



HOUSE NEWSLETTER

2018 Autumn Edition

Official Newsletter Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Inc.

Our Purpose: Gippsland Rotary Centenary House provides affordable and supportive accommodation for patients undergoing cancer treatment and other medical services at the Latrobe Regional Hospital and their families. Stage 1 was opened in September 2006 with Stage 2 following in October 2011. The total cost of both projects was approximately \$5million financed by grants from the Federal & State Governments, Latrobe City, philanthropic trusts, Rotary Clubs and other community organisations, businesses and the public. GRCH is operated on a non profit basis using volunteers.

HOUSE INFORMATION UPDATE:

What a great day for Gippsland Rotary Centenary House (GRCH) and all Gippslanders !!

Following last Thursday's announcement by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, and Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester, Stage 3 at Gippsland Rotary Centenary House came a step closer to fruition with a Commonwealth grant of \$900,000 towards the \$2.1 million project.

This means that the building project is now fully funded with a \$600,000 contribution from the Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH); \$80,000 from the Blue Ribbon Foundation and the balance from our own accumulated funds.

Once the grant agreement has been executed with the Commonwealth, we will formally launch the project which we expect to complete by mid 2019 to meet the expected increase in demand for affordable and secure accommodation, as a result of increased future regional health services being offered by the Latrobe Regional Hospital.

The announcement of this grant and another 18 grants to Latrobe Valley recipients gave Darren a great opportunity to showcase GRCH to not only the Prime Minister, but many other distinguished guests and visitors. Darren and the PM referred to GRCH as the "House of Love", not just because of the care we offer our guests but because it is a fantastic example of how the Gippsland community look after and care for their own, whether they need and use our services or not. It demonstrates that GRCH is fundamental in ensuring regional health services at LRH can be accessed by those who need them.

So where to from here? GRCH has already obtained a planning permit for the project from Latrobe City. We are working very closely with our preferred builder, Kingbuilt to finalise the detailed design and building plans. We are in the processes of applying for a building permit and negotiating a satisfactory commercial contract with Kingbuilt. We anticipate site works will commence in early July 2018 and the building will be ready for commercial operation by mid 2019.

Latrobe City Council is again supporting the project with a Donation In Kind (DIK) of planning and building/permits and inspections. LRH is providing us with access to the construction site through their property on the western side of GRCH and a very generous grant. We sincerely thank both Latrobe City and LRH for their support and cooperation.



Senator Jane Hume and
Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull
touring GRCH

The completion of this project will result in GRCH being able to offer 30 very generous and comfortable family units as well as other supporting infrastructure to our guests, making GRCH truly a "Home away from Home".

In the future we will be seeking support to furnish and equip Stage 3 and I am confident our many supporters will again come to the fore with assistance.

So now the hard work starts to deliver what Gippslanders want and need; affordable and caring support while dealing with their personal health issues. We aim to ensure our patients and their families can focus on their health and getting better, while letting us deal with many of their logistical issues.

Ken Peake
Chair, Committee of Management
Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Inc.

Centenary House Impresses Prime Minister

One of our highest profile visitors, the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, recently visited Gippsland Rotary Centenary House and, after touring the building with Operations Manager Carol Crewe and local Member Darren Chester, said he was most impressed with the facility.



Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announcing the 19 grants at Centenary House.

Mr Turnbull was at the House to announce over \$20 million worth of grants under the Regional Jobs and Investment Package scheme to be awarded to Gippsland organisations and businesses. Among the grants announced by the Prime Minister was \$900,000 to Centenary House to enable Stage 3 of the project to proceed. In describing Centenary House as a "House of Love", Mr Turnbull complemented Rotarians and the many volunteers who help the facility to operate.

Member for Gippsland Darren Chester (Pictured below (R) with Committee of Management Chairman Ken Peake (L) and GRCH Secretary Mike Answerth (C)) was also lavish in his praise for this "wonderful community project initiated by local Rotary Clubs."

