhard-Strasse 49

**Please let us know until 15<sup>th</sup> July whether you will be able to attend and if you need a hotel reservation.**

**Your contact person is Petra Hohn:**

**Tel. +49 (0)341/946 888 4 or e-mail: [kontakt@veid.de](mailto:kontakt@veid.de)**



## **TCF United Kingdom**

Here is some information about events which may be of interest to any TCF members visiting UK this year:

TCF Annual Gathering, 26 - 28 October to be held in Cambridge.

Further details can be found on the UK website [www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk)



## **TCF United States of America**

TCF/USA wishes to extend an invitation to our sister organizations in Australia and around the world to join in The Compassionate Friends 11th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Sunday December 9 at 7 p.m. local time. This event continues to grow rapidly and is now believed by many to be the world's largest mass candle lighting. The Worldwide Candle Lighting, which creates a virtual wave of light around the globe, has shown the unity that have as bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents in honoring the memories of our beloved children. Australian chapters and those in other countries planning a service are asked to please visit our TCF website at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) closer to the Worldwide Candle Lighting to submit information, which we will then post with that on services from other countries. Last year TCF/USA received information on services held in 12 countries outside the United States, and services totaling more than 400. These included services held not only by TCF chapters and organizations, but also fellow

bereavement organizations, as well as churches, funeral homes, hospices, and informal community groups. We also received more than 2100 e-mail messages posted to our TCF Remembrance Book, only open that day, from persons in 25 countries outside the United States including Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Guam, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Scotland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. We encourage all those who are unable to attend a formal service to join in the Worldwide Candle Lighting by lighting a candle in your home or wherever you may be, whether alone or with friends and family, at 7 p.m. local time December 9. Anyone with questions may write TCF/USA at [nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org](mailto:nationaloffice@compassionatefriends.org).

Wayne Loder

Public Awareness Coordinator

The Compassionate Friends/USA

### **TCF Switzerland**

In her introductory letter to Margaret Pringle in summer 2006 Dr Mechtild Voss-Eiser, doubly bereaved sibling and new member of the TCF International Council, expressed the wish to visit one or the other national event before the international TCF gathering held in Buenos Aires in May 2009. She mentioned the UK, Switzerland, the Netherlands or even South Africa as possible countries. Having read and heard so much about Mechtild's great and compassionate work for "Verwaiste Eltern in Deutschland" I immediately thought of her as a keynote speaker for the 18th annual assembly of Regenbogen (TCF) Switzerland on 31 March 2007.

We from Regenbogen (TCF) Switzerland were all very pleased and honoured when she so readily and graciously accepted our invitation.

The topic of her speech was *"The inability to bestow consolation: Strong words from the experience of mourners and the feeble solace from their companions"*.

Her presentation was based on the sentence of the well known German theologian and journalist Jörg Zink: *"The world needs the consolation coming from the mourners."* During her introduction she read the strong and desperate poems of bereaved mothers and fathers out of her book: *"Let us once more talk about the warmth of life"*.

For a good hour she then spoke to us about her many impressive experiences as both founder and counsellor of the institute for grief counselling and the sibling bereavement institute in Hamburg as well as her years as the initiator and president of "Verwaiste Eltern in Deutschland". From her we learnt how different the styles of coping with grief can be and what mostly helped the bereaved through their individual grief journeys.

At the end of her speech she empathetically answered the questions of many a troubled mother and father. We were all very touched by her insightful thoughts and although we know that we still have a long way to go we were so very thankful for Mechtild's words.

Yours in compassionate friendship

Vreni Lehner

Regenbogen (TCF) Switzerland

[www.verein-regenbogen.ch](http://www.verein-regenbogen.ch)



**TCF Argentina**



Renacer Buenos Aires is a self help group for bereaved parents who have lost children. On April 27, 28, 29 we commemorated our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The journeys were full of warmth, and many people joined in memory of our children. Programmed activities included professional talks and workshops coordinated by members of Renacer.

