

250 Club Spring Racing Event

250 Club members celebrated the Spring Racing Carnival with after work drinks at the La Di Da bar in October. Guests were entertained by jockey Peter Hutchinson and given an informed view of what was happening on the streets by South East Melbourne Youth Outreach worker, Byron. Many thanks to the ABD Group for sponsoring this event.



The 250 Club invites you to join us for an afternoon of bowling fun at The Melbourne Bowling Club in Prahran. Teams will compete in a round robin elimination competition for a winner's prize. Places are limited so we encourage you to book early.

250 Club "Crackerjack" Lawn Bowls Tournament
 Sunday 1st March 2009
 Fitzroy Victoria Bowling and Sports Club, North Fitzroy
 Individual or team entries
 Bookings: Contact Des Pinto on 03 8698 6770
 or dpinto@openfamily.com.au

250 Club Crackerjack Lawn Bowls Tournament

UPCOMING EVENTS

Major Issues Faced By Young People

- Family reconciliation
- Education/training/employment
- Legal referral, court assistance and support during incarceration
- Relationship counselling
- Parenting skills
- Sexual health and safer sex practices
- Navigating health services
- Material aid
- Assistance and support in finding and maintaining accommodation
- Support and assisting young people with issues such as drug and alcohol dependency and mental health problems
- Assistance with finding employment and training
- Assisting young people with incomes issues in conjunction with Centrelink

A Night on the Streets

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW
 Saturday 9th May 2009
 Grand Hyatt Melbourne
 Tickets from \$165pp

Join Open Family Australia at its iconic Gala Ball "A Night on the Streets" where you will experience all the glamour and excitement of international destinations. **This event sold out in 2008 so book early to avoid disappointment.** To download a booking form and see which famous streets are still available go to: www.openfamily.com.au or email Melinda at: mactigan@openfamily.com.au All monies raised on the night support Open Family Australia's Street Outreach programs.



24 SEVEN



Open Family Australia
 ...knows the street.

Open Family Australia
 Issue No.2
 January 2009

YOUTH LEADERSHIP GRADUATION

Early in 2008, 20 young people embarked on a journey to become leaders within their communities through Open Family Australia's Youth Leadership Program.

Open Family Australia launched the inaugural program in February 2008 with the support of the Ian Potter Foundation who has committed to funding the project for 2008 and 2009.

The Youth Leadership Program seeks to develop leadership skills for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in Melbourne's Western suburbs. Students met monthly to participate in workshops to develop skills in communication, public speaking, team work, conflict resolution, peer support and management. Mentors from the community were assigned to support students during the program.

On December 1st 2008, the first group of young leaders graduated from the program. Graduates and their families, as well as mentors and supporters, attended the event held at Somerset Gordon Place, Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

Open Family would like to thank the Ian Potter Foundation for supporting this pilot program and Ascott International for sponsoring the graduation.



One of the students, Gum Mamur, found the program to be beneficial in many ways:

I'm a different person now. The way I look at things is completely different.

The skills I learnt in the program made it easier in dealing with the sad passing of my father. My communication skills now get me out of trouble. I have a better relationship with my family.

The program inspired me in so many ways, I now know my dream of becoming a police officer is possible.

Gum Mamur – Youth Leadership Program 2008 Graduate (Gum is pictured standing to the left of his mentor James Risdale, Youth Resource Officer, Footscray Police Station)

Providing Outreach support and services to young people at-risk.

OPEN FAMILY DONATIONS
1300 669 600



24 SEVEN
 Open Family Australia.

Please forward all correspondence to:
 24 SEVEN
 Open Family Australia
 1/75 Crockford Street,
 Port Melbourne VIC 3207

t 03 8698 6700
 f 03 8698 6701
 e info@openfamily.com.au
 w www.openfamily.com.au

Sue Renkin
 Chief Executive Officer
 Phil Ruthven
 Chairman

The Soccer Noodles Bright Future...



The long term future of our Soccer Noodles – the Footscray Mall United Team received a boost when South Melbourne based company, Programmed Facility Management, confirmed their commitment as Naming Rights Sponsor for the team for 2009.

Steve Taylor, CEO of Programmed Facility Management was delighted to make the announcement to his staff in November, that the company would be taking on the naming rights sponsorship as well as funding an arts program for the soon to be launched Sydney Chatterbox bus service over the coming 12 months.

The commitment as part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility program will ensure that the Soccer Noodles program continues to develop and provide a strong platform for young people at risk to develop an affinity with health and fitness.

In 2008, 31 young men and eight young women participated in the Soccer Noodles sports program which included a nutrition course highlighting how eating healthily can improve your body's performance.



Mitch and Ray lived here. Your donation helped them get home. Go to www.openfamily.com.au to watch their story on video.



