



The Compassionate Friends

Australian National Newsletter

No. 42 March 2007 Vol. 13 Issue 1

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From the editors

Cheery greetings from Chris and Maxine

Updates to Directory and Heritage Site Register.

We have updated the TCF Australian Directory and the Heritage Site Register for your information. If you are travelling away from your home state you may wish to attend a sharing meeting or visit one of the heritage sites for some time out and a few moments of reflection. Our heritage site register is slowly growing – if you have anything to add to it please fill out the registration form and email it to Chris at ca.me.dennys@netspeed.com.au

Spam

Some of us have been heavily affected by spam and in an attempt reduce this problem some email hyperlinks in the newsletter are deactivated and appear in **dark blue** and are not underlined. If you need to email one of these addresses you will need to type the address into your email client.

TCF Logo

Most of you will have read Joe Lawley's article on the origins of the TCF logo in the July 2006 edition (if not it is still available on the TCF NSW web-site). In this Joe made an impassioned plea to maintain our TCF logo **inviolable**. By this he means no wording, butterflies or doves. He recently wrote to us again on this issue and requested that we reiterate his feelings and ask each state to use only the original design. You will note that the ANL masthead has the logo in its pure form as we do in TCF ACT and Queanbeyan. It would be great if we could be consistent throughout Australia.

National calendar

Despite our best efforts we have found it very difficult to put the calendar together for this edition. Part of the problem has been that some contributors have included details in their narrative and others have not provided any information at all. Maybe the best approach is to design a pro-forma so that details can be easily amalgamated into a national calendar.

Hand over of editorship

Our time as joint editors of this newsletter has come to an end so we thought that a few last words may be in order:

In 2005 we were very pleased to help Eva out when she was feeling exhausted and ill, by editing the July issue of the newsletter. The progression then of taking over the editorship for a couple of years was a little daunting but, with Chris' experience in computer work, and both of us keen on dotting i's and crossing t's we felt that we could do it. We have enjoyed working together on this venture and it has been a privilege to keep alive the inspiration of Eva Lager. Many thanks to you all for responding to our pleas for contributions and may they continue to roll in far into the future.

We still feel that the newsletter can play an important role in TCF around Australia; to keep in touch, exchange information and ideas and offer support to each other.

Now – over to NSW with our very best wishes.....

The new editors will be Sue and Mike Berry who are looking forward to undertaking the role. (Mike is also NSW's webmaster). We may expect to hear from Sue and Mike around 10 June when they seek our contributions for the July edition. TCF NSW will edit the newsletter for two years, after which time TCF Queensland is scheduled to take over.

Yours in compassionate friendship,

Chris and Maxine



INTERSTATE NEWS



ACT and Queanbeyan

2007 started formally for us on International Children's Memorial Day with a short ceremony followed by a shared breakfast at our seat in Weston Park. Since then there have been two evening and one lunchtime sharing meetings and two social Saturday lunches at restaurants.

In the area of 'education, training and self-care' two of our members participated in another weekend 'bereavement journey workshop'. This is an opportunity for time out of one's normal routines in a supportive environment with a gentle and experienced facilitator, to focus on the death of one's child, and other aspects of our lives. There is an emphasis on expression through colour and collage and also at looking at the strengths which have helped us in our lives. Sharing stories with, and the companionship of, other bereaved parents is of course a vital part of the experience. We are now looking forward to a return to Hartzler Park, conference centre and former convent, in the Southern Highlands for a weekend in the country at the end of April.

Our newsletter comes out four instead of six times a year now – once a season. This means appreciably less work all round, but has the disadvantage that readers may forget what is coming up because of the time between issues. In the newsletter, as well as our group of usual telephone support people, we list names of members who are willing to be neighbourhood contacts in four regions of ACT plus Queanbeyan. In this way new members have the opportunity to call on somebody nearby if they feel the need.

Something new for us – it has been years in the pipe-line – is a craft get-together.

We are calling it 'knit and natter'; an informal drop in, with any craft at all, just to sit, chat and stitch.

Within our group we try to offer a variety of activities and ways of support to cater for a range of needs – always on the lookout for something new without forgetting the most important foundations of friendship and understanding.