We counted with 500 persons including the participation of Colombia, Uruguay, Chile and Paraguay.

Everything was fine, with solidarity and fraternity. It was a rich experience for everybody, especially for those who are just beginning their grief journey.

For more information please see:

Web: [www.renacerbuenosaires.org.ar](http://www.renacerbuenosaires.org.ar)

Email: [info@renacerbuenosaires.org.ar](mailto:info@renacerbuenosaires.org.ar)

### ***TCF South Africa***

This information has been extracted from a recent email sent by Bob Fleming in South Africa.

Myrtle and I both hope to go to the 5IG at Buenos Aires in May 2009 and would certainly take the opportunity to visit other places en route. We are both involved in TCF and Lions Clubs International so whenever we travel we combine the two wherever possible.

It is due to Myrtle's dedication and warm understanding of the need for Compassionate Friends that we have, in our travels, increased the growth of TCF in South Africa so much so that there is a need to have a proper National Constitution drawn up to control the organisation.

When this constitution is completed I shall transmit it to you as I know that you

are keen to know the formats of those of the other places as well. Our National Gathering will be on 21-23 September in Port Elizabeth and the constitution will be ratified then.

Regarding travel, we always welcome reciprocating visits to our own home in East London on the East coast of South Africa in a similar latitude to Sydney (and Buenos Aires). So if any one contemplates visiting South Africa they are welcome to stay at our home when we are not away on some of our travels.

Bob Fleming on behalf of Myrtle Fleming

TCF of South Africa  
International Council Member

## **RESOURCES**

We have no specific resources to advise you of in this edition; however, all Australian states now have a web-site and links to various grief related sites. The links to these and some overseas web-sites are provided below for your easy access:

### **TCF ACT and Queanbeyan**

<http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au/ACT.htm>

### **TCF New South Wales**

<http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au>

### **TCF Queensland**

<http://www.uq.net.au/tcfbrisbane/>

### **TCF South Australia**

<http://www.compassionatefriendssa.org.au>

### **TCF Victoria**

<http://www.compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au>

### **TCF Western Australia**

<http://www.compassionatefriendswa.org.au/index.html>

### **Mandurah chapter WA**

<http://www.tcfmandurah.bravehost.com>

### **The Compassionate Friends United Kingdom**

[www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk)

### **TCF Canada**

<http://www.tcfcanada.net/>

### **TCF South Africa**

<http://compassionatefriends.org.za/cms/index.php?index>

### **TCF United States of America**

<http://www.compassionatefriends.org/>

## **LETTERS**

***No letters were received for publication in this edition. Your letters are invited as we would like this to be a forum for discussion of any matters affecting The Compassionate Friends in Australia.***

## TCF AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORY

### TCF AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

**Postal address:**

TCF Australian National Newsletter  
c/o The Compassionate Friends NSW Inc.  
PO Box 1303  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Editors:** Sue and Mike Berry

**Telephone:**

Contact Sue and Mike through the NSW office:  
(02) 2 9290 2355

**International dialling prefix :** 61 2

**Email:** [SueBerry@optusnet.com.au](mailto:SueBerry@optusnet.com.au)

### TCF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

**Postal address:**

TCF International Councillor – Australian Rep.  
73 Hemmings Crescent  
RICHARDSON ACT 2905

**Email:** [ca.me.dennys@netspeed.com.au](mailto:ca.me.dennys@netspeed.com.au)

**Website:** <http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au>

**Australian Representative:** Chris Dennys

**Telephone:**

Chris: (02) 6291 9029

Mobile: 0414 919 029

**International direct dialling prefix:** 61 2

### TCF AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY AND QUEANBEYAN INC.

**Postal address and meeting rooms:**

TCF ACT and Queanbeyan Inc.  
Grant Cameron Community Centre  
27 Mulley Street  
HOLDER ACT 2611

