

CARING FRIENDS

S U M M E R 2 0 2 0 / 2 0 2 1 N E W S L E T T E R

Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation Inc.
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GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

New Year wishes to everyone!

At the time of writing my report for the Winter edition of Caring Friends back in June, I did not expect that we would only now be emerging from lockdown and travel restrictions. 2020 was certainly a year like no other! As we begin to adapt to a 'COVID normal' routine and enjoying time with friends and family we look forward to the New Year of 2021 with anticipation.

Our Committee of Management recently met for our 39th Annual General Meeting. This was a Zoom meeting in the same vein as our monthly Committee meetings. Conducting these meetings since March via Zoom has enabled us to continue the necessary business decision making and assessment of operational and infrastructure needs to keep the Homes functioning as an essential service during the COVID-19 lockdown and beyond.

Office Administration

Our staff, Nicky and Leila and volunteer Resident Carers Anne, Nick and Jaysmine diligently carried out their duties during what was a challenging year. I thank them for their commitment to the Homes and their capacity to be adaptable and flexible in meeting the changing demands placed upon them. Our cleaning staff are also to be commended on their work throughout 2020.



Building 14 renovations ▼▶



Adhering to Victorian Government COVID-19 guidelines we have thankfully managed to minimise potential infection risks and maintained a safe environment.

En-suite Renovations and more...

In the last edition of Caring Friends, I described how the en-suite renovations and electrical works had been extended to incorporate the installation of the fire sprinkler system. Now, following receipt of the grant from Ian Potter Foundation, a donation from Bunnings together with the pro-bono offer from our architect, builder and electrician the prototype kitchen is well underway. The prototype kitchen will enable us to assess and refine the completed product before embarking on an upgrade of all kitchens in Building 14. The kitchen upgrade was a recent major decision which will result in a lengthier closure of Building 14. When Building 12 works begin, these will also include the renovation of all kitchens and the laundry.

Unfortunately, there will be continuing disruption of our normal activities during 2021, but we will endeavour to minimise the impact on residents and the availability of rooms. To avoid disappointment, we recommend where possible you please book in advance.



Maintenance

Whilst resident numbers have been depleted, the opportunity has been taken to repair and clean all the spouting/gutters of the three buildings and add more hand railing to the front steps of Building 14. External paint jobs are also envisaged to spruce up the buildings and quotations have been received. Thank you to Don Hamilton Maintenance Manager for attending to all the maintenance issues.

Grants and Donations

Thank you to our Manager Nicky who recently prepared a successful grant application to Banyule City Council. More on this in the report from the Management Team. We continue to be most fortunate in receiving donations during these difficult times and much appreciate the generosity of all concerned. A big thank you to our regular donors, local and rural businesses and support groups.

Christmas Celebrations

We are indebted to Laura Ross founder and conductor of the Cantiamo Choir and members of the choir for entertaining residents with Christmas Carols in the courtyard on the evening of Tuesday 15 December. Choir members are alumni of Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School and we thank Laura and the choir for bringing us this wonderful Christmas cheer.



▲ Christmas Carols Choir in the courtyard

Unfortunately, we could not hold our annual Christmas party. Likewise, the Christmas Day lunch could not be served in the Community Room but instead, a Christmas Lunch pack was presented to all residents who were unable to travel home at that time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Volunteers

Our day-time volunteers postponed their return until feeling safe to do so, we look forward to welcoming them back in 2021. Weekly and monthly social activities run by the volunteers were suspended during 2020, we therefore also look forward to these activities recommencing sometime in the New Year.

Committee News

We pass on our best wishes to Ian Bushby in his future endeavours. Ian resigned from the Committee during November; we thank him for his participation. We welcome Anne Evans, Robyn Trevaud and Steve Kues to the Committee; they are already on the IT sub-committee which is investigating the provision of WIFI to all resident rooms.

I thank sincerely all Committee members for their input, assistance and support during the last year and wish them a safe and happy New Year with the hope that we can come together in person soon.

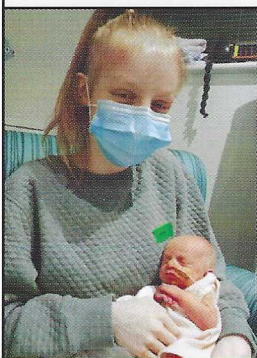
Best wishes to Caring Friends and supporters for a safe and happy 2021.

Peter Overton. President

A SURPRISE ARRIVAL!

Mercy Hospital for Women in Heidelberg is one of the many hospitals in Melbourne our residents attend. It was much to everyone's surprise that on 6 August instead of the Mercy Hospital, Michelle Grace was born at Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Homes at 3.15am. She is the first baby to be born at the Homes!

Mother Chantelle and Grandmother Leanne were relieved when paramedics arrived in time to help with the birth. Anne our Resident Carer who was present, and able to provide moral support, was equally surprised and delighted.



Mother and daughter are reported to be doing well and happy to be back home in Western Victoria.