Until next time

Very best wishes

Maxine and all in ACT and Queanbeyan



New South Wales

I am pleased to report that the Chapter Leaders and Carers weekend retreat at the Petrea King Quest for Life centre in Bundanoon was very successful. The peaceful venue and caring staff at the centre were a large part of the success of the weekend. The attendees were treated to two days of training, support, relaxation techniques and yoga which was provided by members of Petrea's very experienced team. We are planning another retreat in the future for the carers who were unable to attend on this occasion as only a limited number of places were available.

We are busily organising our annual Residential weekend which will be held at the Mary McKillop Centre in North Sydney 15 – 17 September 2007. This weekend is available to any member who wishes to attend, the final costing is being calculated and details will appear in the next Focus which will be posted at the end of June. The theme for the weekend is still to be decided, but one suggestion which has been put forward is peace hope and friendship. We were most fortunate to acquire as facilitator for the weekend Professor Judith Murray she is based in Queensland and has extensive experience in the areas of grief and bereavement.

The NSW Council has had a meeting with Julie Dunsmore, the president of NALAG NSW Inc. regarding accreditation. Training in Loss and Grief support will be required in the future for any organisation that is funded by the NSW Health Department. Julie is organising a programme for TCF NSW and any member who wishes to become a support person will be required to undertake this training. No date has been set when training will be available but we will advise as soon as times and venues are arranged.

Janice
TCF NSW



Queensland

TCF Queensland has been extremely busy in all areas since our last submission, especially fundraising and the planning of special events. We continue to send packages to those who have joined the club “that no one wants to join” and send newsletters to those who need our organisation’s support, caring and understanding. Our volunteer telephone contacts provide ongoing support to those throughout Qld who are unable to reach support meetings, and our volunteers at the drop-in-centre are still working tirelessly to help keep our organisation running as smoothly as possible. I have been here for almost one year now (I can’t believe how quickly this has gone) and although the steepest part of my learning curve is over is I still always find something new to learn. Currently I am working on funding submissions for a new photocopier (our old one has been worked into the ground) and this can be quite a time consuming job, as many of you probably know. We are also very busy organising our fourth Charity Golf Day which will be held at the Nudgee Golf Course on 20 April. These golf days have proven to be a huge success in regards to both fundraising and

awareness. We have a major sponsor, Rhino Finances, and several minor sponsors, as well as individual players. We are also in the early planning stage of our annual seminar in June at Grace College within the grounds of Queensland University.

Our Mackay group is doing very well and Ann and Kerri are working hard to support bereaved parents in their region. The Townsville group with Nikki and Ruth is still very active and they continue to work hard for bereaved parents. All our volunteers in regional areas continue to give of their time in holding support meetings and coffee mornings. Our newsletter editor Cheryl has just become a grandmother for the first time, welcoming to their family Oliver Isaac on the 12 February 2007. As always Cheryl is still producing wonderful newsletters for all our members. We also have two very active members in Childers; Kathy and her husband Jack, who last year held a book sale in the main street of Childers and raised a substantial amount of money for TCF. Kathy and Jack are once again going to hold a book sale for us in April 2007. We also had another psychic show on 16 December 2006 with renowned psychic Jason McDonald donating his time and all proceeds of the show to TCF.

Our Annual Christmas Candlelight Service held on 10 December was once again well attended and a memorable and moving service in remembrance of our children helped many through what is a very difficult time of the year.

We closed the Centre for four weeks over the Christmas period to rest and rejuvenate ourselves for another year. Upon our return International Children’s Memorial Day was upon us and we held the event in New Farm Park on 28 January 2007 with members meeting under a gazebo for a short memorial service followed by a picnic. Our memorial service included the song “Flower on the Water” by John

Williamson from his album “Chandelier of Stars” and each member of the family threw a frangipani on the water. I would recommend this song to anyone as it describes many of the feelings a bereaved parent may feel and when you hear it you will understand why we threw frangipanis on the water.

From all at TCF Queensland we wish you all fond memories of your beautiful children.

Joy
Co-ordinator
On behalf of the TCF Queensland
Committee



South Australia

Hi everyone and greetings from SA.

A few items to report on since last time.

Our AGM: Nine members attended and our new committee is :
President: Jose Koppelman-Guthrie
Secretary: Jan Condo
Treasurer: Baden Jacob
Committee : Angie Cushion, Tony Hurren, Margaret Lee, Marion Murphy, Chris Hanger and John Sniatynskyj.

I am in the process of having the above updated on our website
www.compassionatefriendssa.org.au

Our Motor Accident Commission grant application has been approved, unfortunately a lesser sum than applied for, however we must be grateful for any funding we receive, given the ways things are these days.

