

FOSTER AND  
KINSHIP CARERS  
ASSOCIATION  
TASMANIA



# FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS ASSOCIATION TASMANIA

SPRING EDITION - OCTOBER 2021



## Message from the CEO

Hello Carers,

Just a short message to say hello and hoping that you have all now settled in to Term 4.

Just a few highlights. FKAT has joined a National Collective of Foster and Kinship Carers Associations (Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, NT and Queensland) that will actively lobby at a National level from 2022 on many carer issues. This will be a great vehicle to implement change and I look forward to being actively involved with this Collective. I will provide everyone with the details as things progress and I am happy to discuss at any-time with carers who are interested.

A big thankyou to all carers who attended foster carers week. It was great to see everyone over the course of nine events State-wide and appreciate the support we received from Glenhaven and Life Without Barriers throughout the week.

The Annual General Meeting is now being held on November 20th in the Hobart Office. Please see attached Flyer for more details. There will be Board vacancies in all regions for carer representatives, so if you are interested in joining the Board or know of someone that would be well placed to join the Board, please fill out the attached Nomination form and return ASAP to GPO Box 241, Hobart 7001. It is a formal process so please return within the allocated time so you do not miss out on the opportunity if you are interested.

Christmas events have been arranged for all carers State-wide and Anita has kindly done Flyers which are included in the newsletter. We look forward to seeing all of you at these events.

Have a great term and see you at all the upcoming events.

Cheers Kim

## CARER CONNECT

### REGIONAL CONNECTION EVENTS HELD EACH MONTH WITH UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS IN 2022

All carers are welcome to join FKAT Northern representative Anita to meet for coffee and cake at the beautiful Western Tiers Distillery in Westbury.

Dates:

Friday October - 15th from 10am-12noon

Friday November - 19th from 10am - 12noon

The picturesque seaside Penguin office is where our North West carers meet for morning tea and a catch up that is good for the soul.

Dates:

Tuesday October - 19th from 10:30am

Tuesday November - 23rd from 10:30am

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi fellow Carers,

Well it has been a wet cold start to spring, with some regions experiencing 4 seasons in one day. 😊 I am so looking forward to Summer!

Since May, FKAT board had began preparations for Foster Care Week with several events organised around the state. These events were advertised in the previous newsletter (what a great read) and it was certainly helpful to keep abreast of the events in each region.

North West celebrated Foster Care Week with four functions for all to attend. The events we are pleased to say saw 45 foster Carers, Kin Carers, and Grandparents attend one or more of the functions that were held.

Tuesday started the week with FKAT in collaboration with Glenhaven Family Care hosting a High Tea at Don Community Centre, Devonport with 20 plus carers. I welcomed everyone to the event, Sharon from Glenhaven started the morning with an ice breaker game and this was well received and certainly got everyone chatting. The friendly staff served a lovely High Tea, the food was great and there was plenty to eat. Pamper gifts were provided by FKAT for all carers with a Lucky door prize going to one lucky grandparent.

Wednesday a Q& A session with Julian Watchorn was well received by carers who asked many questions, they have expressed that they would like to see Julian come back for another session.

Thursday was a day of pampering for carers, what a great day this was with relaxing neck and shoulder massages, hand pampering with Anne-maree with samples to take home, followed by a manicure 😊 it was a very relaxing day, every carer received a gift pampering pack from Anne and a lucky door prize every hour with plenty of food to eat. Thank you, Anne and Annmaree for all you did on the day and for decorating the Window display in support of Penguin football team for Grand Final Day, FKAT came third in the towns competition.

Final day Luncheon in River Room Argosy Devonport on Friday, thank you to all who supported FKAT events during foster care week, you made it the success that it was.

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FLYERS FOR DETAILS OF THIS YEARS CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN EACH REGION.

The North West Christmas Party wont go ahead this year, but the North West will host a Christmas Luncheon for all carers and a special water slide event in January for carers and their children. More details will be provided closer to the time.



## Foster Care Week 2021 - Celebrating together

As our president mentioned, Foster Care Week 2021 was a wonderful success for FKAT, hosting 8 events across the state in one week. It was a mammoth task but saw up to 100 carers participate in events specifically organised to celebrate their caring role and honour the work that they do every day.

In the North, Anita hosted a luncheon at Rupert and Hound. The specially tailored menu including pork belly, steak and seafood was delicious with all carers thoroughly enjoying their meals. It was lovely to see 25 carers take up the opportunity to sit together and enjoy a meal, chatting about the year that is quickly coming to a close and offering each other a listening ear when sharing the highs and lows of being a carer. It was a pleasure to see so many informal kinship carers attend this luncheon.

In the South, Kim organised several events including the afternoon tea running alongside the children's commissions craft activities with children at the Botanical Gardens which was a Southern highlight. FKAT were also pleased to host Micheal Voumard at the Southern office to meet and chat with carers whilst enjoying a yummy morning tea.

Thank you to all who attended these events, we appreciate your support for our organisation and it was lovely to see so many carers connecting with each other and the board.

## Back by popular demand!

Julian Watchorn Training Opportunities.

### North West - Penguin office

Tuesday 19th October

10:30am-12:30pm

Julian will once again be in the North West for another Q&A session with carers.

### South - Rokeby office

Wednesday 10th November  
at 9:30am-12:30pm.

