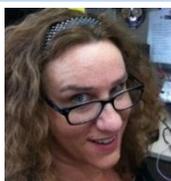


## Welcome to PPSS February Newsletter

Welcome to the latest PPSS newsletter. 2013 is shaping up to be a very exciting year for PPSS, with lots of opportunities to connect with you, our members, through our events, training and other activities.



In February and March we'll be delivering our *Let's Talk About School* programs for adoptive and permanent care parents, as well as kinship carers. On 21 March we're partnering with the Intercountry Adoption Service to deliver *Impact of a traumatised child on existing children in the family*, a workshop delivered from a professional and parent perspective. 23 March will see delivery of an afternoon workshop on *Lying and Stealing*, with a special guest speaker from Take Two.

Always keep an eye on our Calendar of Events at <http://www.ppss.org.au/event-calendar-all> to see what's coming up and register your attendance.

This year we'll be continuing to develop and deliver even more PPSS training packages, written and delivered specifically for our members. We'd like your help in doing this. We're seeking your input into programs ranging from life story work for children, to learning for professionals, and everything in between. For more information see our article below.

As always, thanks to all of our wonderful members for your ongoing interest and support and we hope to see you soon!

Jennifer Duncan, CEO

## Seeking your Participation

PPSS is excited to announce the development of many new training packages and accompanying resources in 2013.

As always, we want to ensure that the lived experiences of our families is reflected in this work. This year's programs will cover:

- Life Story Work
- Mindful Parenting
- Raising Teens
- Empowering children to deal with difference
- Therapeutic Parenting
- Let's Talk About School: Next Steps (managing the challenges)
- Learning Circle: for professionals working with adoptive and permanent care families

We are eager to hear from anyone who is interested in contributing to this work. You might be willing to; be a member of a reference group, provide group or individual feedback on draft documents or training, or offer recount of personal experiences to further inform training and resources.

If you are interested in participating please contact Lindy Bok, PPSS Programs Manager, with your details and the topic/s of most interest to you at [lindy@ppss.org.au](mailto:lindy@ppss.org.au)

## Training

### Let's Talk About School: Adoption and Permanent Care

*Western  
Suburbs*

**Wednesday 20 March 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Discussions will centre around:

- talking to your child's teacher/carer about adoption and permanent care
- preparing your child for school – including ideas to skill them in answering adoption or permanent care related questions

**Venue:** Anglicare, 41 Sommerville Rd, Yarraville  
**Cost:** \$40.00 per adult, \$20.00 concession, \$60.00 for couples. All tickets incur 30cents trybooking fee

**RSVP:** <http://trybooking.com/CGIH> by 13 March

Contact Deborah Hunt on: 9020 1839 for further information

All participants will receive the PPSS publication **Let's Talk: Helping Educators Understand the Implications of Adoption and Permanent Care** in the cost of registration.

**Let's Talk  
publication sale  
\$13.50  
inc. postage  
and handling**

As part of our 'Back to School' promotion, PPSS is offering you the opportunity to purchase **Let's Talk About School: Permanent Care and Adoption** publication for only **\$13.50** including postage and handling. Sale ends 31 March.

To purchase one or more copies, simply click our on-line book store <http://shop.ppss.org.au> or call Deborah on 9020 1839.

## Bi-monthly Event

### 'Understanding Lying and Stealing Behaviour in Traumatised Children' –

Presented by Catherine McQueen, Senior Clinician, Berry Street Take Two Program; a statewide therapeutic program for children and young people in the Child Protection system

Come and join us for a presentation exploring the meaning behind this challenging behaviour and ways parents and carers can provide therapeutic care and respond to children's underlying needs.

**Date:** Saturday 23 March from 2.00 – 4.00pm  
**RSVP:** 15 March <http://www.trybooking.com/CMTN>  
**Cost:** \$25 members, \$30 non-members, \$10 conc.  
**Venue:** To be confirmed (inner Melbourne)

For more information, contact Deborah on 9020 1839.



## Movie Night

Thursday 18 April

Save the  
Date

PPSS is partnering with Families with Children from China (FCC) to host a movie night, showing *Somewhere Between*.

*Somewhere Between* is a documentary by Linda Goldstein Knowlton, an adoptive mother, who tells the coming-of-age stories of four girls adopted from China and raised in the U.S.

It explores the themes of identity formation, family and inter-country adoption from the perspective of these young women. For more information on the film, visit [www.somewherebetweenmovie.com](http://www.somewherebetweenmovie.com) and stay tuned for further advice on booking details.

### Reviews on *Somewhere Between*;

"Is a wonderfully unassuming title for such an honest, well-crafted, and surprisingly complex documentary that surpasses all expectations." - *Washington Square News*

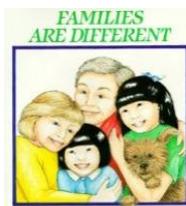
"Is refreshingly free of the cloying, one-size-fits-all dogma that sometimes bedevils the adoption community." *NPR*

"The film is a gift for everyone who sees it. The girls' stories open our minds and our hearts. ... Through the power of film *Somewhere Between* allows us to feel the experience of adopted children." - *The WIP*

## Book Review

### *Families Are Different*

By Nina Pellegrini



This children's book revolves around the story of 'Nico' and her family. Nico and her sister were adopted from Korea and Nico reflects on the differences between her family and other families within her circle. She starts by reflecting on the differences within her own family, compared to biologically-related families that she knows. But ultimately, Nico realises that difference in families is just as common as 'same-ness'.

