Welcome to our Third edition of the Alice Springs Communities for Children Newsletter. Well C4C has just passed the one year landmark and we have achieved a tremendous amount of which I am very proud. We have:

- An active reference group
- 4 Community Partners with 5 Programs
- Networked with a range of services and individuals and also run some community events with more to follow in the coming weeks (read more inside).

And most of all I have an enthusiastic and capable team to work with.

On that note that I would like to say that I am leaving C4C for the next 12 months to work as Anglicare Alice Springs Operational Manager, but I will leave C4C in the capable hands of Nina Levin, her Biography is included in this Newsletter.

Regards

Lyn
Relationships Australia Northern Territory (RANT) is a community based, non profit, non government organization which provides services to all members of the community. RANT have been providing services in the Northern Territory for almost 40 years and have built a strong and positive reputation. RANT are leaders in the delivery of Relationship Counselling Services, Family Dispute Resolution Services including child inclusive practice, Relationship Education and Professional Training and Supervision. In addition RANT delivers a number of specialist services including; a youth diversion program, an employment program and family counselling.

RANT provides a professional, private, confidential and safe service that seeks to assist people to build stronger relationships, enhancing individuals, families and communities. RANT is also delivering a range of services to remote communities, particularly in the Top End which directly target aboriginal clients.

RANT are excited at the prospect of developing a specialist Children’s Counselling Service in Alice Springs and believe we are well positioned to both; establish and manage this important therapeutic service and to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of this initiative in our local community.
The establishment of the Alice Springs program will draw significantly on our practice wisdom and experience in similar services in Darwin. RA nationally has a commitment to supporting the development of new and innovative service models and RANT has close and supportive partnerships with all other States and Territories.

RANT commenced work on the project in March and has now established our partnership with the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) to support the professional development, training and supervision of therapists involved in the team. The ACF will be doing work in Alice on a monthly basis.

We have held meetings with a range of local services and practitioners who we hope to work alongside in the project and expect that recruitment to the counselling positions will be finalised by the end of May. It is anticipated that counsellors will be able to do outreach work in both schools and community centres, and also connect with parents and carers of children referred to the program. The service will target primarily aboriginal children aged between 5 and 12 years, and their families.
Childrens self publishing workshop

I feel happy when I’m with my brothers and sisters.

Do you like to share stories?
Do you like to have fun?
Do you want to be creative?

- Would you like an activity to do with the Families and Children you work with
- After attending a workshop facilitated by SNAICC on self Publishing, we want to offer the opportunity to others
- An amazing opportunity to Create and spend time Sharing Stories

If you might be interested, please contact Carwyn on 0428 020 354 or 3951 8008
Introducing Nina Levin — C4C Team Leader

My name is Nina Levin. I have extensive experience in a diverse range of early years’ settings and family services within state and local government as well as non-government organisations. I have a deep commitment to social justice values as well as being a strong advocate for the rights of all children and their families to access ‘best practice’ programs and for children to have optimum learning opportunities.

I am a long term Executive Member of Early Childhood Australia and I also convene the Alice Springs branch of National Investment for the Early Years (NIFTeY).

I am thrilled to be working as part of the Anglicare Communities for Children team and look forward to supporting positive outcomes for Alice Springs’ children (birth-12 years) and their families.

10 Resilience Building Blocks For children aged 0-12 years

- Maggie Dent, Saving our Children from Our Chaotic World, 2003

Human connectedness is the key to resilience, authentic happiness and a sense of well being.

This can only be achieved through the recognition, honouring and nurturing of the human spirit that exist within every child ever born.

- Maggie Dent, Saving our Children from Our Chaotic World, 2003
National Families Week
15-21 May 2011

Play in the Park:
Outdoor playgroup

Date: Tuesday 17 May 2011
Time: 11am-1pm
Venue: D.D. Smith Park

Activities:
- Birth and Beyond: Bubbles and babies
- Alice Springs Public Library: Story-time
- Toy Library: play equipment
- Tangentyere: Mobile Playgroup
- Catholic Care: face painting
- Guest appearance by Yamba, lots of giveaways
- Anglicare Communities for Children: Snack Table

D.D. Smith Park
"Sticking together: families in good and tough times"

Each year, tens of thousands of people and hundreds of organisations celebrate National Families Week - Australia’s annual celebration of families.

National Families Week is timed to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families on 15 May. This day is observed by the United Nations to mark the importance that the international community places on families as the most fundamental units of society, as well as to draw attention to the plight of families in many parts of the world.

National Families Week 2011 will be held between 15-21 May 2011. This year’s theme is: “Sticking together: families in good and tough times”.

The aim of National Families Week 2011 is to encourage everyone to think about the things that make their family strong in both good and tough times whatever their circumstances. This Families Week let’s all take time to explore ways we can support each other - in our families and communities - through all the ups and downs of daily life.

