

The Adolescent & Family Association's Chairpersons Report

AFCA AGM July 29, 2010 at the Collaroy Centre, Collaroy.

By Grahame Williams AFCA Chairperson

Dear AFCA Members,

almost one year ago we gathered at Penrith to enjoy what was one of the best AFCA conferences ever held, which set the standard for all future AFCA conferences to try and equal - or if you dare – even better.

I said it then and I'll say it now thanks to the Western Sydney organisers for such a great conference from start to finish. You left no stone unturned in achieving such a great conference – even to the point of me being in the winning Dragon Boat at the end.

In December our usual AFCA Christmas lunch was held at Darling Harbour but the numbers were down and have been dropping each year for the last few years and the format or timing for this event deserves a discussion to see in what format – if any – we should hold these event. One suggestion was to bring it into November so it doesn't clash with other end of year events another was to make it more relaxed and have an AFCA picnic day and meet in Centennial Park. We have so few times they we can come together as a collective and it would be a shame to abandon it but without your support it will cease to part of the AFCA calendar.

AFCA delivered its annual training day in March of this year 'Family Constellation Training' – this event had a great turn out of 20 AFC's. Those who attended saw some powerful outcomes from the people who participated as well as the usual networking and catching up with old friends and making of new as these events always bring. Special thanks must go to our lovely ladies from Manly in Lesley and Felicity who organised the entire day.

With the costs of training days by organisations becoming over priced and out of reach for many of our AFC's budgets I feel AFCA has the potencial to put on more professional training days, such as the one just mentioned, that not only keep the costs down for members but are tailor made for AFC's. I also

think we sometimes over look the vast experience we have in or own AFC's ranks who could deliver training at an even greater reduced fee without losing out on quality.

We must say farewell to a long serving member in Annette Coulter who left us this year. Annette was an AFCA member for 13 years and was never shy in offering an opinion on counselling or AFCA and served on many an AFCA Executive's over the years and for that we thank her and wish her the best for the future.

To all our new AFC's who have started over the last year we say a big AFCA welcome and hope you stick around for many years to come.

AFCA as a group must strive to encourage people who work in similar positions to join AFCA – this is not just the job of the Executive team but all members who may know of someone who would benefit from being part of AFCA.

To the AFCA Executive I must say thank you for your work over the last year. You are ever reliable, you take valuable time at of your days to do AFCA work, you travel great distances to get to the meetings and you not only get the job done with a minimum of fuss but you have been a joy to meet with and for all that - I thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Grahame Williams

AFCA Chairperson