



**Caroline
Chisholm
Society**

Newsletter

Summer Edition – February 2015

SUPPORT GROUPS 2015

"Happy Days" Playgroup Tarneit

Mondays Feb 2–March 23,
10.30am–12.30 pm
Rooms 2 & 3, Tarneit C'ty Centre
150 Sunset Views B'vard, Tarneit

**Contact Audrey or Aziza
9361 7000.**

"Chisholm's PAL" Playgroup Melton

A supported playgroup for young
parents aged 16–25 yrs
Wednesdays Feb 4–March 11
10.30am–12.30
Melton West Community Centre
2 West Melton Drive, Melton

**Contact Erin or Daya
9361 7000**

"Bringing up Great Kids" Caroline Springs

April 17–June 5.
Springside Children's Community
Centre, 22 – 50 Becca Way,
Caroline Springs.

Contact Samantha 9361 7000.

Mother's Day Appeal

**Give Mum a card designed by our clients, so we can help a mum
raise her children as beautifully as your Mum raised you.**

**Donate \$10 or more in March or April and you'll receive a card
with your receipt.**

From the CEO

I took on the role as CEO in 2012 with a key aim of finding a way to keep Caroline Chisholm in Moonee Valley where transport is good and the community knows and loves us.

The house in Park Street served us well for 40 years, but was no longer suited to our needs. Encouraged by Council and the then Victorian Government, we leased temporary premises in Shuter Street and purchased on Mount Alexander Road.

Last year, we worked with local council and the State Government on a proposal for Western Community Service Hub at the site, but the proposal was put on hold as a result of the election. Sadly, we can't wait

much longer for the funds.

We want to be in Moonee Valley to serve our pockets of disadvantage, to be accessible by trains, trams and buses, and to meet the growth from the apartments that are going up.

We've brought a million dollar property and over \$300,000 of community fundraising to the project. The State Government should be able to match that, and quickly.

If you agree, please do send letters of support to Danny Pearson, Member for Essendon, PO Box 605, Moonee Ponds VIC 3039.

With thanks for your support,

Helen Cooney

What's happening in ...

... Moonee Valley

Our volunteers and staff are getting on with the job of helping pregnant women and new parents. That is, in spite of our concern about our office.

Two days a week, we take welfare appointments, during which we give out new and pre-loved baby and maternity goods. We check in to see how a woman is travelling and help her find out services available, both offered by us and by other organisations. We're trying to open the appointments up so that one is free to book on the day or day before. The spots get taken quickly, so most people wait four weeks to see us.

We're quick to help if a client rings for counselling. Recently, one expectant mum rang very nervous because she'd suffered the loss of a preg-

nancy earlier in her adulthood and was unsure about parenting. We supported her and will keep doing so.

We're seeing 12 to 15 people a week through the pregnancy counselling and welfare appointments program.

If those in need of goods to alleviate poverty have a case worker, their worker can drop in on a Friday. The Women for Women help them out. During the week, we volunteer to sort goods for people in need.

Our homelessness program has been unusually busy. In that program, we work to support mothers transition from crisis accommodation into longer term arrangements.

Our home visiting case workers located here are also keeping up the good work helping with parenting.

Want to volunteer?

We're looking for

**female volunteers
to be mentors**

and

**male volunteers to be
home handy helpers**

to help pregnant
women and those with
little children in
outer Western
Melbourne.

Contact Glenda Rumble on
03 9361 7000 or
grumble@caroline.org.au

What's happening in ...

... Goulburn Valley

We're farewelling friends and welcoming new ones, while we help expectant and new mothers.

Farewelling: Heather Pearson, a much treasured life member of and current volunteer for the Caroline Chisholm Society, passed away on Tuesday 10 February 2015. Heather, like many of our volunteers, came from a professional background. She was a teacher, with specialisation in Reading Recovery and tutoring. She was actively involved in her community, including with the Girls Friendly Society and St Augustine's Shepparton. She served on the Anglicare Council in 2012. Farewell Heather, may you rest in peace.

Welcoming: Aneta Moody has joined our team, with the support of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust and the Ian Potter Foundation. Aneta's role is to recruit volunteers and help them to help our team help women. She is seeking volunteers!

Want to volunteer in Shepparton?

Client Contact

Respond to families in person or on the phone
Sort and distribute new and pre-loved baby and maternity goods

Non Client Contact

Fundraising and events
General administration
Sewing or knitting
Handy work and repairs



Helen Macpherson Smith Trust



What's happening in ...

... Caroline Springs

Our team here are largely those who help expectant and new mothers with parenting. In each fortnight, we see about 90 families. We work with them to identify what they'd like help doing to improve their parenting. It allows us to avoid them getting to the stage of crisis. Sometimes we work with them after they've had contact with the Department of Human Services. We prefer to work with people to prevent statutory intervention rather than afterward, but increasingly we work with this more complex client group.

We also have new and preloved goods at this office, but mainly clothes for the case workers located here to access. We find the majority of those who need the nursery items and baby bundles need to visit our office close to public transport, in Moonee Valley. When we need goods for clients in the growth corridors, we can access it from Moonee Ponds. We're hopeful their new building starts soon, because we think the service is worthwhile.

We're currently recruiting staff to help us cover some leave and we're looking forward to meeting the new team members when they arrive.

The office now has some tenants too. We have been joined by the team working on the special project, Services Connect. Services Connect is a Victorian Government funded project, headed up by Chris from MacKillop Family Services here in Brimbank/Melton.

The new team is made up of people from lots of different services who help vulnerable people with lots of different issues. So, for example, they are people who work with homelessness, family violence, mental health, or alcohol and other drugs. Some are specialists with a particular cohort, like us. Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) and VACCA (an Aboriginal child and family welfare organisation) are also involved in our partnership. One of our team will join the project soon.

Our clients need nursery goods such as prams, bassinets, baths, change tables.

PLEASE DONATE

Fridays 9am-5pm at 12 Shuter Street, Moonee Ponds.

Contact us ...

1 Darebin Place
Caroline Springs 3023
T: 03 9361 7000
F: 03 9361 7099

12 Shuter Street
Moonee Ponds 3039
T: 03 9361 7000
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15A St Andrews Road
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T: 5821 0826
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E: secretary@caroline.org.au
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