**Email:** [TCFACT@thecompassionatefriends.org.au](mailto:TCFACT@thecompassionatefriends.org.au)

**Website:**

<http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au/ACT.htm>

**Co-ordinator:** David Crockart

**Telephone:**

Coordinator: (02) 6258 9960

Grief support: (02) 6286 6134

Hosted on TCF NSW website

### TCF NEW SOUTH WALES

**Postal address:**

The Compassionate Friends NSW Inc.  
PO Box 1303  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Email:** [admin@thecompassionatefriends.org.au](mailto:admin@thecompassionatefriends.org.au)

**Website:**

**President:** Mary Carroll

**Office address and bereaved parent centre:**

4th Floor, Room 404  
32 York Street,  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Telephone:**

Office and grief support: (02) 2 9290 2355

<http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au>

### **TCF QUEENSLAND**

**Postal address:**

The Compassionate Friends Queensland Inc.  
PO Box 1930,  
NEW FARM QLD 4005.

**Email:** [tcfqld@powerup.com.au](mailto:tcfqld@powerup.com.au)

**Website:**

<http://www.uq.net.au/tcfbrisbane/>

### **TCF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Postal address:**

The Compassionate Friends South Australia Inc.  
Adelaide Chapter  
PO Box 26,  
KENT TOWN SA 5071

**Email:**

[tcf@arcom.com.au](mailto:tcf@arcom.com.au)

**Website:**

<http://www.compassionatefriendssa.org.au>

### **TCF VICTORIA**

**Postal address:**

The Compassionate Friends Victoria Inc.  
PO Box 171  
CANTERBURY VIC 3126

**Email:** Grief enquiries: [support@compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au](mailto:support@compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au)

Administration enquiries: [cfriends@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cfriends@ozemail.com.au)

**Website:**

<http://www.compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au>

Facsimile: (02) 9290 2445

**International direct dialling prefix:** 61 2

**President:** Marion Downey

**Office address and drop-in centre:**

505 Bowen Terrace  
NEW FARM QLD 4005

**Telephone:**

All enquiries: (07) 3254 2657

Facsimile: (07) 3358 2533

**International direct dialling prefix:** 61 7

**President:** Jose Koppelman-Guthrie

**Office address and drop-in-centre:**

**Telephone:**

Message bank: (08) 8351 0344

**International direct dialling prefix:** 61 8

**President:** John Hurley

**Office address and drop-in-centre:**

267 Canterbury Road,  
CANTERBURY VIC 3126

**Telephone:**

Grief support: (03) 9888 4944

Administration: (03) 9888 4034

Facsimile: (03) 9888 4900

**International direct dialling prefix:** 61 3

**TCF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**Postal address and drop-in centre:**

The Compassionate Friends Western Australia Inc.  
Bereaved Parent Centre  
City West Lotteries House  
2 Delhi Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

**Email:**

[tcf@eftel.com.au](mailto:tcf@eftel.com.au)

**Web site**

<http://www.compassionatefriendswa.org.au/index.html>

**President:** Bill Robertson (VP)

**Telephone:**

Grief support: (08) 9486 8711

Facsimile: (08) 9486 8717

**International direct dialling prefix:** 61 8

**TCF MANDURAH CHAPTER WA**

**Postal address and drop-in centre:**

TCF Mandurah Inc.  
Room 2 Mandurah Lottery House  
7 Anzac Place  
MANDURAH WA 6210

**Email:**

[tcfmandurah@bigpond.com](mailto:tcfmandurah@bigpond.com)

**Web site:**

<http://www.tcfmandurah.bravehost.com>

**President:** Margot McAllister

**Telephone:**

Phone/Facsimile: (08) 9535 7761.

After hours: (08) 9582 8113

**International direct dialling prefix:** 61 8

**For International dialling use the IDD prefix plus the last 8 digits**

**Please notify directory amendments/additions to newsletter editor**

**Updated:** 20 July 2007

## **TCF AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE SITE REGISTER**

### **TCF Chapter: TCF ACT and Queanbeyan**

**City/Town:** Yarralumla Canberra

**State:** Australian Capital Territory

#### **Description of site:**

Children's memorial seat in Weston Park overlooking Lake Burley Griffin within a stand of eucalypts and near a BBQ area.

