

Special points of interest:

- International Social Work Day 15 Apr 2008
- Continuing Professional Education (CPE)
- Supervision Register
- International Interest Group
- Meet your Committee

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International Hands of Friendship

The School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania, worked on an exciting project in 2007, in partnership with Helen Cleak, from La Trobe University, placing four students in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to provide opportunities for them to develop their cross-cultural practice awareness, skills and knowledge.

working with families and individuals living with HIV/Aids. Two students worked within that programme, gaining insight into the dilemmas faced by families living with HIV/Aids and bringing to the programme much needed hands.

All four students worked collaboratively on a document which will form the basis of a 'manual' for future students placed overseas.



Overall, this has been a rewarding experience and one we hope will continue.

Professor Bland and Helen Cleak conducted liaison visits during the placements.

The student placed with Social Services of Cambodia assisted with the coordination and development of a 'conference' for cultural and professional exchange between American Social Workers and Khmer Social Workers and participated in a mental health outreach community education programme.

Debbie Smith
Co-ordinator
Field Education.
School of Sociology and Social Work
University of Tasmania

The student placed with Friends International conducted an evaluation of support groups run for children affected or infected by HIV/Aids and compiled a manual of group work activities for a Transitional Home for Children affected/infected by HIV/Aids.

Bridges of Hope has an outreach programme





Editorial

Welcome to the 1st edition of our 2008 Newsletter. We hope that you find the content not only stimulating, but also amusing and would welcome your comments and indeed your contributions.

We have an Administration Officer, Judy McCutcheon, on board, who is in the office of a Tuesday & Thursday, between the hours of 9:30 and 1:30 to assist you with your enquiries, or you can just pop in & make yourself known.

I have just been reading the AASW Journal from 1957 and can only say what a difference the years have made. One thing that has not changed is the paperwork and finding enough hours in the day to meet not only clients' needs, but your own needs.

Social Workers are, and always have been, very busy people, but your input is needed.

Please consider joining one of our committees. These will give you a wealth of

experience and give you opportunities you might not get otherwise.

Next edition we will have a Letters to the Editor column; your opportunity to air your views.

We would also love to hear about you, your job, or indeed some snapshots of your career and your thoughts and suggestions on future policy directions.

This is your organization and we are here for you.

Welcome to the New Kids on the Street



WELCOME

On behalf of the Tasmanian Branch of the AASW, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you all on becoming a member of the AASW during the past year and look forward to a long and happy collaboration.

We will keep you advised of our Continuous Professional Education (CPE) programme, seminars and other activities through email, our Newsletter or by snail mail.

You are most welcome to attend our Committee of Management (COM) meetings which are held on the second Monday of every month, at 5:30 pm, at Meeting Room 2, 1st Floor, McDougall Building, Ellerslie Road, Battery Point, unless a Public Holiday intervenes, in which case it will be held on the following evening. There are number of special committees that operate within the COM. The committees include CPE and Ethics. Did you know that you can belong to the committees without being a member of the COM? We use teleconferencing for those committee members who live outside Hobart, so please do consider joining one of our committees.

Once again, welcome

Yours sincerely

Ann Hughes

President

Advertising Rates — 2008

The Newsletter is a Quarterly publication, produced as an A5 booklet, saddle stapled.

\$44 for a half page advertisement (11 cm long x 12 cm wide)

\$88 for a full page advertisement (18cm x 12 cm)

\$140 for 200 inserts such as brochures, fliers etc

\$50 for bulk email distribution to members

A4 size originals

Graphics should be in JPEG or TIFF format, with an original enclosed.

Please send any advertisements which need to be placed within the text of the Newsletter to: aaswtas@aasw.asn.au by the end of the last week of February, May, August and November.

Inserts or brochures for the Newsletter, please deliver them to:

AASW, Tasmania
PO Box 20
SOUTH HOBART TAS 7004

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the A A S W , T a s .

Acceptance of any advertising does not necessarily include endorsement of advertised products.

19th World Social Workers' Conference

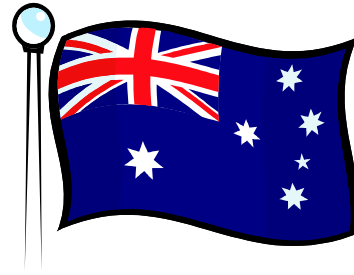
19th World Social Workers' Conference

16 August - 19 August 2008

Salvador -



Bahia - Brazil

www.socialwork2008.com


National Social Workers' Day

C'mon Aussie, C'mon

Wednesday 7 May 2008



Continuing Professional Education (CPE) - The Way to Go!