Representative of more than 19 organisations from as far as Bairnsdale and Warragul were invited by the Federal Government to attend the announcement and many people, including Victorian Senator Jane Hume, took the opportunity to inspect the facility and were highly complimentary regarding the quality of the accommodation provided.

Chairman, Ken Peake, and members of the Committee of Management were understandably delighted with the announcement of Federal Government funding and expressed their appreciation to Darren Chester for his great promotion of Centenary House and his ongoing advocacy on our behalf.



The latest grant of \$900,000 now means that the \$2.1 million Stage 3 is fully funded and can proceed once formalities are completed with the Federal Government. It is expected that the requirements will be finalised in two to three months with work commencing immediately after.



(L-R) Member for McMillian Russell Broadbent, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, GRCH Operations Manager Carol Crewe and Member for Gippsland Darren Chester



GRCH Committee of Management members Ray Scheffer (L), Glenn Setches (C-R) and Mike Answerth (R) with the Prime Minister (C-L) after his announcement of a grant for Stage 3.

Stage 3 expansion becomes a reality.

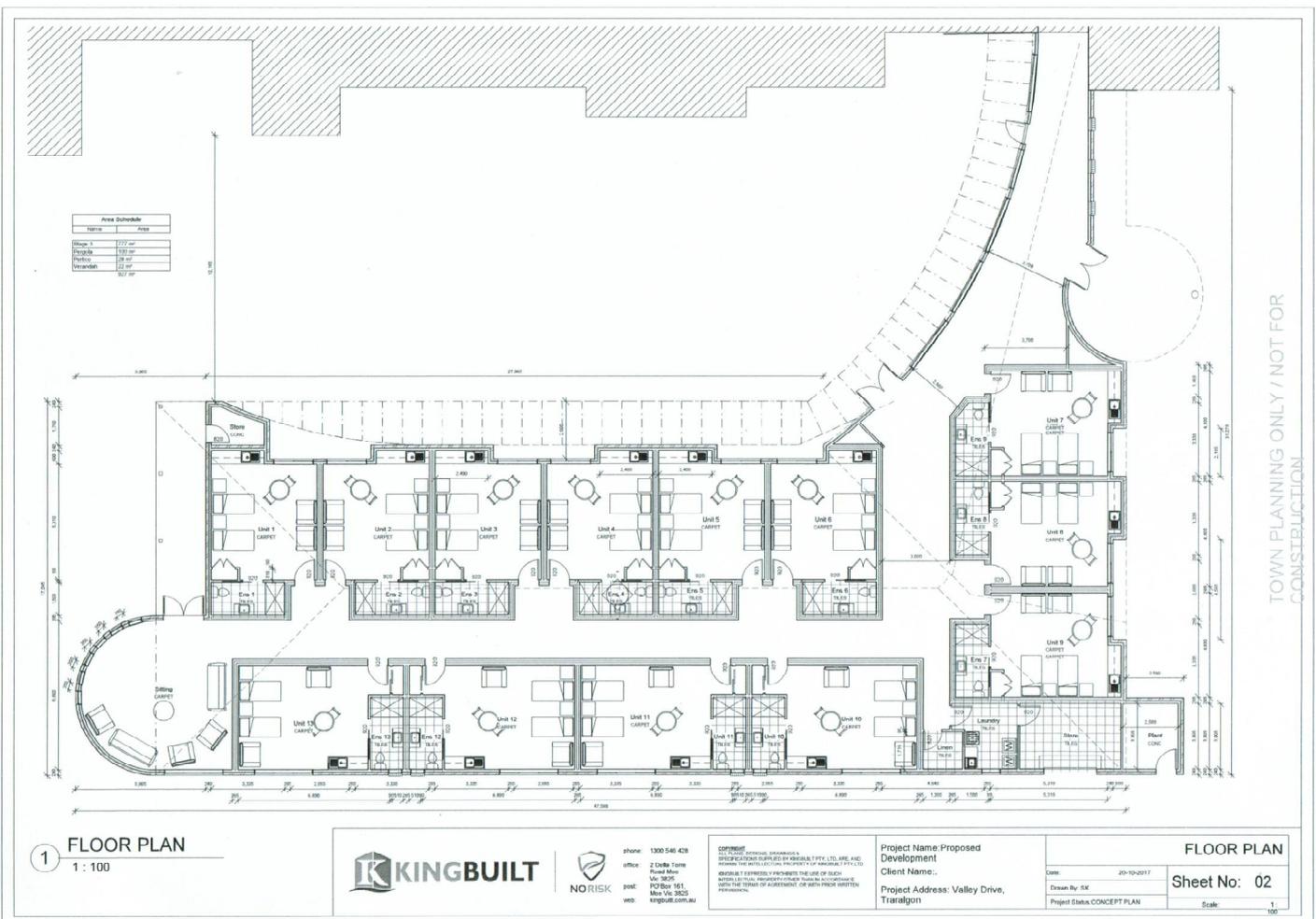
The 17 guest rooms at Centenary House are to be expanded to a total of 30 with the completion of the third stage of the facility. The vast expanse of green lawn at the back of the House will soon become a work site where a wing containing thirteen guest rooms, communal lounge room, laundry and store room will be constructed.

