



The Compassionate Friends

# Australian National Newsletter

No. 45 October 2007 Vol. 13 Issue 3

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## **Editorial**

We thank all the people who have sent us encouragement in our task of being the newsletter's editors. But here's another apology from us for this newsletter being late. We intend to do better in December, with the assistance of our correspondents around Australia and across the TCF world. It's also a little rushed. Reasons (if not excuses) include looking after our 16 month-old grandson six days out of fourteen. He's a delight but exhausting, especially when only one of us is on duty. Another reason is we have been preparing for an overseas trip to the UK, Switzerland and Spain. Mike has a conference in Mallorca so we've wrapped a holiday around it. London first (aren't the hotels expensive!), Barcelona (aren't the hotels expensive!) then over to Mallorca. After London, I'll go to see my family in Switzerland and Mike will see his sister in Cheltenham (UK). Hopefully, we'll meet up in Barcelona. By the time the next newsletter appears, we'll be able to tell you how it worked out.

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.

**Sue and Mike Berry**

Editors



## INTERSTATE NEWS

*(in alphabetical order)*



### **ACT and Queanbeyan**

I have been the ACT and Queanbeyan National Newsletter representative since Eva asked for volunteers all those years ago. But it's time that I handed on to someone else. This will be the last report from me – someone on our committee will take over next time – any further input from me can be in letters to the editor.

We have had our AGM and David and Jillian Crockart have agreed to stay on as Co-ordinator and Secretary. We have a new Treasurer, Chris Wronski and a new committee member, Jane Hagan. Three other members have continued, Diana, Jane and Sue. We held the AGM in our usual meeting room and afterwards held a short memorial ceremony; we listened to the music of Deep Peace and went outside the building where there is a memorial plaque to Grant Cameron, the son of one of our members. We put flowers around the plaque in memory of all our children. It is good to be brought back to the heart and meaning of why we are together. Then afternoon tea and chat to round off the afternoon.

Four members joined TCF NSW for their annual residential weekend, this time held in Sydney. We value our close association with NSW and of course there is some overlap with membership. The keynote speaker, Dr Judith Murray was excellent.

Webmaster Chris Dennys is on the brink of getting us up to speed on putting information on the internet – please check in soonish on a link from TCF NSW.

Floriade is nearly over for another year with wonderful scents as well as beautiful colour. If you come to Canberra for this

or any other occasion, please make contact with us.

And now its goodbye from me

With very best wishes from us all in ACT and Queanbeyan

Maxine



### **New South Wales**

We are still feeling a warm glow from our Weekend of Comfort, Hope and Companionship held at the Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney. Over seventy bereaved parents, siblings, and grandparents met during the beautiful spring weekend of 14-16 September for an unforgettable experience of support and relaxation. This peaceful oasis of quiet beauty in the heart of the Centre proved to be one of the most popular we have ever utilised, with almost all of the attendees' evaluation forms indicating a desire to return to Mary MacKillop next year.

The parents and grandparents were treated to two days of presentations by Dr. Judith Murray, a bereaved parent who is also a renowned Australian author and a lecturer at the University of Queensland. Siblings had a special program facilitated by Julie Dunsmore, AM, an old friend of TCF NSW, who is a grief counselor as well as the President of the National Association for Loss and Grief NSW. Bernadette Arena, a teacher of yoga and meditation, led all the "early risers" in a period of gentle relaxation to get each day started. Once again a highlight of our weekend was the Service of Remembrance in honour of all our children. The Reverend Brenda Robilliard, Chaplain at Westmead Hospital, conducted this beautiful and comforting service.

We are busily organising training for TCF volunteers which will be held in Sydney 27-28 October. This training will be supervised by Julie Dunsmore and conducted by Trudy Hanson of NALAG.

We hope to regularly schedule this type of training session and to make it available to Chapter Leaders throughout NSW in the future.

Our Newcastle Chapter, which had been dormant, has reopened under the leadership of TCF Council member Daphne Roper and is off to a very encouraging start with much support from the community. All other Chapters continue to be active in their support of the bereaved families throughout NSW, and a number of the Chapters will be holding special events to offer support during the always difficult holiday time.

We take this opportunity to send all our best wishes for a peaceful holiday season to the membership of TCF throughout Australia.

Remembering all our children,

Judy Tuggle for TCF NSW



## **Queensland**

As always our drop-in-centre has been a hive of activity since our submission in July.

