

GSNV September Update 2002

Lapsed Memberships

Many organisations like GSNV rely on their people to help support them financially through memberships. Unfortunately many members have let their membership lapse and until now, they have remained listed as 'financial' members and continued to receive the associated benefits. However, the time has come when those who have not paid up have been listed as lapsed members simply because to allow them to continue to receive the bonuses that come with membership wasn't fair on those who had paid. So – if you wish to be a financial member please send in your membership fees or if you have any queries regarding your membership call the GSNV office on (03) 8341 6315 or email info@gsnv.org.au

Special Grants For GSNV Members

The applications for GSNV Special Project Grants are still open and will close on September 13. Small grants of up to \$400 are available for members to complete special projects. If you would like further information or an application form, ring Ellis or Emma on (03) 8341-6315.

National Self Help Group Forum This Month

The Collective of Self Help Groups will be holding a national forum for self-help organisations, in Coburg on September 13 and 14, which will include workshops, talks, discussions and displays. The GSNV works closely with COSHG to plan events and services that meet the needs of our member groups, and we highly recommend this worthwhile forum to our groups. Topics covered will include:

- Systemic advocacy, lobbying and campaigning
- Social change and environmental issues
- The value of self help in chronic illness and mental health
- Making meetings fun
- Introduction to conflict resolution for groups
- Funding submissions

A program and registration form is attached. More information at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~coshg>

There will also be an extra day for self help workers at the COSHG office on Sunday September 15.

Neurofibromatosis Support Group Invitations

The Gippsland branch of the NF Support Group invites all interested people to the following functions....

Pizza Day - a fantastic opportunity to meet and talk and of course eat pizza. The lunch will be held at La Porchettas in Kay St Traralgon on September 29 starting at 1pm. Please RSVP to Eddie (03) 5134 1070 by September 15.

Picnic - A pre-Christmas break up picnic will be held on November 17 in Sale starting at midday. Barbeques are available, byo everything. More information available from Eddie (03) 5134 1070.



Parent Workshop In Gippsland

Education and Advocacy will be the main focus of a workshop to be held in Gippsland for parents with a child with a disability. Hosted by Parent to Parent Gippsland, the event will be facilitated by Mary Lloyd from the Association for Children with a Disability and will cover numerous topics including advocating for your child in school, knowing the service system and supports available, and communication and energy.

The workshop will be held at The Morwell Club, 136 Helen Street Morwell on Tuesday September 17 starting at 9.45am. The event is free and to book contact Yvonne at Parent to Parent Gippsland on (03) 51 353 131 or email p2pg@vic.australis.com.au

A Bigger, Bolder, Brighter Future – Retina Australia National Congress

Retina Australia will be holding a National Congress on November 16 – 17 at The Eden on the Park Hotel, Melbourne. Highlights of the event will include talks covering various aspects of research into retinal dystrophy. As well as the congress, workshops will be held over the two days exploring the social implications and challenges facing vision impaired people. For more details contact Gerda Davis at Retina Australia on (03) 9650 5088 or email retina@netspace.net.au

2002 Short Statured People of Australia Convention

SSPA will be holding its Annual Convention between September 29 and October 5 in South Australia. The week-long convention will be a great opportunity for people to meet, learn and enjoy the magnificent surroundings of the Nunyara Conference Centre in Belair. For more information or a registration form please call Steve Pinnell on (08) 8298 5160.

Parenting Australia Workshops and Forum Series

Parenting Australia will be presenting a number of upcoming forums including:

- Enhancing resilience at home and in the school community, Monday October 14
- Safe schools – safe kids: steps to a bullying free school, Friday October 25
- Walking alongside grieving children: exploring issues and providing effective support, Thursday October 31
- Walking alongside grieving adolescents: exploring issues and providing effective support, Wednesday November 13

For more information contact Parenting Australia (03) 9427 9899
email parents@jss.org.au or on the web www.jss.org.au

Nican Photographic Competition

The 2002 Nican photographic competition is titled 'Achievement' and is calling for entries which capture images of people with a disability achieving through recreation and leisure. Cash prizes of up to \$1000 are on offer plus 15 selected entries will be displayed at the National Photographic Exhibition, which will tour Australia in 2003. Entries close on September 20 and entry forms are available from NICAN on 1800 806 769 or by email nican@ozemail.com.au

For more information on anything you've read here, please contact Eilís or Emma in the GSNV office on (03) 8341-6315.