Southern Branch Jo Thiele.

After a very busy and productive 2007 across the state, the Southern CPE Committee looks forward to recruiting some new members to provide input and guidance in 2008.

Toosey Bannerman and Virginia Allanby have, after many years of involvement with the southern committee, decided to move on. The committee thanks both these members for their wonderful support, and commitment to CPE.

We urge members to become involved in the CPE Committee in order to continue providing an interesting, varied and relevant calendar of CPE events this year. CPE Committee members gain valuable skills and experience from their involvement.

If you are interested, please contact Judy at the office.

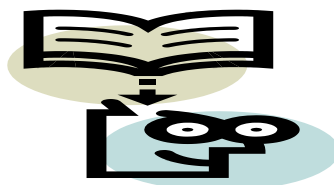
Northern Branch



After a little bit of a lull, the Northern Team are back! Torey Crawford, Susan Igglesden, Helen McKenna and Anna Lovitt have put up their hands to bring more CPE and networking events to the North and we have hit the ground running.

Wednesday 12th March

Susan and Anna had a very productive day at the Future Focus Careers Day at the Tram Sheds, along with a university staff member, to promote social work as an occupation to parents, students, teachers and others.



Social Work Day, 15th April -

We have booked the main room at the Kings Meadow Health Centre to have an evening meal and get together, with guest speaker to be confirmed. Please contact Judy, our Administration Officer to book your seat on 6224 5833 or email Judy aaswtas@asw.asn.au

The Team has devised a questionnaire re areas of interest for workshops. We will also work closely with the School of Sociology and Social Work to 'make the most' of visiting speakers to the uni and combine some events.

We are still looking for more people to help out so that our CPE ball can be kept in play.

You are welcome to contact the members of your newly reformed Northern Team with your ideas, suggestions or if you want to join with us or simply find out what's going on.

Torey Crawford:

torzc@hotmail.com

Helen McKenna

Helen.McKenna@stpatri.cks.tas.edu.au

Susan Igglesden :

susan.i@hotmail.net.au

Anna Lovitt

alovitt@bigpond.net.au

North-West Branch

Allyson & her team are still working tirelessly on the 2008 programme, with at least 2 events —so watch this space!

Ally reports that last year their Grief & Loss Workshop was most successful.

Contact: Ally Smith 6421 7784 or

<Allyson.smith@dhhs.tas.gov.au> for more details



Anna Lovitt
Secretary, AASW, Tas
Nat.:CPE Committee Member

Your Committee

- President: Ann Hughes**
- Vice Pres: Libby Beyerle**
- Secretary: Anna Lovitt**
- Treasurer: Helen McKenna**
- Jo Thiele (CPE South)**
- Allyson Smith (CPE North)**
- Fiona Jennings (Supervision)**
- Tony Howe (Registration)**
- Janet Whelan**
- Gael Moffatt (Int. Group)**
- Student Member: Vacant**

Please consider if you would like to represent Students' interests on the Committee. Your input would be most welcome.

Email: <aaswtas@asn.au>



World Social Workers' Day

Meet Committee Member – Anna Lovitt

Anna joined the AASW as a student in approx 1996 and is currently Secretary of the Tasmanian Branch and member of the AASW National CPE Committee. She is in the third year of Masters Program (Master of Social Work Practice) at University of Tasmania, Launceston.

Anna grew up in wheat, sheep and cattle country near Gulargambone, central NSW. Although deciding to become a Social Worker in 1973, it wasn't until 1998 that her goal was realised.

Anna first worked as a Stenographer on her journey to a Bachelor Of Social Work (BSW). This was followed by a myriad of positions in Tourism, Hospitality and Legal fields, plus other 'diversions' until circumstances permitted her to move to Tasmania to undertake the necessary study for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) at the University of Tasmania in Hobart in 1980, whilst also nurturing the first of four children.

Moving to Launceston in 1984 provided an opportunity to apply to study Social Work, but problems arose.

Given that the course was only available on campus at that time, including non family friendly hours, Anna studied at TAFE for an Associate Diploma (Welfare) and was contracted with Child and Family Services from 1990 – 1995 as a Welfare Worker.

The advent of Distance Education allowed Anna to combine work, study and family, achieving a BSW from Monash in 1998, whilst working part time as a Field-Worker in Family Day Care.

Anna is particularly indebted to the many local practitioners who endured her pestering for placements and allowed their brains to be picked while on the solitary distance education journey!

A particular interest in Community Development led to a position as Community Development Worker at Ravenswood in 2000.

