HOUSE INFORMATION UPDATE:

In September this year GRCH will have been operating sustainably for 10 years. The work on the project started a lot earlier than that in 2003, so it has been a long haul, but thanks to the ongoing strong support from Gippslanders we continue to provide very affordable and supportive accommodation for Gippsland cancer patients and their families.

Unlike many other significant charities, GRCH spends virtually nothing on expensive fundraising and advertising campaigns. Our charity sells itself with our guests being our strongest supporters, promoting the house strongly via the “bush telegraph”. They are our ambassadors and sales staff. They appreciate first hand the assistance we provide for them and are keen to tell others of their favorable experience. As the word spreads around Gippsland our donations continue to flow in. We try to keep people well informed through our user friendly web site www.centenaryhouse.org.au maintained by our manager Carol Crewe, and our now regular newsletter, thanks to our editorial team headed up by Mike Anstwerth and Sue Elsdon.

Many people and organizations like Rotary and others support us on a regular basis which we are always very grateful for, but there are always new groups offering support as our reputation gets around.

Our occupancy rate remains high and sometimes we operate at full capacity. This is due to the wonderful and increasing services provided to regional patients by the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre and the Latrobe Regional Hospital. Provided governments continue to promote and accept the philosophy that rural and regional patients have additional logistical issues to overcome to access health services by providing regional health services, then places like GRCH will always be necessary, particularly for people who need to travel long distances and stay as outpatients for long periods of time.

So I am very pleased to be able to report that GRCH is in a very sound financial position and under very good management. Our latest Annual Report is available on our web site.

You may well ask “why are we continually in need of donations?” The answer falls into three basic categories:

1. Being nearly 10 years old there is an increasing need for regular maintenance and that costs money.
2. We subsidise our accommodation for all guests to ensure accommodation remains affordable and that no-one is denied the best health treatments available due to cost.
3. We also need to be mindful that our planned Stage 3 may need to be built. We need to be in a position to respond promptly if demand requires it and government funding becomes available. So we are in a very similar position to when we embarked on Stage 2, This will ensure we can react fast if and when the time comes.

So we continue to seek your generous support to ensure this amazing community owned and operated project continues to grow and provide a well needed and appreciated service for Gippslanders for many year to come.

I congratulate you all for your assistance in making yours and our dream a reality.

Ken Peake
Chair, Committee of Management

This Newsletter can be viewed on our Web Site: www.centenaryhouse.org.au
Progress in The Gardens

The House gardens are blooming, with shows from the Wisteria growing over the Arbou, plenty of roses, which have received some welcome attention and pruning from some of our guests, and Grevillia alongside the Magnolia by the entrance of stage 2. Our trusty team have been hard at work, mowing and clipping, and adding colour to the borders. They have also been working on increasing the paths and lighting around the gardens to improve the experience for our guests. The lemon and lime trees planted by the back door are on the point of producing useable fruits for guests to enjoy. There will also be a working bee shortly to tidy up and revitalise the Stage 1 courtyard.

Rewards of Safety

Centenary House was again very pleased to have been chosen by Transfield Worley Power Services as the recipient of their donation through the AGL Loy Yang Power Safety Program. The donation of $5,000 is most appreciated. The donation of $5,000 is a fantastic effort and indicates a lack of serious injuries during their recent maintenance outage.

Staff from Transfield Worley Power Services with Operations Manager, Carol Crews

Many Thanks

Carmen Cook has asked us to pass on her heartfelt appreciation for all of the friends and past residents of GRCH that have contacted her with greetings, gifts, flowers and visits. In her words, “I am just so grateful and humbled by the many friends and past residents who have been so kind to contact me and have included me in their prayers. Thank you so much”

Carmen has given invaluable service to Centenary House through all her efforts with the Fundraising Committee, as well as support for cancer patients both at the hospital and at Centenary House.

Carmen Cook with fellow Fundraising sub-committee member Kay Radford at the 2014 Community Health Expo

IMPORTANT NOTE TO READERS: We can save money by e-mailing this newsletter to YOU. Please contact Carol with your e-mail address at carol@centenaryhouse.org.au or return the slip on the back page.
Oaks Day Win

Centenary House was pleased to receive a donation of $6,000 from the Rotary Club of Bairnsdale Sunrise after their recent Oaks’ Day Event.

Pictured (R-L) are Rhonda Wheelton, Julie Small, Sally Kelly, Robyn Counihan and Mandy Dixon.

New Stepladder

Centenary House is pleased to have received a donation from the Ulysses Club for the purchase of an extra tall step ladder.

Some members of the club were able to visit Centenary House in December, when they placed a plaque on the ladder.

