SPRING 2026 - ISSUE 03

Relationships AUSTRALIA · TAS

Spring Time Your Newsletter



This newsletter is a shared space for Forgotten Australians, Care Leavers, Stolen Generations, Former Child Migrants, people affected by forced adoption, and for family members, friends, and service providers who walk alongside this community. It exists to keep us connected, informed, and supported, while honouring lived experience and collective voice.

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Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of Your Newsletter.

In this edition, we mark Tasmanian Apology to People Hurt by Past Forced Adoption Practices with a powerful story from a survivor of forced adoption practices, alongside details on local support available for Tasmanians. We also share key updates and information ahead of Forgotten Australians Awareness Week this November.

As an organisation working on Lutruwita/Tasmania we acknowledge the enduring strength and survival of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. We stand with Aboriginal staff, clients and communities in their ongoing journey of healing and in their continued connection to Country, culture and identity.

Apology to People Hurt by Past Forced Adoption Practices

Speech written by group member Robyn Cohen.

Today, we gather to reflect on the separation of babies from their mothers through forced adoption, and to acknowledge the life-long trauma carried by mothers, adoptees, fathers and other family members.

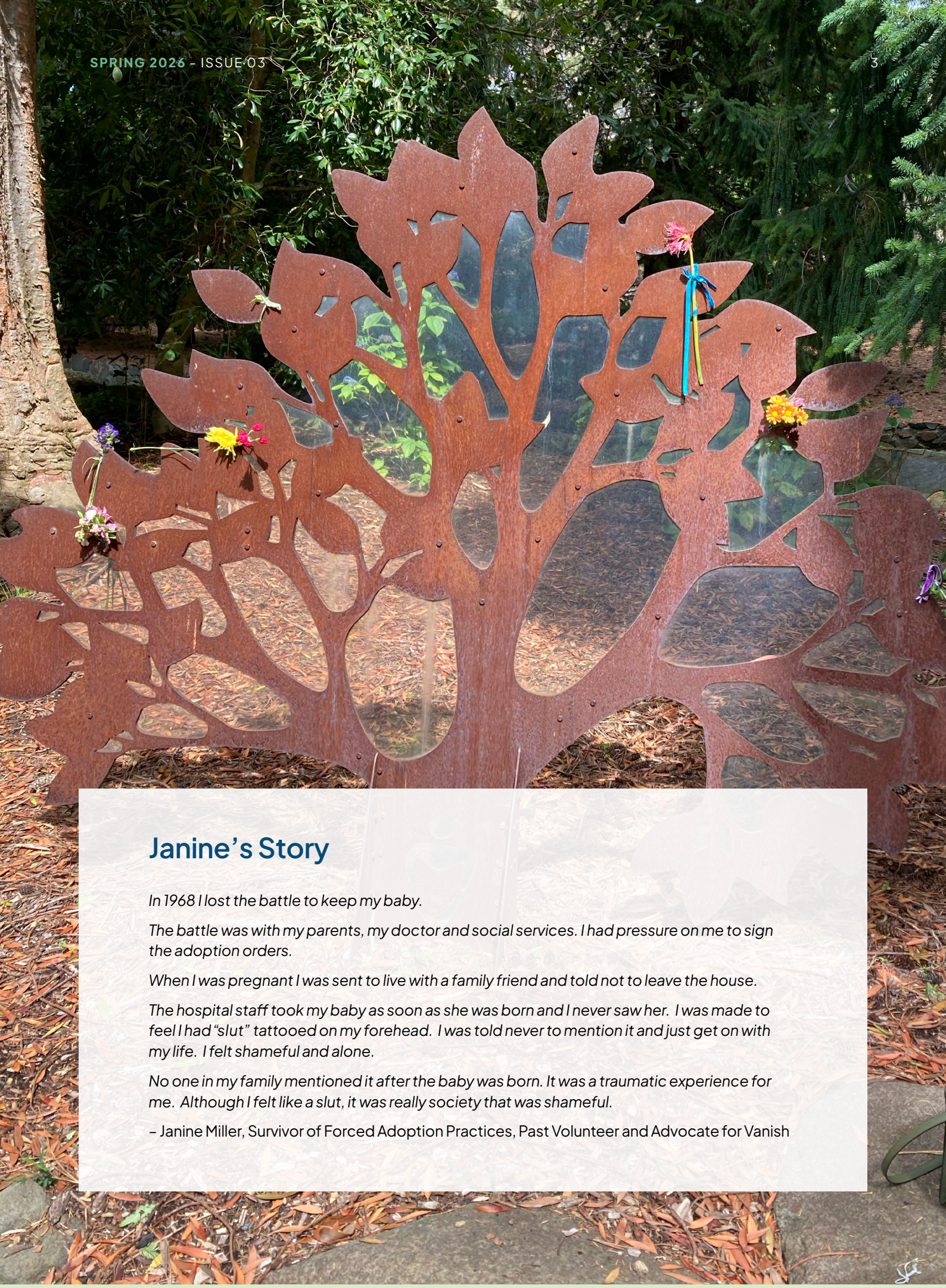
Many years have passed: mothers are older now, and the babies are adults; yet the pain of separation remains present, and many still struggle to come to terms with the cruelty and injustice of forced adoption.