Anna currently works as a Specialist Rural Social Worker at the multi - purpose service in Campbell Town, a position Anna has held since 2001.



Celebrate

World Social Workers' Day

Making a World of Difference

South

15 April 2008

Breakfast at Sals
Sals Food Court
Salamanca Place

Time: 7:30 am

RSVP

Judy

6224 5833

aaswtas@aasw.asn.au

By Tues 6 Apr 08



World Social Workers' Day
North
Kings Meadow
Health Centre

Tuesday 15 April

Time: 6–8 pm

Cost: \$10 per head
RSVP: anna.lovitt@dhhs.tas.gov.au



Conflict in Sri Lanka Makes Life Difficult for Tsunami Survivors

Renewed conflict in Sri Lanka has resulted in a number many Australians with social work backgrounds using their skills and experience to relieve the suffering of people in situations of conflict or disaster across the world.

Donna Carter, a Social Worker, was recently working in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, as an Emergency Program Officer with UNICEF, deployed through RedR Australia. Donna found that the troubles haven't ceased for people who survived the tsunami. Many have suffered from the renewed conflict in Sri Lanka and have been displaced five or six times in a period of eight months.

Donna said, "I was part of a team which helps to ensure that people who were displaced from their homes as a result of shelling in the districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa, and who now find themselves living in makeshift tent communities, have access to food, shelter, water, sanitation, health care, education and basic living needs. When I first arrived in October 2006, these services were

being provided to about 50,000 people who were living in Vaharai Division; about 3 hours drive from our base. Usually non government agencies would be partners of UNICEF in doing this work, but currently these organisations are unable to operate in this part of Sri Lanka



Times when we could visit the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps were strictly controlled and, depending on road conditions, we might only have three hours at the camp to assess conditions and needs, distribute the non-food items we brought, and monitor the situation of women and children in the camps.

Due to intensified fighting and shelling, more than 22,000 people moved at night, through dense, land mined jungle to the Batticaloa area.

UNICEF was on the scene within 24 hours with tarpaulins for emergency shelter, water tanks and bowsering to meet their needs. Unaccompanied children were registered and

arrangements made for adults to care for unaccompanied children.

Many of the families in the camps were already displaced after the tsunami.



I met up with a woman from a coastal area for whom Red Cross were building a house. She had lost three family members in the tsunami, including her husband and a child. Her aunty was always laughing and joking that it was taking forever to build the house and that she would probably be dead before the house was finished. Sadly this was true. When I asked about "Aka", the smile drifted from my friend's face – Aka had died during the bombardment. Our particular focus for this community was on water and sanitation, with the provision of trucked-in water and temporary toilets.



We also set up temporary classrooms and extra teachers to accommodate the additional 7000 students in the area. The teachers were often IDP's and, for many of them, the greatest shame was that they had to wear dirty or unwashed clothing, having only escaped with the clothes on their back.



There are now more than 60 IDP's camps catering for the needs of more than 70,000 people in the Batticaloa district."

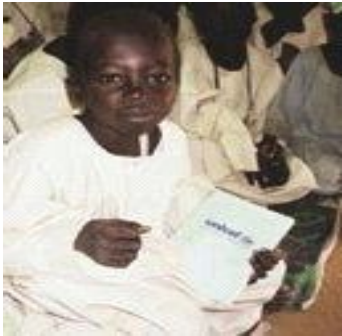
Donna recently returned to Australia, and is currently working for RedR Australia in Melbourne as the Register Coordinator, coordinating the placement of registered members on humanitarian assignments.

Red R AUSTRALIA is a non-profit organization that selects, trains & provides effective relief personnel to humanitarian relief programmes world-wide.

Ensuring world peace

Robyn Kerrison was deployed through RedR Australia to work in Sudan with the Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the mission of which is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors. RedR Australia is an NGO that provides skilled assistance to humanitarian disasters.

The Human Face of Conflict



Sitting in Sydney, contemplating a possible standby mission to Darfur, Western Sudan, as a Humanitarian Affairs Officer with OCHA, my mind flashed back to a scene in the comedy *Miss Congeniality* where a stream of would-be Miss Americas, one by one and without exception, ended dissertations on their hopes and aspirations with: "...and world peace". Ensuring world peace seemed to be about all that was missing from the list.



Sudan—Food Distribution



I landed at a delicate moment in Nyala, capital of South Darfur, where violent clashes had recently broken out between rival political groups in one of Darfur's biggest camps for internally displaced persons (IDP's). Those clashes, and events that followed, drew considerable international attention and calls for urgent assistance to be provided. At the same time the relationship between the humanitarian community and authorities deteriorated significantly. Ultimately, this deterioration culminated in the expulsion of my head of office from South Darfur by state-level authorities. That development



sparked a deep dismay throughout the humanitarian community, which sees OCHA's role as a crucial one – a view that I've increasingly come to share.

