



Editor: Janice Jones, Executive Officer, ATCA. email: janice@atca.com.au

...and the winners are . . .

## **THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES!**

Therapeutic Communities were the big winners at the National Drug and Alcohol Awards presented in Sydney last month. The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence and Outstanding Contribution in Drug and Alcohol Endeavours was presented to Nigel Dick AM, the founder of Victoria's Odyssey House. A well deserved accolade for a man who, over the past 30 years, has been instrumental in developing a Therapeutic Community that has helped more than 8000 clients and their families deal with dependency issues.

Inducted onto the Honor Roll were two well known faces from the Therapeutic Community. Garth Popple, CEO of We Help Ourselves and James A. Pitts, CEO of Odyssey House McGrath Foundation were recognised for being leaders in innovative drug and alcohol treatment. Both James & Garth are regarded as veterans in the Therapeutic Community sector and, as well as the leadership they have shown in their own organisations, they have both held the position of President of the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association and have been dedicated to its development over many years.

The award for Excellence in Treatment went to "REACH OUT", an Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Service's project that operates as a Therapeutic Community in a self contained unit in Cadell Prison, South Australia.

Also a finalist in the Excellence in Treatment award was Karralika's Family Program which operates within their Therapeutic Community in the ACT.

It was a wonderful to see the "stars" of Therapeutic Communities being recognised for their contribution to the drug and alcohol sector.

Congratulations to you all.

## **VIPs VISIT TCs**



The Prime Minister John Howard chose the Salvation Army Recovery Service's William Booth House to announce the Federal Government's commitment of over \$100 million for new drug rehabilitation services and further support for those in the drug and alcohol sector.

In his announcement Mr Howard said: "we're going to put \$103 million into treatment, strengthening existing programs and providing additional rehabilitation services, which means that organizations will get more money to do the things they are now doing so well and to do them better"

Left to right: Gerard Byrne, Salvation Army, The Hon John Howard & Garth Popple, We Help Ourselves



On his first official assignment to Australia the Executive Director of the United Nation's Office on Drugs and Crime Mr. Antonio Maria Costa and The Representative from the UN's Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific Mr. Akira Fujino visited We Help Ourselves Therapeutic Community.

Mr. Costa who spent time talking to the residents of WHOS said; "I enjoyed having conversations with the young patients and appreciated their particularly candid opinions. It is through such interaction that I learn what the reality is on the ground."

Left to right: Garth Popple, Mr. Antonio Costa & Mr. Akira Fujino



**TC NEWS**



**Moonyah** - Salvation Army Recovery Services, Brisbane. Wednesday and Thursday saw fourteen of us from Moonyah set out for a property called "Caanan" at Riverview (near Ipswich) where for next 30 hours we shared in a Spiritual Retreat. We met together for group work, expressed the journey of faith through art, went on a silent meditation walk and watched the DVD "In Search of a Father".

The next day almost everyone participated in the rope activities which were used to illustrate the need to step out in faith. It was an incredible time of fellowship and deep soul searching. There has been such positive feedback from participants but also from staff (who were not there but have felt the impact) that we have decided to incorporate this as part of the group and step work on spiritual concepts

**The Palmerston Association Incorporated** has received a Lotterywest grant for \$669,521. The grant will enable the Association's Palmerston Farm in Wellard to improve and expand its facilities and accommodation for those people seeking treatment for drug and alcohol addictions. Palmerston Farm operates as a Therapeutic Community offering its residents drug and alcohol treatments for a maximum three-month period, as well as the chance to work on the organic farm. This grant will include the provision of air-conditioning for all common areas, a bore, pump and water tank, fencing for the farm's boundaries, bitumen for parking areas, and power and lighting for improved safety.

**Banyan House - Foster Foundation** has been granted \$4million from the Northern Territory Government to rebuild their facility. Lorraine Watson, who Leaves Banyan House at the end of July, said that the capacity of Banyan House will stay the same, 18 to 20 beds, but there will be an increase in interview rooms, a commercial kitchen, better staff facilities and more office space. A Project Manager is already on board and it is anticipated that the new facility will be operational in 12 months.

