

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Welcome to our April newsletter - we're already one third of the way through the year! Kids are back to school this week and the weather is finally starting to cool down. It's been an exciting and busy start to 2016 for all of us here at The Family Centre.

We've moved into our new office at Amber Rd Tweed Heads South and now also have an office space in the Byron Bay Community Centre. In other news, TFC was recently announced as one of three **finalist in the Social Impact Measurement Network Australia Awards**. This is a national award open to all sectors. We were runners-up to The Smith Family in the 'Excellence in Social Impact Measurement' award. I'm very proud of our team who have worked extremely hard for a number of years to develop outcome and impact measurement tools that provides the evidence that we are indeed making a difference in our community. Check out the overview of our outcomes framework [here](#).

This edition highlights the many community events we've participated in recently, looks at some upcoming TFC events, profiles one of our new volunteers, meets one of our key corporate supporters and we hear some of the stories from our annual trip to Emu Gully with the ATSI Boys and Girls Group led by Uncle Jim McDermott.

David Boutkan
Executive Director



CLOSE THE GAP

The Family Centre once again supported and contributed to the Tweed Heads Close The Gap event which was held at the Tweed Civic Centre on the 16th of March

The event was well attended and had a record number of 42 stall holders and approximately 350 community members attending throughout the day. As in previous years there was a Managers pledge committing to closing the gap initiatives from their services, local entertainment, children's activities and a free healthy catered lunch.

The Family Centre sees the event as an opportunity to partner with the local Aboriginal and Islander community to raise awareness and support action to Close The Gap.

The Family Centre contributes to the event by being an active member in the event planning committee, providing staff and volunteers to assist running the event on the day, running children's activities and by providing information about our service as a stall holder.

The event is growing each year and has strong community ownership.

We look forward to next years Close The Gap event and building on the many initiatives and relationships that flow from our continued involvement.



OUT & ABOUT

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS DAY

The Family Centre in collaboration with Northern Rivers Social Development Council – Connecting Home Program, spent the day raising awareness in our local communities from Tweed to Murwillumbah, Byron to Ballina & Lismore to Grafton, having a district response to highlighting the many issues surrounding youth homelessness.

The Family Centre designed 4 travelling doors which allowed the community to have their say. The doors symbolised the Government statement of 'no wrong door policy'. The doors were very well received and raised the issue of youth homelessness to the community.

The Family Centre would like to thank New Leaf Café and Tweed Centrelink for their generous support to Youth Homelessness Matters Day and to all those who left comments on our door.



FREE SAILING DAY IN BALLINA

The third annual free sailing and kayaking day was held at popular Shaws Bay in Ballina. Sail Day is an opportunity for families to come together and have some fun.

The day is run by The Family Centre in partnership with the FSG Australia.

Simon Hall, Child and Family Worker with The Family Centre, said the day aimed to 'engage families'. 'It's about encouraging families to come together and play with their kids,' he said.

Great to see so many families enjoying this great annual event.



A DAY AT THE FARMERS MARKETS MURWILLUMBAH

To celebrate children and families and the important role of parenting The Family Centre partnered with The Belonging Project & Tweed Shire Council to bring to the Farmers Markets 5th birthday celebrations a host of fabulous, fun and creative children's activities. We had approximately 100 children and 60 parents participate directly in the fun whilst visiting the markets for healthy and nutritious food.

Children decorated and designed fabulous calico fruit and vegie shopping bags to help Mum or Dad with the shopping, a beautiful fabric community loom project was started with the intention to gift it to the markets as a symbol of community.

The Family Centre was excited to be part of the markets meeting local families and we look forward to seeing you at the next market day.



EASTER AT THE FARM WITH MUMZBUZZ

On March 20, hundreds of families came out to the Farm at Cudgen for fun day out with Mumzbuzz to celebrate Easter. There were heaps of things to see and do. The Family Centre's craft pavilion was popular with the kids making Easter bunny bags in preparation for the giant Easter egg hunt.

