



Christmas gifts donated by Elevation Church for families in our community

## DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Welcome to our December newsletter, we're getting to the back end of what has been a busy and exciting year for all of us here at The Family Centre. Plenty of news to report including the release of our [Annual Report](#) that includes some great stories and an overview of our activities over the past year. Congratulations to the 3998 children, young people and families who participated in our programs and committed to make the changes they want in their lives, relationships and communities.

Each year our support from the community is growing, none of this is possible without the efforts of our volunteers, supporters, funding partners and corporate sponsors.

Thanks to everyone for a fantastic year – looking forward to 2017!

From all of us at The Family Centre...

We wish you & your family a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

**David Boutkan**  
Executive Director

## Christmas New Year business hours

The Family Centre will be closed from 4 pm Friday 23 December and will re-open 9am Tuesday 3 January.

## Playgroup Xmas Party

Last week saw all The Family Centre Playgroup families come together for the Annual Playgroup Christmas Party. Children and their families had lots of fun playing games, meeting Santa, and getting their faces painted. Tweed Heads Bowls Club supported the party by donating the room, morning tea and 'Books as Gifts' from Santa.

We would also like to give a big shout out to Tweed Heads Bowls Club for there donations and also to Santa aka Alistair from On Time Coffee (The Family Centre's favourite coffee man) and Jasmine a Family Centre Volunteer who provided the face painting on the day.

## Books as Gifts

'Books as Gifts' is part of The Family Centre's early literacy initiative. Reading with a child will build stronger relationships with the parent/carer, develop language and communication skills. The Family Centre aims to give books to all children that take part in Family Centre programs in the Tweed, Byron and Ballina Shires. If you would like to find out more about the initiative or would like to make a donation to purchase books please call (07) 5524 8711.



# OUT & ABOUT

## WHITE RIBBON DAY

White Ribbon Day is an international event that marks the start of 16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence against Women.

The Family Centre joined 100 people who marched in Ballina for White Ribbon on Friday 25th November. White Ribbon Day is Australia's only national, male led campaign to end men's violence against women. White Ribbon is a grass roots campaign that works through primary prevention initiatives, awareness raising, education, and programs with youth, schools, in workplaces and across the broader community.

Peter Rawson, Coordinator Youth and Family Services said "It's an issue relevant to all men because it is their wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and friends whose lives are being harmed by violence and abuse. It's up to all men to create a culture where violence against women is unacceptable and safety and equality for women is a men's issue".

The march down River St concluded with a ceremony and speeches to mark White Ribbon Day.

Lester Moran from the Bunjum Aboriginal Co-Operative spoke at the ceremony. Lester called for men in the community to look after our women and protect them. He also appealed to men who were offenders to seek help. Lester is also president of the Northern United Rugby League Club that has featured in TV ads calling on men to stop violence against women. Lester's football club have lead the initiative in a new campaign called Foul Play which uses local football players to educate the community on domestic violence. Sporting clubs and local sporting role models to are used to target men that are usually hard to engage into services and talk openly about domestic violence.

The Family Centre along with the Ballina Domestic Violence committee are looking at rolling out a Foul Play program in the Northern Rivers in 2017.



## Hare Krishna School Co Design RealSkills

Recently the Hare Krishna School requested some extra support for their teenagers to be more prepared as they move into adulthood and face the many different issues that may arise engaging with the wider community.

Kylie Wolfram is a Family Worker with The Family Centre and Chaplain for the Hare Krishna School and was able to introduce Kate Binder, Coordinator of Realskills High Schools into the school.

Kate delivered the REALskills High Schools Take a Stand one-day program to the High School students. Kate developed and delivered the program in a culturally sensitive way with minimal exposure to concepts that the children may not have seen or heard of. The Family Centre also facilitated a parent meeting to allow the parents to feel safe with the program and express any concerns they may have.

During the meeting many different concerns were addressed, respectfully and consciously. By the end of the meeting some of the parent's shared what a great opportunity it is to support their children. They were very grateful for the time and energy The Family Centre has put in to the program, being culturally aware and respectful of their beliefs.

The High school teacher said, "This is an historic moment for the school working with The Family Centre, by providing extra professional supports for their children from the wider community".

Take a Stand is a one-day program where students explore safe ways to take a stand for themselves and others, building student awareness and skills around core values, self-respect, responding to peer pressure and setting personal boundaries.

Five Year 10 students participated in our Peer Leader training - they spent half a day exploring what it takes to be a Peer Leader, together with learning and practicing activities they would deliver as part of the Take a Stand program. The following day all the high school students came together for the program.

The students were delightful and willing participants throughout the day. The Peer Leaders provided strong support for the younger students and we received much positive feedback from all the student.

### FEEDBACK

"Learning about how to care for others"

"Learning about what to do in a bad situation"

"Being able to openly discuss"

"Talking with everyone and hearing everyone's opinions"

"Talking and learning about relationships and hearing everyone's thoughts"

"Talking, and understanding what to do in certain situations"

# OUR PROGRAMS



## MURWILLUMBAH FARMERS MARKETS

The Family Centre as part of the Early Years Network project has purchased outdoor marquees and chairs and tables to be donated to the parents and children's space at the Murwillumbah Farmers Markets.

The purpose of the dedicated space is for children and parents to engage together in play based activities in a beautiful community setting – The Farmers Markets

The equipment creates a space for children and parents to engage together in play based activities in this beautiful community setting the Farmers Market has generated and for families, and children to feel embraced, included and celebrated in their community.

