

Minutes of the Parent Services Interagency Meeting

Held: Wednesday 13th August 2014, 1pm - 3pm
Council Chambers, Lamerton House



PRESENT:

Janelle Cundy	Shellharbour City Council Library
Debbie Vergan	Barnardos South Coast
Marie Smith	Early Years Care
Wendy Lander	Baptist Community Services/KidsFest
April Robinson	Department Human Services Shellharbour
Maree Walsh	Illawarra Reading Support
Carol Lymbery	Communities for Children Shellharbour & Better Futures/Local Solutions
Lynne Schubert	Family Services Illawarra
Shelly Rogers	Family School Connect
Marlene Calleja	Warilla Neighbourhood Centre Inc.
Emma	Cert IV Community Services TaFE
Kyla	Cert IV Community Services TaFE
Veronica	Cert IV Community Services TaFE
Jacqueline	Cert IV Community Services TaFE
Sharnai	Cert IV Community Services TaFE
Gayleen	Cert IV Community Services TaFE
Aileen Gleeson	Shellharbour City Council

APOLOGIES:

Ashley Hommersom CareSouth

GOOD NEWS STORIES 😊

- 😊 Early Years Care held their second annual Educator and Parent Early Childhood Expo in July, and it was a great success with over 980 people attending. Congratulations Marie and the Early Years team and thank you for all your hard work. They are planning to hold the expo again next August – contact Early Years Care for any enquiries.
- 😊 Early Years Care have won 2 environmental awards: the Sprouts Award from the Department of Environment and Heritage, and a scholarship to the environmental education conference in Tasmania. Again, well done and congratulations to Marie and the team – you are legends!

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Communities for Children – Barnardos Australia

Contact: Carol Lymbery

Ph: 4295 4168

Email: clymbery@barnardos.org.au

Hours Of Operation: 9am – 5pm Mon-Fri

Information Exchange:

- In collaboration with our Community Partners, this programme provides a range of projects for families with children aged 1 to 12 years in the Shellharbour Region. Our programmes aim to strengthen parenting confidence, build connections in the community and create pathways for education and employment.
- Communities for Children Shellharbour has been refunded for a further 5 years, with a transition/planning period until 30/6/2015.

Illawarra Reading Support

Contact: Maree Walsh

Ph: 0412 976950

Email: info@readingsupport.com.au

Hours of operation: 7am to 5pm 7 days per week

Information Exchange:

- Still achieving great results, and receiving referrals from schools.
 - We have found the 7am sessions are popular, because it doesn't interfere with after school activities and children are not tired as they often are after school.
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Shellharbour City Libraries

Contact: Janelle Cundy – Acting Children's & Youth Librarian

Ph: 4297 2522

Email: Janelle.cundy@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au

HOURS OF OPERATION

Warilla Branch

Monday to Friday - 10am to 8pm

Saturday - 9am to 12noon

Albion Park Branch

Monday - 10am to 7pm

Tuesday - 10am to 6pm

Wednesday & Thursday - 10am to 5pm

Saturday - 9am to 12noon

Oak Flats Branch

Monday - 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

Tuesday - 1pm to 8pm

Wednesday - 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

Thursday - 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

Shellharbour Village Branch

Tuesday - 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm

Friday - 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

Saturday - 9am to 12pm

Children

Staff are preparing for one of our largest annual events - Children's Book Week. Visits to schools are organised and the finishing touches are being put on library staff performances. We will be performing 2 of the shortlisted books: King Pig by Nick Bland and I'm a Dirty Dinosaur by Janeen Brian.

A special storytime will be held at Warilla Library on Monday 25th August at 11am for Children's Book Week. Come along and meet Dirty Dinosaur and King Pig. See FLYER at <http://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/filedata/pdf/librariesBookweek2014.pdf>

Local Government Week was a great success with more than 105 children from local primary schools joining in the stories, music, dancing and activity fun. Highlighting some of our favourite books and authors and joining in the book trivia fun.

Our Play-Craft-Build sessions are growing in popularity. This is a free program for two to six year olds designed to promote an ownership of their library space. Emphasis is on play and creating, making noise and socialising for children and their parents/carers. You can see the fun here: <http://goo.gl/9nM8Sv>

Save the date for our popular Talk Like a Pirate activity – 19th September ☺

Young people

HSC sessions during July and August. The next event is HSC Max your Marks with guest presenter Rowan Kunz. Warilla Library, Wednesday 27th August 2014 @ 6:30 pm. Cost: \$ 4 . This practical

workshop will help students navigate the month before the HSC, providing them with a proven plan to maximise their marks. Rowan has spent the last 8 years researching how Australia's top students who achieve ATAR's of over 98 excel academically. Shellharbour City Libraries' Manga + Anime Group (MAG) participants continue to increase, enjoying their space and ownership of Warilla Library every 2 weeks.

