Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow



The Compassionate Friends Mandurah Chapter

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Australian Founders Lindsay & Margaret Harmer, 1978

WA Patron Graham Mabury OAM Cit WA FECU BA (Hons) Grad. Dip. Ed.

WELCOME

Welcome and if you are receiving this newsletter for the first time I hope that you will find some support in it.

To relate to some of the feelings expressed in the words of others is to find a validation of your own feelings. It is important to have the reassurance that you are not losing your mind and that what you are experiencing is perfectly natural.

The main topics in this issue are our "Walk to Remember" on 10 March and our Mothers Day lunch on 10 May.

As I cast my mind back to the first Mothers Day without my son, I see a picture of utter devastation. I would be rocking to and fro with arms around my body as if to contain the gut wrenching agony of my empty womb. Those of us who are far along in our grief have learnt how to live with the pain and have found a peace to replace the turmoil, but we never forget the pain which used to be with us every minute of each day. That is why we can relate with compassion to newly bereaved parents and why what we do works.

There are no shortcuts. It's important for each of us to do our grief work. This means to acknowledge our grief and to deal with each issue in a healthy way. Open expression of our feelings in a verbal, written, musical or pictorial way, sharing with others in groups or one to one, learning from others to develop coping skills and being kind to ourselves.

During the long journey we redefine all that makes us and our meaning of life and the world. It isn't easy, which is why we talk about our grief work ,but if I can do it then anyone can and you don't have to do it alone. Remember "We need not walk alone, we are The Compassionate Friends".

Margot McAllister, mother of Kevin and Nana of Jackson

A Beginning...



One day you wake up and realise you must have survived because you are still here, alive and breathing. But you don't remember the infinitely small steps and decisions you took to get there. Your only awareness is that you have shed miles of tears on what seems to be an endless road of sorrow. One day, one glorious day, you wake up and feel your skin tingle again. And you forgot, just for an instant, that your heart is broken... And it is a beginning

...by Susan Borrowman







Past Events

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

When I first came to TCF after losing my 24 yr old son Ethan to suicide, I was in a state of shock, trauma and terrified that this was my reality.

During my initial meeting with Margot, I was beside myself with devastation and hopelessness, however Margot gave me a lifeline I have held close ever since. Her words were "because I know my son loved me". I didn't realize at the time that I had been questioning whether my son even loved me. I felt so abandoned and disregarded. Didn't he know how much I loved him, didn't he think about me at all? But then I thought about all the times that I knew my son loved me.

Like when he was 17 on Mother's day and he came home with two shopping bags of every single food that I liked. I didn't know that he knew me so well and I was touched by his thoughtfulness. He did that because he loved me.

Or the time when he was 20 and living in Melbourne and he messaged me saying "make sure you are home tomorrow between 5 and 7pm". Um okay, why? "Just make sure you are home" he said. So I did and a Woolies truck pulled up with an online shopping haul. He did that because he loved me.

I have countless memories of joy and happiness of where I know my son loved me and this is what I choose to focus on. Because when I do, I feel grateful. I feel blessed. I feel lucky. How lucky am I to have been loved by him and to have had him in my life. I mean, how lucky am I?

And this is how I will survive my devasting loss.

So I would like to give thanks and appreciation to the loved ones we have lost, the love that was shared and to the memories that are now forever beautifully bathed in the orange and pink glow of their last sunset.

Thank you,

Kate Reynolds, Mother of Ethan



Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Candlelight Memorial Service 2023

Our beautiful service was held at the South Mandurah Uniting Church. The venue and atmosphere was warm and welcoming.

This annual service is such a good help to those of us who are approaching Christmas with a precious loved one missing. To be able to gather with others who understand is so healing and helps us to go on to celebrate this special time with our relatives and friends. A huge thank you to Peter and Judy Bright who gave so freely of their time to arrange the service, to the readers who presented their readings and thoughts and to the volunteers who all helped on the evening.