#### **Significance of site:**

Seat was erected by ACT Government and has a memorial plaque dedicated to our children. We use the site for TCF ceremonies and gatherings and also for private reflection.

**Location of site:** Weston Park Yarralumla

**Map reference:** UBD map 58 J9

**Access to site – hours:** 24 hour access

**Local chapter contact:** Maxine (02) 6286 6134

**Other information:** Weston Park is open to the public; full details of the site are available at: <http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au/ACT.htm>

### **TCF Chapter: Miranda**

**City/Town:** Gymea

**State:** New South Wales

#### **Description of Site:**

A memorial garden and park bench in the grounds of Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre. The garden has eleven Compassionate Roses (planted in the eleventh year of the Miranda Chapter). The roses are planted in a round bed with a small hedge border. Sutherland Council donated a memorial plaque which is mounted on a sizeable rock and placed in the garden. Placed near the rose garden we have a 'Cotswold' park bench with a similar plaque. This bench was donated to Hazelhurst through the Miranda Chapter by the Waratah Social Group. The memorial plaque is dedicated to the memory of the children of the Miranda Chapter and contains the TCF logo and a tribute to the children. Hazelhurst comes under the control of the Sutherland Shire Council, whose landscapers take care of the gardens.

#### **Significance of Site:**

The site is used by TCF members as a meeting place for coffee and lunch and as a quiet place for the chapter leader to meet with newly bereaved parents.

**Location of Site:** Hazelhurst Gallery and Regional Arts Centre, 782 Kingsway, Gymea.

**Map Reference:** Enter on Kingsway, Gymea, between Talara Road and Holtham Road.

**Access to site:** Open 7 days a week from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. except Christmas, Boxing Day and Good Friday.

**Local chapter contact:** Valda (02) 9520 4921

**Other information:** The Hazelhurst Gallery is open to the public and is well worth a visit in its own right. Full details are available at <http://www.hazelhurst.co.au>

### **TCF Chapter: Miranda**

**City/Town:** Kogarah

**State:** New South Wales

**Description of Site:**

A bed consisting of nine Compassionate Friends roses planted around the flagpole on the grounds of Calvary Hospital. The rose garden is flourishing and is cared for by the hospital's maintenance staff.

**Significance of Site:**

The roses are on the grounds of a hospital which serves as a hospice for terminally ill individuals so the site is a wonderful expression of the Compassionate Friends motto that 'we need not walk alone'.

**Location of Site:** 1485 91-111 Rocky Point Road, Kogarah, NSW

**Map Reference:** Located at the corner of Fitzgerald Avenue and Rocky Point Road in Kogarah

**Access to site:** Not applicable-not a public venue

**Local chapter contact:** Valda (02) 9520 4921

### **TCF Chapter: Brisbane**

**City/Town:** Brisbane

**State:** Queensland

**Description of Site:**

Mt. Cootha Botanic Gardens, Brisbane. It is in an area with running water not far from the Japanese Gardens.

**Significance of Site:** Detail not provided

**Location of Site:** Detail not provided

**Map Reference:** Detail not provided

**Access to site:** Detail not provided

**Local chapter contact:** (07) 3254 2657

### **TCF Chapter: Townsville**

**City/Town:** Townsville

**State:** Queensland

**Description of Site:**

The Townsville Chapter has a TCF memorial in Queens Gardens, Paxton Street, Townsville (near the old hospital).

