

The Bethany brief

Issue No. 9 Autumn 2006

2006 Bethany Arthouse Film Festival

The 2006 line-up includes:

Look Both Ways (M)

Monday 8 May

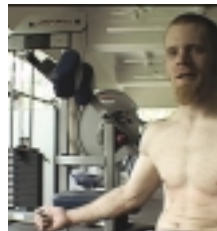
The Australian award winning film by Sarah Watt. An innovative mix of animation and live action, set over a scorching hot weekend, when people dealing with unexpected events find their lives intersecting.



Murderball (M)

Thursday 1 June

A groundbreaking documentary on wheelchair rugby from the USA. This incredible film, which won the audience prize at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, follows the US team-mates as they overcome unimaginable obstacles to compete in the Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece.



Downfall (MA)

Thursday 13 July

An intense German film that tells the story of Hitler's last days in a bunker in Berlin. Nominated for a 2005 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film



Yesterday (M)

Thursday 27 July

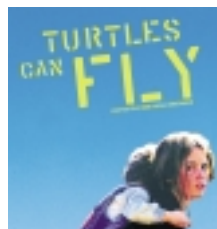
The first international film ever made in Zulu language, based on the life of a young mother with Aids.



Turtles Can Fly (M)

Thursday 24 August

A multi award winning film set on the border between Iran and Turkey, featuring some of the most extraordinary performances by children ever captured on film.



The 9th Annual Bethany Arthouse Film Festival commences in May to August at the Ford Theatre Geelong Performing Arts Centre. Showcasing award winning arthouse films, the festival provides an opportunity for local film lovers to see some of the best films of the year, whilst supporting Bethany's programs.

In the past, monies raised from the film festival have gone into supporting Bethany programs in a variety of ways including funding school uniforms, shoes and reading glasses for children; swimming classes for clients in our disability program; play equipment for use in a number of program areas; material aid for homeless families and much more.

This year, all tickets will be sold exclusively through the Geelong Performing Arts Centre box office (50 Little Malop Street, Geelong, Ph: 5225 1200) and are \$66 per person (\$40 conc) for a season ticket to all five movies or \$15 per person (\$9 conc) for a single film ticket. Come along, enjoy some great movies and support Bethany's work in the community.

For more information visit www.bethany.org.au or phone 5278 8122 for a copy of the 2006 Bethany Arthouse Film Festival brochure.



Above: (Left to Right) Cr Lou Brazier, Aileen Ashford & Jenny Trezise.

Community Kitchens Provide Food for Thought

More than 60 people representing a wide range of regional organisations and community groups attended Bethany's "Community Kitchens For Geelong" forum, held in February, to register interest in the concept of building community around food.

The forum was facilitated by Jenny Trezise, who initiated the Community Kitchens Program in Australia. Ms Trezise, who has assisted in establishing kitchens in many regional communities including Frankston, Wodonga and West Gippsland, spoke about the benefits of Community Kitchens including:

- Increasing nutrition for families and children
- Decreasing social isolation
- Improved budgeting by buying bulk and cooking in large quantities

Bethany is currently sourcing funds for this project, to open a number of community kitchens across the region.

Mums With a Voice

Bethany Community Support has recently been represented at a number of industry conferences by two mums who have benefited from involvement in our Innovations Family Support Casework program. The mums, Kim L and Kim Z, had their first speaking engagement back in November last year at the **National Symposium on People with Disabilities**, where they gave a poignant outline of parenting with an intellectual disability and how they have managed to overcome many barriers. Since then, they have also spoken successfully at the **National Having A Say Conference**, attended by 800 people and the **Victorian Women with Disabilities Network** on the topic of "parenting rights of women with disabilities".

Their presentations focus on the women's personal journeys to gain self esteem, be confident in their decision making and what it means to be a 'good' parent. They speak about how they have been required to prove to strangers (and sometimes even family members) that they have the capacity to parent safely and detail the support services, like Bethany, that have assisted them over the years to become strong and confident in their parenting abilities.

Kim and Kim are no longer case managed by Bethany (or any other service), but continue to use their story to share with others how Bethany's program helped them to learn parenting skills, enhance their capacity to parent safely and affectively and overcome their social isolation.

CEO's Message

Bethany has always had a commitment to responding to the needs of the local community and working with local families to address issues affecting their daily lives. Our recent data informs us that over 80% of people who access our Homeless Services, Innovations Family Support Program and Victims Assistance Program have experienced some level of family violence. As part of Bethany's commitment to working with families in this area, we recently applied for funding to allow us to offer more comprehensive services.

I am pleased to announce we have been successful in our joint submission (in partnership with Salvation Army, Barwon Centre Against Sexual Assault, Colac Area Health and Domestic Violence Outreach Service) to operate the Family Violence After Hours Service for women and children in the Barwon sub region. As well as the work being done with women and children, we have recently been successful in obtaining funding from the Department of Human Services for our Men's Behaviour Change Program.

To further enhance our work in this area, we have partnered with Lifeworks Relationship and Counselling Service and been granted Commonwealth Government funding for a specialist family violence worker to work with women who have been victims of violence in their relationships. All of these programs ensure that Bethany is providing services to meet the needs of all parties affected in a family violence incident and we look forward to working with our key partners to improve the situation in the future.

