



# HOUSE NEWSLETTER

## 2017 Spring 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:

How the situation can change. Recently members of the Committee of Management met with the Latrobe Regional CEO, Peter Craighead to get an update on developments at the hospital and how any changes may impact on Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

We were informed that the new Emergency and Cardiology operating theatres and wards will be opened in Mid-October and that the hospital was preparing a business plan for a \$177 million hospital development which would provide more regional services and increase demand for the services of GRCH.

This meant that the Committee of Management re-visited the Stage 3 design to maximise the number of future family units. Due to limited area on the GRCH site the COM recognised that we needed to use the remainder of the site as efficiently as possible to maximise our accommodation capacity.

Following the retirement of our architect Audun Pedersen, the COM has recently engaged Kingbuilt, our Stage 2 builder, to prepare the detailed design for Stage 3 and can now build an additional 14 family units with a marginal increase in floor area compared to the earlier Stage 3 design prepared by Auden, without compromising the size and quality of the units.

With regard to funding, we were very disappointed that we did not meet the criteria for and were ineligible for funding from the Latrobe Valley Authority. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any avenue of appeal and this is a setback for Stage 3. We have had the same issue for State funding for both Stages 1 and 2. So where will the funding come from? We are currently completing an application for Commonwealth funding which must be submitted before the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017.



The roses in the garden starting to bloom at Centenary House in the warm spring weather.

**The Committee will vigorously lobby the State Government for financial support because we all know the importance of GRCH to ensure Gippslanders get affordable, secure and supportive access to our wonderful health services.**

On a very sad note Rob Soares, a very dedicated member of our Committee of Management and active volunteer, suddenly passed away recently. Our thoughts are with Anne and her family at this very sad time. Rob will be greatly missed.

With the resignations of Rhonda and Noel Wheeldon, who actively represented the East Gippsland area for over 10 years, and the loss of Rob, the COM is now seeking expressions of interest from people who may be interested in becoming members of the Committee, principally to bring building and project management skills to the committee and to represent East Gippsland. More information is available by contacting myself or our Operations Manager, Carol Crewe via e-mail [carol@centenaryhouse.org.au](mailto:carol@centenaryhouse.org.au)

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

## ***Lighting up the night***

The gardens at Gippsland Rotary Centenary House have an impressive new feature with the installation of two new tower lights. The two stainless steel cylinders sit at each end of a brick path from the car park to the building. During the day they create an interesting feature and at night they illuminate the path with a stunning light.

The two lights were removed from a local garden when it was remodelled and were donated to Centenary House by the owners. Local landscape gardener and Committee of Management member Ray Scheffer oversaw the



installation of the lights including the surrounding wood work and new plants. Thanks also to Laser Electrical, Traralgon for undertaking the arduous job of refurbishing and installing the lights.

## **GRCH Guests enjoy Christmas In July**



The Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Fundraising Sub-committee again hosted the annual Christmas in July this year with guests enjoying a festive lunch and entertainment.

Our sincere thanks to Rod and Rhonda for providing the wonderful musical entertainment, along with their grandchildren Lachie and Georgia (pictured left).

Thanks also to Limnos Karvery Café from Traralgon who kindly donated the two course meal.

The lunch provided an opportunity for the guests and their families to mingle and relax and was a welcome distraction from



## Vale Rob Suares

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House suffered a great loss this year when Committee of Management member Rob Suares passed away unexpectedly on 16 August 2017.



Rob was a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Morwell and started as a volunteer at Centenary House in 2008. He quickly saw a need for a more coordinated approach to our gardening and maintenance and so started recruiting others to join him on Monday mornings. The team of regular volunteers who now come in on Monday mornings undertake the vast amount of weeding, pruning, mowing, edging, spraying, trimming and cleaning required to keep the gardens looking spectacular. They also do a large portion of our maintenance work, both inside and outside the House.

Though Rob regularly travelled north in winter in his beloved caravan with wife Anne, he continued to coordinate the maintenance and gardening team with enthusiasm and dedication. Rob also chaired the Buildings /Maintenance Sub-committee and was an active member of the Committee of Management.

He was always had a cheerful and positive greeting for the guests who passed the maintenance shed on their way to and from the hospital, never missing the opportunity to brighten someone's day with a smile and chat.

Rob will be sadly missed by the GRCH Committee of Management, staff, volunteers and guests. Monday morning brew time will never be the same.

## *Donated furniture put to good use!*

Centenary House has replaced some the older chairs around the facility thanks to the kind donation of furniture by the Rotary Club of Phillip Island / San Remo.

The Grossard Court Nursing Home in Cowes was updating their furniture and the Rotary Club of Phillip Island / San Remo took on the task of recycling the items.

