



Jason Wood MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

MEDIA RELEASE

11 April 2014

Ferny Creek's Mother of the Year



Jason Wood MP met with Samantha Jackel at her home in Ferny Creek today. Samantha received the Barnardo's Victorian Mother Of The Year award on Tuesday 8th April at the Barnardos Mother Of The Year 2014 Victoria Announcement Ceremony held at the Department of Human Services Lonsdale St building.

Sam's own childhood was not easy. Coming from abuse she lead a difficult life but managed to turn it around and make it her strength by writing a book about her life called 'My Purple Pants', which has changed the lives of countless abused children.

Mr Wood said "Meeting Samantha highlighted to me how many every-day heroes we have living with us, right under our noses, here in La Trobe. Samantha serves as an inspiration to everyone - not just parents or mothers - and the great thing is it seems to come naturally to her."

Not only is Sam a mother, part time worker and author but she is also a public speaker, inspiring people all over the world with her strength and wisdom. Sam is a well respected member of the community who voluntarily gives up her spare time alongside her husband,

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to organise the Go The Extra Mile 50km endurance walk, which has raised over a million dollars in the past five years to build homes for orphans in Uganda.

“In the lead up to Mother’s Day, we as a nation should stop to thank the mothers in our lives and our communities. It’s the perfect time to acknowledge the vital role Mums play in society as a whole and in the lives of young Australians. Barnardo’s do a wonderful job of this every year, and the work they do all year round is a great thing for our society too.” Mr Wood said.

This year the National Finals of the Mother Of The Year Awards will be held at a gala luncheon at Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf, Pyrmont on Friday, 9th May, 2014.

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