

GSNV UPDATE

January 03



Heard The Good News?

Carenet finds a home!

Carenet offers families local voluntary assistance to help the healthy siblings of seriously ill children continue "their stuff" even when it is extremely difficult or impossible for mum/dad to extend themselves to do this. The type of help offered includes ensuring activities such as sporting practice continue, meals at home can take place, and so on. Through the tireless completely voluntary work of founder Richard Paterson, Carenet have recently found themselves an office space, with the rent sponsored by a service club, and have had donations of all sorts of office essentials like carpet, electrical equipment and coffee! This will be a great boost to their operations and we wish them well. Find out more about Carenet at www.carenet.org.au or call Richard on 1300 669 664.

Topping Up The Coffers

Need a computer? Photocopier? Fax machine?

On International Volunteer Day, 5 December 2002, the Federal Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) announced the \$3 million Volunteer Small Equipment Grants 2003 to help Australia's volunteers to carry on with their vital work. An application form for the grants will be available early 2003. Most grant funding will be available from July 2003. Applicants should call 1800 018 312 and provide their name, address, phone and fax numbers and an email address if applicable, so an application package can be sent when available. Information on Volunteer Small Equipment Grants 2003 will be updated at <http://www.facs.gov.au/sfcs/funding/sml equip grants.htm> as it comes to hand.

Forget Harry... Ian Potter could be your new friend

The Ian Potter Foundation provides grants in Education, Medical Research, Science, Health, Social Welfare, Arts, Environment & Conservation and Travel. Priority is given to activities that cover more than one area and I know that the work of many of your groups does indeed span several of these categories. More information can be found at www.ianpotter.org.au or by calling (03) 9650-3188.

More Financial Support

The Wilson Dilworth Foundation seeks to give financial support to groups who assist the disadvantaged, including the frail, aged and people with disabilities. They offer up to \$2000 for projects and initiatives which will enable the successful grantees to achieve wider goals. Call (03) 9853-3355 for more information.

St George Foundation

The St George Foundation provides support to projects which enable children with disabilities to participate in programs that enrich their life experiences. Your group needs to have DGR status from the tax office to apply for this fund. More information can be found at <http://www.stgeorge.com.au/about/foundation/> or by calling (02) 9952-2298.

Regional Groups

Don't forget to check with your local council to find out what grants they have available for locally-based groups. Some that are available at the moment include the Horsham Rural City Council Community Donations Program, the Pyrenees Shire Council Community Grants and the Surf Coast Shire Council Community Grants. Call your local council for more information.

Expand Your Mind

Infoxchange Training Courses

Infoxchange Australia's training unit provides a wide range of PC based training programs to individuals and organisations. They specialise in providing customised training packages to community organisations, conducting skills assessments on the staff and tailoring a training program that best suits the organisations needs. This type of training has been accessed by and successfully completed for a number of community health centres in Victoria. Courses are held at the Infoxchange Office at 375 Johnson St Abbotsford. For more information call Amodha on (03) 9486 9355 ext 117 or at <http://www.infoxchange.net.au/ix/training/>



One day courses

January 6 – Introduction to Word
January 17 – Introduction to Publisher
January 20 – Introduction to Excel
January 29 - Introduction to PowerPoint

Two day courses

January 7 and 14 – Introduction to Web Publishing
January 9 and 16 – Introduction to Access

Surfing The Web

www.techsoup.org is an American based website designed to help non-profit organisations develop their technology. Although made for US audiences, the website might also be beneficial for Aussie groups too.

Eat, Drink And Be Merry – Groups' Activities

Muscular Dystrophy Seminar

On Wednesday, March 19, The Muscular Dystrophy Association is holding its annual seminar on topics ranging from Clinical, Respiratory, Research, Orthopaedics and much more. Titled Information –MD! It is aimed at helping all affected individuals, family members, doctors, physiotherapists, O/T's and in fact all service providers. For further details contact MDA on (03) 9320 9555 or email info@mda.org.au

'Stick on a Smile' Heartkids Awareness Day, February 14 2003

Valentines Day is traditionally a day when we wear our hearts on our sleeves but this year it will be extra special. This year on February 14, Heartkids Victoria is asking Victorians to 'have a heart, stick on a smile'. By purchasing smiley heart stickers you will be helping to bring joy into the hearts of these children and their families. All proceeds will go towards research at the Royal Children's Hospital. Stickers will be available at major retail outlets or for more information visit the website at www.heartkids.org.au

Fabry's Support Group Annual General Meeting, February 15, 2003

The Fabry's Support Group will be holding their Annual General Meeting in Conference Room 1, 1st Floor, Nephrology Department at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Starting at 1.30pm, guest speaker will be Dr Kathy Nicholls talking about current information for Fabry's patients and carers. Transport to the meeting can be arranged, please call the GSNV Office on (03) 8341 6315.

