

mini MICAH – September 2010

Monthly update for members and friends of Catholic Social Services Victoria

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CSSV Upcoming Events

Celebrating Mary MacKillop: A display on Catholic social services on 17 October

Reflecting Mary's role as a founder of Catholic social services in Australia, CSSV, as well as a number of individual member organisations, will be participating in a festival in the Exhibition Gardens on the afternoon of Sunday 17 October. We will aim to represent the sector as a whole, and those organisations that aren't separately represented. Please feel free to contact Emmy Silvius, on tel 9287 5566, on any aspect of this.



A reflection of Mary MacKillop's contribution to Catholic social services today

Plans are also underway for a seminar later in the year to reflect on Mary's contribution to Catholic social services and on what impact she might have today on the many people and organisations that are active in this field. Please contact Denis if you would like to contribute to this – dfitzgerald@css.org.au, or, tel 9287 5569.

'Recruitment for Mission'

With the assistance of Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services, CSSV presents "Recruitment for Mission" - a practical workshop on how our Catholic identity and ethos can impact on recruiting our staff, volunteers, etc; and how it affects all aspects of our people engagement. Monday 8 November, 1.30 - 5.00pm, at the Treacey Centre, Parkville.

This is expected to be of interest to all involved in engaging people with our organisations – managers, and HR and mission leaders. Please contact Denis at dfitzgerald@css.org.au, or, tel 9287 5569. to book a place.

"Rest for your Soul" - Weekend of spiritual renewal for women in Catholic social services



Date: 12 – 13 November 2010

Venue: Janssen Spirituality Centre in Boronia

Starting time 5pm on Friday and ending 8pm on Saturday --> there is also the possibility to leave after breakfast on Sunday for those who wish to do so.

Come and take the time to rest from the business of 'doing' to the relaxation of 'being'. This will be special time in which our individual gifts are celebrated as well as exploring what underpins our inspiration for being women of courage and hope.

See www.css.org.au for a flyer. Places are limited so please register early. Please contact Emmy on esilvius@css.org.au or tel 9287 5566 if you have any queries

'Victorian Election preparation

Work is underway on a CSSV pamphlet highlighting key issues; we are working with the Victorian Dioceses on a higher level pre-election statement; and, through the Victorian Council of Churches, there is a continued focus on a broader view of what are the implications for prisons, sentencing etc in light of a fuller understanding of justice and community safety. Any comment or input would be welcome: contact Terry O'Shannassy on 9287 5570 or toshannassy@css.org.au



CSSV Recent Activities

Mental Health Workshop

On 9 September around 40 people gathered for a CSSV symposium on 'Seeking Social Inclusion: Equipping Organisations to respond to people experiencing mental illness.'

Chaired by VCOSS President and CSSV Council member Marilyn Webster, the day included a range of presentations, focused workshops, and extensive networking.

Professor Ruth Webber, Director, Quality of Life & Social Justice Research Centre, Australian Catholic University, is a regular contributor to Catholic social service organisations. Ruth's keynote paper to this gathering drew on her own research and more widely to reflect on what makes successful interfaces between services, and the importance of accurate diagnosis..

Neil Cole was a Victorian Government Minister before his mental illness diagnosis, and currently contributes as an Associate Professor at Mental Health Research Institute, University of Melbourne, as a consumer advocate, and as a creative writer. His presentations on the day were wide ranging, but with a focus on the role of the dramatic and creative arts in assisting people with mental illness.

Michael Perusco, CEO of Sacred Heart Mission, spoke movingly about the early findings from their 'Journey to Social Inclusion' program, which provides intensive case management and wide-ranging support to a small group of people who are moving out of homelessness. Mental health is part of that environment. A book outlining the life journeys of the 40 participants is to be published during the up-coming Anti Poverty Week.

Participation in the workshops on the day was stimulating and informative, with workshop options focusing on three key themes:

- Understanding the needs of clients
- Building best practice models
- Training & Development of staff



Photo: Denis Fitzgerald, Martin Turnbull, Ruth Webber, Neil Cole, Marilyn Webster

Slides from presentations are available on the CSSV website – www.css.org.au. A report of the day is being prepared.

Workshop for Religious working in the social services

Around 15 members of Religious congregations gathered on 21 September to celebrate and reflect on their involvement in Catholic social services.

Josephite Sr Joan Healy inspired the informal gathering with a presentation on calling and vision in an environment that has changed enormously since most of those there had entered religious life. Joan included a reflection on her own work in Australia and then in Cambodia, and each participant added to the richness of the reflection. Sunrise, not sunset, was the prevailing optimistic spirit.

This gathering built on a similar meeting held 12 months ago. There was a strong recognition that it was the current and future leaders of our organisations who need to be the focus of much of our work on Catholic ethos and identity, but that, supplementary to that, continued recognition of the work of individual Religious was valued.



Around the Sector

Robin Clark Memorial Award

Congratulations to Ruth Dorman of MacKillop Family Services, who was a recent recipient of the Robin Clark Memorial Award 2010 for 'Making a Difference with children, young people and families'. This award was announced at a function on 7 September hosted by the award sponsors, the Department of Human Services.

The photo at left shows, from left: Heather Cooney (Manager Bayview Disability Services, MacKillop Family Services), Ruth's daughter Grace, Ruth, Anne Condon (Director of Community Programs, MacKillop Family Services) and Micaela Cronin (CEO MacKillop Family Services).



