

putting children first
AtwC

Caring

Community Magazine

**Leading U.S. Researcher
Endorses ATWC's work**

**Meet our New
Family Services Director**

**Melissa Cole
Radio Role Model**

**Thank you Dio For Our
Fabulous Food Parcels**

**Granger Grove Mum
Happy at Heart**



Who Can We Blame!

It's easy for us to become disillusioned when we're constantly

confronted with newspaper headlines like "Newborns in State Care 'Alarming'" and "Abusive Mums May be Tracked Through life" which have appeared in the New Zealand Herald over the past few months.

Such reports show how the media can influence public opinion and fuel the need for a scapegoat – someone, or some organisation, we can conveniently blame when a child's welfare is at stake.

Recently, calls have increased for the work of one of the usual suspects, the Child Youth and Family service, to be monitored. But would this really make any difference? Retired Principal Youth Court Judge Mick Brown's inquiry into Child Youth and Family concluded that we are all responsible for child protection.

"We are responsible for our own children and for those of family members. We are responsible for those we teach, coach, minister and encounter in life. Each of us is responsible for the children we may never see but whose education, health and welfare we contribute to through taxes and donations," Judge Brown said in his report.

He also said that an effective child protection system includes co-operation between government departments and community organisations – such as the Anglican Trust for Women and Children.

It's often said that there is not enough money for such co-operative efforts and that preventive strategies and programmes deserve a higher profile. Both are valid points.

But, in the end, this is not about money or strategies. It's about the lives of the most vulnerable individuals in New Zealand society – children – and predominately those under the age of five.

When a child is abused or neglected, family members and neighbours are usually the first to know. Some may fear telling anyone because they think they will look like busybodies or narks. Others want to believe the best of people, are afraid they might be mistaken, or that they will make things worse.

We also know that Child Youth and Family will be there to take responsibility when we don't.

Isn't it time that we began to stand up and take responsibility for our children and reclaim the maxim that "New Zealand really is the best place in the world to bring up children"?

If we need someone to blame, let's take responsibility ourselves, rather than casting stones at Child, Youth and Family, who only become involved when everyone else has failed.

The Anglican Trust for Women and Children, with other agencies including Child Youth and Family, are working hard to try to eliminate child abuse in New Zealand. We are committed to delivering quality services, which will help us to achieve our goal.

With your help we can and must win this fight for all our children.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilson Irons". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Wilson Irons
CEO – Anglican Trust for Women and Children

ATWC needs your support to help build happy, healthy futures for our children.

To **DONATE**, visit www.atwc.org.nz, call 09 276 3729, or send a cheque payable to Anglican Trust for Women and Children to PO Box 22363, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640. Or fill out the card with this newsletter and send it to us in the Freepost envelope provided.

Freepost Authority No. 61481, The Anglican Trust for Women and Children, PO Box 22363, Otahuhu, Auckland 1640
Freephone: 0800 901 000

ATWC FORGES LINKS WITH LEADING CHILD HEALTH RESEARCHERS

Social Work Services director Judy Matai'a will visit the United States in September to look at the work of leading paediatrics researchers whose director has endorsed ATWC's Family Start programme.

Judy is responsible for overseeing the work of 24 social workers who work with up to 400 families as part of ATWC's Family Start programme.

The Trust's programme is one of 32 government-funded Family Start programmes in New Zealand which target families with children aged 0 to three. Unlike most other programmes, ATWC employs only qualified social workers.

Judy will be a guest of Professor Anne Duggan who is Director of the John Hopkins General Pediatrics Research Center in Baltimore and a leading expert in home visitation programmes such as Family Start. Judy will get feedback from Professor Duggan on ATWC's Family Start programme and see how her research teams work.

"Their research focuses on helping families to understand why they have social workers and to monitor progress. It also supports social workers' understanding of underlying parent and child relationships.

"This will be a wonderful opportunity to see how what we are doing compares with some American home visitation initiatives, and I am looking forward to discussing the latest research on evaluation and effectiveness with Anne," says Judy.

"It's also a chance to consolidate ATWC's links with overseas experts who have access to a wide range of international research and to fine-tune our programme."

