

YOUR *newsletter*

A space where we keep Forgotten Australians / Care Leavers, Former Child Migrants, those affected by forced adoption, family, friends and service providers connected and up to date about any news and the supports available for our community of people affected by out of home care or harmed in other Australian institutions.



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Relationships Australia
TASMANIA

Relationships Australia Tasmania acknowledges that we work on Aboriginal land, Lutruwita, the lands of the Palawa and Pakana peoples. We are deeply committed to community action and to community healing. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Always was, Always will be.

Introduction

Welcome to the summer edition of Your Place, a newsletter dedicated to keeping Forgotten Australians, Care Leavers, Former Child Migrants and those affected by forced adoption connected, informed, and supported. This space is created for you—our community — to share experiences, access support, and stay updated on important developments.

This edition highlights ongoing advocacy efforts, particularly the push for a meaningful memorial that truly reflects the experiences of Forgotten Australians. Advocacy remains a key focus, with continued efforts to ensure recognition, remembrance, and justice for those impacted by institutional care.

A highlight this quarter is the upcoming visit from the Board of the Alliance of Forgotten Australians (AFA) in March 2025. This event presents a unique opportunity for our community to engage directly with national advocates, share personal experiences, and contribute to shaping policies and



services. To foster connection and discussion, an afternoon tea gathering will be held, providing a welcoming and supportive space for attendees.

In addition to advocacy updates, this issue also features personal reflections, poetry, and artwork from our community members, showcasing the strength and resilience of those with lived experiences. We also share updates from support groups like Your Place, which continue to provide a sense of belonging and healing.

Thank you for being part of Your Place — together, we continue to build a stronger, more connected community. We look forward to staying engaged and supporting one another on this journey.

Significant Dates for People who have spent time in Australian Institutional Settings

13th February National Anniversary to the Apology to the Stolen Generations
21st March National Anniversary to the Apology for Forced Adoptions
13th May Apology to Former Ward of the State Abused in Tasmanian State Care
27th May to 3rd June Reconciliation Week calls for all Australians to commit to reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples, commemorates the 1967 Referendum and High Court Mabo Decision which granted Native Title Legislation
6th July to 13th July NAIDOC Week - celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Achievements, history and cultures
August National Australian Family History Month
4th August National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
13th August Apology to Tasmania's Stolen Generations by the State Government
18th October Tasmanian Government Apology to Forced Adoptions
22nd October National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse
16th November National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

Community Profile: Maryann Wall

I am a Forgotten Australian. I am also a member of the Your Place Group. I have been going in the south for over two years.

I absolutely love attending because I have made a lot of beautiful friends. We all get recognition for what you've been through and the knowledge we have about growing up in Government Homes. I understand everybody's story is different and we have lived it growing up. Music has been in my life since I can remember. I can still remember getting my finger squashed in a piano door by my music teacher. He was a grumpy old man. In primary school, I brought so many instruments home from school. I can still remember playing a trumpet tuba or a French horn under Mum's bedroom window because she was always in bed and she didn't like it. She would break them on you but that didn't stop me from playing. The school stopped me from taken them home because of mum.



Caption: Photo of Dad taken at my older sister's Christening at Pontville in 1964.

I started playing the guitar in grade 4 and I was getting good at playing it. I started playing the drums in grade 7 and enjoyed playing them too! I can still remember my Dad taken me to Kindy and didn't want Dad to leave and losing all of my friends. Mum walked out on Dad when I was 10, taking my two younger sisters with her for a younger man- leaving my older sister, my brother and myself.

I didn't want to leave dad. Dad was my rock, my hero and I looked up to him. We lost Dad at the age of 62.

I would like to thank Eliza and my beautiful friends for everything they have done for me and helping me come out of my shell and making beautiful friends. I can trust them because they have been there, and they understand. Since coming to the group I've done other things too, like give up cigarettes, I'm writing more, I'm spelling more and I feel more confident.

My next goal in life is I want to become a counsellor for children. Just to prove that you can do what you want in life and there no such word as you can't do it.

My values in my life are my family, honesty, loyalty and respect- and I get all this at Your Place. This is why I attend the group, and another reason is having a good laugh in a place where I feel safe.

Thank you my beautiful friends!

Maryann xo

Experiencing Your Place Group

“As part of Your Place, a place where we feel comfortable, we all have something in common, and in no way feel obligated to talk of our time in “care”.

We talk about anything really, always have a laugh, our small group have become really good friends.

I feel there's many Forgotten Australians out there that would benefit by being part of “Your Place”, no matter what type of situation you were in while in “care”.

My husband and I have been going to “Your Place for around 10 years, maybe more.

It is a happy place, just like a garden where one can smile for a little while.

Also, the morning tea is lovely too.”

