

Forum Flash – March 5, 2008

Announcing our first Electronic Newsletter!!!
Future editions of this will be available fortnightly.

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MARY WATERFORD IS THE WSCF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mary Waterford is the new Executive Officer at WSCF replacing Leah Godfrey who is on maternity leave. Mary has been the Coordinator at the Mountains Community Resource Network and has been the Chairperson of the Board at WSCF.



Leah had a baby girl, Anneke on January 8 2008 – both are enjoying each others company.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN APRIL 2008

http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/File/2008_Training_Calendar{2}.pdf

SAFE HOME VISITING

Facilitator: Donna Bevan

Macarthur

3rd April 2008 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Macarthur Community Forum

351 Welling Drive, Mt Annan

Safety seems so easy – just make sure people don't get hurt! In practice however it is a lot harder to achieve a safe working environment. No matter how thorough and systematic our safety management systems are, it does not seem to be enough.

What is also needed is an organisational culture that supports the systems in place and allows it to thrive, as well as commitment to safety from staff and volunteers, especially when assisting clients in their own homes.

This session will assist you in learning how to maintain supportive but professional relationships with clients. You will learn to understand and respect professional boundaries.

You will gain skills on how to assess foreseeable hazards and how to implement strategies to eliminate or control hazards. You will learn about safety management systems that will allow workers to report any concerns for safety.

You will participate in a case scenario that will suggest strategies to insure worker's physical and emotional safety and allow them to carry on with their work.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING FOR NOT FOR PROFIT MANAGERS

Facilitator: Matrix on Board

Nepean

29th April 2008 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Mountains Community Resource Network

Corner of Loftus Street & San Jose Avenue, Lawson

This workshop is intended for managers and administrators who have done some financial management training before and understand the basics. You will know the difference between Cash and Accrual accounting, and you will have done basic budgeting. You will also understand how Income and Expenditure Statements are reported to budget.

The training session will cover (not necessarily in this order):

- Review the importance of the Balance Sheet as a guide to what is owed and owned by the entity
- Distinguish cash-flow from income, and examine strategies to manage cash-flow
- Look at cost centre reporting and how to report on difficult-to-attribute costs
- Discuss Financial Ratios as a means of assessing financial health
- Look at Risk Management through financial policies and procedures
- Using forecast reports to review budgets
- Developing better budgets
- Essentials of the Business Plan

- Getting a handle on depreciation
- The basics of FBT and salary sacrifice

Attendees will participate in a practical exercise - (Calculator and Manual will be provided)

MAKE SURE TO FAX YOUR [REGISTRATION FORM](#) TO 02 9687 8665

PLANNING A NEW ACTIVITY IN CUMBERLAND/PROSPECT? LOOK HERE FIRST.....

WSCF's Network Development Project produced the first Group Work Directory for Children (0-8) and Family Services in the Cumberland/Prospect region in February 2008.

To those of you who have not had time to contact us about your group work – don't despair! The Directory will come out at the start of every school term, with the next one due out in early May.

The aim of the Directory is to:

- Provide an overview of the groups operating in the region
- Share information about the types of groups available
- Foster an atmosphere of collaboration between organizations when planning new group work.

The Directory is divided into five parts – Auburn, Baulkham Hills including Riverstone, Blacktown, Mt Druitt and Parramatta/Holroyd. Each part is organized by the day of the week each Group is on and lists the name of the group with a short description of it, who it's for, eligibility, when, where, cost, start date and contact point.

The Project Workers know that the first Directory is not comprehensive, and are relying on you to help us expand it.

Cheryl Kelly cherylk@wscf.org.au or Himali Wettasinghe himaliw@wscf.org.au will email you the current Directory or send you out a form to list your group in the next one in May.

Some feedback so far.....

"We would definitely like to stay on your email list to receive these Group Work Directories. This information is also great for us to refer clients to other organizations."

“Thank you for copies of your Directory. I wasn’t aware of the Project before, and have now just had a look at your website – what a valuable resource of info and contacts!”

“Looks good.....thanks.”

“Congratulations on the development of these resources. They’re a fantastic source of knowledge which has been too scattered and dispersed to be really useful up until now. Pulling them together in these Directories will assist lots of local services and workers – including our own.”

TRANSPORT NEWS

Great Community Transport launched their Smartlink transport initiative on the 30th October, 2007.

SmartLink Transport provides the following services for transport disadvantaged people and community groups in the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Penrith local government areas

- A booking service for Demand Responsive Transport for individuals living in the area, operated by existing transport providers, varying from existing routes or additional to existing services for a fare payable when boarding the vehicle.
- A Transport Register of minibuses and vans owned by member organisations in the area which can be booked by member community groups which cannot afford the cost of commercially available vehicles for a fixed fee payable in advance. Qualified drivers can also be booked through the Register.
- Demand Responsive Transport.

This service provides a computerised booking service to transport provided by existing transport providers in the area.

Key features of the new service are

- Passengers share a vehicle which offers a small group service where travelers book a seat, are picked up either from their current location or a designated pick-up place and are dropped off at or near their destination
- Passenger access to the system is via an automated telephone service, the internet or through Community Transport
- Services are provided by existing transport providers who may divert existing services to accommodate passengers making a booking or who may provide additional services
- Fares for the service will be set by and paid to the service provider
- Terms and conditions of travel, fares, etc. are set by the service provider

SmartLink Transport cannot guarantee that services will be available for all requested times.

The new service will improve access to transport services by less mobile people and people who are transport disadvantaged and will encourage car drivers and passengers to use flexible public transport systems.

The Demand Responsive Transport service is currently undergoing testing and will not be available for public use until early 2008.

<http://tr.smartlinktransport.org.au/>

CSGP SUPPORT NETWORK

Monday March 10th
1.30pm to 3.30pm
Cabravale Leisure Centre

For the full story click here

http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/File/CSGP_Support_Network_Proposal_&_Meeting_Invitation.pdf

Available live online via www.ustream.tv/wscf

INTERAGENCIES LIST HAS BEEN UPDATED

The Interagencies and Networks list compiled by WSCF has been updated. If you have any information for the list please contact us.

http://www.wscf.org.au/uploads/File/Forums_Interagencies_in_Western_Sydney_Feb%2008.pdf

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WSCF is a convenient stroll from Parramatta station. Phone 131500 or www.131500.info to plan your trip. The WSCF Training Calendar is now available. Excellent, low-cost training for community organisations. Check out our website for details.