During a 2009 New Zealand visit, Professor Duggan shared her expertise on staff supervision and programme evaluation with ATWC staff. She was

impressed with ATWC's Family Start programme and has since endorsed the Trust's work.

Family Start targets the 15 percent of the population most at risk and gets referrals from Child Youth and Family, Plunket, hospitals and other agencies. It focuses on children having a safe home and loving parents, with a new emphasis on reducing child abuse.

Families join the programme if they meet certain criteria – such as having limited parenting skills or living in overcrowded conditions.

Teaching parents to understand how children mirror their behaviour – both good and bad – and seeing simple breakthroughs like adults singing nursery rhymes to their children, are some of the rewards for ATWC staff.

"It is about supporting mothers in their relationships with their

babies and helping them learn what they need to do to for them to reach developmental and cognitive milestones."



Social Work Services Director
Judy Matai'a

"It is about supporting mothers in their relationships with their babies and helping them learn what they need to do to for them to reach developmental and cognitive milestones."





Granger Grove Mum

Happy At Heart

Twenty-year-old Julie and her two-year-old son Jerome are the two latest success stories of our Granger Grove residential parenting programme.

Julie celebrated her graduation on July 1 with other Granger Grove mothers, children and ATWC staff as well as her grandmother who made a special trip for the occasion.

Staff at Granger Grove have watched Julie become stronger and stronger since she was referred to the programme by Child, Youth and Family in April 2010. Julie says she has “learnt heaps” in her 15 months at the Grove about good parenting but also about herself. “I’m a very shy person and one of my biggest challenges has been to find my own voice and to stand up for myself and for my son,” she says.

“I’m not usually a talker but I have learnt how important it is to talk to my son a lot and to play alongside him instead of just letting him play on his own. I’ve definitely learnt how to build a better bond with him.

“If I had not gone to Granger Grove I would not have

been nearly as good at looking after my son and relating to him.”

Julie says she has also learnt how to socialise with people her own age. “The only time I used to do that was when I was drinking. But you get to know people much better when you are sober and you can also work out whether or not you can trust them.”



I’ve learnt to wake up and get up early – around 6.30am or 7am – when Jerome wakes up, and I never used to cook for myself but now I actually like cooking. I love making roasts and stews ... but I suck at baking.”

Since moving back into the community, Julie has had to learn deal with boredom at times because living on her own with her son is much quieter than the busy life at Granger Grove but she says she has learnt the skills to cope with change. After settling Jerome into a preschool that she is happy with, Julie plans to finish a 50-week Business and Computing course that she put on hold while she was at Granger Grove.

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Family Services Director Embraces New Role

Jane Hanley has been ATWC's Director of Family Services for just four months, but she is quietly optimistic about meeting the challenges of her new role and building on the respected reputations of Granger Grove and the therapy team she manages.

Jane's impressive background spans 30 years in public health as a social worker and manager of social workers and allied health staff. Much of her social work career has been with children, including at Starship Hospital's predecessor Princess Mary. She also spent 12 years as a social worker, working with heart children at Green Lane Hospital and with the heart and lung transplant unit.

More recently she completed a three-month contract with Child Youth and Family as a staff social worker – an experience she says was a real eye opener. After managing large numbers of people in previous roles, the shift to ATWC means Jane can have more personal contact with staff and be more involved in the day-to-day programmes she manages.

Jane oversees delivery of services at residential parenting centre Granger Grove, which houses up to nine mothers and their children at a time. She is also responsible for a therapy team of six counsellors and psychotherapists who offer programmes in-house and in schools.

The live-in Granger Grove programme teaches mothers life changing skills their families need to do well.

Living arrangements are structured so mothers and children can progress from a supervised daily routine to a more self-managed lifestyle which equips them to cope better when they leave.

As well as learning basic life skills, mothers have access to counselling and develop an understanding of issues like family violence.



Family Services Director Jane Hanley

During their mother's stay, children attend ATWC's on-site St Mary's Preschool, where mothers are encouraged to be involved.