Our member numbers are holding steady, with the usual trend of some longer standing member families advising that they are moving on, and sadly, new member families joining.

Our annual candle light ceremony and balloon release were reasonably well attended, especially given the balloon release was on a stiffling hot day. As always, the members that did attend were grateful and thankful for the events - and tears of both sadness and joy were shed.

The committee is researching ways of establishing contacts/visits/chapters in the larger regional areas of the state, based on members' geographical data we have on record. Meanwhile we will use funding to re-commence our advertising campaign with the goal of connecting with more bereaved parents and their families.

Our first social gathering for 2007 will be on 29 April, at Fellini's Café, North Adelaide, and we are looking forward to an enjoyable afternoon.

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

Baden
For TCF SA



Victoria

TCF Victoria is in the midst of much excitement and busy-ness at present. Our fourth annual Compassionate Employer Recognition Awards are being held on Tuesday 20 March so a great deal of organisation has been going into that. At the end of July we will be launching a huge project, "the social impacts and economic costs of the death of a child," which has been underway for the last several years. We promise we will report more of our activities in the next edition of the National Newsletter.

Jenny Scott
TCF Victoria.



Western Australia

Christmas Candlelight Memorial Service. 10 December 2006

This year the Christmas Candlelight Memorial Service had to be changed at the last minute from St George's Cathedral to St Peter's Church in Victoria Park due to work at the Cathedral. People were stationed at the Cathedral to redirect anyone who arrived having read the newsletter. The church service was well attended; it seemed to be a very intimate setting. The service was conducted by Canon Teresa Harvey. Vickie Davies, soprano, and manager of Wish, a self help group, sang a very touching song. Some people including a student from All Saints' College read very personal and touching poems and words.

Candles were lit in memory of our children. Extremely sad for most of us that our children would not be here to spend Christmas with us; whether it was a recent event or many years ago, the burning passion that we have inside still burns when lighting a candle.

At the conclusion of the service refreshments were served by students from All Saints' College under the watchful eyes of Mrs Jill Angel, their teacher. Once again a very successful service was held despite the late change of venue.

International Children's Memorial Day. 29 January 2007

Well once again it was that time of the year when we all remember our loved ones world wide.

This year it was held in Kings Park, a wonderful setting amongst the trees, where we gathered in the shade after a very hot day. Balloons were delivered and we were very grateful for the three students and teacher from All Saints' College, Bull Creek who helped

distribute them. The wind blew, trying to tangle the ribbons.

As people start to arrive and take their places in the amphitheatre, music played softly in the background.

We waited awhile for our patron to arrive, but it was not to be; so the service was ably conducted by our vice president, Bill Robertson. We started with music and readings, given by bereaved parents, the birds in the trees competing with us including a kookaburra, wishing his presence to be felt. Soon it was time to release our balloons, bearing a tag with a special message to our beloved children. As we released them they soared high into the clear blue skies; this year not one got caught up in the trees. A final reading was given and as the music gently played the service came to an end.

Committee members mingled with guests as we talked of the past, and wondered what the future may hold.

Street Appeal. Perth. 2 February 2007.

It was that time of the year to get out and rattle our tins to raise money to continue on with the good work of TCF. It was still dark when I was driving into the city at 6:20 a.m. After meeting up with Diane we took up our positions near the Perth railway station - what an excellent spot this turned out to be with floods of people pouring off the trains to go to work, meet friends, or just go shopping.

Other members were situated in and around the city. The time soon went by and at just after 9:00 a.m. we all met in Forrest Place for a well earned drink and biscuits. It was lovely to sit and relax and talk over the events of the past two hours. We then took the tins back to the office and count up the money ready for banking.

The effort raised in the region of \$1.200 with a few minor expenses still to be determined.

A huge thank you goes out to Bernie, Lindsey, Joan, Diane, Gwen and Barry, Dora, and Bill. We and look forward to seeing you all on the next street appeal.

Christine Flux
Secretary
TCF Western Australia Inc.

Mandurah Chapter

The Candlelight Memorial service was well attended and held at Christchurch Anglican church, which is a lovely old church in the centre of Mandurah. Emily Pinnell again did a great job of coordinating arrangements, and other volunteers helped out on the night. Kerry and family once more donated the lovely flowers - roses this year - which were given to each of the women who attended. It's always a very touching and healing event and one where we can catch up with bereaved families and friends who perhaps don't feel the need to come to support groups any longer.

