



From the CEO

Since I last wrote to you, Caroline Chisholm Society has been a busy place, filled with activity meeting needs of pregnant and new mothers and their families.

We've engaged in lots of strategic planning activities with local councils—in Moonee Valley, we've been part of the 'MV2040 Community Symposium'; in Melton, we attended the 'Audience with the Mayor'; and for the Western Region of Melbourne, we've participated in the Regional Assembly for the Western Metropolitan Partnership. The Victorian Government has also had major strategic consultations with regard to new permission to share information where there is family violence. We're pleased that Corrections, women's family violence services and men's services will be able to share information more freely. We have found information sharing with Child Protection very fruitful in supporting families to raise their children well and we look forward to extending that practice so that situations of family violence can be better managed and children can be protected from violence.

Our community development activities have also been strong. Joining Maree Chin in Shepparton with her role in volunteering, appointment and new and pre-loved goods is our new team member in Melbourne, Rosie Dymus. Rosie joins us from Playgroups Victoria. With the two roles so similar, support between our three sites is getting stronger. Indeed, we were delighted that a spoken word event at the Flemington Kensington Bowls celebrating the return to touring of Midnight Oil contributed its door takings to the Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service. Also in the area of community development, our

Children's Week party was a great success. Details are overleaf. We also held a 'Members and their memories' afternoon tea to help us plan for the coming 50 year anniversary. It is only two years away!

In service delivery, we've been focused on the Children's Protection Society led project, Children and Mothers in Mind as well as the new role we have with intensive family support working with families where a court order is in place. Our services have been led by Mo Connolly in recent years and she has decided to move on from Caroline Chisholm Society. We wish her well for the future. Dr Jennifer Weber has since joined us in the role of transition manager while we review the senior structure. With Jennifer's wealth of experience, I'm optimistic for the future.

In the spirit of Caroline Chisholm,

Helen Cooney

Members and Their Memories

On 8 October, we gathered with Members to plan for our 50 years.

Helen Cooney with Dr Philomene Joshua Tenni (left)



Annual General Meeting and release of Annual Report

On 26 September, we gathered for our Annual General Meeting at Caroline Springs. It was great to share a meal, hear about the work staff and volunteers have undertaken, discuss the plans for the future and celebrate long service and retirements from the Board.

We celebrated a year in which we opened the new site in Essendon, the remarkable journey we're on in the Goulburn Valley, and the high quality work coming out of Caroline Springs (incl. in Kindergartens with ECMS and with Maternal and Child Health through Engaging Wyndham Families) and the exciting future for our project Children and Mothers in Mind, which is led by the Children's Protection Society.

Thank you to all of you for supporting our work in throughout the year.

The annual report is now available on our website.

Go to: <http://caroline.org.au/publications/>



Karan's long service, Margaret and Sally Anne, Audrey and others listening, and Frank retiring from the Board

Spotlight on... Children's Week

This year, we presented a Children's Week event in partnership with the Victorian Government.

We focussed the event on health and wellbeing by having a Gym Ball and Obstacle course, on social and emotional wellbeing by including socialising with peers, parents and siblings, language by having story time provided by Melton Council Library staff, and communication and cognitive skills by having an interactive wildlife exhibition.

The theme this year was "Education has the power to transform lives". By offering activities that focus on providing various learning opportunities for children we aimed to positively influence the domains of child development—physical health and wellbe-

ing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge.

Instilling in children the love of education at such an early stage of life is the key to their success later in life. Our activities invoked an interest in education in the youngest of children and encouraged their parents to support their learning now and in the future.

The children's week party was an open event for all the community in and around Caroline Springs. The Brookside kindergarten attended, families who come to our playgroups or are working



For Children's Week, we had a great day!

Congratulations to Kate and Sarah!

Last newsletter we told you that two of our Directors on the Board were expecting.

Now we've welcomed two little people to the team.

Well done, Kate and Sarah!

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