



HOUSE NEWSLETTER

2021 Autumn Edition

Official Newsletter of Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Inc.

Our Purpose: Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Inc (GRCH) provides safe, supportive and affordable accommodation for patients (and their families) undergoing cancer treatment and other specialist medical services at the Latrobe Regional Hospital. The House is operated on a non-profit basis utilising volunteers. GRCH is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible.

HOUSE INFORMATION UPDATE:

Welcome to our 2021 Autumn Edition of the GRCH Newsletter.

The next few months will be pretty hectic for us with the fundraising events that are planned and detailed within the following pages. Events such as the Community Fun Run/Walk, the East Gippsland Breakfast and the Chat and Chew event are the life blood that keeps the House open and able to provide low cost accommodation to those unfortunate enough to require our support. GRCH greatly appreciate the community support these events generate. We really are "A project for the Community, by the Community"

Many thanks to the Traralgon Harriers for supporting GRCH again this year with their community Fun Run / Walk (see page 2). Also our thanks to the local Rotary Clubs who support the Harriers to stage the event. The volunteers support the event by way of marshals and traffic controllers, not to mention cooking the BBQ at the finish, which always goes down well, though we hope a few Rotarians will be available to sign up to walk or run on the day too.

For those who are able, COVID permitting, the East Gippsland Breakfast should not be missed (see page 2). This event has supported us for many years now, with the generated funds enabling us to continue to provide the supportive and homely facility we do. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Mitchell River, Leigh Venables and the team.

Our Fundraising Sub-committee are still going despite COVID issue of late. The Chat and Chew Luncheon in April should not be missed and provides significant financial support to help keep our doors open. There is more information about the lunch later in this edition (see page5).

We have reached the end of our paver path. The original promotion of this project was to build a map of our Gippsland catchment area from engraved pavers through donations by community



Flowering Gums at GRCH

members and businesses across the greater Gippsland area. The end result is a path with 3 designated areas; East Gippsland and Wellington; South Gippsland and Bass Coast; and Latrobe, Baw Baw and Others. We have also recognised significant supporting businesses with large 1m² pavers for their assistance to establish the facility. Unfortunately we have run out of room to continue with the paver project. Sadly, the last order has been placed and hopefully will be integrated into the path structure in the near future.

Finally congratulations to Glenn Setches on the Accounting Award he received recently for his voluntary work to GRCH. Well done Glenn and thanks for all your hard work for the House.

Dave Swainsbury
Chairman, Committee of Management
Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Inc.



Form a team and have
fun on the run!



The DFP Recruitment - Latrobe City Community Fun Run & Walk

9.00am
Sunday
14 March
2021

Enter a team of your workmates into the run or walk and help our cancer support service, Gippsland Rotary Centenary House. Enter at traralgonharriers.org.au

- Join us for a morning of fun and fitness including a BBQ and spot prizes
- Awards for Gippsland schools, workplaces and clubs with the most entries
- Running from Kermot Hall, Morwell
- Choose from a 5km run or walk for adults and a run for kids under 12 years
- Enter your team, family or as an individual



Proudly supported by



Run / Walk for Centenary House

The Traralgon Harriers are holding their Community Fun Run & Walk again this year.

The event will be held at Kermot Hall in Morwell on Sunday 14th March 2021.

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of the funds raised by the Community Fun Run & Walk for the past seven years.

The Traralgon Harriers are hopeful that individuals, schools and businesses will again join in the event and assist in raising much needed funds for Centenary House.

Local Rotarians will again help out on the day with logistical support, including marshalling and traffic management.

Go to the Traralgon Harriers website to find more information or register for the event.

<https://traralgonharriers.org.au/>

Rotary Club to host Breakfast in Bairnsdale

The annual Breakfast in Bairnsdale has been a long standing fundraising event for Gippsland Rotary Centenary House. Started by Rhonda and Noel Wheeldon at the home in 2003, the popular event has moved through several venues.

This year the Rotary Club of Mitchell River will be hosting the breakfast at the Howitt Park Bowls Club on Wednesday 24th March from 7.00 to 10.30 am.

Rotarian Leigh Venables has been involved with organising the event for several years now and he "hopes that this years event will again be supported by local businesses and the community". The Rotary Club of Mitchell River is seeking donations of goods and prizes for the competitions.

The \$20 cost includes a home cooked or continental breakfast as well as multiple competition entries. All funds raised on the day will be donated to Centenary House.