International Childrens Memorial Day

What a lovely way to start a day. Alongside the estuary at Dalrymple Park, our seats on the grass and a slight breeze. Parents, siblings and a young child gathered to commemorate the start of The Compassionate Friends by writing personal messages to our loved ones and tying them to beautiful flowers. We then walked out on the bridge to throw them into the water. A light breakfast was then enjoyed and while we were talking about dolphins one dolphin swam close and came out of the water as if to say hello. That was so special. The photograph shows our memorial quilt on which is written personal messages from many bereaved families.







During December and January, Margot and I have continued our Rural Outreach, visiting Midland, Northam and Karratha. We facilitated Community Engagement, giving us an opportunity to connect with key community stakeholders and community members, informing them of our services – vital in country WA.

We met amazing community-minded people...

so inspiring!

Margot additionally facilitated support groups for bereaved family members which were valued by all concerned. We felt our visits were a successful, positive continuation of the new outreach venture afforded to

TCF thanks to the Lotterywest grant!

Penny Madigan, Rural Outreach Project Officer.





<u>Unsubscribe</u>

If you no longer require the newsletter please e-mail or phone to cancel.

Coming Events



Annual Walk to Remember

Hopefully everyone is getting ready to attend the walk on March 10. Remember to bring as many relatives and friends as you can, to bring a folding chair and wear sunscreen.

As usual we will provide bottled water and the volunteers from the Lions Club of Mandurah will be cooking a sausage sizzle to enjoy at the end of our walk. David Templeman will officially start the walk again and we will be walking behind our piper Dave Sinclair from the Rockingham City Pipe Band. The sound of the pipes will draw the attention of people as we walk along the foreshore to the MPAC. There we'll stop to take photographs and allow the piper to draw breathe before returning to Dalrymple Park.

Please aim to arrive at 9.30 to have time to hand in your pledges or donation, be given a bottle of cold water, receive a heart on which to write your personal message and a ribbon to put the name of your loved one. We carry these with us as we walk in honour of the memory of our loved ones.

We are grateful to our sponsors this year, who include the **City of Mandurah** from where we obtained a grant which has enabled us to purchase a fence banner and several newspaper advertisements to promote this is our 19th memorial walk.



Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

COMING EVENTS

EASTER IN HEAVEN

I send this Easter egg with a hug and a kiss, to those in heaven that I love and miss.

I'm sharing this egg in loving memory of my family and friends who have passed away.

I miss you, I think about you, I will never forget you

Gone but not Forgotten.

<u>I still love you</u>

I didn't say goodbye to you, there wasn't any time. You quickly slipped away from me, the timing wasn't mine.

And since the day you passed away, I've thought of words not said, And so I just decided to write them down instead.

I love you more than life itself, which means I love you still, And I just want the world to know, how much I always will.

Anne Peterson 1994

Please be advised TCF Office—will be closed:

- * Monday 4th March—Labour Day.
 - Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April. for Easter.

* Thurs 25th April — Anzac Day

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

It takes a woman to be a mother. It takes a strong woman to be a single mother. But it takes an even stronger woman to be a grieving mother.

Narin Grewal

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

FRIDAY 10TH MAY 12 NOON

We warmly invite bereaved Mothers, Grandmas and Sibling to our annual lunch as above. This will be held in the main meeting room at Lotteries House, ANZAC Place, Mandurah.

Entry is only \$5.00 where you will be served a lovely 2 course buffet. We hold a raffle for some great donated prizes. 3 tickets for \$5.00

If you are coming for the first time please bring a friend or family member if needed for support.

Invitations will be mailed out prior to the date.

A volunteer will be outside to open the door from 11.40am.

The lunch gives all of us the opportunity to meet, to make friends and share and care for each other.

RSVP the office on 9535 7761 or

email tcfmandurah@bigpond.com.

We look forward to another lovely time together. Kind regards Tina, *TCF Secretary* & *mother of Ian*

Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever. ~Author Unknown

GENERAL NOTICES



Volunteer News

Anita Winn has stepped forward to facilitate the Heathridge support group. It's such a relief to be able to continue We are very grateful to Anita for this and to **Lillian Green** who is helping to train Anita. So typical of Lillians generous nature. Thank you both.

