

Our Fundraising Dinner



Drug Arm WA held an exciting fundraising dinner in November at the South of Perth Yacht Club where 130 guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal in the beautiful setting on the banks of the Swan River. The guests were promised an informative and enjoyable evening and Drug ARM WA with its *Never Ending Story of Service* certainly delivered.

Andrew Vlahov of Wildcats fame was the MC for the evening and kept the proceedings moving along at a cracking pace.

Variety WA's Michael Pailthorpe presented the keys for the new Street Van that Variety had donated. The keys were graciously accepted by Director Susy Thomas who acknowledged the importance of the van for the Outreach program.

Guests laughed out loud at a skit by the Outreach Coordinator Chris when this one-man-band re-enacted comical situations that he had encountered during his time on the Street Van. John, our Rosella House Coordinator and two clients spoke of the benefits of the Drug ARM WA rehabilitation program. Their moving stories received much acclaim from the captivated audience.

Two of our Youth Options Program Coordinators invited guests to participate in an interactive Drumbeat lesson that had the guests queuing up to participate and brought lots of fun and laughter.

But the highlight of the evening was guest speaker Andrew Forrest, who shared a

little of his personal story, and spoke of Australia's achievement in the recently ratified Australian Employment Covenant and the birth of the 'learn to earn' society of Aboriginal people.

John Donoghue conducted the auction which included a 9 carat gold dress ring, a signed Don Bradman bat in a presentation case and a signed Wallabies jumper.

The evening was a huge success and for those of you who are sorry to have missed out this year, don't miss out in 2009!

Melbourne Cup Lunch Workshop-style



As we all know everything seems to come to a standstill on the first Tuesday in November for the Melbourne Cup. This year, staff in the Perth workshop decided The Cup would be a great way to get everyone together for a bit of fun. And it proved to be a great occasion enjoyed by staff and clients alike. Bella and the boys prepared a beautiful lunch, while Leigh and some of the boys, who claimed to know about aials, worked like Trojans trying to get a decent picture of the BIG Race on the unreceptive TV! In the end... staff watched a very blurry race and heard it on the radio! Clients proudly displayed masks that they had made, and interacted in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. All credit to Leigh and Bella for initiating a great event.

Leavers Week

Every year Drug ARM WA staff make preparations for Leavers Week well in advance of the week that sees thousands of school leavers partying at Rottnest, Dunsborough and Margaret River. Our main focus for Leavers Week is to ensure that the young people have a safe place to go when they are intoxicated, in stress, or need medical assistance.

During Leavers Week 2008, 259 people were safely supervised as they recovered from over-indulgence.

At Dunsborough 19 volunteers engaged 933 Leavers in conversations. Of those 170 were in-depth conversations about drug and alcohol use and other health and safety issues.

The Recovery Tent at Rotto was a welcome sanctuary for 42 leavers, and a vital watering hole where 2,000 cups of water were distributed.

We serviced Leavers at Margaret River for the first time in 2008. Numerous people, many outside of the



Recovery Tent were looked after by roving patrols. Alcohol was still the biggest substance of abuse. 96% of all clients were sorely affected by mainly vodka and vodka based mixers. 59% of clients were female.

Overall, we feel that the vital service we provided at the three locations was well received and appreciated by both the inebriate partying leavers and the various control groups.

Holiday-makers

Both our Director and our Admin Officer took a well earned rest for most of the month of November leaving the asylum in the hands of the lunatics... but fortunately the lunatics managed to cope pretty well.

Susy went off to India to spend some special time with her family and friends in the country of her birth. She came back fully restored after her four-week break, and told of her near-disaster when rescheduled plans to visit Mumba (Bombay) on the morning of the day that Mumba was bombed meant that she and Philip had a very lucky escape from the ravages of terrorism.

Ian and Evelyn went to visit their son David on the Maluku Islands in Indonesia where David was working on a feasibility study for a fish farm business. Throughout the three weeks in the humid climate where the temperature was a constant 30 degrees c, Ian and Evelyn's daily diet consisted of freshly caught fish, boiled rice and boiled water. And, although they thoroughly enjoyed their Indonesian experience, needless to say, they looked



forward to a more varied diet on their return to Australia.

Youth Options Program at Kalgoorlie and Geraldton

Kalgoorlie and Geraldton Youth Options Houses opened in November. Let me introduce you to;

Belinda Sinderberry who is the Kalgoorlie Coordinator. Belinda has lived and worked in the Goldfields for 10 years. .

Barbara-Ann is our Day Support Worker, Barb is new to Kalgoorlie & Australia, from New Zealand. Barb has worked in a similar environment for the past 5 year. Barb is finding the heat of a Kalgoorlie summer excruciating, even though it has only really started !

Robert Taylor is our week-end residential support worker and enjoys working with young people, loves playing musical instruments and playing tennis.

Kathleen Kake is the week-day residential support worker. She has 8 children which means that she has had plenty of experience with young people.

At Geraldton, our Coordinator **Amber Langham** reports that the program is running very well. Amber says that staff work really well together, and introduces you to:

Steph Johnson, a youth worker with a background in Arts and a history of working with kids

Julie Miller who works weekends, is also highly experienced in caring for young people

Jen Godfrey who recently completed a

Diploma in Community Services and Youth Work, and has been nominated for an Australia Day Citizen's Award, completes the Geraldton team.

Welcome Kevin

We are pleased to welcome Kevin Trent as the newest member of the Board of Directors. Kevin is a South Perth City Councillor and the Chairperson for the Uniting Church Council. Welcome, Kevin.

Farewell Ron, Gayle & John

During this last quarter we have said goodbye to three of our colleagues, Ron Bergsma, Gayle Neillings and John Dunn. We wished them all the best and acknowledged that the office just won't be the same without them. Thank you to Ron and John for your professionalism and dedication towards clients. Thanks to Gayle for all her work in admin.

Graham Whitworth has taken over temporarily from Ron as coordinator for Moorditj House and the YOPS program. Graham worked on the program a few years ago, so he is familiar with its operation. Welcome back Graham even if it is only until the end of January 09.

It is a daunting task to find a counsellor to fill John Dunn's shoes. John has been a dedicated and empathetic counsellor and more recently, an exceptional Coordinator for the Rosella House Rehabilitation Program. We offer John every good wish for the future.



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