Mumzbuzz has been supporting The Family Centre for the past 3 years. A total of \$386 was raised on the day for our Creating Opportunities Fund. We would like to thank Jess and her team for their ongoing support of The Family Centre.

OUT & ABOUT

EMU GULLY CAMP

Every year Uncle Jim McDermott from The Family Centre and other team members collaborate to run a program for a group of ATSI boys & girls at a one of the local High Schools. The program is delivered in a fun and active manner – they explore the groups own ideas about life, relationships and culture as well as providing relevant information and guest speakers. The group runs once a week for 8-9 weeks in a term. This program also includes a 2 day camp to Emu Gully.

The aim of the program and the camp is to support young people to build positive connections with other young people in a safe environment, to provide opportunities to share & contribute and build increased self-knowledge, awareness and resilience, by developing increased strategies and skills for developing and maintaining healthy relationships including communication skills and a greater understanding of culture and community and their role within.

This is achieved by exploring Aboriginal history, culture and beliefs. Spirit – what it means and how it applies in our lives, community – what it means to belong, elder's stories – what it is like for young people to hear and take on those stories, healing – both individually and within community and a range of relationship and life skills topics. Emu Gully Camp draws all of the things that the participants have learnt and the skills they already have. It works to encourage them to recognise these, use them and build awareness about those they may have doubted they even had. It challenges them in a supported environment and allows them opportunities to consider different choices and broaden their perspectives on their own lives and their value in the communities they live in.



MOMENTUM

As part of National Youth Week, the Cabarita Youth Service (CYS) held a youth festival, 'MOMENTUM', at the Les Burger Oval on Saturday 9 April 2016. The Family Centre was major sponsor and supporter of this event, along with others, including Tweed Shire Council, North Coast TAFE and PCYC.

National Youth Week is a great opportunity to celebrate the enormous positive contributions that young people make to our local community and support from Tweed based business helped it to be a 'momentous' success.

With bands, DJ's, a skateboard competition, market and food stalls, other youth orientated activities and other 'like' service providers in attendance, the event was an opportunity for young people to express their talents, ideas and views, act on issues that affect their lives, and create and enjoy activities and events in their area. It also provided an opportunity to link with services that young people may not have not previously approached. CYS is hoping that this will become an annual event that the community can continue to build on, and not just for Cabarita but the whole Tweed Shire region.



OUR VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS



Irene Rainey has been volunteering with The Family Centre for 6 months and has already become an important member of our team.

Irene retired from her job as the Office Manager at Paddington RSL and moved to Tweed Heads with her husband a year ago.

Irene was not quite ready to retire so she sort volunteer opportunities through NORTEC, where they sent her along to The Family Centre's Christmas gift wrapping stall at Tweed City. This was a perfect fit for Irene as she loves Christmas and sharing her Christmas spirit within our community.

With her extensive administration experience Irene now regularly volunteers in our office at Amber Road. Some of her volunteering includes reception work, data entry, research, as well as supporting Family Centre community events and school programs.

Irene is a seasoned volunteer having worked at the Sydney 2000 Olympics and Para Olympics, The World Transplant Games and the Heart Foundation to name a few. She is also a volunteer JP at the local shopping centre in Tweed Heads.

If you would like to volunteer with The Family Centre or find out more information go to www.thefamilycentre.org.au or call (07) 5524 8711

THANK YOU SEAGULLS TWEED HEADS...



The Family Centre have received a generous donation of \$9,000 from the Seagulls Club at Tweed Heads. The donation will support our Creating Opportunities Fund (COF). The program assists disadvantaged families with the costs of school uniforms, school excursions, remedial tutoring, musical tuition and instruments,

books, computer equipment, sports club fees and uniforms, travel and accommodation to events. The fund provides opportunities for children and young people that many of us take for granted.

The Family Centre would like to say a big thank you to Seagulls for their ongoing support.

OUR PROGRAMS

PLAYGROUP

WHAT ARE FAMILY CENTRE PLAYGROUPS?

Our playgroups are meeting places where children can play, while parents enjoy the company and support of each other and the playgroup facilitator. Playgroups are free and we meet weekly during school terms.

