



# CARING FRIENDS

W I N T E R 2 0 1 9 N E W S L E T T E R

**Ryder-Cheshire Victorian  
Homes Foundation Inc**  
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## GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello to all our Caring Friends! This report begins with the announcement of Sister Jane Gorey's retirement. After some 20 years caring for our resident community, Sr Jane decided it was time to retire. So, by the time you read this newsletter, Jane will have left the Homes and taken up residence in a unit in Carnegie. I can report Jane loves the unit as it's very close to shops, transport and all the facilities needed. Of course, the most important companion she takes along, is her beloved Suzy. Jane reports she is a little concerned about how well Suzy will take the move. However, if Jane is close by and Suzy has her familiar toys, it should not be too long before she settles in!

## Retirement Afternoon Tea

We officially celebrated Sr Jane's retirement on Sunday 19th May. The Committee arranged a farewell afternoon tea and it was attended by almost seventy friends, residents, staff, committee members and their partners. Also present, were Sr Ann Hall, Provincial of the Brigidine Order in Victoria, and Sr Katrina Devlin who lives near Jane in the same unit complex. Jane's service as the Homes Resident Carer for over 20 years was recognized with an Honorary Life Membership of the Foundation. A dinner service and a cutlery set were also presented to Jane as parting gifts. These should complement her new home.

Jane's departure will be a wrench for the Committee, Angie and Nicky and our team

of hardworking, loyal volunteers and residents. However, Jane will be back on Thursdays to run her very popular art classes.

It behoves me now to wish Jane a very happy and fulfilling retirement and to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for her many years of selfless and dedicated service.

## Volunteer News

Volunteers are our key contributors, without whom the Homes would not run as efficiently as it does. During the past six months we have experienced some sadness and joy in our volunteer force.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dorothy Nowell, a long-term volunteer of the Homes. On behalf of the Committee, condolences are sent to Dorothy's family.

Betty Trotter, another long-term volunteer recently decided to retire. We wish Betty a healthy and comfortable retirement.

Congratulations to Sue Kelly and Sandra Findlay on their Australia Day Community Awards!

Welcome to Nicholas Dodd a new student Resident Carer and all new volunteers.

Thank you to Anne Chan for organising the residents' Christmas Day lunch. Assisted by volunteers it was by all accounts a very festive occasion and well attended.

## Volunteers' Lunch.

On the Sunday 17th March we held our annual lunch to thank our volunteers for their support and hard work during the year. We were fortunate to have a warm, sunny afternoon to share and enjoy a delicious lunch in the courtyard of Building 14.

◀ Don presenting Jane with Life Membership



◀◀ Autumn Bloom



▶▶ Volunteers' Lunch



## Upgrades and Maintenance

In my last report I mentioned we would be upgrading the carpark outside Building 14. After much discussion the Committee decided not to proceed with this work. By carrying out the upgrade the number of in-house car spaces would have been reduced. The Committee decided this was impractical. Meanwhile, planning work is continuing for the refurbishment of the ensuite bathrooms. Hopefully the Committee will be able to authorise work to begin shortly.

Recently, we successfully replaced all beds and bases in the rooms and replenished the bedlinen. This should result in a more comfortable and restful sleep for our guests.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

### Donations

As I have explained in previous reports, our primary income source is accommodation revenue. We do not receive any assistance from State or Federal governments, so donations are very welcome in providing income assistance. To this end, I acknowledge significant donations and contributions from the Australian Philanthropic Services Foundation, and our country support groups. In addition, I thank all the wonderful volunteers from around Victoria and beyond who provide goods for our Trading Table.

We have a new online donation facility with *PayPal*. **Should you wish to donate via *PayPal* please visit our website; [www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au](http://www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au).** Alternatively, there is donation form on the back page of this newsletter to accompany your donation. Please remember all donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

### In Closing

I express my sincere thanks to our hard-working office staff, volunteers and Committee, whose selfless contribution of time and skills enables us to express our Mission Statement "For the Relief of Suffering" in tangible ways. Thank you to all.

### Don Hamilton - President



◀ Don presenting the gifts

▼ Betty, Anne & Nola

▼ Jane cutting the cake with Angie



▲ Sr Ann making a speech

## ANGIE - MANAGER'S REPORT

Firstly, I hope everyone is keeping warm on these now chilly mornings! I wish to send you all a big hug and my thanks for your kindness sending us all manner of donations.

Due in part to some of these donations, we have been able to purchase and replace 80 beds and 70 bases. Along with 90 bolsters to add comfort when sitting in/on these comfortable new beds, we hope these additions provide our residents a great rest after a long day at the hospital.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Snowflake Laundries. Snowflake take care of all our laundry needs. They have again been incredibly generous donating further new towelling as we endeavour to keep up with the demands of increasingly high occupancy rates.

If you are visiting the Homes soon you may meet another new team member – Nicholas. Nick is a new Resident Carer, who like some of the past incumbents is a La Trobe University student.

While you are "swiping and clicking" your way on various devices surfing the world wide web, please take a look at the Homes

updated website. Nicky (not to be confused with Nicholas) has been busy polishing up our website providing easier navigation, more information, pictures and easier options to donate.

