YOURnewsletter

A space where we keep Forgotten Australians, Care Leavers, 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.

Winter 2025



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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 Winter 2025 edition of *YourNewsletter*. The newsletter is created as a space for Forgotten Australians, Care Leavers, Former Child Migrants, and those affected by forced adoption as well as family members, friends, and service providers to stay connected, supported, and informed.

This season brings a strong focus on advocacy and recognition. We share updates on the ongoing progress of the Tolosa Park memorial, which is being shaped through community input to ensure it becomes a place of reflection, connection, and healing. The recent Alliance of Forgotten Australians (AFA) Forum in Darwin also offered a powerful opportunity for lived experience voices to be heard at a national level, with important conversations about health, housing, aged care, remembrance, and government support. These discussions highlight the continued need for visibility, justice, and action to address the challenges still faced by our community.

Connection and belonging remain central themes. In this edition, you'll find opportunities to get involved with community activities as well as information about Neighbourhood Houses across the state where local events and supports are available..



We also feature creative contributions, including reflections and reviews that remind us of the resilience and resourcefulness within our community.

We are also pleased to introduce new members of our team at Clare Street, whose passion for trauma-informed care, advocacy, and creativity enriches the support we can provide. As always, this newsletter reflects the strength of a community that continues to grow through courage, connection, and collective action.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for contributing to the conversations, advocacy, and community spirit that sustain us all. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more supportive future.

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

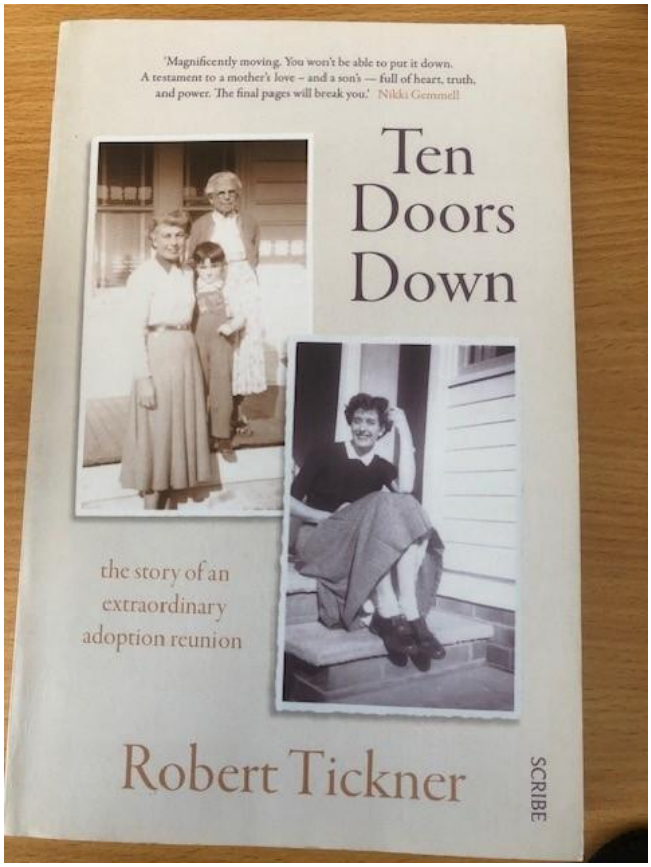
Ten Doors Down by Robert Tickner

Book Review by Lyndell Kent
(Forced Adoption Support at Relationships Australia in Devonport)

Published in 2020, this story is told in first person by well-known retired politician Robert Tickner.

His story is really well written, engaging, and very moving.

Robert worked under the Hawke and Keating Governments (Indigenous Affairs Portfolio) and was instrumental in instigating the national enquiry into the Stolen Generation. It was this experience that eventually led him to desiring to explore who his first parents were.



Robert met his Mother when he was 41 years old. He went on to meet other members of his family as well, including his Father and siblings.

Extraordinary coincidences make this a fascinating story! Hence the name "Ten Doors Down" but I don't want to spoil the story for those who may want to borrow and read it.

The book was hard to put down... I wanted to keep reading!
Ann from the NW FASS group also said she enjoyed it.

If any staff or clients reading this review would like to borrow this wonderful book, please email me on lyndellk@reltas.com.au and I will arrange to have it sent to your nearest Relationships Australia Tasmania location 😊

Lyndell

Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) Forum

Darwin, September 2025



Gathering in the Top End

The AFA National Forum was held in Darwin on 3–5 September 2025, bringing together Board members, Affiliate members, Associate members, and guests. The forum provided a platform for updates from across the country, advocacy discussions, and planning for the future. Attendees also connected directly with local Forgotten Australians during a morning tea at the Durack Community Arts Centre.

The forum began with updates from each state and territory. Reports highlighted continuing challenges with redress processes, and access to records, alongside positive developments such as expanding social activities and a national Forgotten Australian training package project led by Relationships Australia South Australia. Anne Livingstone, Chair of the National Aged & Community Care Roundtable, presented on national efforts to spotlight Forgotten Australians in aged care.

A policy paper on Department of Social Services funding outlined the urgent need for certainty as the current Find & Connect and AFA funding arrangements end in June 2026. The Forum agreed on targeted advocacy with government, beginning with departmental engagement and Ministerial meetings later this year.

Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) Forum

Darwin, September 2025

Several Policy areas were discussed in detail:

Better Dental Care: Calling for subsidised services, inclusion in Medicare, and shorter wait times.

Social Housing: Recognition of Forgotten Australians as a special needs group in allocation frameworks.

Remembrance Week: Exploring the establishment of a distinct national day or week of recognition, complementing existing remembrance initiatives.

Health and Mental Health Access: Advocating for specialised health pathways, trauma-informed care, and national funding recognition of Forgotten Australians as a priority group.