◀ Chantelle and Michelle Grace

MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT

We hope this edition of Caring Friends finds you and your family safe and well. What a challenging year 2020 was! We hope our jingle accompanying this report gives you a giggle as it sums up the last six months here at the Homes.

At the Homes we work hard to maintain a strong sense of community. However, this year we have been unable to include many of our wonderful volunteers and other supporters in our daily operations, or to hold our normal social activities. Despite the difficulties imposed by COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns, it has been heart-warming to see how everyone at the Homes has pulled together to help one another and maintain that genuine sense of community spirit. We wish to thank residents and Resident Carers who assisted in covering some of the duties usually completed by our horticulturist and maintenance volunteers. Resident Carers have also completed extra hours to staff the roster to ensure the Homes remain open 24 hours every day. A special thanks to our cleaning staff who have undertaken the additional cleaning required under COVID-19 conditions, as well as moving and storing furniture and equipment associated with the renovations in Building 14.

In November we were pleased to be awarded a Banyule City Council COVID-19 Community Support Grant. The grant will allow us to buy two laptops and portable internet devices. These will be made available to volunteers to access intranet training modules currently being developed. When not in use by our volunteers, residents will be welcome to use the equipment.

As you have already read, the Homes are undergoing major renovations. Building 14 is currently being renovated. We thank everyone for their patience during this time with reduced accommodation available. We are sure everyone will enjoy the upgraded rooms and facilities when they are finished. The grant from Ian Potter Foundation is being put towards the update of the laundries in Buildings 12 and 14, and assist create a prototype for the new kitchens. Other more minor renovations around the Homes have included the replacement of the privacy screen fencing between Buildings 10 and 12, the inclusion of extra stair railings



and tactile surface studs at the main entrance and the installation of new roller blinds in Building 10.

We recently changed over to the NBN and are delighted to advise we should soon be able to provide residents with a free WIFI service in their room. WIFI access has been the most requested item on our resident feedback form. Hopefully, this will assist residents stay connected with their family and friends, and to have greater access to entertainment. Our thanks go to those involved and the IT sub-committee for finding site specific solutions to enable this to happen shortly in a very efficient and cost-effective way.

We value all regional community affiliations with the Homes. Approximately 12% of our residents and carers come from the Sunraysia Region. The Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club, Dareton NSW, located 20 kms from Mildura, recently made a sizeable donation to the Homes as a result of community support by past residents and their families. The donation was used to buy a vacuum cleaner for each floor, non-stick fry pans and a host of other wonderful goods.

Thank you to all involved!

We look forward to hopefully seeing our loyal and hardworking volunteers sometime in this new year. Most importantly, we send our heartfelt wishes to everyone, hoping you enjoyed a safe and happy festive time and are now looking forward to a wonderful New Year.

Nicky & Leila.

The Homes 2020 Christmas Jingle

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Dashing through the sand | Toilet paper stocked | Residents all a helping |
| On a warm and sunny day | All surfaces cleaned and mopped | Families now get to reunite |
| Cricket bat in hand | Protecting everyone with social distancing | Making spirits bright |
| Laughing all the way | Life behind a face mask is our new way of existing | Jingle bells, jingle bells |
| Got through a year of trials | The Homes first baby born a helping | The Homes renovations are underway |
| From coronavirus, floods, and fires | | Oh, what fun it is to be |
| | | Out of lock down, hip hip hooray. |



OUR 40TH YEAR

The inaugural meeting of Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation was held on 24 February 1981. The official opening of the 'Ivanhoe Homes' was some months later on 24 September 1981.

Our current President Peter Overton was an inaugural member of this Committee and attended the first meeting. His service has been consistent and enduring. Several other members of the Committee have served the Homes over more than two and three decades; this unfailing service and commitment to the Homes has contributed to the long-term success of the Foundation in meeting its mission "For the Relief of Suffering". Our 25th Anniversary celebrations were held on 24 September 2006 and we now move towards another milestone, 40 years in operation. In our 40th year we have embarked on major renovations which we hope will extend the longevity of the Homes, continue to provide low cost comfortable accommodation and the "Home away from Home" atmosphere for which we are well known.

Central also to our success are resident and weekend volunteer carers. The original Houseparents, later to be known as Resident Carers were lay volunteers. In



Some nostalgia - 25th Anniversary - Resident Carers with Fr Curran & Marie Mears
Jubilee Cake ▶



January 1990 religious sisters took on the position of Houseparent/Resident Carer and continued to serve in this role for over 29 years. With the retirement of Sr Jane Gorey in May 2019 it was the passing of an era. Operational day to day management has now transitioned to salaried staff.

The Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis on the third Thursday of every month. All Committee members are volunteers. Today's Committee seeks to continue the good works of our founders Group Captain Leonard Cheshire and Lady Sue Ryder of Warsaw to embrace and manage the challenge of change as it impacts on the goals of the Foundation.