The December balloon release in Kambalda that I was privileged to attend was beautiful. The local quilters club there had donated a lovely quilt several years ago and this is used during the ceremony. It's touching to see families attending for the first time select their patch and write a personal message on it with great care then point out their patches to others in following years. I took a photograph of the quilt and mentioned it to friends who belong to a quilting group here in Mandurah and I'm pleased to say that they will be making one for use at our International Children's Memorial Day events soon. When the quilt is in production a couple of us will attend and that gives us a good reason to invite a reporter from the local newspaper and so get extra publicity.

Our two events for International Children's Memorial Day were held on Sunday 28 January. The morning gathering at the Palm Beach Park Bench for readings went well before the "Flowers in the Ocean" ceremony, and all enjoyed a breakfast sausage sizzle afterwards. In the evening the balloon release over the lake, after several readings beside the park bench was followed by a picnic tea under the rotunda. It was very hot and we were all grateful for the shade.

Promoting TCF and our services to the community is vital for future bereaved families and I was pleased to accept an invitation to speak to a combined church service in January. I then spoke to a meeting of Justices of the Peace at the local courthouse in February and on Tuesday of this coming week I'll be speaker at a general meeting of the Mandurah U3A.

Our annual "Walk to Remember" scheduled for 18 March is an absolute winner for the purpose of promoting TCF here in Mandurah. If any other Australian chapter wishes to hold a walk we will gladly share our information.

Many thanks to those chapters who provided us with letters of support regarding our request to have the word "commit" in relation to suicide, removed from legislation. Our local MLA presented our request and we have been assured that the word is no longer in legislation. This however has not prevented its regular usage by reporters and various government employees, so we continue to monitor this practice.

Margot McAllister
President
TCF Mandurah



INTERNATIONAL NEWS



International Council

The International Council (IC) of The Compassionate Friends was created to further a spirit of cooperation among the TCF organisations around the world. The council formed in 2005 during the 4th International Gathering in Vancouver and was the vision of Joe Lawley one of the TCF co-founders.

Representatives from UK, USA, Canada, South Africa, Switzerland, Holland, Argentina, and Australia were elected to the council as primary contact people during the Gathering.

The council work helps bereaved parents world-wide to establish TCF branches in areas of need. Since the council formed it has helped new groups get started in Eire, Mexico, Jordan, Spain, Hong Kong and the Philippines. Enquiries have also been received from Israel, Guam, Bangkok, Alberta Canada, Tel Aviv, Hanoi, Italy, Bermuda, Sweden and the Dutch Antilles. Much of the council's valuable work is undertaken by Margaret Pringle the IC chairperson in the UK.

The council meets at International Gatherings and we also have an on-line meeting place on the TCF USA web-site. Much of our business is conducted through e-mail.

Harking back to the IC representatives; I requested that my appointment only be annotated as an interim appointment as we only had 14 Australians present at the gathering and nobody on any state committees except for the TCF SA President -Tony Hurren, TCF ACT and Queanbeyan Coordinator - Greg Tarrant, and my self as a TCF ACT committee member. My position remains as an interim appointment as it has not been ratified by state organisations. I am happy to hand over to any other representative who might like the job; however, I am also quite willing to remain as the

Australian IC delegate if each state were to agree on ratifying the appointment. Please discuss this matter at your next committee meeting and let me know your decision. Further information on the council may be obtained contacting me directly.

5th International Gathering

Our Argentina TCF International Council representative - Graciella Canteros -has advised the dates for the 5th International Gathering have now been set for 6-10 May 2009 in Buenos Aires. Little detail is currently available on the event as planning is still in its infancy but we will keep you updated as information comes to hand.

Please put this important date into your calendar and give some consideration to attending. I have been lucky enough to attend two International Gatherings and found both to be of great benefit and look forward to attending the gathering in Argentina during May 2009.

Chris Dennys
TCF International Council
Interim Australian Representative



United States of America

TCF USA invites all TCFers from throughout the world to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for our 30th National Conference 20-22 July where Rev. Simon Stephens, founder of The Compassionate Friends will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet. He is coming all the way from his home in Moscow, Russia, about a five minute walk from Red Square. This is a rare opportunity to meet the man without whom The Compassionate Friends might not exist.