Meanwhile, Lorraine will be off to Cambodia and Laos for a holiday before resettling in Christchurch NZ. *We wish her well.*

**The Buttery** is launching MISA, a lifestyle support program for people with co-occurring disorders. MISA, which has been funded by the Attorney General's Proceeds of Crime Grant, will provide an outreach program for people with mental health & drug issues in the Northern Rivers Region of NSW. The program will operate as an integrated model of care which will include allied health professionals and other NGOs in the region.

**Cyrenian House** -At the official opening of the Arthur Toon Building, a new facility for women in residential treatment funded by the AERF, the West Australian Premier Alan Carpenter announced the State Government would provide an extra \$808,000 over four years in annual funding to help more mothers addicted to amphetamines gain access to rehabilitation services.

"The money will employ three additional counselling and welfare workers for Cyrenian House's Saranna Program," he said. This will enable the service to staff the 6 new houses provided by the WA Department of Housing.



## ATCA NEWS

### BOARD REPORT

The ATCA is in the process of revising its Constitution and reviewing the structure and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and the Executive Officer.

A Capacity Building grant received from the AERF has enabled the Association to employ the services of a consultant, Maureen Cleary, who is working with the Board and the Executive Officer over the next twelve months to facilitate these reviews.

During the past seven months there have been three Board meetings where the Constitution has been discussed and redrawn. Version VI of the revised Constitution is now with a lawyer to ensure it meets all legal and statutory requirements. When this has been completed a draft copy of the Constitution will be distributed to all ATCA members for comment. These comments will be taken back to the next Board meeting in October for a final review and the new Constitution, along with a "Rationale for Change" information paper, will be included in the Annual General Meeting documentation sent to all members prior to the AGM. The new Constitution will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting in November for acceptance by the ATCA's membership. Maureen will also be conducting a seminar at the ATCA 07 Conference to talk through the changes with members and answer any queries.

Governance Policies & Procedures are also being addressed as part of this process. This document is undergoing its second review and should be finalised at the next Board meeting.

The ATCA Directors have attended a "Governance Training" workshop convened by Maureen. This proved to be very worthwhile and feedback from the Directors was extremely positive.

A "Communications" workshop was facilitated by Ross Monaghan at our last Board meeting. Ross is a lecturer on Communications and Public Relations at Deakin University and has offered to lend us his expertise in developing a public relations strategy for ATCA. This will become part of the new Strategic Plan which is also in the pipeline. *Its all happening in 2007*

*Note: the ATCA office will be closed from Monday 13th August to Friday 14th September while the Executive Officer is on annual leave. All correspondence should be directed to the ATCA Chairperson, Carol Daws: [carol@cyrenianhouse.com](mailto:carol@cyrenianhouse.com)*

### ATCA 2007 CONFERENCE REPORT

News from the WFTC is that Monsignor O'Brien will be attending this year's ATCA conference. The Monsignor will be accompanied by his assistant Father Sebastian Bacatan.

At this stage the conference program is shaping up to be an exciting array of presentations covering many facets of the past, present and future. Don't forget your nominations for the ATCA Awards. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the ATCA Website and nominations close on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

All conference enquiries, submissions etc. should be emailed to: [07conference@atca.com.au](mailto:07conference@atca.com.au)

### EXECUTIVE REPORT

The AERF provided a grant for the Executive Officer to visit the Association of Therapeutic Communities (UK) and the European Federation of Therapeutic Community's Executives whilst in the region for the EFTC Conference. Some of the information gleaned from those meetings is mentioned below and the full report "Europe" can be access on ATCA's website.

The ATC in collaboration with the EFTC operates a web-based radio program which is facilitated by Craig Fees, Director of the Therapeutic Community Archive Office. Podcasts which can be downloaded or listened to in real-time include interviews with well known luminaries from the Therapeutic Community sector as well as interviews with managers, staff, and researchers. Access to Radio TC is available through the following link: [www.tc-of.org.au](http://www.tc-of.org.au)

While I was visiting a TC in the UK a resident mentioned the idea of having a pen pal in an Australian TC. This idea was discussed with EFTC and the ATC and the International TC Pen Pal Club will be launched in October. ATCA members will be provided with information close to the launch but it would be a good idea to canvass the notion with residents to get a feel for who might be interested in being involved.