It is powerful to stand together today, not because our experiences are identical, but because each story carries the weight of loss, resilience and the need for recognition.

Whatever the outcome of each journey, we are united by the need to understand what happened, to have our experiences recognised, and to honour the enduring bond between mothers and children who were forcibly separated.

May that truth be remembered with dignity, and may every mother and child affected be met with recognition, respect and compassion





Janine's Story

In 1968 I lost the battle to keep my baby.

The battle was with my parents, my doctor and social services. I had pressure on me to sign the adoption orders.

When I was pregnant I was sent to live with a family friend and told not to leave the house.

The hospital staff took my baby as soon as she was born and I never saw her. I was made to feel I had "slut" tattooed on my forehead. I was told never to mention it and just get on with my life. I felt shameful and alone.

No one in my family mentioned it after the baby was born. It was a traumatic experience for me. Although I felt like a slut, it was really society that was shameful.

– Janine Miller, Survivor of Forced Adoption Practices, Past Volunteer and Advocate for Vanish

Forgotten Australians Awareness Week

Forgotten Australians Awareness Week (FAAW) is a national initiative that honours Forgotten Australians across Australia.

This year FAAW will be celebrated from 15–23 November 2026 with the theme: **Ensuring Forgotten Australians are Remembered"**

In 2004, more than 500,000 people, including child migrants and Indigenous Australians, were estimated to have spent time as children in orphanages, children's homes or other forms of out-of-home care in Australia during the previous century.

The experiences of Forgotten Australians were formally recognised by Parliament through the 2004 Senate Inquiry, which led to the report, Forgotten Australians - A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children.

The inquiry made 39 recommendations. Although progress has been made, much remains to be done. Too often, Forgotten Australians have received only partial justice, constrained by limited government funding and bureaucratic decision-making.

How do we ensure Forgotten Australians become Remembered Australians?

This week is an opportunity to recognise Forgotten Australians, their place in the history of institutional care, their resilience, and the advocacy that has helped drive change.

FAAW acknowledges everyone with lived experience of institutional care. It seeks to ensure Forgotten Australians are seen, heard and remembered, so children today and in the future do not endure similar harm.

The week will be celebrated with local events/ activities in each state and a virtual launch on the 17th November.

Further information will be available on the Alliance's Facebook page and website in coming weeks

Visit us on Facebook.

Upcoming local events

Mon 16 Nov

Paterson Street Launceston 12 pm - 2 pm

Ribbons of Reflection and official unveiling of garden seat memorial.

Followed by lunch in group room.

RSVP to **adultsupportservices@reltas.com.au**

Tue 17 Nov

Clare Street Hobart 10:30 am -1:00 pm

Launch of Forgotten Australians Awareness Week – followed by the AGM. Ribbons of Reflection and lunch.

RSVP to **adultsupportservices@reltas.com.au**

Thu 19 Nov

Tolosa Park Forgotten Australians Memorial Hobart 11 am – 1 pm

BBQ for YOUR place participants only.

