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February 2015

I am afraid that this will be another very short newsletter. We have had an absolutely miserable start to 2015 with two of our families losing a member.

Barb, who has been with our group about 18 months, whose son seemed to be on the mend, lost him suddenly to pneumonia.

Laurel Clark was tragically killed in a car accident on the Bellarine peninsular on her way back from buying knitting wool to finish garments for Malcolm's and her first grandchild due in April.

It is really hard to express just how deeply we feel for both their families. Death is always difficult to handle well but when it is untimely and occurs suddenly, the element of shock adds another layer of pain. We can only hope that our group can be of support to these two families in the months to come.

Laurel Janette Clark



24th January 1947 ~ 12th January 2015

Meeting Topics

We received little feedback as to what topics members would like addressed at our monthly support meetings in 2015. Suggestions were listed in our November newsletter and more can still be made. We are going ahead with what we think are the most topical. **Employment** in February and have invited Neami and the Inner South Community Health Service to address our group in March on the reorganised **Mental Health Community Sector**.

2014 was a year of enormous change and more is still in the offing vis a vis carer support and the drug and alcohol sector. Much funding has been withdrawn from the services with which we were familiar and transferred to the NDIS. The intention being for remaining services to be delivered more cost effectively and better targeted. That remains to be seen! Hopefully 2015 will be a year of consolidation but it is important to give feedback to the new Victorian Government. The Minister for Mental Health, Martin Foley MP is a local - the Member for Albert Park! He has been receptive to our approaches in the past and it will be important to maintain our rapport with him.

OPEN DIALOGUE

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

at 8 Gardiner Street, Brunswick on
Thursday 19 February 3 -5pm

Members may remember discussion in newsletters last year on a system used in North West Finland to manage psychiatric illness, which has had remarkable and very encouraging results.

Dr Carl Valtanen, head of the Adolescent Psychiatric Unit at the local hospital in Rovaniemi, Finland (who has introduced the Open Dialogue method to that region in collaboration with the original Western Lapland Open Dialogue team) will be the speaker. To register and information see

<http://www.bouverie.org.au/training/pd/>

For further information (only) please contact Michelle Wills at m.wills@latrobe.edu.au

Penny Lewisohn