For more information contact Leigh Venables — 0408516588 or Darren Goodman — 0418516084

CENTENARY HOUSE

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST

DATE:	Wednesday 24 March, 2021
TIME:	7am to 10.30am
LOCATION:	Howitt Park Bowls Club McEachern St, East Bairnsdale
COST:	\$20.00 per head – Includes Home Cooked or Continental breakfast and multiple competition entries. <i>COVID safe management procedures will be in place.</i>

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House is a community-based not-for-profit accommodation facility, for patients and their families who are attending the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre at Latrobe Regional Hospital. The philosophy is to provide affordable, comfortable, supportive and secure accommodation so that the stress of travelling and treatment is minimised.



Proudly hosted by



Call in on your way to work for a sumptuous breakfast and support this very worthy cause

For further information, contact Leigh Venables 0408516588 or Darren Goodman 0418516084

Any donations for the competition would be gratefully accepted.

COVID-19 UPDATE

When the Covid-19 pandemic started in February 2020, bringing with it all the restrictions, no-one could have predicted the longevity or severity of the crisis around the world. It has been a year since we first implemented safety strategies at Gippsland Rotary Centenary House and this is our third Covid-19 update in a newsletter.

Like other businesses and community organisations, Gippsland Rotary Centenary House implemented the strategies outlined by the government health experts at the start of the pandemic and we have continued to update and improve our precautions and practices to keep our guests as safe as possible.

The bookings for accommodation associated with oncology and specialist medical treatment have continued to slowly decline over the past year. This has impacted on the income for the operations of the House. In the final quarter of 2020 we met the criteria for the Federal Government's Job Keeper Scheme and so will be receiving some payroll support from January to March 2021. This income support is very welcome and will assist with our ongoing financial viability during this difficult time.

Of course, we are aware that it is a difficult time for a lot of local businesses and community groups around Gippsland too. Normally Centenary House receives a large number of small donations from a wide range of organisations, which are vital in subsidising the costs for guests to keep their accommodation affordable. Over the past year, we have noted an extreme decline in the donations to our organisation. When combined with an inability to undertake fundraising activities, it has resulted in a significant financial deficit at the present time. We hope as the situation continues to improve, that our ability to raise funds will return to a sustainable level.

In January 2021 we opened up our community room for meetings again. The room had been closed to ensure the safety of our guests. As required by the State Government we are utilising a QR code system for meetings. The Services Victoria app is being used to register all individuals attending the community room. This allows us to have a density of 1 person per two square metres, meaning groups can contain up to 25 people per function. If we used a paper based system we would be restricted to a density of 1 person per four square metres, halving the number allowed in the room for meetings.

In addition to registering via QR code, all participants in meetings must continue to follow the recommended precautions including using hand sanitiser, wearing masks (if mandated) and social distancing. Staff also ensure that the community room is thoroughly cleaned between groups or meetings.

Most of our volunteers are back during their normal duties. A change in conditions around masks does often mean some of our volunteers will not attend the House. As you can imagine, wearing a mask for long periods or for physical work is quite restrictive. A few volunteers find that too difficult so will return when the wearing of masks is eased. Centenary House is very grateful for the work undertaken by all our volunteers and support the decisions they make in relation to their own health and safety.

The staff and volunteers continue to undertake regular cleaning and maintenance, so we are confident we are maintaining an environment that is as safe as possible for all our guests.

If you have any queries about staying at Centenary House please contact staff on 03 51711600 or via email at carol@centenaryhouse.org.au

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 to Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

Latrobe City Council Grants Help House

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House was been extremely fortunate to receive support from the Latrobe City through four different grants totaling \$10,500.

The grants were provided through the Latrobe City Council Community Support and Recovery Package, which aimed to minimise the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on a community group's capacity to continue to operate in the community.

Minor Capital Works

A grant of \$3,500 was obtained to upgrade lock in the first stage of Centenary House from key style to an electronic system. The Salto electronic lock system was installed in stage 3 when that was built in 2019. The system improves the safety and access of the facility and has been very well received by guests. The plan is to now convert all doors in the House to this new system in a staged program dependent on funding.

The Minor Capital Works grant provided 50% of the cost of converting nine doors from key to electronic locks in stage 1. The new electronic locks (pictured right) were installed by Gippsland Locksmiths.