You can also view this newsletter online or complete your details to receive your copy of *Caring Friends* electronically.

Finally, I thank Jane for over 10 years of mentoring, friendship, support and hugs. Even though Jane is clearly a "cat person" (love you too Suzy!) and myself a "dog person" I believe we have made a great team and I will miss her terribly. However, I look forward to many visits and I will continue to call on her experience and advice.

Keep warm, keep up the good work with donations and most of all keep well!

Angie



Prize Winning Quilt ▲



## THANK YOU AND FAREWELL SR JANE

On Sunday 19th May more than 60 people gathered for afternoon tea to farewell our loved and esteemed Sr Jane Gorey, as she leaves to take up her well-earned retirement. It was a very happy occasion, and we are grateful to the many people who travelled from near and far to attend. Sr Ann Hall and Sr Katrina Devlin also joined the celebrations. The weather was lovely, and so it crossed a few minds that Jane had made 'a special request upstairs' to ensure the sunshine!

Jane has spent two 'tours of duty' at the Homes. The first from 1995 to 1998, and the second from 2002 to the present. Over those years Jane has been a Resident Carer and Manager, providing care, support and management expertise in equal measure for the benefit of residents, staff and volunteers.

A member of the Brigidine Order, Jane has had a long career in a range of educational and welfare organisations, and last year celebrated her 50th anniversary in the Order.

Jane's unique blend of pastoral and managerial skills, hands on experience and 'can do attitude' has guided and enriched the life at the Homes over many years. In particular, we have benefitted immeasurably from Jane's ability to see the best in everyone, and to find a way of including them in a meaningful way in the community endeavour of the Homes. She has displayed strength, wisdom and compassion in supporting those facing illness, sadness and grief, and she has guided the Homes through times of challenge and change, sadness and joy.

Jane has also made the Homes feel like a real 'home away from home' making everyone feel welcome. She has made and has forged enduring friendships with many residents, staff and volunteers. Her beautiful cat Suzy has assisted her ably in all these endeavours, and we will miss Suzy too.

Throughout her time at the Homes, Jane has lived and breathed the Ryder-Cheshire philosophy of the relief of suffering. We are truly grateful for her years of dedicated service, and together we all wish Sr Jane peace, happiness and good health in her retirement.

Kathy Oswin

# QUILTS IN THE GARDEN OF THE IVANHOE HOMES

Carol and Tony McLennan have run several successful Quilts in the Garden events in their garden in Traralgon. Funds raised go to Klibur Domin the Ryder-Cheshire home in Timor-Leste.



▲ Anthea and the bric-a-brac table

On the morning of Saturday 2nd March there was a flurry of activity in the garden of Building 14. Many metres of fishing line installed around the garden were about to be festooned with a dazzling array of handmade patchwork quilts. It was a beautiful sight! The quilts were the work of many talented patchwork



groups and individuals mostly from the Gippsland area, including Carol McLennan.

Donated art works were also on sale, with Trading Tables selling plants, books, cards, handcrafts and bric-a-brac. Raffles were held during the afternoon, while tea and cakes were served in the Community Room. John Mazur a professional entertainer, travelled from Gippsland, volunteering his time to sing and play the guitar, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Proceeds were shared between Klibur Domin and the Ivanhoe Homes. The organisers were very grateful to everyone who braved the unseasonably hot, sultry weather, especially those who travelled from Gippsland.

**Kathy Oswin**



▲ Sue & Sandra with Jenny Macklin

## AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Two of our volunteers were recognised in the JagaJaga Community Awards. They were Sue Kelly and Sandra Findlay. Sue was recognised for her work as a reliable and invaluable volunteer at the Homes for over 20 years. Sue is best known as the 'creative director' of the sewing group. Sandra was recognised for her diligent book-keeping, while spending long hours at the Homes in pursuit of excellence. Underlying their work is our Mission Statement goal "For the relief of suffering". Congratulations Sandra and Sue!

## VALE DOROTHY NOWELL

We were saddened to learn of Dorothy's passing on 30 April 2019.

A local resident and Homes volunteer for over 20 years, Dorothy, assisted with the preparation of our Morning Coffees. More famously, her musical abilities, particularly her piano, organ and singing skills were widely admired. Dorothy began learning the piano at 8 years of age. By 16 years of age she was an accomplished musician having passed all the required music examinations. Dorothy displayed and shared her musical talents throughout her life. She played the piano and the organ at several churches including the Anglican, Baptist and Uniting churches in Ivanhoe. Dorothy also shared her music and friendship with residents of local aged care homes, Linlithgow and

Benetas Dowell Court, to name just two.

Dorothy was well known for her energy and enthusiasm! An active volunteer and lifelong participant in a wide range of community groups she was well loved and regarded. Friends state that she was tireless in her dedication and commitment.

We will sorely miss Dorothy's vibrant presence at the Homes and her undoubted musical skills at our annual Christmas Party. On behalf of the Committee, staff and friends of the Homes, our sincere sympathy to Dorothy's family and friends.