WHO IS IT FOR?

- Parents and their children aged 0-5 years.

COME ALONG TO:

- Learn creative ways to have fun with your children
- Meet other parents
- Access information and resources about parenting
- Be part of a caring, supportive environment where parents can learn from each other
- Enjoy a cuppa and relax while the children play
- Meet other Family Centre staff and local service providers
- Learn more about local community and health services
- Increase your satisfaction and enjoyment in being a parent
- Identify and build on your individual parenting strengths

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Music, stories, painting & drawing, play dough, puzzles & games, water play, gross motor activities.

WHEN & WHERE

Family Centre Playgroups are located at:

Mondays – Banora Point

Tuesdays – Tweed Coast

Wednesdays – Tweed Heads South

Thursdays – Murwillumbah and Byron Bay

Playgroups are held between 10am-12pm during NSW school terms.

Byron Bay

Intergenerational Playgroup

The Family Centre Intergenerational Playgroup at Jacaranda Park, Sunrise Estate has continued to run on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Residents from Byron Aged Care enjoy coming along and joining in storytime and singing songs with the children. Residents also and share their stories and experiences with the parents and children at the Playgroup.

The intergenerational Playgroup continues to be a fun and successful collaboration.

If you would like more information on a Family Centre Playgroup in your area call (07) 5524 8711 or email info@thefamilycentre.org.au.





the family centre

NEW COURSE PROGRAM

TERM 2, 2016

FIND A COURSE



parenting • relationship • wellbeing • men • women • playgroup

WHAT'S ON

Do you want to find out how to get involved with The Family Centre?

Do you want to know how The Family Centre works with families & communities?

Are you a parent, carer, service provider, community member or student?

Interested in volunteering?

THE FAMILY CENTRE INFORMATION SESSION BALLINA

Monday May 2, 2016, 10–11.30am
62 Tamar St, Ballina

FIND OUT ABOUT:

- Our people and where we are located
- Our work with children, young people, families, schools & communities
- Our community activities and our partners

RSVP: (02) 6686 4109 or info@thefamilycentre.org.au

Come and join the Real Conversation Series

Join us for a conversation about what is needed in our community to enable families to thrive

Can you tell us your stories of what you can see, do or imagine to thrive on your journey as parents through the early years. Join us for a minute or an hour or to share an idea.

Morning tea will be provided and child-minding is available on request. Participating parents must live in Murwillumbah or surrounding villages.

When: Tuesday 3 May 2016
 Time: 10 to 11.30am
 Location: Sphinx Rock Cafe, 3220 Kyogle Rd, Mt Burrell

OR

When: Tuesday 10 May 2016
 Time: 10 to 11.30am
 Location: Tumbletown in Murwillumbah Baptist Church, Eveleigh St Murwillumbah

Child-minding: Please text or call Paula on 0476 837 090 if you need child minding.



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POSITION VACANT

Manager Business Services

28 hours per week (salary packaged value up to \$70,000). Based in Tweed Shire.

Is your work making a difference?

We are driven by our values and focused on outcomes. Together we create opportunities for children, young people and families and increase social value in our community.

We have an exciting opportunity for a suitably qualified and experienced person to lead a small team and manage the operations of our organisation. The Manager Business Services works closely with our leadership group driving positive social change in our community.

The position offers generous above award conditions and salary packaging arrangements, ongoing professional development and leadership development opportunities.

Applications close 4.30pm Monday 16 May, 2016.

Applicants will be required to undertake a criminal record check and a working with children check. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply for this position.

Please download an information package www.thefamilycentre.org.au

For more information contact: David Boutkan – Executive Director (07) 5524 8711 or davidb@thefamilycentre.org.au

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TWEED HEADS • SOUTH TWEED HEADS • MURWILLUMBAH • BYRON BAY • BALLINA

www.thefamilycentre.org.au

OFFICE LOCATIONS: TWEED HEADS • TWEED HEADS SOUTH • MURWILLUMBAH • BYRON BAY • BALLINA