The effectiveness of Granger Grove's programme is evident to staff as mothers begin to bond with their children, parent positively and start to manage their own lives well, says Jane.

The six therapy counsellors provide individual counselling and psychotherapy to adults and children both on-site at ATWC and in four schools. They also provide programmes, such as Mellow Parenting to people who live in Counties Manukau and the

Thinking Smart programme, usually offered in schools for young males for anger management.

Programmes like Tree of Life help children who may have witnessed abuse at home, and other programmes help those who have suffered a loss or experienced grief.

Helping clients understand, manage or change issues in their lives and to know how and where to get help, is a main goal for the ATWC team.

Jane is also keen to find out from clients how they rate ATWC so it can evaluate its valuable services and continue to improve them.

Her biggest challenge is securing funding, including from corporate sponsors. Not all ATWC's programmes are fully funded, accessing government funding takes time, and the recession has hit donations to many charities, including ATWC.

"Helping clients understand, manage or change issues in their lives and to know how and where to get help, is a main goal for the ATWC team."

Jane's impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the staff who have welcomed her into her new role and is committed to the challenge of keeping ATWC a leader in its field, providing care that is critical to Auckland families in need.

You can contact Jane on ph 0274 102 174.



Radio Role For Melissa

Melissa Cole, who has inspired others this year with her story of how ATWC counselling helped her turn her life around, is taking bold steps towards a career in radio.

After being guest speaker at Counselling Awareness Week in May, Melissa was invited to talk on Radio Live with host Willie Jackson about her personal journey and how counselling helped her cope with issues including her sister Annabel's untimely death in 2004.

Jackson's producer was so impressed that Melissa was invited to be a special guest of host Mike King on The Nutters Club.

"They loved me too, so now I get to co-host the second part of The Nutters Club every second Sunday with Phillipa Hayes," says Melissa, who graduated from Manukau Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Communications in May and says performing is in her blood.

"I'm so excited. it's a foot in the door with radio and awesome experience. At the radio station I feel like I'm home. so I hope this will be a step to paid work in what I want to be my career."

The Nutters Club is a nationwide talkback show broadcast on Radio Live on Sunday nights at 10.30pm that deals with issues surrounding mental illness and related issues.

Melissa is also a role model for a new Maori in Tertiary Education employment initiative supported by the Auckland Business Council.

ATWC Pays Tribute To Lifetime Supporter



One of the ATWC's most ardent supporters, who was the Trust's chairman for 14 years, has died.

Family, friends and ATWC board members paid tribute to Gordon Schofield, who died peacefully at Selwyn Wilson Carlile Resthome in Hamilton, aged 89 on June 3.

ATWC board Chairman

Dianne Kenderdine said the Trust benefited greatly from the energy, wise counsel and leadership of Mr Schofield who became a board member in 1976 and was chairman from 1979 until 1983.

Apart from spending four years in the airforce in the Second World War, Mr Schofield spent his working life employed at what is now New Zealand Guardian Trust.

He was assistant general manager of the company – which is one of the ATWC's main sponsors – when he retired in 1982. He was also an associate of the NZ Society of Accountants, a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries, and a fellow of the Executor and Trustee Institute.

"Gordon had a good understanding of the importance of keeping the Trust financially viable," said Dianne.

"He was a very family-oriented person and ahead of his time when it came to being involved everyday chores. One of his children spoke fondly at his funeral about he liked nothing better than having a big household cleanup on a Saturday morning."

When he joined ATWC's board he was "thrown in at the deep end" by being made chairman of the legal and finance subcommittee, but his accounting and other financial skills stood him in good stead.

"After he left the board he encouraged many of our generous benefactors to support us."

Mr Schofield is survived by his wife Natalie, three children, six grand children and six great grandchildren.



The Friends of ATWC Incorporated



Noeline Grant and Gillian McAlister
with CEO Wilson Irons

Jane Hanley and Dianne Kenderdine

Lesley Anderson and
Thelma Downs

Thank you lunch!

About 35 people heard firsthand about the Trust's work to support families, mothers and their children when they attended a Supporters Lunch and Update at ATWC's St Mary's Family Centre in Otahuhu in July.