In addition to this treat, those who come to the conference will have more than 100 workshops to choose from, including a

sibling track and a track for parents with no surviving children. There is a pre-conference Professional Outreach day 19 July, which all are welcome to attend (you don't have to be a professional - all you have to be is interested in bereavement issues and current trends in thinking). On 22 July at 8:00 a.m. we will hold our eighth annual two-mile Walk to Remember where up to 1500 are expected to walk in remembrance of our beloved children.

For more information on the conference, visit www.compassionatefriends.org and click on "National Conference."

TCF/USA also would like to remind our sister organizations around the world of The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting coming up the second Sunday in December at 7:00 p.m. - this year on 9 December at 7:00 p.m. local time for one hour. This has proven to be a great event showing the unity that we all have as bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents as we honor the memories of our beloved children. Australian chapters holding a service are asked to please visit our TCF website at www.compassionatefriends.org closer to that time to provide us information so that we can post it along with information on services being held in countries around the world. Last year we received information on services held in 10 countries outside the United States. We also received more than 2100 e-mail messages posted to our 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.

Wayne Loder
Public Awareness Coordinator
The Compassionate Friends USA



United Kingdom

The picture below is of St Mark's Church Coventry. Its significance to TCF? It is Simon Stephens' old church where he served as curate and assistant CofE chaplain to the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital (on the left but not shown in photograph) and in which we held many of our early events and meetings.

The church is now de-commissioned and empty - sorely needing a significant project to bring it to life again. My suggestion for a project is to establish there a TCF International Heritage Centre - a place of pilgrimage to be visited by TCF people either in person or via the Internet. Adorning the walls would be photographs and the life stories of our beloved children. I now encourage your thoughts on how to best use the interior e.g. IT Centre, Lecture and Projection facility, Library, Confidential Hospitality Suites for those wishing privacy or the comforting befriending of TCF colleagues.

This is only a prompt to get your ideas flowing; this would be your place as much as it would be anyone else's. There is a window of opportunity whereby St Mark's might be acquired but before proceeding I would like to know if you are with me on this project. I am not asking for money...let us see if there is funding available. What I need is your enthusiasm and VISION.

With much love
Joe and Iris Lawley,
Parent co-founders of TCF

PS Click on the picture to link to the website and read St Mark's history and the story of the mural in the chapel. (We would wish to convert this chapel into an International Children's Chapel).



TCF Argentina

Graciella has sent this flyer about the 15th anniversary of their organisation. If you happen to be in Buenos Aires in April you might like to attend. Further information is provided at the link at the end of this notice.



TCF (UK) coming events

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

Scottish Forum, 4 - 6 May (A Haven in the Storm) held in Perth, Scotland.

Walk through Coventry (where TCF started) 29 July.

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

Further details can be found on the UK website www.tcf.org.uk

15th ANNIVERSARY OF RENACER BUENOS AIRES

"Let's unite our hands with a 'Yes' to life"

Dear friends from Renacer:

April 27, 28 and 29, 2007 in the Law College, University of Buenos Aires, we will celebrate the 15th anniversary of Renacer, Buenos Aires, which, as you know, happened last December, 2006.

Because of that, we'll host a meeting, to share experiences, personal and group achievements, with the strong conviction that 'we can'.

There will be speeches, panels and workshops, moments of comradeship and integration, and, as always, an open space to talk about our children.

Soon we'll let you know more.

You are all invited ... We are expecting you!!!

*With lots of love, the parents of Renacer
Buenos Aires*

info@renacerbuenosaires.org.ar

www.renacerbuenosaires.org.ar

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

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/>

LETTER

(from Eva Lager)

Dear Friends

I have just returned from nearly two months in Austria where my daughter was critically ill. She had pneumococcal pneumonia, septicaemia and septic shock, resulting in some other dangerous conditions. Altogether she was in hospital for more than five weeks, nearly three of which in an induced coma and four in intensive care. I didn't even know it for the first week (and then I had difficulty getting a flight out). Against all expectations, she survived but it took several weeks before doctors admitted to being "cautiously optimistic", as they say.

Fortunately I was able to help her through the first few weeks after coming out of hospital when she still needed a lot of care. However, this is not about the near-certainty at the time of losing my only living child.