Written by A Forgotten Australian with lived Experience.



A Prose by Community Member

She met a boy who was wild
he left her with his child
because boys like that can't step up
to be fathers and men
It happens again and again

Adoption papers are signed
the baby girl left behind
the mother goes home and finds
a good man and starts life again
the child in the cot not forgot

thirty years and adoption law change
unaware of the dangers
her child – a woman grown
comes to stay, and takes
what is not her own

husband and daughter are lovers
for months she doesn't know
now what will she do?
where will she go
with this grief in her family

she had married a man who went
wild
who slept with her long-ago child
are men all the same?
is their love just a game?
it happens again and again

M.C.

An Artwork by Community Member



“There is a dragon hiding in the picture. We never know when it will jump out, so we wait and watch for the next bad thing to happen”.

Interview with North-west Your Place Group member

Lyndell: How are you feeling about answering some questions for the YourPlace Newsletter?

“D”: I am happy to be able to pass on my thoughts and experiences to others.

Lyndell: What are 3-4 words/phrases that describes your experience of attending the group?

“D” - I have found the group to be a supportive space where I can listen to diverse perspectives from others with experiences in forced adoption. It also allows me to share my own story without fear of judgment.

Lyndell: Would you recommend others in the community that have lived experience of Forced Adoption attend? And why?

“D” - I can't recommend the group enough. Many people with forced adoption experience in the community would benefit from connecting with others who share similar experiences, but they may not know where to turn and speaking to people who don't understand the impact is not always helpful. Raising awareness of the groups remains the biggest challenge.

Lyndell: How old were you when you found out you were adopted, and would you like to share how?

“D” - . Around the age of seven, curiosity led me to break into a locked drawer in my mother's s old Singer treadle sewing machine. When I had asked what was inside, my mother said 'nothing'. But what I found told a different story. The first time I read the paperwork, I wasn't entirely sure what it meant, so I returned the next day to confirm my suspicions. I never told my parents what I had discovered, and they never shared the truth with me. In hindsight, I'm glad I learned at a young age...it became a part of me, something I simply accepted.

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Lyndell: You are a writer and have published your stories and photos. Why is this important to you?

“D”: I have written novellas about my adoptive parent’s lives, my own journey from birth to marriage, and the search for my birth parents and their history. I included historical documents and photos. I had these books printed for my children, ensuring they can be passed down through generations. It’s important to me that my descendants understand my story and their heritage.

Lyndell: Is there anything else you would like our YourPlace readers to know?

“D”: The wider community fails to grasp the lasting wounds inflicted by forced adoption. The pain is not just emotional, it reaches into every aspect of life, shaping identity, relationships, and sense of self. This is why support groups are essential; they provide a safe space to confront these realities, share experiences, and find understanding in a world that too often looks away.

Lyndell: Thank you “D” for your insights, openness and honesty. Our NW group appreciates you!

Advocacy for Memorial

The Find and Connect Reference Group have had a busy start to the year following up on connections made at the National Apology for Forgotten Australians and Care Leavers event held at Goodwood Community Centre in November 2024.

2 members of the Reference Group have met with Vica Bayley, Deputy Leaders for Tasmanian Greens and Sue Hickey, Mayor of Glenorchy. Both Vica and Sue attended the National Apology event and after conversations with Forgotten Australians about some of the important issues in Tassie, both made a commitment to meet with Forgotten Australians to hear more about their concerns.

A key issue raised was the memorial at the Botanical Gardens and the fact that this is not a meaningful place of remembrance and does not create a lasting and respectful tribute to the experiences of Forgotten Australians. There has been an ongoing advocacy with the Government on this issue from Reference Group members for a number of years.



10-December-2013



12-January-2014

Looking around the Country, we can see memorials that reflect hope and healing, create a place of remembrance and reflection and enduring recognition of the experience of Forgotten Australians and Care Leavers during the last century



