

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### *Name and Phone Numbers*

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>		
Bonnie Sleep .....	Phone	REDACTED
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>		
Olive Bowly .....	Phone	
<b>TREASURER:</b>		
Paul Teefy .....	Phone	
<b>SECRETARY</b>		
Annette Norris .....	Phone	
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>		
Jane Bailey .....	Phone	
Juille Cox .....	Phone	
Rhonda Flessor .....	Phone	
Vendulka Hastings .....	Phone	
Michelle Heyman .....	Phone	
Diane Nitz .....	Phone	
Sue Upton .....	Phone	
Thereses McIntyre .....	Phone	
<b>CO-ORDINATORS:</b>		
At Admin Office .....	Phone 31 3707	
.....	Fax 31 3663	

## GOLD MEDAL AWARD

On behalf of the members of the Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc. congratulations to Maree Welch on her recent award.

The award presented by Dr John Youngman of the South Coast Regional Health Authority was for Maree's work and commitment and for going the extra mile in numerous areas of disability for the past ten years.

This was the nomination - prepared by Vice President, Olive Bowly.

### **MAREE WELCH**

Host Family Co-ordinator

Gold Coast Family Support Group Inc

Maree has a ten year old daughter, Bobbie with Noonan's Syndrome. This is a multiple disability involving epilepsy and impairment of motor skills, sight and hearing. Bobbie's intelligence and ability to learn and remember is better than may be expected and she attends a normal school class three hours per day.

Some years ago Maree formed a Noonan's Association in Queensland and has attended meetings of the NSW Association in Sydney and corresponded with Association members in England. She has continually endeavoured to seek information about diverse areas of disability by extensive reading and attending seminars etc., and to share this with other parents and interested people.

For several years Maree has been a member of the Management Committee of the Family Support Group serving two years as Secretary. The Family Support Group started as a self-help group in 1979 by parents of children with a disability, to encourage each other and work together for better services on the coast.

In recent years the Group has attracted considerable Government funding and provides various respite services as well as general support and retains the essential principle of self-help.

Maree's recent appointment as Host-Family Co-ordinator means that she is now a part-time paid worker and a full time volunteer!

For a number of years Maree has successfully negotiated with childcare centres and schools to have children with mild disabilities included in normal classes. On many occasions she has acted as an advocate to assist anxious parents.

Whenever anyone has a problem morning, noon or night it is Maree to whom they turn. In spite of her own family commitments, she works tirelessly to help others and is always available to listen and support.