**Significance of Site:** Detail not provided

**Location of Site:** Detail not provided

**Map Reference:** Detail not provided

**Access to site:** Detail not provided

**Local chapter contact:** (07) 3254 2657

**TCF Chapter: TCF WA Inc.**

**City/Town:** Perth

**State:** Western Australia

**Description of Site:** Bench seat in a playground with a barbeque amongst a large stand of old pines trees

**Significance of Site:** Detail not provided

**Location of Site:** Kings Park - Corner Saw Avenue and May Drive

**Map Reference:** Detail not provided

**Access to Site:** Detail not provided

**Local chapter contact:** (08) 9535 7761

**TCF Chapter: TCF Mandurah**

**City/Town:** Mandurah - Mandurah Lakes

**State:** Western Australia

**Description of Site:**

Memorial Jarrah Park Bench in Mandurah Lakes memorial Cemetery, situated on a grassy slope, overlooking the lake, close to shady trees with a large shady gazebo nearby.

**Significance of Site:**

The bench is used as a quiet place of reflection by TCF members and is the venue for the International Children's Memorial Day event on the last Sunday in January each year. The bench has an inscribed plaque dedicated to the memory of our children.

**Location of Site:** Stock Road, Mandurah

**Map Reference:** Mandurah Regional Directory Map 29 5D

**Access to Site:** 7.30 to 5.30 daily

**Local chapter contact:** Margot (08) 9535 7761

TCF Chapter: TCF Mandurah

**City/Town:** Palm Beach - Rockingham

**State:** Western Australia

**Description of site:**

Memorial Jarrah Park Bench situated on the Esplanade, opposite Florence Street, Palm Beach. The bench faces the ocean and is close to facilities.

**Significance of site:**

Donated by the City of Rockingham, the bench is used as a quiet place of reflection by TCF members. The bench has an inscribed plaque dedicated to the memory of our children. This is the venue for International Children's Memorial Day events on the last Sunday in January each year.

**Location of site:** The Esplanade, Palm Beach WA.

**Map reference:** Mandurah Regional Directory Map 8 5H

**Access to site:** 24 Hour access

**Local chapter contact:** Tina (08) 9535 7761

**Please notify Heritage Site directory amendments to Australian International Councillor as detailed on the Heritage Site Notification form.**

**Updated:** 01 July 2007

**TCF Australia**  
**Heritage Site Notification**

Please include details of the under-mentioned site/s in the International Council's listing of TCF Heritage sites:

Post (email preferred) completed details to:

Chris Dennys

73 Hemmings Crescent

RICHARDSON ACT 2905

Phone: (02) 6291 9029

Email: [ca.me.dennys@netspeed.com.au](mailto:ca.me.dennys@netspeed.com.au)

<b>TCF chapter:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	
<b>State:</b>	
<b>Description of site:</b>	
<b>Significance of site:</b>	
<b>Location of site:</b>	
<b>Map reference:</b>	
<b>Access to site – hours:</b>	
<b>Local chapter contact:</b>	
<b>Other information:</b>	

Please provide full detail for each of the above headings. This detail will be published on an International Heritage Site Register available for all people who may visit the site.

Example sheet:

<b>TCF chapter:</b>	TCF ACT and Queanbeyan
<b>City/Town:</b>	Yarralumla - Canberra
<b>State:</b>	ACT
<b>Description of site:</b>	Children's Memorial Seat in Weston Park overlooking Lake Burley Griffin within a stand of eucalypts and near a BBQ area.
<b>Significance of site:</b>	Seat has been erected by ACT Government and has a memorial plaque dedicated to our children. Site is used for TCF ceremonies and gatherings and also for private reflection.
<b>Location of site:</b>	Weston Park Yarralumla ACT 2600
<b>Map reference:</b>	UBD map 58 J9
<b>Access to site – hours:</b>	24 hour access
<b>Local chapter contact:</b>	Maxine (02) 6286 6134
<b>Other information:</b>	Weston Park is open to the public full details of the site are available at: <a href="http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au/ACT.htm">http://www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au/ACT.htm</a>

**CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

**10 September 2007**

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, LETTERS AND COMMENTS TO NEWSLETTER EDITORS – SUE AND MIKE BERRY [SueBerry@optusnet.com.au](mailto:SueBerry@optusnet.com.au)

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