Regular Programs (see website <http://www.shellharbour.nsw.gov.au/default.aspx?WebPage=226>)

- Lapsit - Rhymes, songs, reading and play for 0-2years.
 - Kids' Time - Stories, rhymes, songs and a simple craft for ages 3-5.
 - Play - Craft - Build - Build, make, create and play for ages 3-6.
 - MAG - Manga Anime Group for ages 12-19.
 - For the latest library event info and to find cool stuff for kids visit: <http://kidclick.wordpress.com/>
 - And for teens: <http://teenclick.wordpress.com/>
 - MAG on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MAGMangaAnimeGroup>
 - MAG on Tumblr: <http://sclibsmag.tumblr.com/>
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Barnardos South Coast - BEYHSS Program

Contact: Debbie Vergan

Ph: 4275 8575

Email: dvergan@barnardos.org.au

Hours of Operation: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Information Exchange:

BEYHSS is a volunteer home visiting program for families with children aged 0 – 5 years, and aims to reduce the family's isolation, increase confidence and feeling of self-worth, increase parenting skills and to assist families to network community support systems.

Volunteers visit once a week for 3 hours for up to a 9 month period. Volunteers can assist by overseeing the children whilst the parent has time to complete other tasks, to get their own needs met, assist with sleep and settling, provide information, someone to talk to, help getting out of the house, provide assistance with shopping, doctor's appointments etc. Volunteers are matched with a family offering both practical and emotional support.

Currently looking for volunteers, must be 21 years old or over, to match with families needing support. No special skills are required, and training is provided.

Warilla Neighbourhood Centre Inc.

Contact: Marlene Calleja

Ph: 4296 3433

Email: community@wncwarilla.ngo.org.au

Hours Of Operation: Mon-Thurs 9am – 4pm

Fri – 9am – 1pm

Information Exchange:

- Free craft every second Monday of the month
 - Legal Aid Thursdays 9.30 – 12.30, no appointments
 - Older women's group Wednesdays 12 noon
 - Our AGM is on 4th September, at which we'll be launching the recipe book developed by our young people.
 - Unfortunately a lack of volunteers means we can't offer tax help this year, but can refer to people to other organisations who can.
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Early Years Care & Early Years Magazine.

Contact: Marie Smith

Ph: 4256 2072

Email: marie@earlyyearscares.com.au

Hours Of Operation: Mon to Fri 9am – 4pm

Information Exchange:

- See website www.earlyyearscares.com.au
 - Early Years Care offers quality family day care for families from Engadine to Nowra. We focus on community engagement and environmental education, play-based learning, and learning through creative arts.
 - We run a program of bush school for children as well as a playgroup at the Barrack Heights Community Garden each week.
 - Early Years publishes a free magazine for families bi-monthly. 😊
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BaptistCare - Warilla North Community Centre

Contact: Manager- Wal Forrester

Ph: 4298 7200

Email: wforrester@bcs.org.au wlander@bcs.org.au

Hours Of Operation: Monday to Friday - 9am - 4pm

Information Exchange:

- Volunteers are needed for the Breakfast Clubs, especially at Mt Warrigal Public School - contact Wendy ph. 0411 659698
 - Volunteers are also needed for tutoring, contact Wendy ph. 0411 659698
 - Breakfast Clubs:
 - Mon, Wed & Fri 7.50am – 8.45am during school terms at Centre
 - Wed & Fri 8am – 8.45am during school terms at Mt Warrigal Public School
 - Supported Playgroups - Mondays & Wednesdays 9.30am – 11.30am during school terms at Centre
Thursdays 9am – 11am at Mt Warrigal Public School
Contact: Wendy Playgroup Coordinator 0411 659698
 - Macedonian Playgroup Thursdays 9.30am – 12.30pm at Centre
 - Spanish Playgroup Fridays 9.30am – 12.30pm during school terms
 - NILS, Step Up, water, gas, electricity help - all by appointment only ph. 4298 7200
 - Educational Tutoring- Tuesday afternoons 3:30-4:30 March to November during school terms.
Contact: Wendy Coordinator 0411 659698
We desperately need volunteer tutors – contact Wendy if you can help or know someone who can.
 - NILS, Step Up, water, gas, electricity help – all by appointment only ph. 4298 7200
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Department Human Services Shellharbour

Contact: April Robinson, Community & Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Ph: 132 468

Email: april.robinson@humanservices.gov.au

Hours Of Operation: 9am – 5pm Mon-Fri

Information Exchange:

- Helping young parents and supporting families living with long-term unemployment
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Family Services Illawarra - Park and Play

Contact: Lynne Schubert

Ph: 4255 5333 **Mob:** 0408 258605

Email: lynne@fsi.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Family-Services-Illawarra/1456249861279482>

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday in school terms - various parks, FREE, 10am - 12noon - play sessions on Family Services Illawarra website fsi.org.au

Schedule for Terms 3 & 4 2014

Monday

Mood Park: Tongarra Road, Albion Park

Tuesday:

Garrard Reserve: Garrard Avenue, Mount Warrigal

Little Park: Addison Street, Shellharbour

Wednesday

Graham Park: View Street, Lake South

Central Park: The Boulevarde, Oak Flats

Thursday

Collins Reserve: Glider Avenue, Blackbutt

Croome Cemetery Park: Cedar Street, Albion Park Rail

Friday

Boonerah Point Reserve, Reddall Parade, Mount Warrigal

Family Services Illawarra – Family School Connect

Contact: Lynne & Shelly

Ph: 4255 5333

Email: lynne@fsi.org.au or shelly@fsi.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Family-Services-Illawarra/1456249861279482>