Burnie Neighbourhood House Conference 2026

The Neighbourhood House conference for 2026 was held in Burnie at the Maker's Hub of the University of Tasmania campus.

The Stall holders event occurred during the afternoon of the 17th September and what a busy couple of hours it was! More than sixty people visited the stall and spoke with a Relationships Australia representative from the Adult Support Specialist team.

A wide range of stall holders were present from other support organisations such as Medicare Mental Health, Laurel House, Mental Health Council of Tasmania and of course Neighbourhood House representatives and volunteers from across Tasmania.

Visitors to the Relationships Australia stall were provided information and education about Forced Adoption and Forgotten Australians. It was really encouraging to see the interest and compassion people felt for the experiences of both groups.

A fantastic conversation starter were the beautifully crafted bookmarks and cards designed and made by one of our Forgotten Australians, Embee'.

Each stall visitor chose one of Embee's beautiful creations and at the same time had the opportunity to learn more about the history of the Forgotten Australians and the Find and Connect program offered by Relationships Australia.

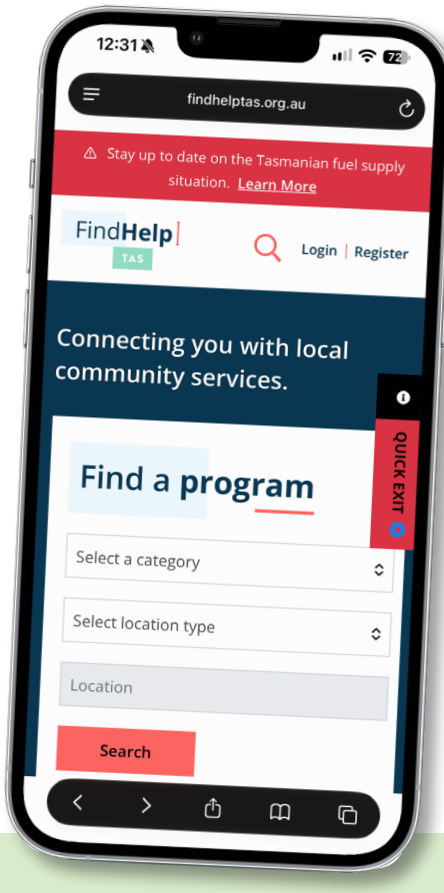
Find Help TAS findhelptas.org.au

Find Help TAS is a free, online directory with over 900 services that support the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians and our communities.

If you are needing support and you aren't sure what services are available to you, we would recommend having a look at the Find Help TAS website.

From the Find Help Tas homepage, you can search for specific types of services in your local suburb, council and/or region. Alternatively, you can browse services by region (South, North, North-West, East Coast, West Coast and Statewide) or by service category with categories including:

- Carers
- Children & Families
- Community Kinship Care
- COVID-19 & Flu
- Disability Services
- Dementia Directory
- Domestic, Family & Sexual Violence
- Education & Employment Emergency
- First Nations Services
- Food
- Health
- Housing
- Legal & Financial
- LGBTIQA+ Services
- Mental Health
- Multicultural Services
- Older People
- Other Community Services
- Palliative and End of Life Care
- Substance Use & Recovery
- Young People



Safe Haven

CONNECTION | COMPASSION | HOPE

Safe Haven at the Peacock Centre provides support to people (aged 15 years or older) who are experiencing situational or suicidal distress and their families, friends, or support networks.

Safe Havens are designed to be safe and supportive environments which emphasise relationships and safety planning.



At the Peacock Centre's Safe Haven, peer support workers and senior mental health clinicians are available to support you in a therapeutic space with an approach that is grounded in connection, compassion, and hope. The level and nature of the support provided varies depending on a person's preferences and needs with the opportunity to be referred onto other services if/when appropriate.

The Peacock Centre's Safe Haven is located downstairs at 10 Elphinstone Road, North Hobart and it is open 7 days a week from 9am to 10pm. People do not need a referral to access Safe Haven so anyone can just arrive and walk in if/when they or someone they know is experiencing a mental health crisis.

If you have any questions about accessing mental health services in Tasmania, please call Access Mental Health on 1800 332 388.



Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania

Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania

For upcoming events and activities in your local area please contact your local Neighbourhood House.

Neighbourhood Houses are also great resources for connection, food and NILS loans, welcoming community spaces and affordable activities.

Southern Tasmania

Bucaan Community House (Chigwell) - 6249 5363
facebook.com/p/Bucaan-Community-House-100069211266088

Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre - 6247 8163
facebook.com/clarendonvaleneighbourhood.centre

Derwent Valley Community House – 6261 5230
facebook.com/people/Derwent-Valley-Community-House/100064881332140

Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House – 6253 9000
facebook.com/dunalleytasman

Gagebrook Community House (JRS) - 6263 6097
facebook.com/geevestoncommunitycentre

Geeveston Community Centre – 6297 1616
facebook.com/geevestoncommunitycentre

Goodwood Community Centre – 6272 2560
facebook.com/GoodwoodCommunityCentreTas

Karadi Aboriginal Corporation – 6272 3511
facebook.com/p/Karadi-Aboriginal-Corporation-100069342424285

Kingston Neighbourhood House – 6229 4066
facebook.com/kingstonnh

Midway Point Neighbourhood House – 6265 1155
facebook.com/MidwayPointNeighbourhoodHouse

Okines Community House (Dodges Ferry) – 6265 7016
facebook.com/okinescommunityhouse

Risdon Vale Neighbourhood Centre – 6243 5752
facebook.com/risdonvaleneighbourhoodcentre

Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre – 6200 8540
facebook.com/Adminrnc

Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre - 6244 6346
facebook.com/warranemornington/

West Moonah Neighbourhood House – 6273 2362
facebook.com/p/West-Moonah-Neighbourhood-House-100064818963677/

West Winds Community Centre (Woodbridge) - 6267 4713
facebook.com/WestWindsCommunityCentre

North and North-west Tasmania

Beaconsfield House Inc - 63831110
facebook.com/BeacyHouse

Burnie Community House & Hilltop Central – 6433 3219
facebook.com/burnie.communityhouse

Deloraine House – 6362 2678
delorainehouse.org.au

Devonport Community House – 6224 7060
facebook.com/devonportcommunityhousetasmania

Dorset Community House – 0474 100 219
facebook.com/dorsetcommunityhouse

East Devonport Community House – 6427 9985
facebook.com/eastdevonportneighbourhoodhouse

Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House Inc – 6374 2344
facebook.com/fingalvalleyneighbourhoodhouse

George Town Neighbourhood House – 6312 3019
facebook.com/georgetownhood

Meander House - 6362 2678
delorainehouse.org.au

Northern Suburbs Community Centre (Mowbray and Newnham) - 6326 5506
nsccas.org.au

Phoenix Community House (Currie, King Island) 6462 1746
facebook.com/PhoenixCommunityHouse

Rosebery Neighbourhood House – 6473 1497
facebook.com/RoseberyNeighbourhoodHouse

St Helens Neighbourhood House – 6376 1134
facebook.com/sthelensnhh.org.au

Starting Point Neighbourhood House (Ravenswood) 6339 2861
facebook.com/startingpointtas

Ulverstone Neighbourhood House (Community center in Ulverstone) - 6425 4186
facebook.com/ulverstoneneighbourhoodhouse

Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre – 6471 6108
zeehannc.org.au

Meet our counselling staff



Rebecca
Senior Practitioner
North/North-West



Maria
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect
North/North-West



Gardia
Redress
North/North-West

ON EXTENDED LEAVE BACK SOON

Mary
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect
South



Lyndell
FASS
North/North-West



Eliza
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect
South



Cara
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect
North/North-West

Relationships AUSTRALIA · TAS

Relationships Australia, Tasmania
tas.relationships.org.au
20 Clare St, New Town 7008
6 Paterson St, launceston 7250
68 North Fenton St, Devonport 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)
clan.org.au support@clan.org.au
1800 008 774 or 0425 204 747

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
tacinc.com.au
03 6234 0700
Burnie 03 6436 4100
Launceston 03 6332 3800
Free call 1800 132 260

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

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

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

Engender Equality
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