We said thank you and good luck to **Wendy Hancock** as she left to start a course at TAFE. We know that she has the ability and compassion needed in her chosen career. Thank you for the time given in our office Wendy and thank you for choosing to remain a member of our management committee.

We welcome **Rebecca Townsend** to the office roster and know that she'll fit in well and contribute her skills which are so much needed.

Sad news

Unfortunately, the husband of our treasurer **Gaye Schmidt**, was diagnosed only a short while ago with a degenerative condition which progressed rapidly. He passed away on 7th February. The President, Committee members and all at TCF send our condolences to Gaye.

Sympathy

Membership

Please pay your membership as of your second year of bereavement. The \$30 annual fee helps to meet the costs of newsletter, services and

invitations to memorial events.

You can pay by cash, cheque, money order, or directly to TCF Mandurah, Bendigo Bank:

BSB 633000 a/c 157735895.



say a prayer and weather the storm.

~ Mother Teresa

Your story

Your contributions to this newsletter are welome. Just as we share and relate to others in support groups, so too we can share by sending in items for the newsletter. Have no doubt **YOUR** experiences can help others. Your writings and items which you've found helpful are appreciated

Items can be sent to tcfmandurah@bigpond.com marked for attention newsletter editor

The Many Faces of Grief

Robert still cannot sleep too well, he's awake from 2am. Janet is the opposite, and doesn't rise till ten. Sarah made a special card, for each and everyone. She did this sitting on the beach, while soaking up the sun.

Samuel went out to the shed, in the middle of the night. He grabbed the axe and chopped the wood, until it was first light. George took out his little boat, and sailed across the bay. We may be family, we may be friends, but we each grieve in our own way.

Peter flew off the handle, anything set him off. Pat put a message in a balloon and gently set it aloft. Tui simply went to bed and hid under the sheets. She couldn't bear to leave the house, it's now been several weeks.

Jane cleaned the entire house, from room to room she went. Till the house was cleaner than it had ever been and all her tears were spent.

Leo couldn't wash at all, he didn't shower for days. We may be friends or family but we grieve in different ways.

Mark just HAD to go to work to "take his mind off things", Melissa walked to the park at dusk and sat quietly on the swings. Bethany went down to the gym, she didn't do this for fun, And if that didn't help ease her pain, she'd head out for a run.

Patricia looks like nothing's wrong, that not a tear was shed, Plenty have been but no one knows, she only cries in bed. So please be kind and gentle when loved ones pass away, For each of us will be grieving in our own and special way.

A van der Velden

<u>A Feather</u>

Feathers are brave – they go where the wind takes them. Feathers are patient – they arrive at their destination, fall to the ground and wait. They wait for the world to tell them what will come next.

Feathers are light but they are strong – it's not easy to break a feather. Feathers are fearless – because they do all this with the hope That where they are about to go, Whatever they are about to do, is what life meant for them.





Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow



Grief is like a snowflake... sometimes it comes one flake at a time; other times, it comes like a blizzard. It melts away, but it always comes back. Just as each snowflake is unique, each person experiences grief in their own unique way.

Why do we volunteer as Compassionate Friends?

When I'm tired and feel I can't go on, I think of my son and he would say "come on Mum, you can do it".

After an intense support group I'm reminded of how important groups were to me when I first found TCF.

Meeting with newly bereaved parents for the first time, my heart goes out to them and I recall the way I felt when I first was able to speak with a compassionate friend.

Listening to a bereaved parent on the phone as they reach out for support to deal with this incredible loss and indescribable pain I know how important it is to have that pain validated and be understood.

Organising events and arranging fundraising projects, I remind myself that the events help by providing an amount of healing and fundraising is important to keep our work going.

An occasional "Thank you" from a bereaved parent is tremendously encouraging to me and the others who volunteer their time.

So why do we do what we do?

We are trying to pay forward the support and understanding we received when it was desperately needed.

