

**WISHING ALL FOSTER CARERS A VERY  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

At this time of the year we look forward to Christmas and what that means to each of us; celebrating our faith, family, holidays, picnics, gifts, relaxing, fun, sun, anticipation, travel, changing pace, thinking of others.



For the children in our care all of this can, from their negative world view, sound alarm bells and mean uncertainty, fear, being overwhelmed, more unanswered questions, anger, distress, out of routine, more unknown, more expectations.

As we approach the Christmas season things are gearing up with end of school term events which can all have an impact on children and be stressful to them. Be aware and prepare as much as you can and have a wonderful, safe, relaxed Christmas time.



**NGA MIHI O TE  
KIRIHIMETE ME TE TAU  
HO**

Carolyn Hill  
**Chairperson**

***NZQA Certificate in Whanau / Family & Foster  
Care 2008***

NZFFCF are taking registrations NOW for 2008

**Do you want recognition for your knowledge, skills and experience as a foster carer?**

This year long Certificate is commencing again in February. It is a work based programme and we recommend that foster carers complete the majority of NCTP Courses first.

NZFFCF will be offering tutorials to assist and support with Certificate completion.

Enquire now to

**0800 69 33 23 Or send those eligibility forms to NZFFCF  
P.O. Box 8320, Havelock North  
nzffcf.training@xtra.co.nz**

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**EXECUTIVE MEETINGS**

22 FEBRUARY 2008  
WELLINGTON

**AGM**  
18 APRIL 2008  
WELLINGTON

**ANNUAL FOSTER CARE  
CONFERENCE**  
25 & 26 JULY, 2008  
TAURANGA

**THEME:**  
HEAL, LEARN, THRIVE

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# Introducing ... Suzanne McCool, National Training Coordinator

I am fortunate to have been recently appointed to NZFFCF as the National Training Co-ordinator initially to help promote the Certificate in Whanau/Family and Foster Care. I am married with 2 adult sons, and with my husband have been farming in Central Hawke's Bay for the last 15 years. I worked for Child, Youth and Family, firstly as a generic social worker in the Waipukurau office, for about ten years. This is where I first had the privilege to work alongside some amazing foster carers, who have earned my deepest respect. As a result I came to realise the huge significance that foster carers have, and the absolute importance of your role in the 24/7 care of another person's child. It is not the same as caring for your own child, and is hugely demanding as you all know but also very rewarding. I moved into the Caregiver Social Worker role when this position was expanded for close to 4 years as I wanted to continue working with Foster Carers, which then led into becoming the CGSW Supervisor for my final 16 months with CYF.

I see this National Certificate in Whanau/Family and Foster Care as an exciting opportunity for foster carers, it builds on the learning you have already acquired through your experience as a foster carer and through the excellent NCTP courses which form the base for this certificate, so is not as scary as you might think. You will gain recognition for the skills you have, as well as learn new ones, and your personal learning is supported by tutorials to assist you in understanding what and how you can complete the required unit standards.

**So if you are thinking about doing this certificate with Xmas fast approaching it is time NOW to get those eligibility forms into us at: NZFFCF, PO Box 8320, Havelock North. Email: nzffcf.training@xtra.co.nz**

## Stella Maris Convention Centre

It was with great sadness that I read in the EO's October report that this October meeting will be our last at Stella Maris due to its closing down as a function centre. Peter Jackson has purchased the buildings for his new offices and special effects centre.

This venue has been of special significance to the NZFFCF over many years with a great many meetings held, many going on into the small hours, discussions held at times as strong as the tides that pound Seatoun Beach.

The Kowhai tree in the garden that now stands well over 8 feet tall. A living acknowledgment to the late Mary Moodie, who was a founding member of the NZFFCF, among some of the memories that we will all have lost along with the peace and serenity that is Stella Maris.

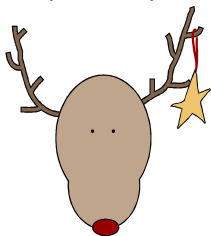


**By Lorraine Colvin  
Southern Reg Rep.**

A Swinney & L Colvin  
Under the kowhai tree  
At Stella Maris

## Reindeer Biscuit

Use an arrowroot biscuit, ice with chocolate icing.  
Use a giant jaffa for nose, pebbles for the eyes.  
Break off a piece of pretzel for the antlers.