Many thanks for this most useful contribution

Don’t forget, we have a selection of beanies, scarves and treatment tote bags at Centenary House, which is fortunate to be supported by some wonderful local community members who knit and sew for us. If you know of anyone having treatment who needs a couple of warm hats this winter please pass this on. We just ask a gold coin donation for each with the money supporting the operational costs of Centenary House.

Volunteers Wanted - Join this mighty crew!

It could be gardening, cleaning, laundry and ironing, working bees, driving, administrative work, or even assistance with this newsletter.

PLEASE CONTACT OUR MANAGER Carol Crewe on 5171 1600
The Big Breakfast 2016

The East Gippsland Big Breakfast was held for its 13th year on 16th March. Ever increasing in popularity the organisers served up more than 215 breakfasts, raising $5,000 for Centenary House, which was a fantastic boost towards providing an affordable home away from home for patients needing Cancer treatment at Latrobe Regional Hospital. The first breakfast was held 13 years ago at the home of Rhonda and Noel Wheeldon to help get Centenary House off the ground. Now the enlargement of the Latrobe Regional Hospital is expected to increase demand for the facility, for which plans have been prepared for a third stage to be built once funds have been raised. The local radio station Reg.FM helped to promote the event, and Rhonda Wheeldon has been talking on the ABC Saturday morning special events segment. Last year Zoe Fergusson from the ABC was there interviewing attendees.

The catering for the breakfast is undertaken entirely by residents of the Eastwood Retirement Village, supported by local businesses such as Jax Bakery, Maroubra Free Range Eggs, and local fruit and vegetable suppliers, and when possible, the Eastwood Village Garden, Bairnsdale Sunrise Rotary Club, Bairnsdale Rotary and Mitchell River Rotary all supported the event, together with Member for Gippsland East Tim Bull. The men from the garden group manned the vegetable stall with charm and humour. This year Mary Warren from the Village produced table centrepieces, many of which sold on the day. Sandy Leighton organised raffles and mini auctions during the breakfast, with Leigh Venables acting as MC and auctioneer.

Centenary House Operations Manager Carol Crewe attended the occasion alongside Gippsland Rotary Chair Ken Peake and his wife Lorraine. “This annual breakfast is a fantastic fundraiser for Centenary House, which supports people from all over Gippsland who are undergoing treatment for cancer” said Carol Crewe.

Paynesville’s Easme Mills bought fresh produce from the stall manned by Nola Hall.

COMING EVENTS

- **Black Tie Trivia Night 4th June 2016**—Last year the Rotary Club of Traralgon hosted a Great Gatsby theme dinner dance to raise funds for Centenary House. This year will be an evening for Fun and Funds. **Details L. Paulet 51747989**

- **DanceSport Victoria Classic 18th June 2016** in Traralgon.

- **Our Facebook Page** will give details of events as they draw closer.
The Latrobe City Community Fun Run and Walk organised by Traralgon Harriers was held at the beginning of March, sponsored by DFP Recruitment again this year, with proceeds donated to Centenary House. The Harriers were hoping to build on last year’s success, with more school and work group team participation. In fact there was a similar turn-out to last year on the day, leading to a donation of $5500 to Centenary House. Darren Chester also re-issued his challenge this year, contributing $2 for every runner who beat him in the 5km event — his new responsibilities in Canberra did not seem to detract from his appearance or performance! A cheque for $300 was gratefully received by Ken Peake on behalf of GRCH. Many thanks Darren, and Traralgon Harriers for their support. Mikkayla Mossop from TRFM kindly acted as MC with her engaging and humorous style keeping everyone informed throughout.

The weather was cooler than recently with very little wind, very pleasant for running, with some fast times posted for the leaders. The first two runners completed their 5km in under 17 minutes. The event delivered a great workout to all the serious runners and providing a safe and secure course for novices to take their time and enjoy the atmosphere. The kids under 12 competed in a 1.5km run, in which both girls and boys excelled with the winning runs completed in just over 6 minutes.

Members of the local Rotary clubs and volunteers of GRCH helped on the day as marshals, as well as providing refreshments on the day. Many thanks for all their support to make it a pleasant and trouble-free occasion.
Centenary House Feedback:
We would like to share with you a letter received from one of our recent guests.

"Cancer is such a scary word. Suddenly, almost out of nowhere, you get the eerie diagnosis. Your life turns. There's the emotional impact, the complete change of direction. The proverbial "Why me?" drives home, solidly, that life is never going to be the same. Everything hits you. Hard. It's an emotional, traumatic experience for all concerned.