As bereaved parents we never forget the people who helped or the words that helped.

To honour our children who died too soon and because our love for our children is everlasting

To show that there is HOPE ; that we can survive this trauma, and eventually lead meaningful lives with some happy times again.

We do this for and with our children.

Margot McAllister, TCf Mandurah, Mother of Kevin, Nana of Jackson

I WISH FOR YOU..... Comfort on difficult days, Smiles when sadness intrudes, Rainbows to follow the clouds, Laughter to kiss your lips Sunsets to warm your heart, Gentle hugs when spirits sag, Friendships to brighten your being, Beauty for your eyes to see Confidence for when you doubt, Faith so that you can believe, Courage to know yourself, Patience to accept the truth, And love to complete your life.



Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Remembered With Love

March, April, May, 2024

Ryan ARCHER

27th May to 19th August Dux of Girrawheen SHS, honours graduate of UWA, learning about life and love and friendships, gainfully employed before enjoying his 'world trip', he died in a thermal pool in Peru, alone "...pod in Peru, alone, aged 25 years". Mourned and missed forever, Dave and Mummy. xoxoxo

Ivon Timothy BAKER

Loving remembered always

Christopher Glen BRIGHT

8th February to 20th March You have taken a large part of our hearts. We will miss you always.

Andrew James DOY

Son of Robert and Heather, brother of Jenny and Father of Caleb. "Always in our thoughts and prayers; forever in our hearts; we miss you so much."

Blake Joshua EVANS

Dearly loved grandson of Rosemary. I never got to say goodbye, my brave grandson. You could not run and play like other boys, so run and play with the angels and play your guitar in their band. Love always, Nanna xxx

Cassy HILL

My Barbie Doll. Love Mum

Cassy HILL

Will be remembered with love always, sons Trae and Zeb daughter Angel husband Jason and brother John.

Dale HILTON

Always in our memories and forever in our hearts. Keep smiling and laughing. Love Mum and Hayden

William (Bill) Joseph HUTT

Dearly beloved son of Barbara and Bill [dec'd]. Loved younger brother of Jayne, Tim, Sally, Jill and Terry [dec'd]. "He's just a thought away".

Martin Andrew McKEICH

Sad years have passed since you left us. Loving you is easy-we do it every day. Missing you is a heartache that never goes away. Mum, Dad, Darren, Vanessa, Natalie, Riley, and Phoebie and all your friends. xoxoxo

Jemma Louise O'BRIEN

13th October to 17th May You left us suddenly without saying goodbye. You live on through your three beautiful children, but my heart aches. Love Mum. Xoxoxo

Liam Marc O'KEEFFE

We loved your compassion, honesty, generosity, sense of humour, thoughtfulness, courage, and intelligence. You gave your best to everyone. You never once complained. You deserved so much better. Our despair is beyond words. Love always Mum, Dad, Angela, and Carly. Xoxoxo

Ashley Daniel PARSONS

Damon Gregory PARSONS

So many memories, never forgotten, my beautiful boys together, love always.

1st March to 13th November

24th May to 2nd April

29th March to 23rd July

19th February to9 12th March

19th February to 12th March

3rd June to 7th March

12th March to 25th January

27th November to 19th March

born 28th May

20TH March to 7th May 7TH March to 12TH February



Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Remembered With Love March, April, May, 2024

Daniel Silvio PENCO Susan Linda PENCO

25th November to 31st March Son and daughter of Danica and siblings of Tania. Always in our hearts, never forgotten, love Mama & Tania.

Jackson George PERRY-ELLIS

20th January to 5th May Forever young. Loved son of Lorraine, Brother of Samara, Lewie, Harry & Tommy Baby grandson of Margot xxxxxx

Jamie PURSLOWE

Son of Craige. Our brave little man Jamie. The intensity of love for you never diminishes.

Dean RADFORD

Every day we think of you. Thank you for the wonderful memories we have of you. You made us so proud. Wish you were here. Love and miss you, Mum, Dad Lance & Danielle

Brooke Lyn RICHARDSON

Miss you Brooke, You are my Sunshine. Love from you Mummum, Granddad and Western Australian Family.

