

I love my mum because...



March 31, 2009

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BERNADETTE BLACK NAMED BARNARDOS' TAS MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In a ceremony hosted today by **Barnardos Australia**, and presented by Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, **Heather Butler MP**, **Bernadette Black of Blackmans Bay** was announced as the **Tasmanian Mother of the Year** in the **2009 Barnardos Australia's Mother of the Year Awards**.

Bernadette 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.

When Bernadette fell pregnant at 16, she promised herself three things, that she would be a good mother, complete her education and write a book to help and encourage others in her situation.

Now at 32, Bernadette has fulfilled her promises. She has three children aged 15, seven and four and wrote a book called "Brave Little Bear" (which is the meaning of her name). Bernadette is a regular speaker at schools and community events throughout Australia providing advice and support on teenage and unexpected pregnancy. Bernadette has also set up a website.

"She works tirelessly to show single mums how life's adversities can be turned into positives and that with support and encouragement anything is possible," says her son Damien. "But she also always has time for her own kids and makes us all feel very special. And she makes great choc chip cookies!"

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

"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 Bernadette's determination and devotion to care for those less fortunate won her acclaim amongst the judges."

"These awards are a wonderful way of providing some well deserved recognition to just some of the millions of unsung heroes that are the mums of Australia," said Heather Butler MP. "The awards play an important role in recognising and promoting parenting and we wish Bernadette the best at the national awards."

As the **2009 Barnardos TAS Mother of the Year**, Bernadette was presented with a Johnson & Johnson gift pack, a motherInc.com.au pamper pack, a Lindt chocolate hamper, 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 winner will receive a Ford Fiesta 5-door CL Hatch, a 3-night Murray River Wetlands Discovery Cruise for 2 people from Captain Cook Cruises, a deluxe flower arrangement from EasyFlowers and a Lindt chocolate hamper.

Launched in 1996 by Barnardos, 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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