



Lone Parents News

LONE PARENT FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

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Dear Families and Friends,

This year has been an extremely busy one with groups and picnics being attended by ever increasing numbers. The Tuesday Group is generally attended by 6 to 10 parents, usually one man and the rest are women. There are often as many as 7 toddlers and babies in the playroom and Shizuko does a great job of keeping them happy while Amanda and Pat run the Group. There were three guest-speakers this term i.e. two workers from the Child Support Agency were excellent and one of them, Janine Saunders, has agreed to manage 3 of the group members' cases. We also had a wonderful speaker from TAFE, Marie Gray, and she succeeded in enrolling several group members in courses, such as Business Management, part-time and a Teacher's Aide course. We have had the Women's Health Nurse from Leichhardt Women's Community Health on several occasions last year and twice this year. As she is also a single mum she can identify and empathise with the many and varied problems that arise and gives lots of advice regarding health issues.

The Christmas Party last year was a great success, although numbers were a bit down on the year before (perhaps because it was on a Sunday instead of the usual 1st Sat. of the month). The Rotary Club of Bondi Junction cooked us a delicious 'sausage sizzle' with onions and sauce and they also contributed to Santa's presents for both parents and children! Jane chose really thoughtful age-appropriate presents. Six members of the Club gave up their Sunday to cook for us and we are extremely grateful to them for this. The other great highlights of Dec. 2007 were the Tattersalls Club Breakfast Christmas Party and the Lord Mayor's picnic on New Year's Eve!

Sydney Tattersalls Club seems to have adopted us as their personal charity, together with Sydney Community High School. The Club puts on the most wonderful cooked breakfast with lots of fruit and toast and coffee. Santa also makes an appearance and presents every child with a really great present. The Lord Mayor's Picnic on New Year's Eve is held in the grounds of Government House and the twenty parents and children invited have an excellent view of the fireworks and enjoy the party food provided! Lots of other charities also attend between 5pm and 9pm and parking is provided free of charge.

Last year we had a one-off Grant from the Department of Community Services to refurbish the office and we managed to put in a really good computer system (2 computers) and a fax and scanner also. We were also able to furnish the Group room with matching comfortable chairs and some shelves for resources, which still need to be installed.

Jane, the Co-ordinator is presently on holidays but she should be back at the end of July. Amanda and Pat, the Family Support Workers, will be going on holidays in August.

We will put the Group Program for next term on line as soon as we have finished it.

Amanda, Pat, Shizuko & Jane