Our wonderful volunteers who contribute so much of their time to TCF Qld have been busy doing many tasks around the office and manning stalls etc at various functions during the last three months. On the 4 August 2007 we had a stall at the Springwood Craft Expo, on the 1 September we held another stall at the Springwood Spring Carnival and on the 8 September we did a Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Warehouse. All of these events were very successful in raising much needed funds for TCF. The most exciting news is our participation in the Bridge to Brisbane Run, an annual event held here in Brisbane where runners can run in either a 12km course or a 4km course, both of which went from the Gateway Bridge to New Farm Park (lucky for us it was in the same suburb as our drop-in-centre). There were 29,763 runners on the day and this year celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the run. Almost all of the runners ran for charities and we were fortunate enough to have a member who is in a running club, Bill Palmer, and along with Lorraine our Vice President (now President) organised for us to participate. This involved getting eleven major sponsors and approx 80 runners who then in turn had several people sponsor them. We organised "T" Shirts with the eleven major sponsors on the front and our TCF logo on the back, this brought about good awareness for TCF. The major sponsors are in our October/November newsletter and will also be on our webpage. We raised several thousand dollars of much needed funds and hope to participate again next year.

Our AGM was held on the 17 September 2007 and all positions were declared vacant. Our AGM normally takes the form of a support meeting, where all members are invited to attend, our President reads her report of events that have taken place during the year and then the election process begins and a new committee is elected for 2007-2008. Members were invited to share supper after the election of the committee had taken place. We have on occasions in the past had a guest speaker attend and this can draw more members to an AGM. Our new committee members for 2007/2008 elected on the night are:

**PRESIDENT:** Lorraine Edgley

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Vera Caltabiano

**SECRETARY:** Lyn Macklin

**TREASURER:** Debbie Freeman

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Graham Macklin, John Van Raalte, Helen Alcock, Bill Palmer, **CO-ORDINATOR:** Joy Van Raalte

As you can see most of our previous committee members were re-elected with one new committee member elected and Bev Bosma our president of 3 years deciding not to nominate again this year.

Bev has been with TCF for 9 years in various capacities and the committee and members thank Bev for all that she has done for TCF and we wish her well for the future. We would also like to thank Karen Gerry who after many years on the committee of TCF decided not to nominate this year. Our sincere thanks go to the people who accepted the nominations for the committee and for their willingness to give of themselves to guide our organisation during the next 12 months.

TCF Qld have been liaising with Margie and Chris Dennys TCF Canberra, Jim and Margaret Pringle TCF IC, Ruth Barker TCF Townsville Qld and bereaved parents Jill and Charlie Sternberg from the USA in regard to scattering some of their son's ashes on the Great Barrier Reef. Michaels ashes (or a portion of) are on their way to Australia as I write this article, for our Townsville members Ruth and Ron Barker to take the ashes out on Rod's boat, have a small meaningful ceremony and scatter Michael's ashes on the reef. Michael's parents have advised us that he was a dedicated environmentalist and had always wanted to visit the Great Barrier Reef but died before he could fulfil his dream. Through a combined effort across the world Michael's dream will have been acknowledged and some peace given to his beautiful family in the USA. I have said it before TCF never ceases to amaze me how we care for each other no matter how difficult the circumstances, we always seem to find a way.

***The item below is repeated from the previous newsletter. Eds.***

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 [tcfqld@powerup.com.au](mailto:tcfqld@powerup.com.au) or telephone (07) 3254 2657.

Caring thoughts to all from The TCF Committee Qld and

Joy

Qld Co-ordinator



## **South Australia**

### President's AGM Report

I would like to welcome you all to this AGM. This was my first year as President.

Another year has passed. In many ways it has been a year, much like any other, with the committee organizing the events that are traditional to TCF. In addition, we have also undertaken some new activities. I think one of TCF's strength is in offering a variety of opportunities that enable bereaved parents to continue to experience ways of feeling connected with their children. The range of events and activities organized during the year also offer valuable opportunities for parents to grieve with, share with, and learn from each other.

We currently have 141 members listed on our data base.

The Candlelight Service was held December (2006). This evening was very well supported by our members. It offers a way of preparing for the difficult time of Christmas that lies ahead of us. It also offers us an opportunity to reflect upon the memories we have of our children, supported by others who know our pain. This year again, we had beautiful contributions in the way of music, poems, and prayers that honoured our children.

