

I love my mum because...



March 27, 2009

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JULIA ROLLINGS NAMED BARNARDOS' ACT MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In a special ceremony hosted today by **Barnardos Australia**, and presented by Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, **Julia Rollings** from **Conder** was announced as the **ACT Mother of the Year** in the **2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards**.

Julia will now attend the national function in Sydney on **Thursday, May 7** (just prior to Mother's Day) along with the other seven State and Territory finalists where the **2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year** will be announced.

Julia was nominated by her friend Helen Fenwick who says she is, "an inspiration and a champion for children's rights." Julia is mum to eight children, six of whom have been adopted from overseas. One of the children is also autistic and blind.

A few years ago Julia and her husband discovered that their two youngest children had been sold for \$50 by their biological father in India – unbeknownst to their biological mother. Through Julia's determination and courage she successfully reunited the children with their biological mother and siblings and they all continue to maintain close contact. Julia has written a book "Love Our Way" recounting this amazing and heartfelt story and she says that family always comes first.

Julia says she was shocked, humbled and honoured when announced as the **ACT Mother of the Year**. "There are so many amazing mums out there doing incredible work," she says. "I feel privileged to have been chosen to represent the ACT."

"This year we had thousands of nominations for truly remarkable mums from around this country of ours," says Glynis Sequeira, Marketing Director for Barnardos Australia. "However Julia's determination and devotion to care for those less fortunate won her acclaim amongst the judges."

The 2009 ACT announcement was proudly sponsored by the ACT Government. "The Barnardos Mother of the Year Awards celebrated the qualities that were at the heart of mothering, the ability to provide a child with safety, stability, opportunity, acceptance, respect and love," said Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope. "The three ACT finalists exhibited these qualities in abundance and proved that inspirational motherhood could not be measured by a simple genetic test."

As the **2009 Barnardos ACT Mother of the Year**, Julia was presented with a Johnson & Johnson gift pack, a motherInc.com.au pamper pack, a Lindt chocolate basket, a Canon digital camera, a 12-month subscription to Practical Parenting magazine, a Captain Cook Sydney Harbour Sightseeing Coffee Cruise, a deluxe flower arrangement from EasyFlowers, a framed Certificate and trophy to mark the event and flights and accommodation to Sydney to attend the national function.

The overall national winner will receive a Ford Fiesta, a 3-night PS Murray River Wetlands Discovery Cruise for 2 people from Captain Cook Cruises, an EasyFlowers basket arrangement and a Lindt chocolate hamper.

Launched in 1996, the Awards aim to acknowledge the enormous contribution that mothers make in shaping Australia's future through their role in nurturing children.

For more information contact Sofey Youssef, Awards Publicist, Barnardos Australia on 02 9743 2790 or 0419 272 237 or email sofey@bigpicture.com

Nominate her for Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year
www.barnardos.org.au

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