

TASMANIAN EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINEES

2008



MARGARET HARRIS

PHOTO
UNAVAILABLE

Margaret Harris has been an active Family Day Carer in the Launceston area for a period of 8 years. Margaret also works with TAFE Tasmania to help train child care students and for many years has been a mentor for students. As a day-carer, she exceeds what is required of her and always goes the extra mile to ensure a positive, engaging and supportive environment for her children and their families. At 61 Margaret works fulltime.



GAIL EVANS

Gail Evans has for many years been a tireless 'quiet achiever' working with parents and their babies and young children, experiencing complex needs across southern Tasmania. Gail is currently employed as a Co-ordinator with Good Beginnings Volunteers Home Visiting and Family Support Program that includes supporting newly arrived migrants and refugee parents and their babies.



TRISH McMILLAN

Trish McMillan works for Mission Australia as the Derwent Valley Playtime Coordinator four days per week. In this role she visits isolated, disadvantaged families with children aged 0-5. Trish is also a foster carer. She, and her husband and two sons have cared for 67 children and helped 31 different families with respite and crisis care both short and long term. Trish has also been involved in running playgroups for almost 20 years and delivers Let's Read, a pre-literacy reading program.

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CASSANDRA OGDEN

Cassandra Ogden has always and continues to provide a high level of support and commitment to the families and young people in Shorewell Park, implementing programs, developing them and supporting people at the front line. Cassandra is currently the Coordinator of the Burnie Community House and is also studying for a Volunteer Tutor Certificate for Literacy and Numeracy. Since commencing her role at the Burnie Community House Cassandra has shown great leadership and initiative in working collaboratively with the Shorewell Park community.



VIJI GUNASEELAN

Viji Gunaseelam provides high quality Family Day Care in a supportive environment for families and provides a range of stimulating experiences for children in her care. This includes taking children to the local school literacy programs, the local library, music lessons and kinder gym to ensure children are able to enjoy these learning opportunities.



VAL & JOHN STEPHENS

As family day carers, Val and John Stephens have shown an outstanding commitment to the well being, development and learning of young children and their families over a long period. Val and John have been registered Family Day Carers for 22 years and since 1998 have provided continuous family day care service to the Launceston and surrounding community. They also volunteer their time as student supervisors throughout the year.

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TONYA NORRIS-JACOBSON

Tonya teaches and manages the music tuition school called the Music Tree which has been operating for over 4 years. Tonya has dedicated her music practice to helping small children reach their potential. Tonya also works with special needs children, including children with Autism, Asbergers, Down Syndrome and RAD (reactive attachment disorder).



SHELLEY MORTON

Shelley is a pre-kinder playgroup coordinator and a teacher aide at the Ulverstone Primary School and for 5 years was involved in family day care. Shelley is recognised as someone who provides a supportive and welcoming integration to the primary school through her work in the pre-kinder playgroup. She is seen as a security figure for transition into formal schooling by many parents and children.



ROBYN MORGAN

Robyn Morgan has been instrumental in raising the profile of child health issues within the community through her tireless work as a Child Health Nurse for the last 10 years. Her commitment to improving the social and emotional wellbeing of her clients through provision of the best (and most diverse) range of information and support possible bridges many of the cultural and social barriers faced by Child Care professionals.



LORRAINE MCGEE

Lorraine McGee has been the resident Family and Child Health Nurse in Break O'Day Municipality for over 11 years and has worked tirelessly for the children and families in the community. Lorraine has been awarded the Break O'Day Council Australia Day Citizen of the Year 2007 and also the Children's Week Award for outstanding achievement in child care in 2000.

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TAMIKA ROSS

Tamika Ross is a senior social worker with the Derwent Support Service. Over the last 10 years she has worked tirelessly with children, parents and families to provide the care, support and resources required to foster safe, happy home environments. Tamika is the co-ordinator of the 'At School, On Time, Ready to Work Project' and is a member of the newly formed state-wide school attendance working group.



KIRSTY CRAWFORD

Kirsty Crawford has volunteered endless hours of support to breastfeeding mothers, their families and the community. She is a caring and supportive person in all her roles with Northern Tasmanian Australian Breastfeeding Association Group. As a co-group leader she is jointly responsible for the everyday running of the group with over 100 subscribers. Kirsty recently received a Volunteers Recognition Award from the Launceston City Council recognising over 500 voluntary hours within 12 months.



ROS CORNISH

Ros Cornish has demonstrated an undying commitment to the early year's sector and her profession for almost 30 years. During this time, she has been actively involved in early childhood professional groups at a state and national level. For 10 years Ros fulfilled the role of the state representative on the Board of Early Childhood Australia before being elected the National Vice President of Early Childhood Australia. Ros currently holds the position of Chief Executive Officer of Lady Gowrie Australia.

STEPHANIE RICHARDS

Stephanie Richards has been Director of Bungawitta Child Care Centre for nearly 5 years and demonstrates an outstanding commitment to the care and education of young children. She is a recipient of State award of Education Excellence for a children's literacy initiative for children at Bungawitta.

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LYNETTE SPRINGER

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Lynette Springer has been a Family Day Carer for 6 years for children in the Brighton Municipality. A high number of the children in Lyn's care are in crisis care and come from families with complex needs. Lyn ensures that these children have the best start to life by providing them with high quality care and attention to many programs offered in the area, including the B4 program at Herdsman Cove, playgroups, library sessions and the community garden in the area.