29<sup>th</sup> January is International Children's Memorial Day. TCF partly subsidizes a notice in the Advertiser, which lists the name of our children. This year we added our logo as well as MAC's logo to this notice in an effort to draw further

attention to the existence of TCF. The annual Balloon Release, held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, is held to celebrate Children's Memorial Day. This is held near our plague in Pennington Gardens in the city; a beautiful setting. We have a BBQ and picnic and spent time writing message to our children. These messages are attached to helium balloons and all are sent off at once. This year, due to the extreme heat, we only had a small group of parents, and so few balloons, but nonetheless, it is always a beautiful sight to see all the balloons heading up to heaven.

On 29<sup>th</sup> of April TCF organized a social get-together at Fellini's in North Adelaide. This coincided with Mother's Day, hence mothers that day received a special flower. Jan Condo and Margaret Lee put much effort into organising this event. About 15 people attended.

One of our committee members, Dr John Sniatynskyj, last year undertook research on 'Parental grief: Living with loss through the years'. Participants contributing to this research were members of TCF (SA). On 13<sup>th</sup> of June, John presented his findings to a large group of interested members (about 20). It was a very informative evening with an emphasis on the uniqueness of the experience of grief, parents seeking ways of feeling connected with their child, and the importance of having supporting family and friends. Congratulations to John.

A workshop on 'Grief Management' was held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July. This was the first workshop of this kind for a few years. Cherene Wessels facilitated the workshop. Cherene has been a supporter of TCF for many years (and has presented workshops in the past). Topics included grief principles; how men, women and children grieve; what to say and what not to say; rebuilding after loss; communication roadblocks; how to listen and to help; and, managing stress. 8 Parents attended the workshop. It offered an opportunity to share personal

experiences and learn new ways of coping in an intimate and supportive setting. Feedback from participants was very positive and we hope to have a ½ day follow up workshop (in November) to finish the topics Cherene did not have time to cover.

The support groups at Modbury (facilitated by Marion Murphy) and Kensington (facilitated by Jose Koppelman-Guthrie) continue to offer the opportunity for parents to seek and give support to one another. Both groups are relatively well attended. The support that members can give each other and that can be given to newly bereaved parents, by those who have travelled further on the journey of grief, is invaluable and I hope the members keep supporting these groups.

Jan Condo has stepped in as a back up facilitator at the Kensington group, which has been much appreciated. Marion has notified the committee she has decided to stop facilitating at the Modbury group. Baden Jacob has kindly agreed to take this over until another facilitator can be found. Marion will be sadly missed.

Catherine Pettit, our newsletter editor, has once again produced a series of informative, interesting, and sensitive newsletters. Catherine welcomes contributions from members and sources articles from a range of materials. This year, we trialled a coloured version, which looked fantastic. Sadly the cost of producing a coloured newsletter is prohibitive. Newsletters are distributed to 141 members and 29 non-members.

The memorial quilt is well on the way to being finished. Approximately 15 members sent in decorated quilting square in memory of their child. Jan Condo has taken charge of this project. Currently, one of our members' daughter-in-law (Helga's) is constructing the quilt. We hope to unveil this during a presentation evening in October (during

which Catherine Pettit is presenting on her work as a life coach).

This year we tried various ways of promoting TCF within our community. This included placing a TCF brochure in the newsletter, asking members to take this to their local GP; placing a notice in the Saturday Advertiser (classifieds) 4 weeks running; and designing new business cards.

With support of \$100 project (volunteer services to community groups) we got the TCF-SA website up and running. As part of this project, a poster was designed which will be forwarded to relevant agencies such as medical centres, hospitals, funeral directors, police, and other grief and loss organizations. A chat facility is still being pursued. Baden Jacob has put a lot of work into this.

This year we made some attempt to provide some practical support to the country. Port Augusta was selected as a starting point due to an already established contact. Marion Murphy liaised with a social worker in Port Augusta, in an effort to gauge interest in TCF running a session for members (and non-members). A new contact with a worker in Port Pirie was recently established and both options are still being pursued.

Marion Murphy has continued to take calls on the message bank. She averaged between 5 and 20 calls per month, from a variety of sources (e.g., parents, family, support agencies, funeral directors, social workers). Marion has decided to finish in this role. Baden Jacob has kindly agreed to take this on.

This year we undertook a stock take of our resources (books). As a result, some stock was disposed off, and some new books purchased.

Angie Cushion resigned during the year as committee member. She also had the responsibility for writing anniversary cards to members. The committee thanks

Angie very much for her valued contributions. Baden Jacob has taken on the task of writing anniversary cards.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their support for myself and for TCF in general. Especially Baden for undertaking endless tasks and for always being available; Jan for her wonderful work as secretary, events coordinator and facilitator; Marion for her work as a facilitator, her tireless work with the message bank, and her efforts in getting country supports established; and Chris and Margaret for their support with all the events we have organized this year. I also thank Catherine for her wonderful work as newsletter editor.