Adam John ROBBINS

19th December to 6th April So many years without our beautiful boy. Tha pain of losing you hasn't gone away. Love and miss you, Mum, Dad, Jade, and Lucy. xoxoxo

Geoffrey James STAFFORD

Dearly loved son of Rosemary. My little blue eved blonde angel in heaven with Nana. The years have rolled by but I miss you each and every day. Love Mum

Alistair STEWART

born 5th April Loved and remembered forever, Mum and Dad. Xoxoxo

Mark Van EIJNDHOVEN

Our precious son, fiancée, brother and uncle. Not a day goes by that we do not think of you. Mum and Dad. Xoxoxo

Joseph Wale

Joe, we miss you so much and wish the pain would ease. Families are forever, wherever we may be. Love Mum, Dad, Jane, and Tom. Xoxoxo

Glen Alan WELLMAN

I will always love you, miss you and hold you close to my heart. You were a wonderful son. Love Mum. Xoxoxo

Jonathan Charles WINDSOR

Always in our hearts, never forgotten. Miss you so much beautiful boy-till we meet again. May your spirit rest in the peace that you didn't know in this life that passeth all understanding. Love you always. Mum,



11th January to 16th May

6th March to 4th December

31st August to 5th May

16th March to 29th February

19th December to 12th April

10th August to 15th April



born 15th Mau

born 2ND May

born 26th May

Resource library Update

We have a substantial library of resources at our Mandurah Drop in Centre, offering excellent **books**, **magazines**, **tapes**, **CDs**, **etc**. on grief issues associated with the death of a child/ren and siblings. All library resources are available for loan by our members. Access to the library is available by visiting the Drop in Centre. In return, we need our members to be vigilant and return these items back to the Drop in Centre so other TCF members are able to avail themselves of this useful service.

You are welcome to call in & check out the library contents. The CDs that we have meet a variety of uses for example we have some for relaxation, some address grief education and others contain beautiful memorial songs.

	Support Groups
Evening	Support Group Mandurah
When:	7th March
	4th April
	2nd May
Time:	7pm—9pm
Where:	Eastlake Church cnr Lakes Road and Murdoch Drive, Mandurah
	(Opposite Peel Health Campus)
Contact:	The centre on 9535 7761
Bereaved	by Suicide Group Mandurah
When:	15th March
	19th April
	17th May
Time:	9.30 to 12.30 p.m.
Where:	Mandurah Lotteries House
Contact:	The centre on 9535 7761
<u>Heathrid</u>	ge
When:	28 March
	25 April
	23 May
Time:	7.30p.m. start
Where:	Spiers Centre,v Crnr Albatross & Poseidon Rd, Heathridge
Contact:	Anita on 0425 810 790

Our last goodbye should be as

beautiful, special and perfect

as you are to me.

Our last good bye will remain inscribed upon my heart until the day 7 die. Material in this newsletter is copyright@ The Compassionate Friends Mandurah Chapter unless otherwise indicated.

Editor's Note – Opinions expressed in articles in this newsletter are those of the writers and not necessarily of T.C.F. Mandurah. It is not always possible to publish all articles received. The editor reserves the right to edit any articles. T.C.F Mandurah gratefully acknowledges all contributions to the newsletter, including any of which we have not been able to find copyright disclaimer. Every effort has been made to ensure that this information is accurate and up to date but the Mandurah Chapter of The Compassionate Friends will not be liable for any loss, damage or injury arising from any incorrect information or services listed herein.