## Special Thanks and Christmas Wishes to:

Agency Members & Association / Support  
group Committees,  
Allegation Support Workers,  
Child Youth & Family,  
Eastern & Central Trust,  
Fuji Xerox,  
Heretaunga Trust & Trust House,  
L'Oreal Professional Products.  
Lottery Minister,  
JR McKenzie Trust,  
NZFFCF Executive & Staff  
Te Kaiawhina Ahumahi,  
The Todd Foundation  
Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

and all those individuals and business who  
have worked with or sponsored the NZFFCF  
this year. Thank You

## Christmas Pudding Biscuits

Use a Mallowpuff Biscuit, ice with white icing – just drizzle  
and dribble over the top. Place a small Jaffa on top. Cut  
up small green lollies (like spearmint leaves) and place  
along side to look like leaves.

**These are easy Christmas crafts for children to make  
for their teacher or end of year Christmas Party.**



## Sir Winston Churchill Fellowship 2007

**Awarded to Gaylene Lawrence, Executive Officer, NZFFCF**

**Gaylene has been awarded this Fellowship to travel to four Canadian States to examine specific models and recommend options for the introduction of a professional foster care model into NZ / Aotearoa, during 2008.**

The traditional model of foster care practice in NZ / Aotearoa is a voluntary undertaking, where people offer care in their homes to children who are unable to live within their own family structures. A shift towards "professionalisation" demands an exploration of the changing nature of the foster care role and the underpinning issues of motivation, retention, training, support, payment, and cultural difference.

International literature strongly argues a need for professional foster care services that have skilled foster carers to manage children's increasing difficult behaviours. These carers offer specialised services and are appropriately remunerated and accountable. This research has been raised in discussions with Minister Ruth Dyson and Child Youth & Family, who wrote a paper which indicates "reforming the delivery of care services is required" (EXG Review: Sustainability of the Care & Protection System - November 06). Many international models of care are practised, including those where wages or enhanced allowances are paid to carers on the basis of their higher level of skills. However, this is not straightforward, as issues arise in regard to payment equity, taxation, effect on any other benefits received, role expectations, training, assessment and accountability. Many countries have adopted mixed traditional voluntary models and specialised / professional models of care that operate on different (tiered) levels according to the qualifications of the foster carer and the levels of difficulty the child presents.

Gaylene has chosen to concentrate the research within the Canadian States as the children's legislation & policies closely align with NZ/Aotearoa. The multi-level models, such as those operating in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario would seem to best meet the NZ/Aotearoa needs of our diverse foster / kin / whanau care population and allow those carers who have the ability and desire to care for children with a high level of difficulty to be trained, supported and adequately reimbursed to do so.

More foster carers will choose foster care as a career option, gain greater recognition, financial rewards, job satisfaction and keep caring for longer. This will result in NZ/Aotearoa having increased care options, greater stability of placements, improved health and education outcomes and reduced youth offending for children / young persons with difficult behaviours.

Although her focus will be on professional models of foster care she will remain open to any new and innovative ideas NZFFCF may be able to introduce to enhance our services to our members.

**The results from this research will be published in the NZFFCF newsletter and Social Work Now, on Gaylene's return. This will also be the subject of ongoing discussion with Government / Child Youth & Family officials and the New Zealand family & Foster Care Federation. Feedback on this topic is welcome 0800 69 33 23.**



The NZFFCF have recently been given a sizeable donation from **L'Oreal Professional Products**.

This donation will be used to provide valuable additional services to foster carers, by enabling up to 100 current foster care members attend an 8 hr Red Cross First Aid course.

These will be allocated - 20 member foster carers per region and administered nationally.

Members for this purpose are both

**a) current individual Associations members and b) one foster carer per member agency**

The remaining \$2000 will be used to assist two young persons in / leaving care with their hairdressing studies / apprenticeship costs during 2009

**There will be further information in the next newsletter regarding the process to apply.**