The Bethany Arthouse Film Festival is in its 9th successful year and I urge you to come along and support our major fundraiser for the year. As well as seeing some fantastic local and international award winning films, you are also supporting Bethany's work in the community and all monies raised from this festival go directly back to supporting our programs. The 2006 season kicks off with the Australian award winning film, *Look Both Ways*, on Monday 8 May. I hope to see you there!

Aileen Ashford
Chief Executive Officer



Advanced Notice of Father of the Year

Put it in your diaries now because this one's sure to be a sell out.

The 2006 Geelong Father of the Year Award breakfast will be held on Friday 1 September in the Fred Flanagan Room at Skilled Stadium.

Special Guest speaker is one of Australia's most popular stage and screen actors, William McInnes. His roles in *Blue Heelers* and *Sea Change* made him a household name and his successful debut novel, "A Man's Got to Have A Hobby", about his relationship with his father, has provided yet another insight into McInnes' talent. William McInnes is married to award winning director, Sarah Watt (*Look Both Ways*) and lives in Melbourne with their two children.

The Geelong Father of the Year Award celebrates fatherhood through children's eyes, inviting children in this area of regional and rural Victoria to submit in 100 words or less why they think their father, or father figure, deserves to be Geelong's Father of The Year. Bethany joins two other partners in hosting the Award - the Geelong Advertiser and the Rotary Club of Geelong. More information on how to enter and to book tickets to the breakfast event will be in the next edition.



Fiona Evans New Volunteer & Groupwork Facilitator

Fiona Evans is the new Volunteer and Groupwork facilitator at Bethany. She is responsible for coordinating and supporting Bethany's wonderful team of volunteers and matching them to families who would benefit from extra support. She will also be organising and facilitating groups run by the Innovations Family Support Casework program at Bethany.

Fiona is originally from sunny Queensland, where she worked in numerous roles from early childhood to disability services. Once completing her social work degree, Fiona worked for an Anglicare program as a Group / Family worker with parents with an intellectual or learning disability, before moving to Geelong 3 years ago to take up the role as family worker at Bethany. Her new role began in April. "Volunteers provide an important role with families to complement and enhance both casework and groupwork," Fiona said.

"I am looking forward to meeting the wonderful group of volunteers that work at Bethany and encouraging others to consider the role of volunteering," she said. Anyone interested in finding out more about volunteering at Bethany can contact Fiona on 5245 2838.

Bethany would like to farewell two of its dedicated volunteers, Lyn and Clif Lang, and acknowledge the wonderful years of service they have provided to our families. Lyn was a volunteer for the family support program for 10 years and Clif was involved as a driver transporting Bethany clients to and from the agency. We wish them health and happiness in the future.

International Visitors to Bethany

UK, Westminster Domestic Violence Forum Co-ordinator, Vicky Grosser was at Bethany in January to share her expertise and experience about the Schools Domestic Violence Prevention Program with Bethany's Staff. This program is now running successfully in over 33 boroughs in London and was adapted by Bethany to create the Australian model, "The Feeling Safe, Being Strong: Building Healthy Relationships program."

The Building Healthy Relationships program was developed by Bethany in 2004 to provide violence awareness through education. In 2006, this program is continuing in Geelong's northern region and has also been established in new schools in eastern suburbs.

Below: Bethany staff welcome Vicky Grosser (front row, 2nd from left) to workshop the Building Healthy Relationships program.



Korean Film Crew

In March, Bethany's Newpin program welcomed a film crew from the Korea Broadcasting System. KBS (Korea Broadcasting System) is Korea's national broadcaster, equivalent to Australia's ABC. The film crew were interested in exploring the child welfare system in Victoria and spent the day at Newpin interviewing staff and one of the mums and filming some of the activities.

The footage formed part of a 50-minute documentary on child protection to be televised locally in Busan (Korea's second biggest city) in May. Depending on popular response to the documentary, it may then be televised nationally.

Below: One of the NEWPIN mums is interviewed about her experiences for the documentary.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR BACKYARD.

Bethany Community Support and its clients are YOUR neighbours.

We share the same concerns about our community and recognise the importance of working together to build a better place to live for our children and families. Bethany runs a number of programs in the Greater Geelong region that assist our community's most disadvantaged.

One such program is the Children's Contact Service, that provides an independent and neutral service enabling children to have facilitated supervised contact with their parents without exposing the child to parental conflict. The aim is to support the child through positive interaction to maintain a meaningful relationship with both parents as long as this is a safe and feasible goal.

Did you know that of the families who accessed the children's contact services in the past year:

- 81% had domestic violence issues
- 48% were experiencing parenting difficulties
- 52% had access/ custody issues
- 37% had issues relating to substance abuse
- 85% were referred by legal representatives
- 15% were referred by police, courts, self and other providers.

For more information on the Children's Contact Services, or any of the program offered at Bethany Community Support, visit our website www.bethany.org.au or phone 5278 8122 during business hours.

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 Stefanoff Community Relations Manager on **03 5278 8122**

Proudly sponsored by:



Bethany Community Support
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