

# TASMANIAN EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION INSPIRATIONAL CHAMPION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINEES 2008



## SUZANNE PURDON



Suzanne, an early years educator, has achieved significant outcomes with communities, family and individuals across Tasmania building increased social capital and enhanced life opportunities for children and parents. Some of Suzanne's achievements include:

- Initiating and developing the b4 concept at Herdsman's Cove Primary School and now across 5 primary schools in the Brighton municipality;
- Initiating and coordinating the 'Walk of Wonder' in 2006 and 2007, a project that aimed to market the importance of the early years to the Brighton Municipality; and
- Initiating, planning and launching the 'Adopt a Patch' project at the local nursery.

Suzanne is currently the Network Leader of the South East schools in the Launching into Learning program facilitating and supporting schools to provide high quality early years programs for their local community families.

## SHIRLEY KELLY



As Vice President of her Childcare Union (LHMU), Shirley is recognised as a leader within the early childhood sector. Shirley began her career as an early childhood professional in family day care where she spent 10 years working with Kingborough Family Day Care. She has worked in her current position at the Blackman's Bay Children Services for the past 12 years. Shirley is passionate and committed to raising the professional profile of her sector and promoting the importance of high quality childcare that meets the emotional, physical and developmental needs of children through the early years through her involvement in the Big Steps childcare campaign.

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## CAROL OTTEN-KIRKLEY



Carol Otten-Kirkley has been the Kindergarten teacher at St Brigid's Catholic Primary School in Wynyard for 7 years. She is the Special Learning Needs Co-ordinator for Grades K-6 and has undertaken a postgraduate course in Special Education to enhance her understanding of children with special needs. She works tirelessly and has a great passion for improving the learning of young children, kindergarten students in particular, as well as special needs students throughout primary school.

## ROWENA WILKINSON



Rowena Wilkinson is currently the State Coordinator Early Childhood Intervention Service. She is also President of Tasmanian Chapter of the Early Childhood Intervention Australia and is a member of the Australian Association of Special Education. Over the last 7 years Rowena has led the development of the state wide Early Intervention Teams. Rowena throughout her teaching career has developed a strong focus on working inclusively with young children with disabilities and their families.

## TRACEY BRADLEY



Tracey has been an advocate of children and their families during a career in early childhood services spanning 24 years. Tracey's achievements include:

- the establishment of 9 after school care programs on school sites across Burnie and Wynyard;
- the development and implementation of the 'Burnie Parent Pack'; and
- the establishment of Milpara Early Learning Centre at Burnie Primary School.

Tracey is currently the Director of Community Services for the Waratah-Wynyard Council and was recently appointed the Chairman of the Minister's Child Care Advisory Council.

# TASMANIAN EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION

## INSPIRATIONAL CHAMPION

### ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINEES

#### 2008



#### 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.

PICTURE  
UNAVAILABLE

#### KYLIE TRUSWELL

In 2005 Kylie joined Good Beginnings as a volunteer community parent. Kylie was a great support to the Good Beginnings Coordinator to many young mothers who due to Kylie's work become involved in the Let's Go Girls, a young parents program run by the Jordan River Service family support team. Kylie showed herself to be a leader, role model and support to these young parents, often utilising the skills she had learnt through Good Beginnings. Kylie has also undertaken Eat Well Tasmania's Family Food Patch training and has demonstrated to community groups good nutritional practices.

#### CLARA BAKER



Clara has worked in the early years sector in the George Town community for sixteen years, supporting young children and their families. Clara is a member of the George Town Early Years Committee, responsible for Tiny Tots on Show and Let's Read. Clara's early years literacy work has identified her as a leader in this field and she is currently a Literacy Coach and First Steps Speaking and Listening Facilitator for Learning Services North. She has recently initiated an Infants Aquatics Program and the Aboriginal Early Years Project. Clara is a Pre Kinder Advanced Skills Teacher at Port Dalrymple School as well as the Early Years Coordinator of the Junior School.

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#### PATSY JONES

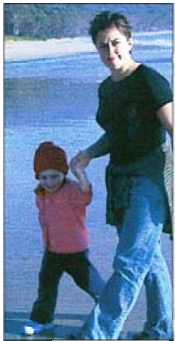
Patsy worked for several years as the Senior Librarian for young people's services at the State Library of Tasmania. Some of

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Patsy's achievements include:

- raising the focus and importance of children's literature by introducing and running the Children's Fiction Course at TAFE Tasmania ;
- contributed to the state-wide implementation of the Rock & Rhyme program for babies and toddlers; and
- support for Young People's Librarians around the state in providing professional development.



## 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.