Telephone Friends - The Compassionate Friends

Please call a telephone friend whenever you need to talk "We need not walk alone"

BUNBURY	Russ	0417 945 568	SIBLINGS_	Ryan	0433 910 060	
BUNBURY	Sh aron	0439 952 577	GRANDPARENTS	S Lyn	9581 9957	
GOLDFIELDS	Lorraine	0497 687 201	FATHERS	Gary	0414 491 524	
HEATHRIDGE	Anita	0425 810 790	FATHERS	Peter	0447 741 219	
			SUICIDE	Margot	0427 777 810	
MANDURAH	Drop-In	9535 7761	SUICIDE	Russ	0417 945 568	
WAROONA	John or Val	0417 956 066	MISCARRIAGE/S	STILLBIRTH/INF	ANT	
			Joanne	0403 336 392	or 9535 7092	
			(After 6pm &	Weekends)		
		TCF Interstate	e and Overseas Contac	: <u>ts</u>		
		<u>Telephone</u>	Web Site			
ACT/QUEANBEYAN		(02) 6286 6134	www.thecompass	www.thecompassionatefriends.org.au/ACT.htm		
NEW SOUTH WALES		(02) 9290 2355	www.thecompass	www.thecompassionatefriendsnsw.org.au		
NORTHERN TERRITO	DRY	(08) 8927 1320				
QUEENSLAND		(07) 3254 2657	www.compassion	www.compassionatefriendsqld.org.au/		
SOUTH AUSTRALIA		(08) 8351 0344	www.compassionatefriendssa.org.au			
TASMANIA		(03) 6261 4250				
VICTORIA		(03) 9888 4944	www.compassion	www.compassiontefriendsvictoria.org.au		
UNITED KINGDOM		(08) 451 20 37 85	www.tcf.org.uk			
UNITED STATES OF A	AMERICA		www.compassion	atefriends.org		
SOUTH AFRICA			www.compassion	www.compassionatefriends.org.za		
SWITZERLAND			www.verin-regent	oogen.ch		
CANADA			www.tcfcanada.ne	et/		
		Some In	<u>iternet Resources</u>			
<u>www.dougy.org</u>	<i>www.dougy.org</i> National centre for grieving children & families; a non-profit resource					
<u>www.grieflossrecover</u>	www.grieflossrecovery.com Poems, articles, memoirs, memorials, links - professional site					
<i>www.silentgrief.com</i> For those who have suffered a miscarriage and later child loss						
<u>www.bereavement-po</u>	ems-articles.co	<u>om</u>				
www.menslines.org.c	<u>111</u>	Phone: 1300 78	Phone: 1300 78 99 78			
www.kidshelp.com.a	<u>u</u>	Web & email cou	Web & email counselling			
www.havendhland.ave		National damage	Notice 1 1 constant in the t			

National depression initiative

Resource information & support

Suicide grief support internet community

A forum for questions, answers and support from others with

<u>www.beyondblue.org.au</u>

www.parentsofsuicide-aunz.com

www.mesotheliomaweb.org

www.gonetoosoon.org similar loss.

www.recover-from-grief.com

www.gratefulness.org/light-a-candle/ Light a virtual candle and/or leave a message.

Other Useful Contacts

Alcohol & Drug Support Link	9442 500				
Department of Community Services (Child Prote	1800 190 008				
Helping Minds Rockingham	9427 7100				
Coroners Counselling Services	9425 5200				
Headspace.org.au Support for people 12 to	o 25 struggling with mental health issues	1800 650 890			
Palmerston Counselling Services	Drug and alcohol Related	9581 4010			
Peel Grief Support grief support services after	er the death of any loved one Rosa	0418 910 230			
Peel Community Legal Services	9581 4511				
Relationships Australia 7 Cooper Street	6164 0570				
Samaritans	Free Call	1800 198 313			
Suicide Call-Back Services (SCDS) - Bereaved by Suicide National Free Counselling 1300 659 467					
South Coast Women's Health Services - Rocking	9550 0900				
SOLACEWA-Loss of Spouse	Sandra or www.solacegriefsupport.org.au	0488 991 084			
Victim Support Services	Rockingham	9527 7699			
Victim Support Services	Mandurah	9583 1120			

If any TCF member has found an agency or counsellor, other than those listed, To be helpful, please advise us and we will consider their information for inclusion in future issues.

TCF Mandurah Sponsors 2022

