

# The **Bethany** brief

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The Hon Sherryl Garbutt, Minister for Community Services, officially opens the first NEWPIN Centre in Victoria at Bethany Community Support - with a little help from friends. *Picture courtesy of Phillip Stubbs, Geelong Advertiser*

## Bethany pioneers NEWPIN for Victoria

**Bethany Community Support is pioneering a new community program in Victoria to strengthen families and support parents and their children as they break the cyclical effect of family breakdown, isolation and depression.**

Launched in May by The Honourable Sherryl Garbutt, Minister for Community Services, NEWPIN is the New Parent Infant Network, a program developed in the United Kingdom in 1982 and introduced to New South Wales in 1997. With an emphasis on the parenting potential of families and the safeguarding of children, NEWPIN is an early intervention program providing group work, self-help, therapeutic support and training.

Aileen Ashford, CEO at Bethany Community Support says Bethany Community Support is proud to pioneer the first NEWPIN program in Victoria.

"NEWPIN is a befriending and therapeutic network that actively supports parents of pre-school aged children," says Aileen.

"At Bethany Community Support, NEWPIN will support up to 25 families and up to 80 children."

The implementation of NEWPIN in Victoria is the result of a funding partnership between the government, corporate, philanthropic and community sectors.

"NEWPIN is an Innovations Project funded by the Department of Human Services", reports Aileen. "The NEWPIN Centre renovations and furnishings were made possible with funding support from the Percy Baxter Charitable Trust, the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Target Australia and United Way Geelong. And the Rotary Club of Corio and students of Deakin College created the NEWPIN front garden we enjoy today. This funding partnership enabled Bethany to pioneer NEWPIN for Victoria."

Bethany Community Support wishes to thank all those who have made NEWPIN possible.

### Tribute to Allana Conn

Bethany Board members and staff are saddened by the loss of fellow staff member Allana Conn who died on Sunday 6th June. Allana took up the challenge of her illness with courage, determination, hope and her unique sense of humour. We will miss her.

## About us

Bethany Community Support is a dynamic and diverse human services organisation that has a significant presence in the Geelong community and wider welfare sector.

An independent, not-for-profit and non-denominational organisation, Bethany has been supporting and strengthening the Geelong community since 1868 providing services that included a babies home, adoption agency, mothercraft training centre, kindergarten and day care service.

Today Bethany Community Support offers a broad range of services to families and individuals in the Geelong region that include:

- Children's Contact Service
- Crime Victim Services
- Family Choices, including Disability Services and NEWPIN Program
- Gambler's Help
- Homeless Services
- Men and Family Relationships
- Parent Education
- Public Housing Advocacy Program

At Bethany we provide counselling, educational and advocacy services to strengthen the capacity of individuals and families to improve the quality of their lives and the community in which they live. Our policy is to accept clients who may not otherwise have the means to access services. Each year, more than 6,000 individuals and families experiencing difficulties in their lives access one or more of our services.

## Message from the CEO

Bethany Community Support continues to strengthen and support disadvantaged and vulnerable children, families and individuals in our community.



NEWPIN – the New Parent Infant Network program - has begun with 14 families currently attending with a total of 29 children, 18 being pre-schoolers. NEWPIN mums report how much they enjoy being part of the program, establishing new friendships and support networks and developing their coping and parenting skills. The children also are benefiting from NEWPIN's developmental play program that enhances attachment and bonding with their parents.

Another recent initiative at Bethany was the Recipe for Responsible Gambling Competition. This partnership between Bethany's Gambler's Help and the Country Women's Association of Victoria Geelong Group aimed to raise awareness of responsible gambling in our community. It is pleasing to be able to report that following media coverage of this event the number of telephone enquiries seeking assistance from Bethany's Gambler's Help increased. Thank you to the 14 Branches of the CWA Geelong Group, our sponsors Bay FM and FourPoints Sheraton and our judging panel for your interest and support.

As we enter the colder winter months, the generosity of the Zonta Club of Central Geelong is enabling Bethany's Homeless Services Team to provide bedding and other emergency items when they are most needed. Again, our sincere appreciation to all members for your decision in Spring 2003 to fundraise for Bethany's Homeless Services program.

Looking to the future, Bethany Community Support is committed to further developing the work of the Men and Family Relationships program over the next year. This program continues to provide support and counselling to men seeking help to address health and relationship issues. Bethany also promotes the role of men in families with the Geelong Father of the Year Award, the only event of its kind in Australia. For further information about this Award see page 4 of this newsletter "Celebrating fatherhood through children's eyes – the Geelong Father of the Year Award".

I would like to thank all our supporters who generously give of their time, provide funding support and ensure that our work is strengthened in the community. As we reach the midpoint of 2004, new programs are underway. I look forward to keeping you informed of developments.



Aileen Ashford, CEO

## Zonta Club of Central Geelong - warming winter for homeless women and children in our community

Last Spring, the Zonta Club of Central Geelong raised over \$18,000 to support homeless women and children living in the Geelong region. Now as winter settles in, the generosity of the Zonta Club of Central Geelong is bringing warmth and comfort to those in crisis. Doonas, doona covers, pillows, pillowcases and towels are just some of the items being purchased by Bethany's Homeless Services Team to support those seeking help. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Zonta Club of Central Geelong for their foresight, their commitment and their practical support.



