



# CARING FRIENDS

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

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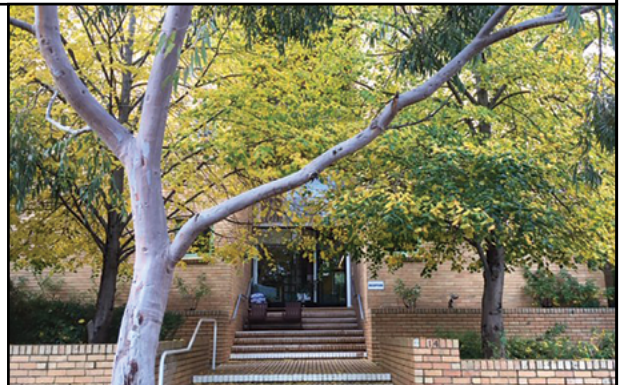
## GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings to all our Caring Friends, volunteers and supporters, and welcome to this edition of our newsletter. My name is Peter Overton the current President of the Committee of Management. Don Hamilton stepped aside from the role at the Annual General Meeting in November 2019; he remains a member of the Committee. On behalf of the Committee I thank Don for his leadership and the exceptional way he has steered the Homes over the last four years towards 2020. Don guided us through the 'Lift Project' the outcome of which has improved access for all residents in Buildings 12 and 14.

The first six months of 2020 have been quite tumultuous from the severe bushfires to the current coronavirus pandemic which continues to impact our lives. Meanwhile at the Homes there have been times of sadness, change and celebration.

### Office Administration

Recent changes in personnel have taken place in our front office. In April, Angie Brewer our Manager gave notice she would be leaving the Homes after eleven years of service. Angie was a very capable, professional Manager and to our residents was the person at the helm who answered all the questions and made you feel welcomed. On behalf of the Committee I thank Angie for her hard work and commitment to the Homes over these years. On Angie's last day, Friday 1 May we organised a send-off via Zoom, a screen farewell from individual Committee members.



▲ Autumn arrives ▼ Goodbye via Zoom



Nicky has stepped up as Manager. Nicky has been with us for just over two years and already well known to our residents. Nicky was happy to accept the position having 'learned the ropes' under Angie's guidance. Leila Savitri has joined the Administration desk and is welcomed as the Day Manager. Leila comes to us with outstanding credentials and is looking forward to welcoming future residents to the Homes.

### COVID-19

Our office has taken appropriate measures to ensure the safety of residents, volunteers and staff. We have followed Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services advice, educated and provided guidelines for our residents plus placed relevant signage in all three buildings as reminders.

Our volunteers have largely taken a break during this time. However, our volunteer Resident Carers Anne, Nick and Jaysmine are holding the fort covering the night shift. Thank you to past carer Prashant who has filled in the gaps.

Another casualty of the COVID-19 was Ryder-Cheshire Australia Biennial Conference to which Dr. Elizabeth Cheshire from England was invited. The Biennial will now be held in 2021 and we hope that Elizabeth will be able to make the journey.

### En-suite Renovations

In mid-March we commenced our en-suite refit in all rooms in Gyngel House (Building 14) but not without a few hiccoughs due to COVID-19. Sourcing the floor tiles from overseas became a problem. However, our architect and building surveyor have now given us a green light, as both floor and wall tiles plus materials have finally arrived. Concurrently an electrical upgrade is also taking place, with the final phase being the installation of a fire safety system including new sprinklers in each room. The builder has taken over Gyngel House, the work is expected to take 2-3 months before Kilpatrick House (Building 12) is commenced. Our normal operations will be disrupted, but we will endeavour to minimise the impact on residents as much as possible.

In between times, the deck on Building 10 needed replacement. Wear and tear over the years from the weather had taken its course. The new deck is very solid and secure and will last a good few years.

### Donations and Grants

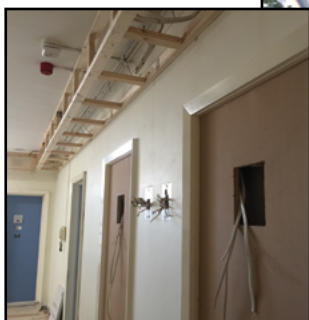
Thank you to everyone who donated to the Homes since our last newsletter. In particular, thank you to the Sunraysia Cancer Support Group, Robinvale Op-Shop and The Toorak Op-Shop who have been most generous. Recently we were successful in applying for funding from The Ian Potter Foundation receiving a significant grant. This grant is very welcomed and comes to us after much industrious work by our Manager Nicky.



