

Launch of the Carmichael Centre Annual Report for 2006

The launch of the 2006 Annual Report comes at an exciting and challenging time for community and voluntary organisations in Ireland.

According to Ava Battles, CEO, *'As the external environment becomes increasingly complex and ever-more regulated, the need for organisational support will grow. The quality of what happens on the ground at local level depends, at least in part, on the availability of centralised support in areas such as governance, human resources, management and finance. The Carmichael Centre will be at the forefront of devising appropriate services to support small and medium community and voluntary groups'*. During 2006 the Centre launched the Strategic Plan 2006-2011 which charts that path for the Carmichael Centre.

In 2006, 361 participants attended 38 courses on the Carmichael Centre Management Training Programme. These courses ranged from time management or health and safety to new courses on effective teamwork and successful communication. The Centre also delivered the Stronger Leaders Programme which was the first ever leadership programme for CEOs and Senior Managers in the Community and Voluntary Sector.

According to Mary O'Connor Chairperson for the Carmichael Centre, 'the launch of the Report of the Taskforce on Active Citizenship in 2006 was music to the ears of the Carmichael Centre. The Centre has worked for 18 years to provide practical steps to hundreds of groups and organisations to help them take an active role in the lives of communities and individuals throughout the country'.

The production of this Annual Report was interrupted by the sudden death of our dear friend and passionate CEO Kate O'Sullivan. She will be forever remembered by the thousands of people who lived in her shadow, whose lives she touched through her exceptional contribution to both the Centre and the voluntary sector.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact Ava Battles, CEO on **01 8735702 / 087 7999597** or **ava@carmichaelcentre.ie**

Notes: The Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups is the first, largest and busiest shared facility for 49 voluntary and community organisations in Ireland. It is both a centre for small charities and a resource for the voluntary and community sector as a whole.

The principle objective of the Centre is to nurture and support the development of small and medium-sized voluntary and community groups, providing an environment which stimulates this development and encourages best practice.

The new Carmichael Centre Management Training Programme is just about to start and below are the courses that we are running in October.

- **Employment Law – an overview: 3 October (limited availability)**
- **Recruiting Staff: 9 October**
- **Board Roles and Responsibilities: 10 October**
- **Communicating Successfully: 11 October (limited availability)**
- **Developing a Strategic Plan: 16 October**
- **Introduction to Fundraising: 17 and 18 October**
- **Business Writing Skills: 24 October**

More information about these courses can be found on our website

www.carmichaelcentre.ie

If you would like to book a place
please contact **Danielle McGoldrick**
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