# Responsible gambling - a CWA and Bethany initiative



The Judging Panel in action. Left to right: Geelong Football Club's Barry Stoneham, Michael Crutchfield MP, Member for South Barwon, Bay FM's Laurie Atlas and Irrewarra Sourdough's Bronwynne Calvert.

Picture courtesy Gambler's Help Team at Bethany Community



Geelong Football Club's Barry Stoneham with the CWA's Margaret Musgrove supporting Bethany Gambler's Help to raise awareness of responsible gambling.

Picture courtesy of Brad Wilson, Geelong Advertiser

Gaming losses last year for Geelong were \$105 million. This is the second highest loss in the state and research indicates these losses are growing.

Fourteen Country Women's Association of Victoria branches in the Geelong region joined Bethany's Gambler's Help to tackle this concerning trend.

"The CWA has a statewide partnership with Gambler's Help in Victoria," says Mrs Pam Willox, Group President of the CWA Geelong Group, "to raise awareness of responsible gambling in our community".

CWA Geelong Group and Bethany Gambler's Help together decided to launch a community competition - "My Recipe for Responsible Gambling". When Bay FM and FourPoints Sheraton offered to donate prizes of Dinners for Two the competition commenced.

Then the question arose, how do we best announce the winners? Answer. At a CWA Chocolate Slice Bake-Off.

The judging panel for the Bake-Off was an interesting mix. Bay FM's Laurie Atlas joined Michael Crutchfield MP, Member for South Barwon, Geelong Football Club's Barry Stoneham and Irrewarra Sourdough's Bronwynne Calvert to make the final selection. Competition was keen with 11 branches competing for the prize. After due consideration, and many chocolate slices, the Panel came to a decision. Congratulations to CWA member Joyce Piestch.

The winners of the Recipe for Responsible Gambling competition are Mrs Berry and the Portarlington Golf Club. These are their recipes.

## Mrs Berry's Recipe for Responsible Gambling

Take a scoop of flour with strong willpower  
2 ounces of lard but no credit card  
A spoonful of honey and not too much money  
A few drops of vanilla but don't go over the hill-a  
Save some of the dough for you never know  
If the going gets tough enough is enough

## Portarlington Golf Club Recipe for Responsible Gambling

### INGREDIENTS

Weigh up money to play with  
Measure up your options  
Drop in Responsibility & Sensibility  
And loads of FUN!

### METHOD

1. Combine all ingredients at a great venue
2. Stir in tea/coffee and alcohol (only to flavour the mix)
3. Add caring staff and personal limitations and stir until just combined
4. Bake until golden, observe times - NEVER overcook!
5. Allow to cool completely
6. Drizzle with good humour, fun and company
7. Should the recipe become difficult phone 1800 156 789 for assistance.

**GAMBLER'S HELP™ 1800 156 789**

# ADVANCE NOTICE - for your diary now!



In 2004 our guest speaker is Adelaide magistrate Mr Brian Deegan who lost his 22 year old son Josh in the Bali bombings. In the midst of his grief, Mr Deegan had the strength and determination to help two Indonesian children, Safdar and Sarah, to be reunited with their father after their mother had died in the Bali tragedy. *Picture courtesy of Allen and Unwin*

## Celebrating fatherhood through children's eyes - Geelong Father of the Year Award

Four years ago Bethany Community Support initiated the Geelong Father of the Year Award to celebrate fatherhood through children's eyes, to acknowledge the important role men play in families and to promote Bethany's Men and Family Relationships program.

Run in partnership with the Geelong Advertiser and the Rotary Club of Geelong, the Geelong Father of the Year Award is the only event of its kind in Australia. Children in this area of regional and rural Victoria are invited to submit in 100 words or less why their father, or father figure, deserves to be Geelong's Father of the Year. Local primary schools actively engage their students through the school curriculum. Each year over 400 children submit their entries, some being as young as four years old.

### For Your Diary!

The Geelong Father of the Year Award is announced at a special Breakfast Event on the Friday before Father's Day. The 2004 Geelong Father of the Year Award will be held on:

Friday 3rd September 2004 from 7.30 am to 9.00 am

Geelong Football Club's Alex Popescu Room

Skilled Stadium, Kardinia Park.

Further information will follow but mark this date in your diary now!

If you, your company or community service organization would like to support the Geelong Father of the Year Award, contact Julie Tester, Community Relations Manager at Bethany Community Support on **03 5278 8122** for further information.

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**Yes, I would like to help Bethany Community Support as it strengthens our community**

Please accept my cheque of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or debit my credit card for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Bankcard  Visa  Mastercard

Card no.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be kept informed about Bethany Community Support initiatives and programs

Please contact me to discuss how I may help Bethany Community Support

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Bethany Community Support PO Box 324, North Geelong 3215

ABN 38 633 820 168

If you would like to support Bethany Community Support and are unsure how you may contribute, or if you have any questions or would like further information, contact Julie Tester, Community Relations Manager on **03 5278 8122**

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