Further information on upcoming activities can be found on the GSNV website at

<http://www.gsnv.org.au/pages/news&events/events/events.php>

If your group has an event you would like listed please email details to Emma at erickard@gsnv.org.au or call the GSNV Office.

In The Limelight

Women's Mental Health

The Female Only Psychiatric Group is interested in the establishment of female only psychiatric wards at the former Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital site. They are supportive of the need to re establish female only psychiatric wards; for women and girls to choose whether to be admitted to female only or mixed sex psychiatric wards. If you are concerned about female mental illness issues in general then contact the Female Only Psychiatric Wards Group ph (03) 9342 2537 email fopwg@vicnet.net.au website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fopwg/>

News From The US

Emerging Importance of Lay Advocacy Organisations

In recent years there has been strong and consistent growth of lay advocacy groups. Groups have grown not only in terms of size and sophistication, but also in importance as critical gateways to high quality information and resources about genetic and rare conditions. They provide a full range of services including peer support; current research information; appropriate referrals and a unique understanding of the personal face of genetic public policy issues. Recognising the essential contributions of these largely voluntary organisations, the Genetic Alliance has launched two new projects, the 'Interactive Guide to Creating and Maintaining Genetic Support Organisations' and the 'Pilot Incubator Project' will be launched in 2003 to help groups continue to make great strides.

Interactive Guide to Creating and Maintaining Genetic Support Organisations

Genetic Alliance, the US national genetic support organisation has developed a new online resource for genetic support groups. Titled, 'Interactive Guide to Creating and Maintaining Genetic Support Organisations', it will debut on the Genetic Alliance website in January. The Interactive Guide is a "how to" manual, based on the hands-on experiences of select GA advocacy organisations and the web-based format will include interactive bulletin boards at the end of each chapter to encourage exchange of information, constant updating and mentoring among lay advocacy leaders. You can check out the Genetic Alliance Website at www.geneticalliance.org, or call the GSNV Office for more information on (03) 8341 6315

We'll Meet Again...

The next full committee meeting will be held on January 15, 2003 on the 10th Floor of the Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Rd Parkville at 6pm in Conference Room B. All GSNV members and interested parties are invited to attend. Committee members, please let Eilis or Emma know on (03) 8341 6315 if you wont be able to attend

REMINDER

Full Committee Meeting

6pm January 15

Conference Room B

10th Floor RCH, Flemington Rd Parkville

Claims And Concessions



Telstra Priority Assistance

A Priority Assistance scheme has been introduced by Telstra to attempt to maintain active telephone services at all times for individuals or families dealing with a life threatening condition. The policy will provide eligible customers with priority assistance with the connection of their first standard telephone service, and the repair of a fault on one nominated standard telephone service. For more information contact the GSNV Office on (03) 8341 6315 or visit the Telstra website at http://www.telstra.com.au/accessforeveryone/afe_priority.htm or to apply call 132200.

ATO Phone Help For Not For Profit Sector

Here's good news for every non-profit and community group that has queries or problems working out their tax implications – the Australian Tax Office has set up a specific Non-Profit Infoline. The Hotline at 1300 130 248 will provide Australia's 700,000 community and non-profit groups with direct access to staff trained to deal with not-profit inquiries. The Tax Office says the new phone service is a result of feedback received from the non-profit sector as part of the Tax Office's 'Listening to the Community' Initiative. The Phone service follows recent upgrades to the 'For Non-Profit' section of the Tax Office website. This upgrade saw the inclusion of an A-Z index, answers to frequently asked questions and the interactive Non-Profit Tax Calculator.

For more information on anything you've read here, please contact Eilis or Emma in the GSNV office on (03) 8341-6315 or email info@gsnv.org.au