The marquee and tables will be used by parents, services and other groups to plan fun and magical experiences for our community's children as well as providing information sharing and support amongst parents and community.

The Murwillumbah Farmers Markets is on every Wednesday 7am–11 am. The activity space will run throughout the Christmas school holidays check the Murwillumbah Farmers Market Facebook page for details [www.facebook.com/MurwillumbahFarmersMarket](http://www.facebook.com/MurwillumbahFarmersMarket).

## Sphinx Rock Café Playgroup

Santa caught wind of a beautiful community led playgroup and caught a ride from the local fire truck stationed at Kunghur to bring some Christmas magic to the children and families who attend the Sphinx Rock Café playgroup on Tuesday.

Most Tuesdays the parents meet at The Sphinx Rock Café where owners John and Sharon provide a space, sand for the sandpit, fruit platters and storage for toys and paints.

Local Elder Karen provides experienced guidance with activities and a warm welcome to families and their children. The Family Centre via the Early Years Network attend fortnightly to lend support and resources to this community initiative and to continue our support of children and families in the communities they live in. If you would like to find out more about the Playgroup or assist with volunteering please call Paula on (07) 5524 8711 or email [paula@thefamilycentre.org.au](mailto:paula@thefamilycentre.org.au)



## THE FAMILY CENTRE FRANCES ST REOPENING

### Its business as usual...

The Family Centre office in Frances St Tweed has reopened.

After 3 months of renovations the office is now open and boasts state of the art training rooms, new interview rooms, kitchen and an outdoor break out area.

**Office hours are Monday to Thursday 9am–4.30pm and Friday 9am–4pm.  
Phone (07) 5589 1800**

Thanks for your patience during this renovation period.

Photo: Youth and Family Worker, Kym Greensill working at the newly refurbished Frances St Office



# OUR VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS



## DJs WITH A CAUSE...

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink raised \$2720 for The Family Centre on September 4 at the Billinudgel Pub. Over 700 people attended the event with DJ's mixing music from various genres whilst guests donated and danced for charity in a fun way with 100% of profits going to The Family Centre. The afternoon was family friendly with lots of fun activities for kids too.

The money raised will go to the Creating Opportunities Fund (COF) which will assist over 100 local young people experience education, sporting and recreational opportunities.

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink run these events on monthly for different charities in the region. To find out when the next event is on go to [www.facebook.com/cunningstuntenvents](http://www.facebook.com/cunningstuntenvents)

## LEGO DONATION

Four lucky children from our Playgroup families were delighted to have been picked by Corporate Challenge to receive free Lego from one of their team building events. It was a big surprise for the children on the day with one little boy saying 'I am so happy I just thought we could look at it and then they gave it to us for free!' He said. Thank you to Corporate Challenge for supporting The Family Centre each year.



## Tweed Heads Bowls Club Donate Marquees

A big thank you to Tweed Heads Bowls Club for donating two Family Centre branded marquees valued at over \$2600. The marquees will be used at community events and make The Family Centre stand out from the crowd.



# WHAT'S ON

## THE FAMILY CENTRE ARE WRAPPING UP CHRISTMAS

If you have an hour or two to spare we would appreciate your help wrapping!

The gift wrapping stall will be open

10th–24th December  
10am-2.30pm

&

10th, 17th & 23rd December  
10am-7pm



If you would like to volunteer call Lotte on (07) 5524 8711 or email us at [lotteb@thefamilycentre.org.au](mailto:lotteb@thefamilycentre.org.au)

Gifts are wrapped for a gold coin donation with all proceeds going to directly to programs & services we run in the region.

THE FAMILY CENTRE  
**MEGA XMAS  
RAFFLE**

**TICKETS  
\$2 each**

**1st Prize \$500\***  
**2nd Prize \$200\***  
**3rd Prize \$100\***

Drawn Friday December 23 at 4pm

Tickets can be purchased at Tweed Mall gift wrap stall or any Family Centre Office.  
Phone: 07 5524 8711

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

**THBC**  
TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB

**POTTSVILLE BEACH  
SPORTS  
CLUB**  
let's whats inside



## NEW COURSE PROGRAM TERM 1, 2017

The Family Centre offer parenting and relationship skills course program each NSW school term.

The courses are run in the Tweed, Byron and Ballina Shires.

**FIND A COURSE**

parenting • relationship • wellbeing • men • women • playgroup



## Are you making a difference?

**Looking for a progressive organisation working with our community to create real social impact?**

### **Senior Coordinator Child and Family**

SCHCaDS Award Level 6. 35 hours per week.

**Salary Package valued up to \$85,000 pa**

**Based in Tweed Shire**

The Family Centre is a progressive, community-owned, for purpose organisation, 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 skilled team changing the lives of families in our early intervention & intensive family support programs.

The Senior Coordinator Child & Family is a new position created to strengthen our practice and increase impact. You will be a member our leadership group driving innovation and social change in our community.

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

**Do you have high expectations for the future of our community?**

**Looking for a meaningful and rewarding career? We want to hear from you.**

**We are seeking expression of interest from suitably qualified people.**

**For more information please contact David Boutkan on (07) 5524 8711**

**or email [davidb@thefamilycentre.org.au](mailto:davidb@thefamilycentre.org.au)**

[Please download further information here.](#)



[www.thefamilycentre.org.au](http://www.thefamilycentre.org.au)