Please give generously so we can help others like them.

Our recycled boutique in Hampton was on the move over Christmas and is now open in a bigger and better premise at **Shop 21, 427-455 Hampton Street, Hampton VIC**. The shop is stocking a large range of quality women's, men's and children's clothing as well as accessories, books and bric'a'brac.

The boutique stocks a calibre of clothing that is of a higher standard than a traditional op shop and we are now looking for good quality donations for the boutique.

Jill, our manager in Hampton, is also seeking to recruit some more volunteers to help at the shop. Volunteers help out with sales, sorting donations and merchandising the shop.

For information about the shop's volunteer program, please call Open Family Australia on 03 8698 6700. To make a donation of clothing, shoes, accessories or bric'a'brac, please contact Jill on 03 9521 0992.



**AROUND AGAIN
NEW PREMISES**

AN OPEN FAMILY AUSTRALIA CHRISTMAS

In the lead up to Christmas, Open Family Australia was contacted by several of our Corporate Supporters in regards to donating presents and food for disadvantaged families over the festive season. These gifts were warmly received by our families and the workers had the joy of making many young people happy leading up to Christmas.

Open Family Australia would like to extend a thank you to the following companies...



(Eagle Image - Dave Goudie)

Olex Cables, Tottenham purchased a trailer for their employees and challenged them to fill it with food, both for the Christmas period and non-perishables to supply to our families throughout the year. The staff of Olex Cables rose to the challenge and provided an impressive supply of goods to us.

Charterhouse Partners, Melbourne nominated buying toys for all their individual Kris Kringle presents. They themed it so that you had to buy a toy that suited your designated Kris Kringle. For example, we were donated a tricycle that was bought for an employee that participates in triathlons.

Cornwall Stodart, Melbourne donated teddy bears, puppets and other toys for children.

Comnet Sales International, Carrum Downs donated backpacks, toys, AFL books and stationery.

Westpac Bank, Laverton asked staff to make a donation to Open Family Australia in lieu of buying presents for Kris Kringle. Westpac Management then matched the contribution made by their employees.

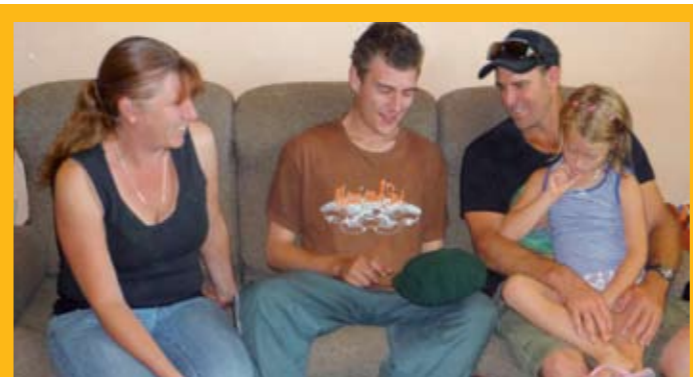
Variety Club, Port Melbourne donated some fantastic big teddy bears and toys to distribute on Christmas day.

Crown Limited nominated Open Family Australia to be the beneficiary of their staff Christmas party which was held at Luna Park.

In addition, we were again the welcome recipients of hot food hampers on Christmas Day. The chefs and staff busily prepared these hampers in the lead up to Christmas, assisted by Hawthorn midfielder, Brad Sewell (pictured above with Crown chefs, Luke Croston and Ian Crough). Volunteers and staff distributed 250 hampers to families all over Melbourne on Christmas morning and we thank all the volunteers who gave up their time on this special day to bring some Christmas cheer to so many. **We thank Crown Limited for their ongoing support for our Christmas Day hamper distribution.**

We also would like to thank the **Mt Macedon 'Feed the People'** project for the ongoing commitment in providing food and toiletry packs. These packs are distributed through the Chatterbox in Melbourne and are a welcome relief to those living on the streets.

Open Family Australia and the families we support are very grateful for the generosity of our supporters over the Christmas period. Every donation makes a difference to a young person's life.



Matthew Hayden's Gift

On Christmas Eve residents of Braybrook were surprised to be greeted by cricket legend, Matthew Hayden. Hayden and his daughter, Grace, spent the afternoon visiting families in the area with the CEO of Open Family Australia, Sue Renkin.

It didn't take long for word to spread that Hayden was in the neighbourhood and he was soon surrounded by fans looking for autographs, photos with the cricketer and a chance to wear Hayden's baggy green.

The Hayden's delivered early Christmas gifts to two families from toy donations given to Open Family Australia, as well as food packs. Hayden also generously autographed and gave away some of his own cricket gear. We would like to thank Matthew Hayden for sharing his time and wish him well in the future.