### Vale Dr Donald Sinclair OAM

On 19 January 2020 one of the saddest days in the history of the Homes, Dr Don Sinclair OAM passed away. Known more affectionately as Don, he was an integral part of the Ivanhoe Homes family from 1982,

playing a more central role as President for an amazing 25 years until his retirement in 2016. Don will be especially remembered for his dedication and leadership over 34 years of service.



▲ Electrical upgrades  
▶ Building 10 new deck



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

### Volunteers' Luncheon.

Our annual luncheon to thank volunteers for their contributions throughout the year was held on a sunny Sunday afternoon on the 1st March. Fortunately, the luncheon was held prior to the COVID-19 restrictions, so everyone was able to sit back and relax in convivial company and enjoy a lovely meal provided by Pinwheel & Co. Among our many guests were Sr Jane, Nola, Leo and his dog Wilby.

### Committee of Management.

As a foundation run by a Committee of Management, we aspire to accomplish the best outcomes for the Homes. To this end through continuing work and commitment our aim is to provide a comfortable, secure and safe place to stay for all our residents and carers while retaining a "Home Away from Home" experience. It is acknowledged that we would not be able to achieve this without the support of our many volunteers and supporters whose contributions are invaluable.

We also welcome Nicky Robinson our Manager who recently accepted an invitation to join the Committee.

I feel honoured to assume the role of President. I came to the Homes via Apex and on invitation from Don Sinclair. I have seen the Homes grow from the initial one building, 14 Donaldson Street to what it is today, and I look forward to continuing the successful history of the Ryder-Cheshire Homes.

**Please keep safe in this challenging time.**

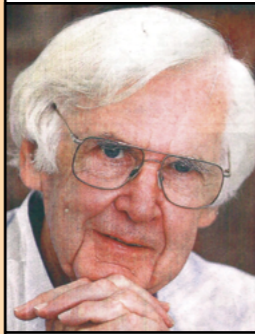
**Peter Overton. President**



Volunteers Lunch



## VALE DR DONALD SINCLAIR OAM



Dr Donald Arthur Sinclair BCom, BEd (Melb), BEd(Mon), Med, PhD, MACE passed away at the BUPA Templestowe Aged Care Home on 19 January 2020. Don led a very rich and rewarding life and was an outstanding educator. He is remembered

for his contributions, innovative ideas and service throughout his life in a wide range of organisations and communities.

Don's involvement with Ryder-Cheshire began in 1962 when he joined the Victorian Foundation and became the Treasurer, a role he retained for more than 50 years. Joining the Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation in 1982, he was President from 1991 until he retired due to ill-health in 2016. He was also the National President of Ryder-Cheshire Australia from 2002 until 2010. Don was recognised for his service and commitment to Ryder-Cheshire Foundation on Australia Day 2009, receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Don was born in Melbourne on 3 October 1933, one of three children. His father was a structural draughtsman and his mother a haberdashery store proprietor. They lived at different times in Melbourne, country Victoria and Maryborough, Queensland. Don won selective entry to Melbourne Boys High School. Over the years he obtained many degrees and a doctorate in Educational Administration and Practice from La Trobe University.

As a newly minted teacher he began his career in education in 1956 at the Macleod High School in Melbourne. Don developed innovative strategies to make learning more interesting. He became a prolific writer of textbooks on subjects including basic business principles, mercantile law and more particularly geography which required extensive travel and research. Don's wife Dawn a librarian, ably assisted with the large task of indexing. Don's love of travel continued throughout his life. While President of the Homes he often regaled to Committee members stories of incidents he experienced while leading American Elder Hostel tourist groups within Australia and groups to Europe and beyond.

Don moved from classroom teaching to become a government schools inspector. This involved reviewing student and staff operations and making recommendations for improvement. Later, Don was offered a teacher exchange to England and shortly after this, a secondment to Victoria Police educating police cadets.