## A BIG THANK YOU TO BETTY TROTTER

Betty has been a volunteer at the Homes for over twenty years. A short while ago she made the decision to retire. A great organiser and stalwart supporter of the Homes, Betty assisted in administration and organising the Afternoon Teas. We will miss you Betty for all your wonderful work and support over many years! May you enjoy your retirement.



## AROUND & ABOUT - MURRABIT

Murrabit a town in northern Victoria on the Murray River, has a population of just over 200 inhabitants. It lies between Echuca and Swan Hill and is home to two of our recent residents, Noel and Leica.

Like many townships in Victoria, goods transportation via rivers and railways played a key role in its establishment and development.

In bygone days, Barapa Barapa and Wamba Wamba aboriginal peoples roamed the district. In 1836 Major Mitchell passed through the area. During the late 1800s a school and post office opened - the beginnings of the early Murrabit community. The township was more formally established in 1925 as a railway station on the Kerang-Stony Crossing rail line. The railway crossed the Murray

River into New South Wales via an historic bridge at Gonn Crossing, just north of the town. The lift span bridge opened in 1926 was used for both rail and road traffic until 1964 but is now road only. Today, visitors can enjoy the Murrabit Heritage Rail trail and walking track to the Gonn Bridge, a 5km round trip.

For other recreation, golfers can play the Murrabit Golf Club 12-hole sand scrape course. A large Community Sporting Complex and multi-purpose Community Centre is home to an Australian Rules football club. The facilities also cater for netball, cricket and tennis, pony riding clubs and other sporting activities.

Murrabit is a major citrus producing area, with dairy being the other major industry.

Significantly, the town today hosts the largest open-air regional market in Victoria. First opened in 1977 it is held the first Saturday of every month, Easter Saturday and the third Saturday in December. With up to 300 stalls selling arts, crafts, produce and all manner of goods, it draws many visitors. Why not drop by some time?

**Teresa Overton**



## OUR WEBSITE

You may have noticed our website is now more user friendly and informative! Essentially, we have six main sections which are easy to navigate and search.

**About Us:** Gives information about our organisation, its mission, history and structure.

**Referring Patients:** A quick link for specialists, hospitals, medical centres and their staff. It provides information about how to refer and assist patients and carers.

**Staying With Us:** One of the most popular parts of our website. It gives details on what we do/do not provide, our facilities and accommodation costs. Location and transport details also provided, enable you get to know your way around the area.

**Events & News:** We have a lot happening at the Ivanhoe Homes! Visit this page to find out what has been going on and what is coming up.

**How To Help:** There are many ways you can support us. Click on this section to find out how. We also recognise organisations who have recently assisted us, with links to their sites. In addition, you will discover the different ways to support us, including our new secure online donation option using **PayPal**.

**Extra Information:** More general information about our facilities, the surrounding area attractions, maps and the main Melbourne hospitals.

Please take time to visit:  
[www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au](http://www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au)

Nicky



## AFTERNOON TEA PROGRAM JULY-NOV 2019



**This monthly event is held on the last Wednesday of each month at 2pm.**

This year we are partnering with the wonderful ladies of the CWA Alphington who have been providing delicious afternoon teas since the beginning of the year.

A fundraiser for the Homes, the cost of \$5 includes afternoon tea and raffle tickets. The raffle is drawn each month.

DATE	TOPIC	Speaker/Presenter
31 July	Ivanhoe Photographic Society	Dale Murphy
28 August	Poet	Jennifer Chrystie
25 September	Office of Public Advocate Program	Bev Devidas
30 October	Update on WW1 soldier story	David Hay
27 November	Christmas Carols	All attending

## SNIPPETS

*"A great big THANK YOU to the folks at Ryder-Cheshire for all your kindness and help."*

*You have made our stay here very pleasurable. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts."*

*"...thank you all so much for such wonderful accommodation and caring, friendly staff which was much appreciated."*

*"A big thank you for your care and support without this place I would not have coped with all my treatment. Being so far away from home and on my own most of the time was daunting enough but being here made it bearable. Thank you all."*



## A SAFE HAVEN

**During Sr Jane's many years at the Homes she found time to develop her creative talents.** Not only honing her painting skills, she also found time to co-author the book 'A Safe Haven'. Published in 2010, the book by Sr Jane and Sandra Foster is a collection of personal stories as told by residents and dedicated to all people past, present and future who come together to make Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Homes. Its compilation involved a great number of people who were generous in their time and willingness to participate. Copies of the book are available in the office or purchase via the order form which is downloadable from our website in the Section: How To Help.



I miss you all - Suzy.



## Call for Volunteers

**We continue to seek volunteers, especially weekend volunteers. If you, a friend or a relative can provide some time during the day or at weekends, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Angie or Nicky in the office on 9254 2400. Thank you**

**If you wish to receive future newsletters by email please go to [www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au](http://www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au) and follow the links.**

## DONATION

Ryder-Cheshire Homes (ABN 94 074 894 677) receives no government funding and is financed entirely through its own efforts and the generous support of Caring Friends.

Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible

Visit [www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au](http://www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au)

If you would like to make a donation, please fill in the form and send it to the address below:

**RCVHF Inc.** 10-14 Donaldson Street  
IVANHOE VIC 3079

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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