*Families are Different* explores the many, diverse families within Nico's community and how unique each of them is, spanning adoptive families, single-parent families, families of mixed ethnicity, blended families and kinship families. The core ingredient that Nico discovers at the centre of all of these families is not same-ness but love.

The author was inspired to write this book based on the experiences of her own daughters, who were adopted. This book is relevant to all children who live in families that encompass difference, no matter what that difference might be.

## Workshop

PPSS and ICAS are pleased to announce their second workshop titled *Impact of traumatised child on existing child/children within the family – a Professional and Parent perspective*.

Date: Thursday 21 March, 10.00am – 3.00pm  
Venue: ICAS, Level 20, 50 Lonsdale St, Melbourne

The workshop offers participants the opportunity to learn about the impact of trauma, understand how these difficulties impact on a child's behaviour and capacity to learn and socialise, understand the impact a traumatised child can have on existing child/ren and hear strategies to assist children and families with experience of trauma.

If you would like to attend or require further information please contact Lindy Bok [lindy@ppss.org.au](mailto:lindy@ppss.org.au) or tel: 9020 1837

## New Fact Sheets

PPSS is creating a series of fact sheets on subjects that are relevant and informative to our community. Below is a list of new fact sheets now available on our website:

- Engaging a Therapist
- PPSS Specialist Database
- Better Access to Mental Health Initiative
- When to see a GP

Be sure to check our website regularly as we develop more informative topics. <http://www.ppss.org.au/resources>

### Links of Interest

There is currently a community consultation to inform the rules that will accompany the National Disability Insurance Scheme and govern how the scheme will work in practice and eligibility criteria. To find out more and have your say click on <http://www.ndis.gov.au/talking-about-ndis/yoursay/>

## Support Groups and Community Events

### ■ Journal Club

Thursday March 7, 8.00pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Collingwood Library, 11 Stanton St,  
Abbotsford

Topic: Pearls of wisdom for dealing with attachment  
issues

### ■ Peninsula Support/Playgroup

Permanent Care/Local Adoption Support Group

Every second Friday at 10.30am

Contact Melinda Carlyle, tel: 0432 879 181, email

[melindacarlyle@hotmail.com](mailto:melindacarlyle@hotmail.com)

### ■ Northern "All Ways Playgroup"

Permanent Care/Local Adoption Support Group

Meet at Jika Jika Community Centre

Oldis Gardens site, East Street, Northcote

First Thursday of every month, 11.45am - 2.00pm

Contact Rebekah Keenan Mount, tel: 0404 957 808 or

email [rkeenanmount@gmail.com](mailto:rkeenanmount@gmail.com)

### ■ Western Suburbs Playgroup

Permanent Care/Local Adoption Support Group

Every second Friday, 10.00am

Contact Linda Schapendonk, tel: 0401 716 496, email

[schapendonk@iprimus.com.au](mailto:schapendonk@iprimus.com.au)

### ■ Regional Greater Western Playgroup for Grandparents and carers of young children

Little Owls Playgroup for Grandparents and Carers

Darley Baptist Church, Holts Lane, Bacchus Marsh

Every Monday from 10.00am - 12.00pm

Contact: Jade Moerenhout tel: 03 5366 7100, email

[JMoerenhout@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:JMoerenhout@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

Check our website for further information

[www.ppss.org.au](http://www.ppss.org.au), tel: 9020 1833.

PPSS is funded by grants from

The William Buckland Foundation,

The Collie Foundation,

The Felton Bequest Committee and

The Truby & Florence Williams Charitable Trust,

which are managed by ANZ Trustees

## The *Gong Shi* Project: Working with Women & Girls in China Presented by Helen Lenga for International Women's Day

Date: Wednesday 6 March

Time: 7.00 - 8.30pm

Where: Richmond West Primary School, 25 Lennox St, Richmond  
West (b/t Highett & Elizabeth streets)

RSVP: Jessica (RWPS) tel: 9429 2950 or Helen tel: 9857 0483

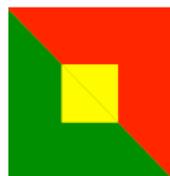
[helenlenga@ozemail.com.au](mailto:helenlenga@ozemail.com.au)

Entry: by donation, light supper provided

Helen is the mother of two daughters adopted from China and works as a psychologist specialising in the area of loss, trauma and attachment. Over the last eight years Helen has been working in Chinese orphanages through the *Gong Shi* Project, training staff in their work with the children.

For more information on the Gong Shi Project visit

[www.helenlenga.com](http://www.helenlenga.com)



**AACASA Victoria**

**Out of Africa Camp 2013**

**Campaspe Downs Country Resort**

**1302 Trentham Rd, Tylden (near Kyneton)**

**6pm – Friday March 22 – 2pm Sunday 24 March**

This is a camp for families who have, or hope to, adopt children of African heritage, and their friends. It is an opportunity to immerse in a relaxed setting, network and foster mutually supportive relations and links with others.

A range of activities and resources will be offered including:

- Swimming, basketball, canoeing and billiards. BYO bikes
- African cultural workshops
- Saturday night – communally made traditional Ethiopian meal; camp attendees to help and learn
- Update from Graham Romanes; Honorary Consulate General for Ethiopia and AACASA.

**Register and Payment:** To confirm your place, please contact Camp Co-ordinator Lisa Wilson on [wilse@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wilse@bigpond.net.au) or tel: 03 9696 0642 or 0419 584 134.

Hurry now and secure your place as late booking rates apply from 9 March.

## Interested in volunteering with PPSS?

If you might like to volunteer with PPSS please take five minutes to hop online and tell us about your interests. To take our volunteer survey, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFZFRM8](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFZFRM8)

We look forward to hearing from you!