Julian will be hosting a session on difficult family dynamics for all kinship and grandparent carers.

## Amendment notice - Annual General Meeting

*Please be advised that due to unforeseen circumstances this years AGM has been moved to the 20th of November.*

*This years annual general meeting will be held on the 20th of November, 2021 at the FKAT office in Rokeby. Please come and join us from 2pm for our annual general meeting concluding at 3pm with nibbles and drinks served at 2:30pm.*

*There are currently vacancies in all regions, North, North West and South. If you are interested in applying for a vacancy please email [ceo@fcat.org.au](mailto:ceo@fcat.org.au) with your intent to apply.*

*Please see enclosed nomination form that must be returned by 27th October. You can do this by scanning it through via email to [ceo@fcat.org.au](mailto:ceo@fcat.org.au) or express posting it to GPO box 241, Hobart.*

*Voting forms will be sent out on the 3rd of November and must be returned no later than the 17th November.*

*Votes will be collated by the Public Officer, Carol Sholes-Robertson, count at the AGM.*



## Foster & Kinship Care Chaplain for Tasmania

Fostering Hope and Anglican Health and Welfare (AH&W) are excited to announce a new chaplain role - a chaplain dedicated to foster and kinship carers in Tasmania. The fostering journey is unique to any other role and full of emotional ups and downs. The Chaplain will seek to be an empathetic listening ear for carers as they journey new placements, placement breakdown, reunifications, behaviour challenges, and all the joys of being a foster/kinship carer.

The Chaplain will seek to be an empathetic listener to a carer and meet the emotional and spiritual needs for carers. The Chaplain will offer high quality pastoral care to foster and kinship carers.

AH&W have provided chaplaincy services in Tasmania for decades with chaplains placed at the Royal Hobart Hospital, Risdon Prison, and in response to emergency situations. Fostering Hope works in the Tasmanian community to raise awareness about the need for more foster homes amongst the Christian community, recruit and support Christian carers. This partnership brings together two complimentary organisations to provide a chaplain for all foster and kinship carers in Tasmania.

The Chaplain can be reached on Monday and Tuesday during business hours on 03 6240 4834 or carers can book in a time to chat to the Chaplain by emailing Mary on [mary@fosteringhope.community](mailto:mary@fosteringhope.community) or booking in at <https://calendly.com/fosteringhopeaustralia/30min>

## FIRST AID COURSE

**FREE 5 HR FIRST AID COURSE IN EACH REGION**  
**9:00AM-3:00PM**

Grandparents, informal/formal kinship carers and registered foster carers have the opportunity to participate in a First Aid course this October!

FKAT are proud to offer free First Aid courses across the State to all carers who wish to complete their certificate for the first time or renew their certificate. Renewal should take place every three years, so please take advantage of this opportunity and make sure you are equipped should an emergency arise with a child in your care.

We understand that you may need to arrive late and leave early due to dropping and picking up children from school. Please let us know when you RSVP.

RSVP essential to secure your place in a course. Email [ceo@fkat.org.au](mailto:ceo@fkat.org.au) with your name, phone number, email and the course you wish to attend.

### OCTOBER 2021

<b>12th</b>	PENGUIN FKAT OFFICE 62 Main Rd, Penguin
<b>13th</b>	LAUNCESTON ST GILES BUILDING 65 Amy Rd, Launceston
<b>27th</b>	HOBART FKAT OFFICE 4 Hart Place, Rokeby

Light lunch provided

## First Aid Reminder

FKAT are pleased to have had over 12 carers complete their first aid course this October. It has been wonderful to see carers upskilling and making sure they are up to date with the latest first aid procedures. Thank you to all carers for giving of your time to attend first aid.

There are still a few places available in the Hobart course.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to [ceo@fkcat.org.au](mailto:ceo@fkcat.org.au) to register for this course.

Nigel Chong from St Giles will be facilitating the Hobart training.



# CONNECTION EVENT

YOU'RE INVITED TO...

CREATE, in collaboration with FKAT would like to invite you to the Halloween Party at

Woody's Skate and Play

10/12 Knoll St, Glenorchy

Friday 29th October 2021 from

5.00pm-7.00pm

Games, free BBQ, and trick or treat stalls!

*Don't forget to dress up in something spooky!*

This is a free event for children and young people ages 0-26 years with a care experience, their care givers and family. Children and young people will need to be accompanied by an adult.

**RSVP is essential, contact CREATE on 6223 7749**

## Southern Christmas Luncheon

FKAT warmly invite  
all carers to come and  
join them for a  
Christmas Luncheon.

December 10th  
11:30am-1:30pm

Claremont golf club  
RSVP to [ceo@fcatt.org.au](mailto:ceo@fcatt.org.au)  
by 3rd December

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



JOIN US FOR A HOLIDAY FEAST

### NORTH WEST CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

DECEMBER 15TH  
11:30AM START  
THE CAFE - WESLEY VALE

RSVP TO MAGGIE BY 8TH DECEMBER ON  
0400 876 907

ALL CARERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

LET'S CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS  
TOGETHER

FKAT WARMLY INVITE ALL CARERS  
TO JOIN THEM FOR THE

## Northern Christmas Luncheon

DECEMBER 17TH, 2021 11:30AM  
RUPERT & HOUND LAUNCESTON

RSVP to Anita by the 10th of December on  
0451 309 775