From here Don developed an interest in law, business and legal

studies which culminated in the curriculum development of a new senior school subject Legal Studies. The subject texts were co-authored by Don.

Don took early retirement from his final position in the Victorian Education Department as chairman of the Appointments Board. Indefatigable, he then went on to establish a science experience model for promoting careers in science, technology across 35 universities and thousands of high schools. Don's tirelessness in pursuit of educational excellence and his life in service to the community was remarkable. Life member of Apex, Treasurer of the Society for Australian-German Student Exchange and a life member of many educational associations.

During his career Don met many leading figures in various disciplines. One person was Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, this meeting being the catalyst for what became an over 50-year involvement with Ryder-Cheshire. Don was involved in the establishment of homes throughout Australia; the care of disabled children and lepers in 'Raphael', the Ryder-Cheshire International Centre at Dehradun in northern India; and bringing a young girl from Timor-Leste to Australia for heart surgery.

Don was an inspiration to those he met, his energy and commitment to humanitarian causes; his work towards the Ryder-Cheshire mission 'the relief of suffering' was an example to all. Don is sadly missed but his legacy continues.

Sadly, Dawn passed away three months before Don. They are survived by their two children and four grandchildren.

[Source: Extracts from Don's Memorial Service]

Don, Jane with Bruce and Brian from Heidelberg Rotary 2009

Don & Jane in India 2007



Don centre, at Biennial Conference Canberra 2012



## MANAGER'S REPORT



My goodness what a dramatic start to the year! Our thoughts are with all our country residents who have endured raging bush fires, scorching summer temperatures, and long-term drought. To top it off we have all been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic

which has had wide ranging and sometimes tragic consequences on our lives. The inability to see a loved one while they are in intensive care or hold their hand while they receive medical treatment and give them a reassuring hug, is particularly difficult.

One positive outcome of this year is the heightened sense of community. This sense of community, a well-known characteristic of the Homes comes to the fore in times like these. Self-isolation challenges us. We are all finding new ways to address this and support one another. For example, we are keeping in phone contact with our much-loved volunteers. Miss Marie, a local café, provided 50 meals a week for five weeks to help our residents who found it difficult to get to the shops. Bunnings kindly organised a range of gardening and craft activities to distract and occupy our residents during lock-down. So, thank you to all our resident carers, volunteers and residents who continue to care for those around them.

After 11 years our wonderful Angie left. She is keen to continue working with patients and we wish her well in future endeavours. Angie leaves particularly large shoes to fill. Her knowledge, wisdom, and the individual care and service she provided will be sorely missed. Angie's attention to detail, memorising names and places, never ceased to amaze me. In my new role as Manager I am fortunate to be supported by Leila. Leila has worked here for the last 10 years in several roles, many of you will recognise her for her eternal cheerfulness.

Our other exciting news is that we are one of the recipients of The Ian Potter Foundation's Community Wellbeing Grant. The Ian Potter Foundation is one of Australia's major philanthropic foundations. The Foundation makes grants nationally to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a wide range of sectors including the arts, medical research, public health research, early childhood development, community wellbeing and environmental science. The Ian Potter Foundation aims to support and promote a healthy, vibrant, fair and sustainable Australia.

Bunnings pots and plants



The Community Wellbeing program area seeks to identify and support those organisations which have well thought out projects that seek to help vulnerable members of the community to overcome the challenging circumstances in which they find themselves.

This grant will support the upgrade of the laundry and kitchen facilities in Buildings 12 and 14. The initial plan is to upgrade the residents' kitchen facilities by building one prototype kitchen. We are very grateful to The Ian Potter Foundation for the support.

**Warmest regards to you all, Nicky**



Angie farewell with Nicky & Peter



Our herb garden



Winter gardens

## FAREWELL FROM ANGIE

Yes, it is true, I am heading off to other pastures even though I've been a lucky-duck and in one of the nicest paddocks for some time now.

I would like to say a huge thank you and send many, many hugs to all of you wonderful sorts I have had the pleasure of meeting over the past 11 odd years. You have been an inspiration, a listening ear when I've not been at my best, you have been patient when the office has been a little mad and brought joy to my life when we've shared a few laughs nattering about life's idiosyncrasies.