LENDING A HAND

We have been very fortunate to have several talented and caring people stay with us over recent months. During the COVID-19 restrictions some of these talented people have lent a hand and volunteered to help with minor maintenance, gardening and other tasks around the Homes.

Over recent weeks, Stephen from Wangaratta has helped in the garden by trimming, weeding and deadheading the roses. He also planted some corn which he hopes future residents will enjoy eating. Staff have promised to freeze some for him for his next stay at the Homes.

Dean from Clydesdale spent time literally filling the gaps – gaps in this instance on our front entrance paving! Dean was very happy to put his hand to the trowel and keep himself busy. This was in preparation for the new railings and tactile paving studs for vision impaired people at the entrance to Building 14

William from Wodonga assisted with the painting of the framework of the new privacy fence screen. As hospital visiting hours were limited, he found it a good way to occupy his time while waiting to visit his new-born son and wife in hospital.

Thank you to Stephen, Dean and William and everyone else who filled some of the gaps during the lockdown restrictions which resulted from the absence of our local volunteers and Guy our horticulturist. We welcome all volunteer and staff contributions.

JILL MOOR DEDICATION

Jill was a member of the Committee of Management for 31 years and secretary for 21 years, 1985 to 2016. Jill sadly passed away in November 2016. On Sunday 13 December a ceremony was held in the gardens of the Ivanhoe Homes for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, dedicating the planting of a small evergreen Magnolia tree 'Little Gem' in Jill's honour.

As secretary, Jill was remembered for her meticulous attention to detail and her many years of committed service.



▲ Jill Moor

Jill was also recognised for creating the beautiful gardens we have to-day. As a result of Jill's original hard work in planning and organising their development and subsequent upkeep, the gardens are now enjoyed by all. Jill's husband Alan, son Hugh, wife Sarah and grandchildren Niamh and Isla attended the dedication along with past, present committee members and friends. The ceremony was followed by afternoon tea in the courtyard and gardens.



▲ Alan, Hugh, Niamh, Isla and Sarah
▲ Dedication



◀ Stephen ready to tackle the garden

Dean at work on front steps
At work on privacy screen ▼



SNIPPETS

It's some time since we published resident notes of appreciation.
Some recent notes:-

"So very welcome and comfortable here."

"Very handy to hospitals, lovely gardens and helpful staff. It takes the pressure off knowing this is available when you need the most help."

"Peaceful & quiet, thank you."

"Thank you to the lovely staff who made my time very pleasant and memorable."

"To the team at Ryder-Cheshire. Thank you so much for your hospitality and kindness during our stay.... Our time with you made an incredibly challenging time for us substantially easier to manage."

"Lovely setting, lovely people, & beautiful bird sounds."

It is a WONDERFUL place to stay in a clean place completely comfortable ITS great.

"Thank you, Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Homes and residents for making a difficult time less difficult."

Thank you for all the caring support which was given to us during our stay. We are very grateful to everyone.

"We've met some incredible people whilst staying there. We are all weathering storms but just in different boats. Ryder-Cheshire Homes & the staff are an absolute blessing."

"Amazing, feels like home."

AROUND & ABOUT IVANHOE

This is the second part of 'staying close to home' as we continue the story of the Donaldson family and their influence on the local area.

Recalling the last edition, Donaldson Street was named after James Donaldson and his family who were early settlers from Scotland. Their descendants built two homes Belle Vue and Wellington House. Belle Vue was the grand house of John Donaldson and in part, the site of what are now the Ivanhoe Homes. The only remaining building associated with Belle Vue is the gate house. This is now a private residence. In 1958 Belle Vue was auctioned and razed to the ground (this sounds very familiar!) and purchased by the RSL who built four blocks of units for widows of ex-servicemen. Ryder-Cheshire now owns two of the buildings Gyngell and Kilpatrick House.

Besides the street name, the site of the creek which ran through the Belle Vue property, now an underground drain, is known as Donaldson's Reserve. The narrow strip of parkland and its

Moreton Bay Fig ▶
Donaldsons Reserve ▼



◀ Sketch of Gatehouse
▲ Current gatehouse

walking track is very popular with locals.

The two historical houses may not have survived but a number of old trees on the Donaldson properties have survived and been preserved. One is a Moreton Bay Fig, once part of a row facing Waterdale Road and close by to it an extremely old and gnarled gumtree, part of the local natural history.

The illustration of the gatehouse was drawn by the late Ailsa Harvey a past Committee member and art teacher who lived in the area.

Teresa Overton

(Source: The Donaldson Family Estate 1991)

▼ Heritage gum tree



CARING FRIENDS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Instead of receiving a hard copy, we can send it to you via email. Simply call our office and provide your email address, or go to www.rydercheshire.org.au and follow the links. Thank you.

REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS SUSPENDED

Get-togethers for a chat over morning or afternoon tea, monthly art and craft group and musical entertainment have been suspended. Please look out for notifications from our front office when these are expected to resume.

DONATION

Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe 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 to donate via **PayPal**

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: _____

Address: _____