Friends of ATWC hosted a light lunch where the Trust's supporters had a chance to mingle and to ask questions of staff including directors Jane Hanley, Judy Matai'a and Rae Dalton who outlined the family, social work and early childhood education services they lead.

Supporters toured ATWC's facilities, including Granger Grove, where supervisor Lorri Higgins explained how the residential parenting programme supports mothers and their children to turn their lives around. The three-stage programme, for mothers and children usually referred by the Children and Young Persons Service, is the only one of its kind in Australasia. Unlike short-term programmes, Granger Grove supports mothers for up to 18 months, teaching them vital parenting and life skills and providing them with childcare, counselling and psychotherapy services.

"The heroes of the programme are the women who come here and work so hard to do what is best for their children," CEO Wilson Irons told ATWC's supporters.

"Sometimes mothers who come here realise that they are just not ready to be parents and we support that too because we focus on the children and what is best for them."

Theatre Night



Enjoy a Wilde night of theatre and support the ATWC's good work. Howick's Harlequin Musical Theatre performs Oscar Wilde's perennially popular play *The Importance of Being Earnest* from August 22 to September 11. The Friends of ATWC are holding a fundraising evening at the 140-seat theatre on August 30. Tickets to the witty satire of Victorian ways, directed by John Fausett, cost \$35 each and include supper.

Where: Harlequin Musical Theatre
563 Pakuranga Rd (behind
the Howick and Pakuranga
Recreation Centre)

When: 7.30pm, August 30, 2011
RSVP: Michelle on 09 269 5452 or
0274 182 924 or email
m2atkinson@slingshot.co.nz

FRIENDS CATER FOR CASH

Limited kitchen facilities did not stop the Friends providing delicious meals when they catered for the Organist Association Conference in Auckland at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Attendees were treated to homemade soups, tasty sandwiches, delicious baking, fresh fruit and fine coffee at morning teas, lunches and suppers served at Pitt St Methodist Church, the Town Hall and Ponsonby Baptist Church.

About 80 organists from all over New Zealand and from many denominations, as well as overseas delegates, attended the two-day conference. Based at St Andrews Church in Epsom, the Friends swung into action, had plenty of fun and made a profit of over \$3000 to donate to ATWC.

A special thanks to the Association of Anglican Women and parish members for providing delicious home baking which was a big hit.

ATWC Welcomes New Chaplain



ATWC has a new chaplain – the Rev'd Margot Postlewaight of the Holy Trinity Church in Otahuhu.

Rev'd Postlewaight is keen to get to know Granger Grove families, children at St Mary's Preschool and ATWC staff.

Like her predecessor, the Rev'd Sue Halapua, she plans to pop into St Mary's Family Centre about once a fortnight to say hello and have a chat.

"I want people to know I can be there to sit and talk and am someone they can connect with. Some people may have had no-one in the past."

Rev'd Postlewaight, who can offer services such as weddings and baptisms, was Priest Assistant at the Clevedon Parish for four years until April 2010. She was then based part-time at the Ranfurly War Veterans Home and Hospital in Three Kings until April this year.

Thank you sew much!

Mothers who graduate from Granger Grove not only take away a new set of parenting and life skills when they leave ATWC's residential parenting programme.

Thanks to the generosity of several clever quilters who support our Granger Grove families, we have been able to give each family a hand-crafted bed quilt to take home.

ATWC's board chairman Dianne Kenderdine and family services director Judy Matai'a have been invited to a special meeting in August of the Quilters' Guild to receive some more of these beautiful quilts.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thank you to Fleet Partners, Four Winds, Guardian Trust, The Lion Foundation and The Strathlachlan Fund, who have recently given us grants. Your generosity means we can keep putting children first and providing our valuable services and programmes to the Auckland community.



ATWC AGM

Where: St Mark's Parish Hall
95 Remuera Rd, Remuera 1050
When: September 14, 7.30pm
Guest Speaker: Melissa Cole

Caring – a subscription free publication of the Anglican Trust For Woman And Children (ATWC)

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