

New car links kids and parents

A NEW set of wheels has brought plenty of smiles to local children involved with Shine for Kids.

The Bathurst branch recently took delivery of a brand new Kia Carnival people mover, which was funded by Newman's Own Foundation, the US-based organisation established by the late actor Paul Newman.

Shine supports around 45 children in the Bathurst region that have been affected by having one or both parents in the criminal justice system. It is the sole agency assisting children with parents in prison.

Shine Bathurst spokesperson Trish Carr said delivery of the new vehicle was perfect timing.

"Our old vehicle had definitely on its last legs and with a busy schedule of fun outings planned for the children, this new vehicle couldn't have arrived at a better time," Ms Carr said.

According to Ms Carr, the new vehicle will also be used to facilitate parental visits for local children who have a dad or mum in the prison system.

"Many of these children have little or no opportunity to visit

their parents and our professional staff and trained volunteers often have to use their own cars, so we are always limited in terms of availability and timing," Ms Carr said. "Thanks to Newman's Own Foundation and our new people mover, we can schedule visits to coincide with prison visiting times and ensure the prisoner/family connection is both encouraged and strengthened."

Shine for Kids assists and supports children of prisoners to develop coping mechanisms and provides opportunities for these children to support each other.

Ms Carr called on Bathurst residents to consider volunteering their time to the cause.

"You can volunteer as much or as little time as you can spare," Ms Carr said. "We hope to hear from people from all walks of life."

Inquiries should be directed to the Bathurst branch on 6328 9900. Ms Carr added that children with a parent or relative in prison may access the service by completing a referral form, available at www.shineforkids.org.au.



GENEROUS: Shine Bathurst mentor project worker Rebecca Sullivan and education program worker Trish Carr show off their new people mover, donated by the Newman's Own Foundation. Photo: PHILL MURRAY

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Vale a dutiful public servant

Frederick Benjamin Franklin
22 June 1925 - January 8 2013

FRED Franklin was born in Narromine on June 22 1925, the eldest son of Jean and Fred West Franklin.

He spent his childhood in Narromine, attending school with his many aunts and uncles who were his age, or even younger.

His mother Jean (nee Arnaudon) was the eldest daughter of thirteen children.

Fred's parents were both musicians and it was from them that he developed a love of music at a very young age.

Upon leaving school Fred's first job was as a telegram delivery boy for the Narromine Post Office and during this time he learned morse code.

This later led to employment as a transmitter in post offices in Dubbo, Wellington, Cobar, Bourke and finally in the GPO in Sydney.

In 1952 Fred decided to join his mother and begin a new life in Bathurst.

He commenced work that year as a clerk with Bathurst City Council in the gas department, later moving to take charge of the rates department where he remained until retirement, thirty four years later in 1986.

Fred met and married Wilma and in 1958 his precious daughter Debbie was born.

Due to Wilma's poor health, Fred's mother Jean took on the mothering role and supported Fred during Debbie's childhood and adolescence.

In 1953 Fred and his mother and uncle formed the very successful Franklin Orchestra performing in many towns in the Central West.

In 1967 Fred joined the popular dance band 'The Debonairs' and entertained on the saxophone and clarinet.

At the same time he joined the orchestra of the Carillon Theatrical Society - his first show was 'Anything Goes'.

When ill health prevented him from performing with the orchestras, he was forced to retire as a musician.

This led to a new hobby - travel.

With his wife of 38 years, Fred and Clara travelled the world - Fred with his video camera on his shoulder.

He became a proficient photographer and commentator and produced quality videos - memories of their many trips.

Upon retirement Fred joined the Arthritis Foundation and held the position of president of the Bathurst branch for nearly 30 years.

Fred was a foundation member of the Macquarie Male Singers and remained a staunch member of the group until he was admitted to hospital in 2010.

Fred leaves his loving wife Clara, daughter Debbie, son-in-law Garry. He will be missed by his grandchildren Grant and Karla.

He was a fond friend to step-daughters Ella and Eva and their families.

Fred Franklin passed away peacefully at Macquarie Care Centre on January 8 2013.

Grants to celebrate and promote Indigenous arts

MEMBER for Bathurst Paul Toole is encouraging Indigenous arts organisations and individual artists in the region to apply for a share of \$100,000 in government funding to help showcase and promote Aboriginal arts.

Mr Toole said funding through the Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund (ARAF) aims to support projects that promote and celebrate Indigenous arts in rural NSW.

"ARAF funding is available for projects such as workshops, performances, exhibitions, festivals or events with Aboriginal people in key creative roles," he said.

"Funding is available of up to \$3000 for individual artists and \$15,000 for organisations."

Mr Toole said initiatives such as this increase participation of NSW Aboriginal people in arts and cultural activities and promotes greater recognition and appreciation of NSW Aboriginal arts and cultural practice.

Arts Minister George Souris said Aboriginal artists and arts groups in rural NSW contribute to the social and cultural richness of the nation.

As such, the NSW Government believes it is important to do all it can to help them succeed.

"As home to the largest Indigenous community in Australia, NSW Aboriginal artists are producing high-quality works that fuse traditional stories and culture with contemporary art forms and media," Mr Souris said.

Applications close on March 18 2013 and must be for programs that commence after July 1 2013.

For more information and to apply see the Arts NSW website www.arts.nsw.gov.au email arts.funding@arts.nsw.gov.au or phone 1800 358 594.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Victor Dominello, said the active participation by Aboriginal people in the arts and cultural sectors boosts their capacity to keep their culture and communities strong.

"The arts also promote broader respect and understanding of Indigenous cultures by the broader community and provide positive role models for younger generations of Aboriginal kids," he said.

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