21-September-2020

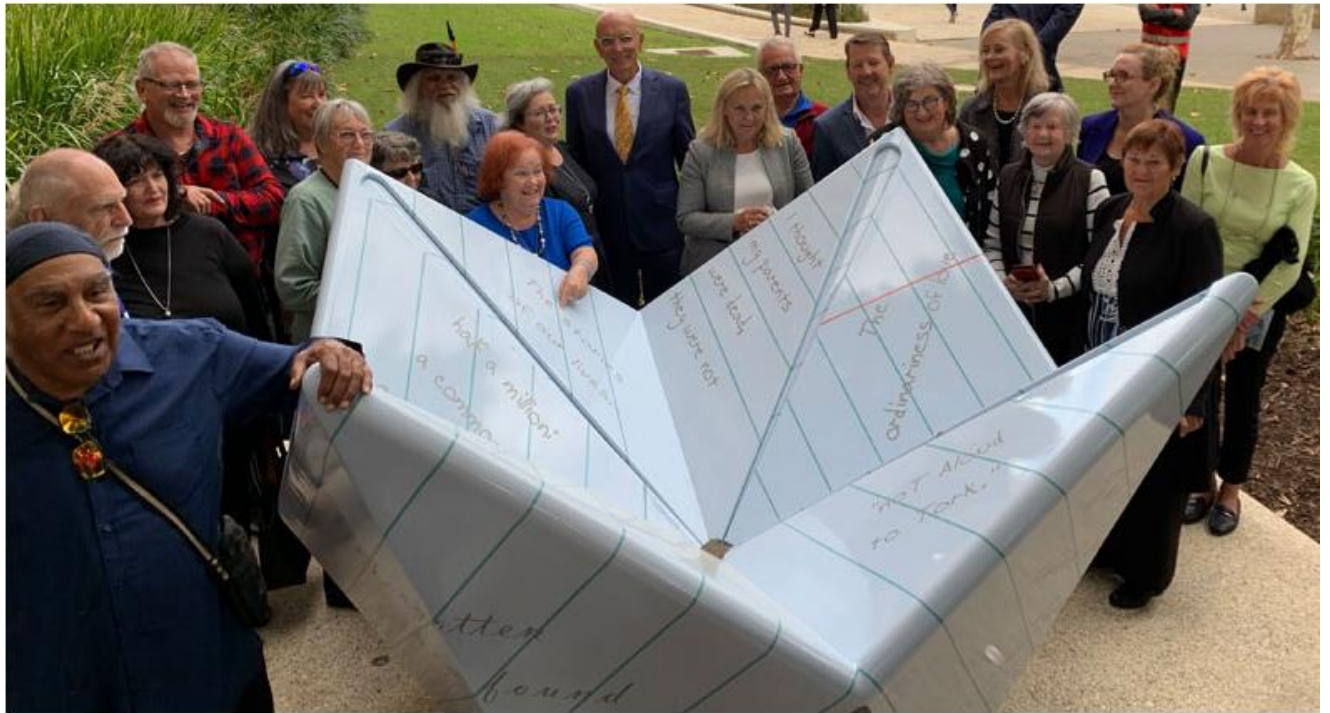


21-September-2020

The South Australian Memorial consisting of 4 huge daisies, with the tallest over 6 meters high

The Find and Connect Reference Group with support of Relationships Australia Tasmania, is working to advocate for a new memorial that better reflects the experiences and stories of Forgotten Australians in Tasmania.

We have secured a commitment from Vica to support our advocacy across the State and Sue to explore having a memorial dedicated to Forgotten Australians and Care Leavers in the redevelopment of Tolosa Park.



21-April-2014

The Western Australian memorial is Modelled on a children's fortune-telling game made of folded paper and the corners and flaps bear the words of Forgotten Australians themselves about their experiences and their present situations

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

To make sure we have ideas and thoughts from the broad community, we invite Forgotten Australians, their families, carers, and allies to share their thoughts and ideas to help guide our advocacy. Your insights will help us to advocate for a place of remembrance, recognition, and healing.

We would love to hear from you via our online survey!



Your feedback will help ensure that our advocacy for a memorial is guided by Forgotten Australians to create a memorial that is a meaningful, respectful, and lasting tribute to the experiences of Forgotten Australians in Tasmania.

Alliance of the Forgotten Australians - Tasmania Visit

Relationships Australia Tasmania will be hosting the Board of the Alliance of the Forgotten Australians in March 2025. The purpose of this visit is to engage with the Tasmanian community and hear from the board about their advocacy work and share priorities in Tasmania for Forgotten Australians.

This conversation will be along side afternoon tea on 6th March 2025.

Venue: 20 Clare Street New Town, Hobart, Tasmania

Time: 01:30pm – 03:00pm



Karadi Gardening Group



Neighbourhood Houses

Neighbourhood House Week will be held in May 2025 with local Community House events and activities being advertised in April. For upcoming events and activities in your local area (including events celebrating International Women's Day), please contact your local Neighbourhood House.