Minor Equipment

The Minor Equipment Grant of \$2,000 was used to purchase new furniture for the stage 3 deck. The umbrellas, tables and chairs have provided an inviting, comfortable environment for our guests to use to relax and refresh during their stay at Centenary House.

The deck enhancement project was completed through a generous donation of a large assortment of plants that were in pots or hanging on the screen protecting the deck.



The stage 3 deck with the new furniture and plants.

Operational Support

This newsletter is an essential part of the promotion strategy of our organisation and an Operational Support Grant was received from the Latrobe City to offset the costs associated with it's distribution. A grant of \$2,500 will be used to cover some of the printing and postage costs for this edition of the House News.

Fundraising Support

The Fundraising Support Grant was applied for to facilitate the Chat and Chew luncheon, which raises much needed funds for centenary House. The lunch is planned for Sunday 11th April 2021 after being postponed from September 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Refer to the flier (right) for more information about this event.

GRCH Treasurer Recognised

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Treasurer, Glenn Setches, has received recognition for his hard work and efficient management of the finances of Centenary House.

Glenn was recently nominated by GRCH for the Commonwealth Bank Not for Profit Treasurer's Award conducted by the Community Directors of Australia (CDA). The CDA provides a voice and advice for Committee of Management and Board Members of Not for Profit Organisations.

Glenn was acknowledge by GRCH and received a Certificate of Recognition for his Nomination (pictured right).

Glenn, who is a Chartered Accountant and Certified Financial Planner and Director of OzPlan Financial Services Pty Ltd, volunteers his services, without remuneration, as do all members of the Committee of Management. He prepares the regular financial statements, in association with Operations Manager, Carol Crewe and figures for the annual statutory statement requirements for auditing and inclusion in the Annual Report.



"Gippsland Rotary Centenary House has an annual financial turnover of around \$400,000 and assets of \$6 million", Chairman David Swainsbury said, "and it is imperative that our finances are managed in a professional and transparent way. We are most fortunate to have a highly qualified accountant such as Glenn who is prepared to volunteer his services for the benefit of the organisation. It is fitting that his work is recognised."



GIPPSLAND ROTARY CENTENARY HOUSE

Ladies Chat and Chew Luncheon

Saturday, 17th April, 2021

At the Grand Junction Hotel Traralgon, 12pm.

Tickets at \$35 each - 2 COURSE LUNCH

Tea and Coffee Supplied - Drinks at Bar Prices

RAFFLES - \$2 LOTTO

For Tickets, please call:

Barbara 0417 679 224

Shelley 0498 242 221

Kay 0407 460 188



Chat and Chew

The Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Ladies Chat and Chew Luncheon will be held at 12 pm on Saturday 17th April at the Grand Junction Hotel, Traralgon.

Tickets for the two course lunch are \$35 each, with drinks at bar prices.

The event will also include raffles and other fundraising activities.

This annual lunch has been a successful fundraiser for Gippsland Rotary Centenary House, as well as providing an opportunity for Gippsland women to meet and network in a social setting.

Thank you to the Latrobe City Council for assisting the event with a Fundraising Support Grant.

For tickets please contact Barbara—0417 679 224, Shelly—0498 242 221 or Kay—0407 460 188.

Introducing the Committee of Management “Dave Swainsbury”

Dave is currently the Chairperson of Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Committee of Management. Dave was the President of the Rotary Club of Morwell at the time the Latrobe Cluster of Rotary Clubs chose to establish GRCH as a Centenary of Rotary Project in 2003 under the Assistant Governor leadership of Ken Peake. The cluster comprised Traralgon, Traralgon Central, Hazelwood, Moe, Morwell, Warragul, and Drouin.

Dave has been a committee member off and on since then and has held several roles in that time ranging from garden maintenance to treasurer to operations chairman. Prior to the opening Dave did much of the work with architect Auden and Ken including the fitting out of Stage 1, selecting floor coverings and purchasing furniture. In the early days, prior to the great landscaping we have today Dave would sit on the old ride on, donated by RC of Morwell, for days cutting the 5-acre block. It was a nightmare regularly discovering steel pipes and bricks left over from the old farm days and having to have the mower re-bladed, thanks to Steve Halton at Gippsland Mowers. Rob Soares then suggested we have a maintenance group; which is now led by Alan MacRae. We were also fortunate to recruit Ray Scheffer as Landscaper extraordinaire.