Hours Of Operation: Monday to Friday, 9am to 11am

Information Exchange:

- Family School Connect program still running to engage parents at Mt Warrigal and Warilla North Public Schools
 - A walking group has proven popular
 - One of the mums involved is sharing her crochet skills with other parents
 - Bringing up Great Kids program still running – see Family Services Illawarra website for details: <http://www.fsi.org.au/section.content/groups-available>
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Better Futures – Local Solutions

Contact: Carol Lymbery

Ph: 4295 4168

Email: clymbery@barnardos.org.au

Information Exchange:

- The target group for this program is long term unemployed, young people and Aboriginal people. Five projects are still running until 30/6/15, and have achieved great results, including SYFS (for young parents), Salvation Army Retail Plus Employment project (which has achieved 80% employment for participants), SACYA Alternative Learning Centre, Access project to grow employment through small business, House of Hope hospitality project.
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Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District

Child and Family Service: 'Kids Cottage. Warilla

Address: 1 / 2-14 Belfast Avenue Warilla NSW 2528

Phone: 4297 1022

Hours Of Operation: 8:00am – 4:30pm, Monday - Friday

- A multidisciplinary paediatric allied health service providing assessment and therapy services for children in the Shellharbour and Kiama LGAs.
 - Services include Audiology, Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Psychology.
 - A specialist Child Protection Counselling Service also operates from the Centre.
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The Smith Family – Saver Plus Program

Contact: Lindi Jamieson-Brown

Ph: 0427 439234

Email: Lindi.Jamieson-Brown@thesmithfamily.com.au

Hours of Operation: Mon - Fri 8.30am – 4.30pm

Information Exchange:

- Families receive \$500 for education costs
 - Eligibility requirements
 - See Shellharbour Kids website for more information, on the Transition to School page: <http://shellharbourkids.com.au/learning-development-page/transition-to-school>
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CareSouth – Aunties & Uncles

Contact: Ashley Hommersom

Ph: 1300 554 260 or Mob. 0447 435142

Email: ashley.hommersom@caresouth.org.au

Website: <http://www.caresouth.org.au/our-programs/aunties-uncles/>

Hours Of Operation: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Cost: No cost for families, but new funding structure in place for referrals that sit outside the program eligibility criteria made by services with brokerage available.

Information Exchange:

- Service is free for clients. There is a new service model for children outside of eligibility to access the service when other services (eg DET, FaCS, ADHC etc) fund the placement.
 - CareSouth has moved into a new office in Berkeley, and held an official opening in July 2014.
 - Are you caring, nurturing and understanding? Would you like to help out a local family in your community? The Aunties & Uncles Program is currently recruiting and training new volunteers. See flyer at end of minutes, or visit the website www.caresouth.org.au
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Talking Realities Young Parenting Program

Contact: Jill Johnson

Email: jjohnson@barnardos.org.au <http://www.barnardos.org.au>

Address: Barrack Heights Primary School

Hunter St , Barrack Heights NSW 2528

Ph: 4275 8575

Hours of Operation: Wed Training 9.30am - 3.30pm, Playgroup 10am - 12pm Mt Warrigal School

Information Exchange:

- Talking Realities is an education and support program for young parents under 25. Participants are offered Certificate 11 in Business at no cost as well as the opportunity to become a peer educator delivering presentations to high school students on the realities of teen pregnancy and parenting. Peer educators earn \$50 for each presentation. Young parents are invited to attend a playgroup, additional training and education opportunities e. g. Senior First Aid, parenting courses and social activities. All activities are free of charge and can include assistance with childcare and transport.
 - Currently enrolling participants for Banner Training – see link to fabulous Youtube video <http://shellharbourkids.com.au/story/talking-realities-banner-training-enrolling-now>
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Next Meeting:

**The next meeting will be held at Lamerton House,
Shellharbour City Council, Council Chambers
1pm-3pm
Wednesday 12th November 2014**

Attachments (see below):

1. CareSouth Aunties & Uncles

INSPIRED TO CHANGE A LIFE?

**Are you caring, nurturing and understanding?
Would you like to help out a local family
in your community?**

CareSouth's Aunties & Uncles program supports vulnerable children and their families in our South Coast Communities.

With a small amount of time and a genuine commitment, you could become a volunteer carer in the Aunties & Uncles Program and make a positive difference to a child's life.

All our volunteer carers are provided with casework assistance and training in order to support the individual needs of the child.

A child in your community could really benefit from your interest in our program.

To find out more, please call our Aunties & Uncles Regional Coordinators, who will happily answer any questions and provide you with detailed information about how you can make a difference to a child's life.

Phone **1300 554 260** or visit our website www.caresouth.org.au.

EVERYDAY

CareSouth



**For more information
and to find out how you can get involved,
contact Ashley on 0447 435 142**