All Australians, including community organisations, schools, councils, companies and individuals are invited to participate in National Families Week each year.

The Australian Government, through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, funds National Families Week with Families Australia. Centrelink also promotes National Families Week and provides support through its national network.

Engaging Children & their Families Expo

Day: Thursday 19 May 2011
Time: 4pm - 6pm
Venue: Andy McNeill Room Alice Springs Town Council

Communities for Children, NIFTeY and the Northern Territory Government are excited to advise of the forthcoming Engaging Children and Their Families Expo

Showcasing innovative services in Alice Springs
• Targeted Family Support Service
• Preschool Readiness Program
• Universal Access Mobile Pre Schools
• Services from Flynn Drive Community Health
• Home Interactive Program for Parents and Youngsters(HIPPY)
• Little Strong Yerrampes Program
• Ready for School Playgroup
• Family Partnership Program
• Kwatja Etatha Playgroup
• Bush Culture Program
• Trachoma Program
The Australian Centre for Child Protection is undertaking a workforce development project funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), ‘Protecting and Nurturing Australia’s Children: Building Capacity, Building Bridges’.

**The Project Rationale:** Many adults with multiple and complex needs who are engaged with adult services (such as drug and alcohol, mental health, homelessness and domestic violence services) are parents and their behaviours may expose their children to risk. To minimise this risk it is essential that these adults are supported in their parenting by both their adult service workers and child and family services.

**The Project Goal:** This project will increase the capacity of adult services and child and family services to communicate with each other and increase the knowledge and skills of adult service providers to work with clients as parents and identify and support parenting needs earlier to refer to the appropriate support.

For further information, please contact Nina on 89518002.
I had rung a few days before to ask Miss Marni (head teacher) if I could visit. She was really accommodating and pleased to have me come and see what’s happening.

I visited this service not long after school returned for the second term and found the staff and children all busy with different activities as I walked into the room.

I was offered a drink and as I stood and drank my water I watched all the children busy at play. Some were constructing skyscrapers out of colourful wooden blocks and others were sitting in the book corner quietly browsing through stories with pictures of great adventures taking place in far off lands.

A group of “dads” were making beds in the home corner for all their children and busying themselves with making weet-bix for breakfast.

Everyone was busy at work and play and Miss Marni organised for some of the children to do writing exercises. I also met Miss Marni’s assistant Margaret, who lives at Amoonguna and comes into work each morning with her daughter.

The programme at Ampe Akweke Mape-kenhe Akaltye-irretyeke Ampere is focused on developing the children’s skills to ready them for the school environment. The programme is well planned but also has the ability to adapt and be semi-flexible depending on the need of the children on the day.

Miss Marni conducts regular assessment of the children’s abilities in seven domains: language, cognitive, fine motor, gross motor, social and emotional, visual and auditory processing.

Miss Marni and Margaret have great rapport with all the children and the children have a sound knowledge of the mornings routines and what behaviours a socially acceptable.

The children are all aware of the need to wash their hands and brush their teeth every day at the centre. A recent trip to the dentist for all the children proved that the regular tooth brushing has been valuable as all of the children were given a glowing report with no cavities.

The children are also given lots of water to drink and nutritional food for morning tea and lunch. Ampe Akweke Mape-kenhe Akaltye-irretyeke Ampere is a great learning environment that caters well for the needs of all the children who attend. It’s a delightful space and provides ample opportunity for all the students to grow and develop in a positive environment. The service is indigenous focused and provides a bus for transport to and from the learning centre.
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**24-25 MAY—National Quality Framework Regional PD Sessions for Term 1 2011**
Kellie Clear coordinating, For more information please contact

**24-25 Positive Schools Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference - Brisbane**
For more information please see www.positiveschools.com.au

**26 MAY—Australian Schools National Sorry Day**
The National Sorry Day Committee (NSDC) is inviting every Australian School and Education Facility from 'Kindy to Uni' to participate in the Australian Schools National Sorry Day.
### June

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**2 JUN**—MINDFUL Approaches to Working with Families & Children  
To Apply: [www.mindfulnesscentre.com](http://www.mindfulnesscentre.com)  
Tel: 08 8272 0046  
Email: Fiona@mindfulnesscentre.com

**4 JUN**—Early Years Learning Framework Professional Learning Workshops  

**7 JUN**—Training for professionals in facilitating the Bringing Up Great kids Parenting Program  

**23 JUN**—Co-production and co-education in services provided for children and families  
If anyone has any information they would like to put into the next newsletter, please ring Wayne on: 8951 8008 or email whuang@anglicare-nt.org.au by 01 July 2011

Next Newsletter **August 2011**