The initial plans were drawn up by our long time architect Audun Pederson prior to his retirement and relocation to Tasmania. The draft plans have since been re-drawn and modified by Kingbuilt Commercial, who were the builders of our second stage.

The plans (as shown below) will have a new corridor connecting to the original building at the back door, where guests currently exit to walk to the Latrobe Regional Hospital. This connection will allow guests in the new rooms to utilise the double kitchen and dining room in stage 1.

New exit doors will open onto the current path near the existing pavilion at the rear of the building. The pavilion will have to be demolished as part of the build but will be incorporated into the new entrance as a veranda.

During construction access to the rear of the House will be limited with guests having to utilise the front and side entrances and use the path on the east side of the building to walk to the hospital. It is hoped this third and final stage will be completed by early 2019.



Volunteers Wanted - Join this mighty crew!

It could be maintenance, gardening, cleaning, laundry, working bees, driving, or even assisting with the newsletter.

PLEASE CONTACT OUR OPERATIONS MANAGER Carol Crewe on 5171 1600

Centenary House 2017 Christmas Raffle A Success!

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2017 Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Christmas raffle.

The raffle was coordinated by the GRCH Fundraising Sub-committee and raised \$1000. The funds will assist Centenary House to continue to provide safe, supportive and affordable accommodation to patients and families from across Gippsland and beyond.

The prizes were won by the following people: 1st - L Bartling; 2nd - M McCoy; and 3rd - E Hughes.



Harriers Run for Centenary House

The 2018 Traralgon Harriers Community Fun Run had over 450 participants turn up to run the course and aid Centenary House. This year was the 20th anniversary of the event and the focus was on encouraging physical activity and promoting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Members of several local Rotary Clubs also helped out on the day with traffic management and a community BBQ.



Participants starting the Harriers Community Fun Run in Kay Street Traralgon on Sunday 4th March 2018.

Centenary House Welcomes New Committee Members

The Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Committee of Management has been joined by two new members in recent months.

Toora resident Cheryl Glowrey will join the committee as a representative of the South Gippsland region. Cheryl is employed at Federation University and is an active Rotarian, having been Assistant Governor for the South Gippsland Cluster for the past two years.

Colin Matthies will represent the Baw Baw region as he resides in Trafalgar, though he is member of the Rotary Club of Morwell. Colin will also bring his significant financial and bookkeeping skills to the Committee.



GRCH Committee of Management welcomes new members Cheryl Glowrey and Colin Matthies

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Centenary House drives into the future

The Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Committee of Management would like to acknowledge local businessman David Gittins, who has been a long term, significant supporter of the House. Thanks to David, Centenary House has had access to a car for use in transporting guests locally for the past 11 years.