In the immediate aftermath of the violence, I spent more time in the IDP camp than in the office, meeting with IDP leaders and representatives of the small number of NGOs that had at least partly resumed operations. The aim was to gather information on the present situation, the fall-out from the clashes, emerging needs and remaining resources. This role – as a kind of clearing house for information – is one of OCHA's key functions. Government, communities, NGOs and other UN agencies are simultaneously our main sources as well as our primary "customers" for information. Within a single day, I might meet with UN and NGO counterparts, government officials, African Union peacekeepers, an IDP delegation or representatives from rebel groups.

Vital information can come from anywhere – from official meetings to roadside teashop gossip. Regardless of the source, it all has to be checked and cross-checked, because rumours spread at the speed of light in this environment, often distorting according to the priorities or prejudices of those who pass it along.

OCHA also plays an important role in advocating on humanitarian issues. In my case this has predominantly meant advocating to the government on the need to ensure access for humanitarian assistance, but it also includes advocacy in other

directions. I might press African Union representatives on the need for field patrols to protect IDP's who might otherwise be afraid to leave their camps to tend crops or gather firewood; or work with UN agencies and NGOs to find ways to meet the needs of IDP's who may for one reason or another have been unable to claim their entitlements (for example, those who fled fighting in their camp and missed out on food distributions as a result).

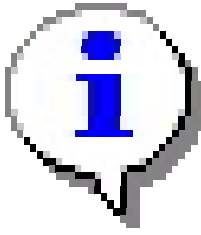
I've been lucky. I'm now covering protection and issues surrounding IDP's return to their places of origin, issues that in one way or another have been at the heart of my work for some time now.

Much of the dust has settled from the recent crises, but there is still considerable uncertainty ahead. Rebel groups continue to form, fragment and transform themselves, sparking new conflicts and new population movements. The changing seasons, though predictable, are also likely to complicate things, making many places less accessible

South Darfur remains a complex environment, ever-changing and constantly challenging. We may not achieve world peace, but without OCHA, I can only imagine that it would be even more so.



Supervision Register



Planning is well underway to develop a Supervision Register that will be accessible on the AASW Website (Tasmania Branch). It is anticipated that the website shall contain a register of AASW approved Social Work Supervisors, with a supervisor

profile pertaining to practice expertise, supervision qualification, experience and contact details. The website will provide links directing people to AASW Fees Schedule and National Practice Standards on Supervision, as well as provide State policy and procedures.

Application forms will be available, via the website, when completed. When the Supervision Register is up

and running, members will be notified.

Fiona Jennings
Committee Member
Social Workers don't do it; they just share the experience



AN IDLE MIND IS THE BEST WAY
TO RELAX.

Case Load



International Interest Group

The year is off to a flying start, with lots of exciting things in the pipeline.

We plan to hold a discussion night on the topic of 'Refugees in Tasmania', plus loads more -so watch this space!

If you would like to join our group, or if you have any ideas or thoughts on meeting your interests, please contact Judy in the first instance on 6224 5833 or email Judy on <aaswtas@asn.net.au>

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Research Scholarship

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation offers up to three scholarships each year for full-time post-graduate research in one of the allied health sciences. The scholarship provides emoluments to contribute substantially toward the cost of living, books and charges. The level of remuneration will be **\$25,000 per annum, free of income tax.**

Application forms are available from University Scholarship Officers or through the Menzies Foundation's web site at www.menziesfoundation.org.au Telephone requests are not accepted.

Write to:

The Scholarship Officer
The Menzies Foundation
210 Clarendon Street
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Email:

Menzies@vicnet.net.au

Applications must arrive on or before 30 JUNE 2008

Late applications will not be accepted

TasCOSS 2008 Fairer Futures Conference Hobart 29th—31st October 2008 1st Call for Papers

The theme of the Conference – *Fairer Futures* – focuses on a vision for a fairer Tasmania, in which we as a community eliminate disadvantage and foster a vibrant and inclusive civil society.

The Conference has four sub-themes:

People, Place, Policy and Practice

- Policy Impact
- A chance to showcase the techniques, technologies, frameworks and innovations which underpin successful practice.
- Specific challenges to service delivery

Abstracts close August 29th 2008.

For further information about submitting an abstract, [click here](#) for a copy of the first Call for Papers flyer.



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Social Workers Make a Difference