To many of the wonderful volunteers, cleaners and Committee members who have supported me working at the Homes I would like to thank you immensely for all you've done and for all the cuppas and chats we've shared. Lastly, I would like to give a special mention to some special peeps that I've had the privilege to meet thanks to my work - Leo & Nola, Jan & Bruce, Norma P, Kim McA, Julie and Ian A, Janice D and George and Eli B, each and every one of you are amazing.

**Hugs Angie**

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW DAY MANAGER - LEILA

I came to Australia ten years ago from Indonesia. My father was Indonesian, my mother was from the Netherlands. I grew up in Indonesia where I completed my education.

I graduated from the University of Indonesia with a Bachelor of Economics degree, majoring in Accountancy. I have many connections with Australia, my late grandmother, as well as many members of my family, were all Australian citizens, living in Perth WA. I have two daughters, who also live here in Melbourne. I am delighted to be part of the management team, especially as I know the Ryder-Cheshire Home and all the special people and volunteers who already work here.



## CONGRATULATION TO...

Terry Lawlor, who has been a volunteer at the Homes for the last 14 years. In that time, he has worked many public holidays, evenings and early mornings – times often hard to fill. He was recognised for this volunteer work with a Jagajaga Community Volunteer Award on 7 March 2020.



In addition, Terry has accepted a newly created role, that of Student Mentor to our student Resident Carers, presently Nick and Jaysmine. The role will include providing support and encouragement both in their studies and their role at the Homes.



Betty Trotter who retired as a volunteer last year. We congratulate Betty on her recent 90th birthday! For many years, Betty organised the speakers for the monthly Morning Coffees while also regularly assisting with administrative tasks in the office.

We wish Betty good health and happiness in the coming decade!

## PRASHANT - GROUNDED IN AUSTRALIA!

Prashant resigned from his work in December. In the new year he travelled home twice to India, returning the second time to finalise his living arrangements. Giving up his apartment he was ready to permanently depart on the 13th April when government lockdowns, due to COVID-19, forced him to stay in Melbourne. With no overseas travel possible or a place to stay, Prashant resumed his role as a part-time Resident Carer at the Homes. Flights remain very difficult to organise. Meanwhile, Prashant waits for a loosening of restrictions both here and in India to return home to his family. On return he plans to continue further study at the University of Delhi.



## AROUND & ABOUT IVANHOE

In this edition with current limitations on travel, staying close to home is the order of the day. Therefore, we travel no further than Donaldson Street Ivanhoe, location of the Ivanhoe Homes to take a look into the early history of the area.

Donaldson Street is named after an early settler and his family. In 1841 James Donaldson, a farmer from Fifeshire, Scotland, arrived with his wife and children to begin a new life in the colony. After staying a few months in Melbourne, James moved north with his family to what was then wild bush country. James purchased 640 acres in Kangaroo Ground from the NSW government. It was the first land sold north of Diamond Creek. Soon after the Donaldson family settled on their land to begin a station property, bushrangers attacked their house. They were constantly bothered by bushrangers who stole clothing and food; the attacks were reported to be the first by bushrangers in Victoria. However, the bushrangers were eventually brought to justice, tried, sentenced and publicly executed. Being quite isolated James decided to sell off some of his land. In 1850 he purchased Lots 10 and 11 of the Glanville Estate, an estate covering most of Ivanhoe. Totalling 102 acres, James paid £313 11s 3d. The land stretched from Waterdale Road to Darebin Creek. James died in 1856 age 67 years and the land passed to his two sons John and James. James senior is buried in the Warringal (Heidelberg) Cemetery.



Belle Vue



Wellington

James's sons each built a bluestone mansion on the land they inherited in Ivanhoe. John built 'Belle Vue', a three-story mansion located on the current site of the Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Homes. James built 'Wellington House', located on the site of what is now the Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre. Both buildings unfortunately no longer exist. The two illustrations of the homes were drawn by the late Ailsa Harvey a past Committee member and art teacher who grew up in the area, More on the Donaldson family and their estate in the next edition.

Teresa Overton

[Source: The Donaldson Family Estate 1991]

### 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](http://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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

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