Initially we were provided with a car though the Honda Foundation, courtesy of David, who was the dealer principal of the local Honda dealership. The normal arrangements are for provision of a car for 12 months from the Honda Foundation however due to David's support we had our CRV for 5 years. When we returned the Honda, David again came to our rescue and provided a station wagon through Valley Ford. This support also included registration, insurance and servicing. That arrangement lasted for over 6 years until early 2018 when David completed the sale of the Valley Motor Group to a new owner.

Prior to ending his association with Valley Ford, David arranged for the vehicle to be transferred into the ownership of Gippsland Rotary Centenary House. This means David's legacy will continue into the future with the station wagon continuing to be available to Centenary House and it's guests. It is a final generous gesture from David who has been dedicated in his support of Centenary House since our beginnings. The Committee of Management thank him for this and wish him well for the future.

Following on from the generous donation by David Gittins of the Ford station wagon we have been fortunate to receive more generous support from another local business. Darren Cornell at J Smith Motors in Morwell has agreed to take over the ongoing maintenance and servicing of the car into the future. So Gippsland Rotary Centenary House extends our sincere appreciation to the team J Smith Motors for this commitment. As pictured below this arrangement with the J Smith Motors has been acknowledged with their logo appearing on the car under the words "Serviced By."

We would also like to acknowledge the work of one of our volunteers Kevin Ainsworth who assisted during the transfer process of the car. Kevin coordinated the completion of a roadworthy certificate with J Smith Motors and provided valuable assistance in arranging the transfer of ownership from Valley Ford to Gippsland Rotary Centenary House .



Annual Rotary Golf Classic

The Rotary Club of Moe held it's annual Rotary Golf Classic on Monday 19 March 2018 with 96 golfers teeing off at the Yallourn Golf Club.

In addition to the golf tournament there was lots of fun, food, prizes, raffles and auctions on the day.

The community got behind the event with most of the prizes supplied by local businesses, including donations from Gippsland Dental Group, Moe Beta Home Living and Optus Morwell.

This year the event raised over \$26,000, which the Rotary Club of Moe will use to support a variety of projects, including Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

🍀 Green Tie Musical Trivia Night 🍀

The Rotary Club of Traralgon held their annual trivia night on Saturday 17 March 2018 at the Premier Function Centre. The Irish themed night was appropriately decorated with an abundance of shamrocks, green and orange trimmings and had related prizes. Those attending were also treated to musical entertainment from local band SweetLip.

The 'luck of the Irish' was with Table 13: Londonderry who took out the first prize trophy complete with cans of Guinness. The last place Wooden Spoon & Irish Spuds went to Table 3: Kildare.



Ian Grant and Glenn Setches from the winning table with the first prize trophy.

Funds raised on the night will go to Gippsland Rotary Centenary House as well as other local and international projects supported by the Rotary Club of Traralgon.

Keith Chenhall Charitable Trust funds repairs



Trust Advisory Committee member Ian Keith and GRCH Operation Manager Carol Crewe inspect the repair work.

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House has again been a beneficiary of support from the Keith Chenhall Charitable Trust. The Trust was formed by well-known local businessman and philanthropist Keith Chenhall to support worthy causes in the Traralgon area. Since 2002 the Trust has donated in excess of \$450,000 to a variety of local organisations and groups.

Due to long term, insidious water leaks around several windows at Centenary House, significant repair and refurbishment was required in stage 1. The Keith Chenhall Charitable Trust was extremely generous in providing a grant of \$25,000 to Centenary House to allow for full restoration of the building where the damage had occurred.



Part of the damage to a wall caused by the water leak between two windows

"Numerous guests have commented on how good the corridor looks after the repairs. Having a well maintained facility is an essential part of providing a peaceful, caring environment for our guests, so we are extremely grateful to the Keith Chenhall Charitable Trust for this donation." said GRCH Operations Manager Carol Crewe.

Upcoming Events (save the date!)

- ◆ **Chat & Chew**— The GRCH Fundraising Sub-committee will hold their second Chat & Chew Lunch on Saturday 1 September 2018 at the Grand Junction, Traralgon.

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Newsletter

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Traralgon VIC 3844