Neighbourhood Houses in Southern Tasmania

Bridgewater Community House – Jordan River Service - 6263 4303

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Bridgewater-Community-House-Jordan-River-Service-Inc/61572210671559/>

Bucaan Community House (Chigwell) - 6249 5363

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Bucaan-Community-House-100069211266088/>

Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre - 6247 8163

<https://www.facebook.com/clarendonvaleneighbourhood.centre/>

Derwent Valley Community House – 6261 5230

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Derwent-Valley-Community-House/100064881332140/#>

Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House – 6253 9000

<https://www.facebook.com/dunalleytasman/>

Gagebrook Community House - Jordan River Service - 6263 6097

<https://www.facebook.com/geevestoncommunitycentre/>

Geeveston Community Centre – 6297 1616

<https://www.facebook.com/geevestoncommunitycentre/>

Goodwood Community Centre – 6272 2560

<https://www.facebook.com/GoodwoodCommunityCentreTas/>

Karadi Aboriginal Corporation – 6272 3511

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Karadi-Aboriginal-Corporation-100069342424285/>

Kingston Neighbourhood House – 6229 4066

<https://www.facebook.com/kingstonnh/>

Midway Point Neighbourhood House – 6265 1155

<https://www.facebook.com/MidwayPointNeighbourhoodHouse/>

Okines Community House (Dodges Ferry) – 6265 7016

<https://www.facebook.com/okinescommunityhouse/>

Risdon Vale Neighbourhood Centre – 6243 5752

<https://www.facebook.com/risdonvaleneighbourhoodcentre/>

Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre – 6200 8540

<https://www.facebook.com/Adminrnc/>

Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre – 6244 6346

<https://www.facebook.com/warranemornington/>

West Moonah Neighbourhood House – 6273 2362

<https://www.facebook.com/p/West-Moonah-Neighbourhood-House-100064818963677/>

West Winds Community Centre (Woodbridge) – 6267 4713

<https://www.facebook.com/WestWindsCommunityCentre/>

Neighbourhood Houses in North and North-west Tasmania

Beaconsfield House Inc - 63831110

<https://www.facebook.com/BeacyHouse/>

Burnie Community House & Hilltop Central – 6433 3219

<https://www.facebook.com/burnie.communityhouse/>

Deloraine House – 6362 2678

<https://www.delorainehouse.org.au/>

Devonport Community House – 6224 7060

<https://www.facebook.com/devonportcommunityhousetasmania/>

Dorset Community House – 0474 100 219

<https://www.facebook.com/dorsetcommunityhouse/>

East Devonport Community House – 6427 9985

<https://www.facebook.com/eastdevonportneighbourhoodhouse/>

Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House Inc – 6374 2344

<https://www.facebook.com/fingalvalleyneighbourhoodhouse/>

George Town Neighbourhood House – 6312 3019

<https://www.facebook.com/georgetownhood/>

Meander House - 6362 2678

<https://www.delorainehouse.org.au/contact-2/>

Northern Suburbs Community Centre (Mowbray and Newnham) - 6326 5506

www.nscas.org.au

Phoenix Community House (Currie, King Island) – 6462 1746

<https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixCommunityHouse/>

Rosebery Neighbourhood House – 6473 1497

<https://www.facebook.com/RoseberyNeighbourhoodHouse/>

St Helens Neighbourhood House – 6376 1134

<https://www.facebook.com/sthelensnhh.org.au/>

Starting Point Neighbourhood House (Ravenswood) – 6339 2861

<https://www.facebook.com/startingpointtas/>

Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre – 6471 6108

<https://www.zeehannc.org.au/>

Meet our counselling staff

North/North-West Team



Gardia
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect



Lyndell
FASS



Cara
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect



Maria
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect

South Team



Alex
Redress Senior Prac



Eliza
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect



Aishwarya
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect

Relationships Australia, Tasmania
www.tas.relationships.org.au
20 Clare St, NEW TOWN TAS 7008
6 Paterson St, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
68 North Fenton St, DEVONPORT TAS 7310
1300 364 277 / admin@reltas.com.au

Alliance for Forgotten Australians
forgottenaustralians.org.au
0488 460 646 or 0419 854 980
admin@forgottenaustralians.org.au

Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN)
www.clan.org.au
support@clan.org.au
1800 008 774 or 0425 204 747

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
www.tacinc.com.au
Hobart (03) 6234 0700
Burnie (03) 6436 4100
Launceston (03) 6332 3800
Free Call – 1800 132 260

Link-up Victoria (for Stolen Generations)
www.linkupvictoria.org.au
Free call: 1800 OUR MOB (1800 687 662)
03) 7002 3700 linkup@vacca.org

SASS (Sexual Assault Support Service)
www.sass.org.au
Hobart (03) 6231 0044
1800 697 877, 24-hour support

Laurel House (Sexual Assault Support)
www.laurelhouse.org.au
Northern Tasmania: (03) 6334 2740
NW Tasmania: (03) 6431 9711
1800 697 877, 24-hour support

Engender Equality
www.engenderequality.org.au
admin@engenderequality.org.au
(03) 6278 9090 (statewide)

Helplines:

Lifeline (24/7) - 13 11 14

Beyond Blue helpline (24/7) - 1300 224 636

Blueknot Helpline & Redress Support Service
9am-5pm, Mon-Fri - 1300 657 380

MySupport (SASS & Laurel House 24/7 counsellors) – 1800 697 877