A highlight of the forum was the morning tea with Forgotten Australians at the Durack Community Arts Centre. The morning tea featured a game of bingo and a quiz, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Board members spent time with the Darwin Forgotten Australian community, engaging in rich conversations about their lived experiences, the challenges they continue to face in accessing services and recognition, and their hopes for improved support, healing, and visibility.

The next forum... will be held in Melbourne in April 2026, aligning with the National Aged & Community Care Roundtable and International Care Experienced History Month.

Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) Forum

Darwin, September 2025








CHECK IN
WITH YOURSELF
HOW AM I FEELING TODAY MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY?
WHAT IS TAKING UP MOST OF MY HEADSPACE?
WHAT AM I LOOKING FORWARD TO?
HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT MYSELF RIGHT NOW?
WHAT AM I GRATEFUL FOR?
WHAT IS SOMETHING I CAN DO TODAY THAT IS GOOD FOR ME?
WHAT CAN I FORGIVE MYSELF FOR?
WHAT CAN I LET GO OF THAT IS AFFECTING MY WELL-BEING?
WHAT IS ONE SMALL VICTORY OR PROGRESS I HAD TODAY?

Advocacy for Memorial update

Two members of the Find and Connect Reference Group have continued to meet with representatives of the Glenorchy City Council (GCC) regarding the development of the Tolosa St Park memorial for Forgotten Australians.



The feedback received from YourPlace peer support groups has been passed onto GCC representatives who have been receptive to and agreeable on proposed changes to the memorial including:

- Changes to both benches and barbecue location to make the space more social and encourage conversation.
- Large trees and improved landscaping suggested.
- Yellow backing for wattle on sign to enhance visibility, and,
- The updated wording for the proposed signage at the Tolosa St memorial.

The aim is to have the Tolosa Park memorial ready for the National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants event in November 2025.

You can see design images of the proposed signage on the left of this page and on the following page.

Advocacy for Memorial update

Signage for the Tolosa St Park memorial

For *all* Forgotten Australians

This reflection space has been created to recognise the Forgotten Australians, Care Leavers and Child Migrants, the children and young people who suffered abuse and neglect in institutional and out-of-home care in Tasmania.



Forgotten Australians are survivors of the approximately 500,000 children who were placed in institutional or out-of-home care across Australia during the 20th century.

The wattle, a symbol of resilience and renewal, represents the enduring spirit of Forgotten Australians. It stands here as a living tribute, a symbol of remembrance, strength, and reflection.

Beside this quiet pond, the memorial offers a place of stillness inviting all who visit to pause, reflect, and honour the lives and stories of Forgotten Australians.

To all of the Forgotten Australians – we see you, we stand with you, we will not forget you, and we admire your strength and courage.

Find out more:
www.ouruntoldstories.com.au
www.forgottenaustralians.org.au

Meeting with Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet

On Wednesday 16th July, the Deputy Secretary Mel Gray from the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) attended our Clare St office and met with staff, Forgotten Australians and former wards of the state.

During this meeting, many key issues were raised and discussed including:

- recognition of Forgotten Australians and former wards of the state being a top priority,
- the need for trauma-informed care across health services (in particular, aged care),
- the benefits of therapeutic art projects and the desire to have similar projects funded statewide,
- the importance of recognizing Forgotten Australians and former wards of the state new memorials, and,
- the continuation of Find & Connect funding as this service is seen as essential.

Mel committed to:

- advocating internally and federally for continued Find & Connect funding.
- seeking state-level recognition measures and memorial support.
- discussing Redress scheme extension with the Department of Justice.
- investigating how health systems and aged care services can be better trauma-informed.
- stated intent to brief the new Premier and provide updates to FA representatives, and,
- acknowledged the deep personal cost of advocacy on FA's and affirmed her ongoing commitment.

RA Tas would like to thank Mel for being willing to meet with us and hear the concerns of the individuals we support through Adult Specialist Support Services We would also like to thank each of the Forgotten Australians who provided personal reflections and testimonies regarding their experiences, their individual roads to healing, and the importance of community.

Neighbourhood Houses Conference update

On Friday 26th August, the Neighbourhood House Conference's Friday Finale Festival was held. A big shout-out to Dave, a member of the Forgotten Australian Reference Group, who did an outstanding job representing Forgotten Australians as the Tasmanian AFA Board member alongside RA Tas staff member Mary. Together, they provided the community with information about our services – including the National Redress Scheme, support for the Forced Adoption community, and services for Forgotten Australians.

For upcoming Neighbourhood House events and activities in your local area, please contact your local Neighbourhood House. We have included a list of Neighbourhood Houses and their contact details on the following pages.

Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania

Neighbourhood Houses

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

Neighbourhood Houses in Southern Tasmania

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 (JRS) - 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.nsccas.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/

Karadi Gardening Group



Welcoming New Members to the Adult Specialist Support Services Team

Mary



My name is Mary, and I'm a Social Worker with Relationships Australia Tasmania, working in Adult Specialist Support Services.

I focus on trauma-informed care, accessibility, and advocacy. I understand that navigating services and organisations can be overwhelming, so I aim to make the process clearer and less stressful whenever possible. I prioritise listening, because support should meet your needs—not just what I think you need. I also value the power of collective and community support, and the way people come together to create understanding and drive positive change.

Imogen



Hi, my name is Imogen, I am a Counsellor/Case Manager working in Adult Specialist Support Services team at Relationships Australia Tasmania. I am particularly focused on trauma-informed practices and ensuring accessibility. With a background in Arts Therapy, I am also passionate about supporting individuals to connect with their unique creativity and expand their opportunities for expression and healing. Empowering and working collaboratively with clients is what inspires me in the work we do.

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



Mary
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect



Imogen
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