We all have busy lives, with our own ups and downs, and need to support each other so we can continue to be inspired to volunteer our time and effort for TCF, in order to support those people who are bereaved like us, so "they don't have to walk alone".

Thank you all for coming.

Jose Koppelman-Guthrie

President TCF-SA



## **Victoria**

The report was not received in time for inclusion in this newsletter. However, we have repeated some of the material from the previous newsletter. Eds.

### **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***

The past three months seem to have flown by but we still continue to be busy with our Friendship nights, Coffee mornings Leaflet mail outs etc,

Our major fund raising has been the success of our Quiz Night, held in South Perth, it was very well run by our Quiz master and well supported by local businesses enabling us to see that every one went away with at least one prize, the night consisted of an Irish raffle, silent raffle, heads and tails, etc. and great fun was had by all, and all too soon it was 10pm and time to close.

We look forward next year to holding a Quiz night north of the river in a new venue.

We are now busy preparing for our annual Christmas Candlelight Memorial Service on 9th December 2007 held in St George's Cathedral at 7pm with a supper afterwards supplied and handed out by the students from All Saints College as part of their community programme.

In January we participate in the International Children's Memorial Day on the 20th January in our famous Kings Park overlooking the Swan River.

On behalf of all our bereaved friends in Western Australia, we wish you all a safe and peaceful journey ahead.

From Christine Flux

Past Secretary

Compassionate Friends,

Western Australia

## **Mandurah Chapter**

### **President's Report to the AGM**

We've just had our AGM and welcome our committee of,

President: Margot McAllister

Vice President: Phil Richardson

Secretary: Rosemary Boyd

Treasurer: Pat Connett

Committee Members: Emily Pinnell, Tina Pearce, Russell Monk and Gary Withers.

Our appreciation goes to the outgoing committee members Barbara Jackson and

Rosemary Rana for their input during the past year.

It was a pleasure, after the AGM, to present Tina Pearce with a certificate and gift in appreciation of 25 years of continues service to TCF. I wonder if this is an Australian record. Others may have been involved for years but with breaks and we can only guess at the numbers of families who have received Tina's warm support and the funds she and husband Eddie have raised for TCF. Thank you to two true Compassionate Friends.

Our statistics continue to reflect the increase in our service provision with the number of direct contacts with members of bereaved families actually double that of four years ago. It always amazes me that so much is done by so few people, but that's TCF worldwide!

We have completed the purchase of a range of items for our resource library and will soon be arranging a thank you to MIRVAC for the funds. Our new computer equipment is still being installed thanks to the Lottery West grant. It's lovely to have up to date equipment to use including a colour copier/scanner/printer etc.

In October we are holding a fundraising Enjo demonstration and have taken the opportunity to participate in two displays during Mental Health Week. I'll be attending the launch of a government funded pilot project to provide support services and referral to families bereaved by suicide (sound familiar?). The new! project is named ARBOR, for "active response bereavement outreach" and it'll be interesting to see how we can liaise for the benefit of those who need all the help they can get.

Once again we are able to hold a Retreat weekend for twenty bereaved parents in November at the lovely Nanga Bush Camp in the Dwellingup forest. This is thanks to funding from ALCOA which is our biggest employer in this region.

Planning is on track for our Candlelight Memorial Service to be held this year at the Uniting Church in central Mandurah on the first Sunday in December and once again I'll be attending as MC, the Memorial Balloon Release in the Goldfields town of kambalda.

The centre will be closed from 4p.m. Friday 21 December to 10a.m. Monday 7 January with Tina and me taking calls. We will hold one International Children's Memorial Day event in 2008 instead of the usual two. Our "Flowers on the Ocean" ceremony at Palm Beach on the morning of Sunday 27 January will be followed by a sausage sizzle.

Margot McAllister



### **National Organisation**

The report was not received in time for inclusion in this newsletter. So, we have repeated some material from the previous newsletter. Eds.

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

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

### **Worldwide**

#### December 2007

The Compassionate Friends 11th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Sunday December 9 at 7 p.m.