GRCH Committee Member
Dave Swainsbury

Dave has been a Morwell boy since coming to the Valley in 1949, attending Commercial Road and Collins Street primary schools. He was a first-year student at the new Morwell High School in 1956. Dave married Carol White in 1966 and they moved to Yallourn. Today Dave and Carol have 2 boys (Matthew and Phillip) and 4 grandchildren (Portia, Scarlett, Aalia and Meena). Working as an industrial chemist at the SECV from 1962, Dave is still involved in the industrial chemistry scene some 60 years later. Dave and Carol lived in Europe and the UK during 1979 studying boiler water chemistry relevant to the new designs for both Loy Yang A and B. Dave became the principal power generation chemist prior to moving to construction and was involved with the commissioning and early operation of Loy Yang A and B.

Dave set up a private scientific facility at the Gippsland Water building in Traralgon on Hazelwood Road. That laboratory brought together scientific services from the old SECV and Gippsland Water laboratories in a company called Envirogen with a staff of approximately 60 people in its heyday. The laboratory serviced much of Gippsland and beyond with scientific, environmental and air monitoring services. At one stage Envirogen provided air monitoring at Sydney airport and air monitoring for the construction of the City Link tunnels. The business is still in operation as SGS today in a much-reduced capacity due to extremely competitive pricing from metropolitan providers.

Dave is currently also the Vice-President for Mitchell House Board of Management. He still enjoys working a day a week at Energy Australia and maintains their dangerous goods data base across their Australian facilities.

Upcoming Events to support GRCH (save the date!)

Refer to our facebook page or website for more information about individual events.

- ◆ Traralgon Harriers Community Fun Run & Walk—Sunday 14th March 2021, Kernot Hall
- ◆ East Gippsland Breakfast—Wednesday 24th March 2021, Bairnsdale
- ◆ GRCH Chat & Chew—Sunday 11th April 2021, Grand Junction Hotel, Traralgon

Supporting Gippsland Rotary Centenary House

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Inc. is a community organisation, managed by a volunteer Board on a not for profit basis and registered as a Public Benevolent Institution with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Centenary House is also a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and therefore all donations are tax deductible.

To ensure that accommodation charges are affordable for guests we fundraise to subsidise the costs for patients and families, therefore you can help by making a donation to Centenary House.

If you would like to assist Gippsland Rotary Centenary House in providing safe, supportive and affordable accommodation for patients (and their families) undergoing cancer treatment and other specialist medical services at the Latrobe Regional Hospital please complete the form below.

GRCH Donation Form

Title: _____ Full Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

I wish to make a donation of \$ _____ to Gippsland Rotary Centenary House

Cheque (please make cheques payable to Gippsland Rotary Centenary House)

Direct Deposit (please enter Reference for transaction below)

Account Name: Gippsland Rotary Centenary House
BSB: 633-000 Account Number: 134366293

Reference: _____

Credit Card (please complete details below)

Name on card: _____

Card No. _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date ____ / ____

CVV _____
(3 digit number on the back of card)

Visa Mastercard

Signature of Cardholder _____

To receive an receipt please return your completed form to Centenary House at 39 Valley Drive, Traralgon VIC 3844 or carol@centenaryhouse.org.au

Official receipts will be issued on receipt of the donation and form.

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. If you have any questions about donations or our privacy policy please contact House staff on 03 5171 1660

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Newsletter

- To assist Gippsland Rotary Centenary House I agree to receive the Newsletter via e-mail rather than have a copy posted out to me. Please add my e-mail address as below to the electronic mailing list.
- Please remove me from the mailing list for the Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Newsletter, I do not wish to receive a copy of the newsletter in future.

Full Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

e-mail address: _____

To update or remove your details from the Gippsland Rotary Centenary House mailing list please complete and return this section to :

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House
39 Valley Drive
Traralgon VIC 3844

Centenary House Updates

- If you would like to know what is happening at Centenary House you can keep up to date by following the Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/Gippsland-Rotary-Centenary-House-206290322733733/>

- Or you can go to our website and read the News & Events page to keep up to date.

<http://www.centenaryhouse.org.au/>

- To make an accommodation booking or for all general enquiries please contact Centenary House staff (Monday - Friday 09.00—16.00)

Phone: 03 5171 1600

Fax: 03 5171 1660

Email: info@centenaryhouse.org.au