When we got our heads and hearts around the "C" word, we had doctors to see, blood to give, X-rays to be done -- and somewhere to stay to avoid the gruelling miles needed for daily treatment.

Enter Centenary House. And you...
You know how important the House is to victims/survivors. Centenary House is a haven, more a protection, from the grind of treatment and the days that can play havoc with uncertain minds.
Carol, bricks and mortar make a "House", but it's people that make a home. You/Sue/ Michael are to be praised and applauded, loudly, for what you bring to the overall experience. We sincerely thank you all. In our time at the house, you, Carol, and the team of staff and supporters made our time enjoyable and positive.

You/Sue/Michael proved you're all the right people doing the right job. Our daily laughter, teases and discussions on everything from global unease to the questionable chart success of the Moiré Sisters. proved the overall involvement you had with us. Nothing was too much trouble.

There's an old adage -- you give little when you give of your possessions, you truly give when you give of yourself. You all gave us so much. And you all gave to us when we needed it most.

Carol, you're professional and heart-worn caring. They are great, great qualities to have. Likewise, Sue and Michael who shared themselves freely, helping us to laugh every day.

Please pass this message on to your Committee of Management and your Rotary colleagues. They would already know the great work you all do. We want them to be reminded.
Thanks...it's such a small word. But we wish to thank you all."

The Inaugural Maltese Festival

The inaugural Latrobe Valley Maltese Festival held on 27 February at Morwell has raised more than $12,000 for Gippsland Rotary Centenary House. Co-ordinator of the Festival, Frank Tabone, who has spent several months planning and arranging the many activities that comprised the event, said the main purpose was to bring people together to catch up and have an enjoyable day.

Around 4,500 people attended the many attractions in and around Kernot Hall. The weather was beautiful and sunny, and all enjoyed the many forms of entertainment as well as partaking of the great variety of food and drink that was available. In addition to traditional Maltese fare, the ever popular sausage sizzle and BBQ hamburgers were well patronised. Visitors came by busload from Melbourne and throughout Gippsland and for many it was a great occasion to catch up with old friends and acquaintances.

Commenting on the event, Chair of Gippsland Rotary Centenary House, Ken Peake, said that this was a marvellous gesture by The Maltese Club and community to donate the proceeds of the event to Centenary House. "Congratulations to President John Buhagiar, Organiser Frank Tabone and all the members of the Maltese community who contributed to this highly successful event. The injection of funds will greatly assist our organisation in continuing to provide good quality accommodation at a reasonable price for patients & families undergoing treatment at the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre and Latrobe Regional Hospital."
Gippsland Rotary Centenary House - DONATIONS

Title: ___________________________ Full Name: ___________________________
Postal Address: __________________________________________ Post Code: __________
e-mail address: __________________________________________ Mobile: __________
Phone: ___________________________ Mobile: __________

I wish to make a donation of $ ________ to Gippsland Rotary Centenary House
Please make cheques or money order payable to "Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Inc." or
Please charge this amount once only to my credit card:

Name on Card (Blockletters) __________________________________________
Card No. ______________ ______________ ______________ ______________
$ ______________ ______________ ______________ ______________
Expiry Date _________ / _________ Signature of Cardholder _______________________

Please return to 39 Valley Drive, Traralgon West, 3844
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE
Official receipts will be issued on receipt of donations
In accordance with the Privacy Act, information provided on this form shall ONLY be used in relation to GRCH.
Personal contact details will not be sold or traded.

Paving the way to a better future for Gipplanders
This project was previously an initiative of 3TRFM and 3GV and being continued by

| OFFER 1 Individual Paver: A minimum donation of $50 may be acknowledged with a single paver consisting of a maximum of 32 characters (letters, numbers, spaces or punctuation marks. No. of pavers requested: ____________________________ |
| OFFER 2 Double Paver: A minimum donation of $100 may be acknowledged with a double paver consisting of a maximum of 64 characters (letters, numbers, spaces or punctuation marks. No. of pavers requested: ____________________________ |
| OFFER 3 Single Corporate Logo Paver*: A minimum corporate donation of $100 may be acknowledged with a single paver engraved with your company logo. No. of pavers requested: ____________________________ |
| OFFER 4 Corporate Panel of Paver*: A minimum corporate donation of $2,500 may be acknowledged with a panel of 52 of pavers engraved with your company logo (approx. 900mm x 900 mm). No. of panels requested: ____________________________ |

* logos shall be supplied as a black and white high quality reproduction (A4 size approximately)

PLEASE NOTE: Donations will only be acknowledged with pavers if requested by the donor and the completion and return of the bottom section of this form.