### **ACT and Queanbeyan – calendar of events**

Sat 13 October Knit and Natter at Sue's place 2-5pm

Sat 20 October Lunch at Old Parliament House 12.30pm

Sun 18 November Garden Party at the home of David and Jill. 3pm onwards

Sun 2 December End of year breakfast at Hotel Kurrajong 8.30am

Sun 9 December Worldwide Candle Lighting ceremony at our children's memorial seat in 7-8pm Weston Park

Sun 3 February Shared breakfast at the seat to mark International Children's Memorial Day.

Regular evening sharing meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30 at the Grant Cameron Community Centre during this period. Also a lunchtime sharing meeting and another craft afternoon. Enquiries 02 6258 9960).

### **TCF Mandurah**

#### October 2007

Manned Mental Health Week display at Mandurah foreshore 8/10  
Static Display at Rockingham City Council Chambers 9 & 10/10  
Enjo Fundraiser 20/10  
Launch of ARBOR project

#### November 2007

9 to 11/11 Weekend Retreat at Nanga Bush Camp, Dwellingup

#### December 2007

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Candlelight Memorial Service at Uniting Church, Pinjarra Rd, Mandurah

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> C.O.B. centre closed, reopen Monday 7 January 2008

#### January 2008

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> "Flowers on the Ocean"

International Children's Memorial Day event

#### March 2008

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> "A Walk To Remember"

From Dalrymple Park Mandurah

Margot McAllister



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



## International Council

### **Chairperson's report**

In June I travelled to Sheffield to meet up with Stephanie Jeans from Johannesburg, South Africa. She is a Chapter Leader and also works as a volunteer in the Jo'burg office. We have been corresponding via email for some time and had also spoken on the telephone. It was so good to meet her and put a face to the name. She gave me a lovely Angel centre-piece with a butterfly candle - it was lit for our local group meeting this month and admired by all our members.

In July, as part of my annual holiday, I stayed with TCF members on the outskirts of Boston, in Massachusetts. Having met at a USA Conference about 10 years ago, we have been good friends ever since. Later, in August, I met with Arlene Priest from Montana. She is one of only 9 people throughout TCF

worldwide, who has attended all 4 International Gatherings. Arlene drove my husband and I through Bear Tooth Pass - a wonderful scenic drive through the mountains and we actually saw a Black Bear that day!

She also took us to the TCF Memorial Garden in Billings, her home town. It was a riot of colourful flowers and had numerous angel statues there as well as bouquets tied to the seats in memory of the children from her Chapter. Their names were engraved in the footpath bricks and a bronze plaque placed there in 1996 was engraved with these words

*They lived, and brought unto this earth a bit of beauty, love .....and faith and now their lives will ever be reflected in our hearts. In loving memory of our children.*

Set in a lovely open area of a park, it was a delight to see.

Returning to UK via Boston, I met with another TCF friend for dinner one evening. Carol and I met at the 2nd International Gathering held in Philadelphia in 1997 and we have remained friends ever since.

We all know that none of us ever wanted to be a part of The Compassionate Friends Organisation, but through it's many, world-wide Chapters and groups, I have been able to meet and make friends with so many lovely people. That is the best thing about it all and I thank each and every one I have met for being my Special Compassionate Friend. I feel sure our children would approve.

Remember that our World-Wide Candlelighting takes place this year on Sunday December 9th at 7pm in each time zone around the world. I will be thinking of you all as I light mine, long after yours have burned out.

Yours, in Compassion

Margaret Pringle

Chairperson

TCF International Council

### **International News**

TCF/USA invites those planning a memorial service in conjunction with The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting on December 9 to submit that information through the event submission form at [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org). Anyone unable to attend a formal service is invited to participate by lighting a candle for one hour at 7 p.m. local time wherever you may be, whether with family and friends, or alone. Your participation in this event helps to bond together the TCF community with the bereavement community and allied organizations around the world in remembrance of all children. Also remember that you are invited to post a message December 9 in our online Remembrance Book. Last year we received nearly 2500 messages from nearly 25 countries around the world, many of them in their native language, showing the tremendous impact of this day on the bereaved no matter where they live.

Wayne Loder

Public Awareness Coordinator

The Compassionate Friends/USA

### **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**

No report was received in time for inclusion in this newsletter. Below is the contact person for Switzerland. Eds.

**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 will 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 totalling more than 400. 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**

No report was received in time for inclusion in this newsletter. Below is the contact person for Switzerland. Eds.

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.

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***

No report was received in time for inclusion in this newsletter. However, have a look at Margaret Pringles article in the Chairperson's Report in the International Council section. Eds.

## **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:**

[AustralianNews@thecompassionatefriends.org.au](mailto:AustralianNews@thecompassionatefriends.org.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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