The photo at right shows Tony Clark (brother of Robin Clark, the trail-blazing social worker, after whom the award is



named), Ruth and Lisa Neville, the Minister for Community Services.

Villa Maria opens Alphington Nursing Facility

Congratulations to Villa Maria on the opening of their magnificent new specialist nursing facility at Alphington. The 10 bed home caters for younger people who have experienced major disabling trauma, and provides a more suitable alternative to current aged care facilities. After a concerted and well publicised campaign by parents of disabled young adults, Villa Maria took the initiative and committed major funding to this project before it attracted government support.

Mission Integration Officer wanted at St Vincent de Paul Society

Details of this position are available at www.vinnies.org.au/vic, and enquiries can be addressed to the Manager, Membership & Development at patricia.mccourt@svdp-vic.org.au. Applications close on Friday 8th October 2010

Social Justice Sunday 26 September

In this year's Social Justice Sunday Statement called *Violence in Australia: A Message of Peace*, the Catholic Bishops of Australia address the anger and violence in our society, and the effects on individuals, families and the community as a whole. Peace and peace-building go beyond the absence of conflict. They are positive constructive ways of living that require constant nurturing, and reflect the sacredness that is in the deepest part of our being. For further details visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice website www.acsjc.org.au.

Wed 29 September 12.00 – 1.00pm, Social Justice in the City – St Vincent de Paul Society

Speakers: Fr Tom Knowles SSS and the Melbourne City Churches in Action (MCCIA) Panel

Topic: Disadvantage in the City: Current Church Responses

Lectures take place at St Francis Pastoral Centre, Cnr Lonsdale & Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne on the last Wednesday of each month. All are welcome.

Centacare's Concert Sunday 3 October, 2.30pm

Featuring Mark Vincent, Alana Conway and Deacon Robert Galea





Centacare Catholic Family Services is delighted to present their **Concert in the Cathedral** at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne.

This year, Centacare is celebrating 75 years of service to the Victorian community and we are very excited to announce Mark Vincent (Channel 7's 2009 Australia's Got Talent Winner) and Alana Conway (2010 Finalist) as the headline acts. For further information go to www.centacaremelbourne.org.au

Anti Poverty Week 17 – 23 October



The Week focuses on poverty around the world. Its main aims are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and within Australia; encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

Interest has been growing steadily in Australia in recent years and activities such as public lectures, workshops, conferences, debates, concerts, displays, sports days, media briefings and other events have been organised.

Organisers of events are encouraged to provide details of their plans for posting on the special website, www.antipovertyweek.org.au, in order to encourage participation and stimulate action by other people. The website also includes basic fact sheets, promotional material and links to sources of information and ideas.

"Ned Kelly, John Barry and the Role of Social Activism in Criminal Justice Reform"

By Peter Norden, AO, on Thursday, at 6.00pm on 11 November 2010, the 130th Anniversary of the Execution of Ned Kelly.

Where: Public Lecture Theatre, Old Arts Building - The University of Melbourne, Parkville

Admission is free. Bookings are required. Seating is limited
Registration closes on **Thursday, 4 November 2010**

Queries: Contact Tamsin Courtney in the Faculty of Arts at tamsinc@unimelb.edu.au or 03 8344 8985



Homework, a fundraiser for Bethlehem Community



Immerse yourself in an Exceptional Event!

Date: Saturday 2 April 2011 at 7pm

Venue: Palladium Ballroom, Crown, Whiteman Street, Southbank

Dress: Formal

Price: \$220 single or \$2,090 for table of 10

Information/Bookings: homework@bethlehem.com.au

HOMEWORK is a fundraising event which enables Bethlehem Community Inc. to support homeless women in Victoria. Women who come to Bethlehem have experienced long-term homelessness. We provide accommodation and support to women, many of whom experience disabilities associated with abuse and/or mental

ill-health. As a result, the women have lost contact with family and friends.

Grampians Mental Health Conference 2011

22, 23 March 2011, Ballarat. See www.gmhc.org.au for conference program and registration, or call Kelvin Wilson at Centacare Ballarat on 03 53367900.



St Mary's House of Welcome: Sr Roseanne Murphy

The Age newspaper recently (9 September) presented an sympathetic and challenging portrait of Daughter of Charity Roseanne Murphy, which also provided a window into the work of St Mary's day centre in inner-city Fitzroy:

“ So here is today's bulletin: since the House of Welcome reopened after renovations 18 months ago, the number of meals served have risen from 4000 to 5000 a month.

"Things are certainly not getting any better," says Sister Roseanne. "We have noticed quite a change.



We have recently had a lot of people in their mid-20s who are transient." She says homeless battlers can wait years to get government-subsidised rental accommodation and then can sometimes lose it because they have no money-management experience and cannot make their pensions cover the bills.

"We are now dealing with families that are third-generation welfare recipients. The truly sad thing is that it is very difficult for them because they have no modelling, they have never seen a family

Photo: Sister Roseanne Murphy at St Mary's House of Welcome in Brunswick. *Photo: Craig Abraham*

where someone goes off to work each day. So it is hard for them, even with the best of intentions.'

Contact us

Send your news, updates, and any items of interest. Please also let us know of any events, celebrations etc in your agency or program.

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