



Regional Newsletter February 2005

Welcome to our February BSWYA Newsletter.

The Newsletter is part of a regional Alliance between 7 drug and alcohol services supporting young people living in the Barwon South West Region.

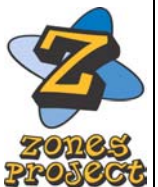


Community Development Functions

Shannon Williams is the new **Senior Project Officer** for BAYSA Drug Prevention & Treatment Programs and is responsible for community development functions for the Barwon South West Youth Alliance and BAYSA.

Shannon completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Health Sciences), majoring in Health Promotion and Family, Society & Health with Deakin University Melbourne in 2003 and has worked previously with Bentleigh Bayside Community Health Service in the planning, implementation & evaluation of various health promotion programs.

After over 4 years in Melbourne studying and working, Shannon has returned to the Geelong area with her soon to be husband and looks forward to her involvement with BAYSA and advancing the Barwon South West Youth Alliance.



BAYSA Drug Prevention & Treatment Program Team head to Belfast

It's with much pleasure I announce that BAYSA DPTP's has been invited to present at this years International Harm Reduction Conference in Belfast on the creative outcomes realised as part of our Zones Day Program at BAYSA.

Successful **AERF** funding has allowed Paul Weight (Manager), Di Schmidke (Co-ordinator) and Shaun Fogarty (Young Artist) to attend the International Harm Reduction Conference in Ireland March 20 - 25 2005.

HIGHWAY the short film created by Shaun Fogarty for Drug Action Week 2004 will be shown and presented by both himself and Paul. This powerful and engaging film provides an insight into drug use leaving the audience to question who is the driver when it comes to drugs.

Di Schmidke will also present on **Peer Education and Youth Day Programs**.

Congratulations to Paul Weight, Di Schmidke, Terry Robinson, Shaun Fogarty, COGG, BSWYA, JPET, AERF and BAYSA for collectively achieving this tremendous outcome for the Barwon South West Region showcasing the talents of youth involved in BAYSA Zones day program.



Pictured above are Daryl Smeaton the Director of the AERF and Di Schmitke the Co-ordinator of BAYSA Zones Program.



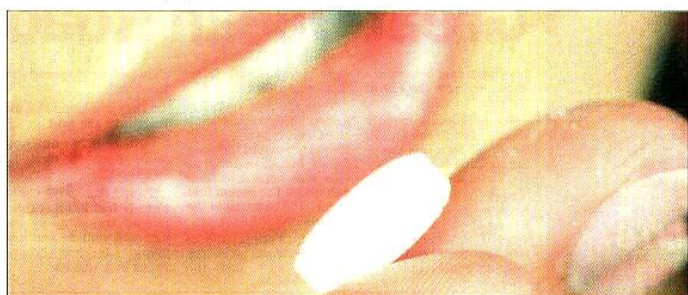
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**Newsletter information
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approved pictures via
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"The drug of a new generation- ECSTASY"

In the first report of a special series, Marie Douglas from the Geelong Independent in her article published on 16/02/05 looks at who's using it and where and finds "Eccies" are no longer just part of the rave scene but a regular feature of Geelong's nightlife. Douglas writes "it's about young people who in the interests of having a good time, are taking the drug almost as casually as alcohol". In Douglas' second article (pictured below) she speaks with Paul Weight who acknowledges that ecstasy is on the uptake but also stresses that "alcohol was still the most common abused part. drug".



Changing face of drug use

THE experts agree. Ecstasy use is on the uptake in Geelong.

Paul Weight, drug prevention and treatment services manager at BAYSA Youth Services, said ecstasy use in Geelong was a significant concern.

"Parents need to be aware it's moved beyond the stereotypical rave scene to nightclubs and parties," he said.

Mr Weight said young people could be exposed to drugs at an early age and that drug education was extremely important.

He encouraged open dialogue between parents and teenagers.

"Parents should look up credible websites, they need to be skilling themselves. When we were young drug use was very different," he said.

"Parents need to provide accurate information so their children can make informed decisions.

"Parents also need to look at

NEWS link

Australian Drug Foundation
www.adf.org.au
Australian Drug Information Network
www.adin.com.au
Family drug helpline 1300 660 068
Parentline 132 289
BAYSA Youth Services 5221 4466
Barwon Health drug health education program 1800 196 850

their own substance use to make sure they're not coming from a position of hypocrisy.

"Young people model their behaviour on others, particularly on their parents."

However, Mr Weight stressed alcohol was still the most common and most abused party drug.

Dr Jim Blacket, a psychiatrist

with Barwon Health who specialises in addictive medicine, said people were using Ecstasy like alcohol in a party situation.

He said the major signs for parents to watch out for were mood changes.

"Dramatic mood shumps on Monday or Tuesday could be a warning that substances were used on Saturday night," Dr Blacket said.

But it's a tough one for parents.

"It's difficult because there are lots of other things affecting people's moods at that stage of life."

He said parents with a child that was particularly shy or anxious socially could be the sort of person more likely to use ecstasy.

"On the other hand, people who are naturally gregarious may be more involved with the party scene and so they too could be likely to use the drug."

Young Australian of the Year 2005

Congratulations to filmmaker Khoa Do who was awarded Young Australian of the Year for 2005.

Last year as part of Drug Action Week Khoa Do facilitated a workshop for the young people of Zones and presented his film *The Finished People* at Reading Cinema Waurrn Ponds. The film which portrayed life, survival and hope was filmed in his home suburb of Cabramatta in Sydney's West, which has often been branded Australia's drug capital.

As a refugee in Sydney's West, Khoa grew up with very little. Now the Sydney University Arts Graduate and filmmaker is proof that the right stuff can come from the so-called wrong side of down.

We wish Khoa all the best with his future endeavors and congratulate him again on his outstanding achievement.



Other News:

- Regional Reference Group Meeting 24/02/2005- BAYSA
- Pako Fest Saturday 26th February
- Regional Youth Services Review (DHS)- March 2005
- Youth Access Program Launch- April 2005
- AOD Coalition Meeting- 27/04/2005
- Interactions Drug Education- May 2005
- Drug Action Week 2005
- WADAC- August 2005