My daughter has a small studio apartment really only suitable for one person. When she could do certain things herself again, I found accommodation for myself close to her place. That wasn't easy (it was carnival week) and I ended up just ringing doorbells to ask if there was a cancellation. Naturally I'd mentioned why I needed somewhere to stay and within a few hours of my moving in, my landlady told me that she and her husband were both bereaved parents; her 14-year-old son died nearly thirty years ago her husband's 41-year-old son died three years ago; both of illness. When I said that I was also a bereaved parent, they were very keen to talk to me, especially because I speak German. She had some English but he spoke none at all. I spent several hours with them one afternoon. They've always lived in country areas and they felt there had been little support for them as bereaved parents after the first few weeks, a familiar complaint to many of us. They each have another child and grandchildren who bring them much joy but they were so very grateful to be able to talk about their dead sons and their own feelings.

I don't know whether it is a coincidence that I came to be at their place. I do know that I helped them purely by sharing experiences while "sitting around the kitchen table", as I've heard Joe Lawley put it when he talks of the start of TCF in England.

I was happy I could give some comfort but I was exhausted afterwards. I'd had traumatic weeks - at a time when my own anniversary was coming up and while still recovering from a shoulder operation. But I was reminded once again that grief knows no boundaries or timeline, and that simply talking can help, no matter nationality, language, beliefs or customs.

I don't have the strength or energy for giving support on a regular basis (or even at all!) but to those of you who do I'd like to say, please friends, do look after yourselves. It is easy to forget your own needs but no-one profits if you're worn-out; no-one will thank you for it and you certainly won't be able to help anyone else if your mental or physical health suffers.

It would be fantastic if there were support groups in each and every country with at least enough people to act as telephone contacts. Unfortunately, volunteer workers are often in short supply and burnout is common. Having to worry about money doesn't help either.

Sharing ideas and experience can help smaller chapters, at least with organisational matters. Regular contact with each other nationally and internationally should continue to foster the valuable idea of a "family" of bereaved parents. I like to believe that the Australian National Newsletter has played a small role in that and I hope this will go on in one form or another for many years.

Now that Maxine and Chris have finished their stint, all the best to NSW for their term of the rotating editorship.

Regards to all,

Eva Lager,
Past Editor TCF ANL.
Perth, Western Australia.

TCF AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORY

TCF AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Postal address:

TCF Australian National Newsletter
C/- Grant Cameron Community Centre
27 Mulley Street
HOLDER ACT 2611

Email:

mmdavies@cyberone.com.au
ca.me.dennys@netspeed.com.au

(Editors - Maxine Davies and Chris Dennys)

Telephone:

Maxine: (02) 6286 6134

Chris: (02) 6291 9029 Mob: 0414 919029

International dialling prefix : 61 2

TCF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Postal address:

73 Hemmings Crescent
RICHARDSON ACT 2905
Email: ca.me.dennys@netspeed.com.au

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

Interim Australian Representative: Chris Dennys

Telephone:

Chris: (02) 6291 9029

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

Website:

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

Coordinator: David Crockart

Telephone:

Coordinator: (02) 6258 9960

Grief support: (02) 6286 6134

TCF NEW SOUTH WALES

Postal address:

The Compassionate Friends NSW Inc.
PO Box 1303
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Email: admin@thecompassionatefriends.org.au

Website:

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

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

Facsimile: (02) 9290 2445

International direct dialling prefix: 61 2

TCF QUEENSLAND

Postal address:

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

Email: tcfqld@powerup.com.au

Website:

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

President:

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

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

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

Administration enquiries: cfriends@ozemail.com.au

Website:

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

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

Web site

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

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

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

Email:

tcfmandurah@bigpond.com

Web site:

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

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

President: Bill Robertson (VP)

Telephone:

Grief support: (08) 9486 8711

Facsimile: (08) 9486 8717

International direct dialling prefix: 61 8

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 March 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: 20 March 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 or email preferred completed details to:

Chris Dennys

73 Hemmings Crescent

RICHARDSON ACT 2905

Phone: (02) 6291 9029

Email: ca.me.dennys@netspeed.com.au

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

Example sheet:

TCF chapter:	TCF ACT and Queanbeyan
City/Town:	Yarralumla - Canberra
State:	ACT
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 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.
Location of site:	Weston Park Yarralumla ACT 2600
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

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

10 July 2007

PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, LETTERS AND COMMENTS TO NEWSLETTER EDITORS – SUE AND MIKE BERRY AustralianNews@thecompassionatefriends.org.au

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