Community of Communities, the organisation that develops standards and monitors the accreditation of TCs in Europe, will present their Addiction TC Standards and a Peer Review Workshop at ATCA's annual conference in November. Discussion has taken place with the Community of Communities regarding their membership data base and its applicability to ATCA's needs. This is still a matter for negotiation but a strong professional relationship has developed between ATCA and C of C, which should be of great benefit in the future.

ATCA has negotiated with ATC to host a 3 day Living and Learning Workshop as an adjunct to ATCA's annual conference in November. This is being done with a view to ATCA taking ownership of this workshop process and providing it as a service to its members as a future income stream for the Association.



## **ARE STAFF TRAINING NEEDS ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED IN RELATION TO WORKING WITH RESIDENTS DIAGNOSED WITH PERSONALITY DISORDER?**

*By Stephanie Stace*

As a Registered Nurse working in Sydney within the Drug and Alcohol field I was aware that clients with Substance Use problems frequently displayed behaviours and characteristics of both Anti Social and Borderline Personality Disorders.

This client group has been of particular interest to me for a number of years. As a Registered Mental Health Nurse in the UK I worked within the forensic system and case managed a number of clients with comorbid issues. The differences in treatment opportunities and attitudes between the UK and Australia interested me, and as I was undertaking a Certificate in Drug and Alcohol Studies with Rowdy Yates at Stirling University in Scotland, I took the opportunity to research on a small scale, the attitudes of staff working in Therapeutic Communities towards clients with a diagnosis of Borderline or Anti Social Personality Disorders, and the skills set of the clinicians.

The study was conducted between March and April 2007 with three Therapeutic Communities in Australia.

The research focused not only on attitudes of staff but

on identifying whether staff training needs were adequately addressed in relation to working with residents who have a diagnosis of either Borderline or Anti Social personality disorder. The study offers a background overview of the rationale for the research and gives a brief resume of each Therapeutic Community and the programmes offered.

By utilising a postal questionnaire the research attempted to elicit staff opinions and attitudes towards working with personality disordered residents and to establish whether they believed they had the necessary training and expertise.

In order to present the findings in context, a literature review pertaining to personality disorders, dual diagnosis and therapeutic interventions was incorporated into the report. The report gives an overall evaluation of the findings and offers recommendations to support the Therapeutic Communities in taking this research further. Due to the limitations of the academic brief I was unable to analyse the results in depth, however results did indicate a need for further investigation.

*Stephanie's full report can be accessed on our website: [www.atca.com.au](http://www.atca.com.au)*

## **OVERSEAS CONFERENCES**

This year I had the opportunity to attend two overseas conferences, the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities conference in Slovenia and the International Council on Alcohol & Addiction conference in Sweden. I would encourage management and staff to consider these two conferences for the future.

The EFTC showcases new initiatives in TC programs in Europe as well as presenting up to date research and the opportunity to network with a diverse range of like minded people dedicated to the TC model of Community as Therapy.

The ICAA conference covered a broader range of presentations looking at the global perspective of not only treatment but the political and commercial aspects that impact on addiction. This conference had three afternoon sessions on TCs and these were mostly dominated by Canadian programs with only one presentation from Australia given by Garth Popple on We Help Ourselves' MTAR program.

Both these Conferences would be a great platform to showcase Australia & New Zealand's contribution to recovery treatment, especially our family programs which appear to be quite unique in the TC world.

### **WFTC**

The latest news from the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities is that the Government of the Peoples Republic of China has cancelled the EFTC Conference that was to be held in Kunming in 2008. The Conference Organising Committee is attempting to relocate the 24th World Conference to Jakarta, Indonesia for 2008 and await formal confirmation from their colleagues there.

We will keep you posted on updates to the WFTC's conference arrangements.

### **EFTC**

The European Federation of Therapeutic Communities is hosting its 12<sup>th</sup> Conference on Rehabilitation & Drug Policy "Part of the Solution" from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

For more information on this conference check out our website:

[www.atca.com.au](http://www.atca.com.au)

### **ICAA**

The International Council on Alcohol & Addiction's 51<sup>st</sup> conference on dependencies will be held in Limassol, Cyprus from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008

This conference will provide opportunities to access researchers, practitioners and policy makers as well as visits to treatment facilities.

Watch this space for more details....