With a bit of cleaning and refurbishing the chairs looked like new and have been put to good use at Centenary House. As our first stage is over 10 years old some of the original furniture was quite worn and in need of replacing.



Pairs of chairs have been used in several guest rooms to replace the original brown bucket chairs (pictured above).

The lounge suite in the quiet room was also replaced with four complimentary chairs (pictured left).

Other items including tables and dining chairs have been swapped with damaged or worn items in the guest rooms.

### **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 MANAGER Carol Crewe on 5171 1600**

## Garden renewal makes a difference

The small garden in between the path to the hospital and the maintenance shed has received a much needed garden make over thanks to the support of Gippsland Water.

Operators Mark Harris and Craig Dunstan arrived one Monday morning with their heavy machinery to assist in removing the old plants from the garden bed. What would have been an onerous task for our team was quickly completed thanks to the help of the Gippsland Water staff and equipment.

The old plants have now been replaced with weeping cherry tree and new shrubs that will make a lovely feature in the garden.



The old garden.



Mark and Craig removing the old plants



The new garden.



## *ASIC Lend A Hand*

The Traralgon ASIC office send out volunteers to lend a hand a Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

The volunteers took on the task of giving our outdoor furniture some much needed attention. The BBQ tables were cleaned and sanded back to allow for re-oiling.

They are now ready for use when the warmer summer weather arrives.

**Pictured** — Andrew Stewart and Brenton Monument sanding back the BBQ tables.

## **New LED Globes light up the House**

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House has updated all the Halogen style lights to LED all around stage 1. The new LED globes are designed to last much longer than the older style ones so should not need to be replaced for at least ten years. In addition the LED globes use significantly less power so their installation will hopefully reduce our electricity costs into the future.

Our sincere thanks to Laser Electrical, Traralgon for their support of Gippsland Rotary Centenary House by donating the cost of the new globes. Their generous sponsorship has ensured we were able to update all the globes in stage 1.

**Pictured:** The three new small LED lights in the stage 1 lounge.



**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](mailto:carol@centenaryhouse.org.au) or return the slip on the back page.

# *Chat and Chew success*



What a wonderful day our first Chat & Chew was! The lunch was held at the Grand Junction Hotel on Saturday 2nd September with lots of laughs among family and friends.

Kay and the Fundraising Sub-committee were thrilled with the day. There were ninety-three ladies in attendance and the event raised approximately \$2350.00 for Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.

The guests were entertained by guest speaker Jim Radford who spoke on keeping bees and by local musician Kevin Hetherington.

The food provided by the Grand Junction was excellent with alternate meals of tiger prawns and roast lamb for main course. For dessert the options were fresh fruit salad or Belgian waffles with tea/coffee to finish.

The event included several activities such as a lucky seat prize, door prizes, raffles and an auction.

The Fundraising Sub-committee would like to thank the follow people and businesses for their time and generosity:

- ◆ Annette Vogt — Grand Junction Hotel;
- ◆ Debbie — Valley Flowers & Table Centre Pieces;
- ◆ Jilly Magnuson — Jilly M for auction goods;
- ◆ Graeme White— Printing of tickets and fliers;
- ◆ Shelly Goldsbrough and Tia McNair — Art work;
- ◆ Jim Radford (MC and speaker);
- ◆ Kevin Hetherington (musician).

**Basket Donors:** Annette Vogt; Michelle O'Connor; Mary Paulet; and Margaret Schmidt.

**Other Donors:** Margaret Palmer; Sonya Monument; Roseanna Della Fortuna; Food Co on Franklin; Café Evviva; Café Sarafine; and Food2Go.

Once again, thank you to everyone who supported the event and attended the lunch, making it such a great success!

It is planned to hold a second Chat & Chew next year on Saturday 1st September. So keep your diaries free as we hope to see you again next year.



## GOLF DAY SUPPORTS CENTENARY HOUSE AGAIN

The Rotary Club of Yarram held their annual golf day on Sunday 8 October 2017. All proceeds raised at the event are donated to Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.



Golfers assemble at the Yarram Golf Club before the start of the Rotary Club of Yarram's annual Golf Day.

One hundred golfers from far and wide played a Four person Ambrose event at the Yarram Golf Club in perfect weather conditions.

This year's Golf Day was an outstanding success with the event raising in excess of \$3600. Dedicated members from the Rotary Club of Yarram excelled with their catering and organising skills ensuring the day was fun for all.

Graeme Davis conducted an auction of generously donated goods, and many other local businesses contributed items for the auction at the conclusion of play.

Eric Greenaway who was responsible for organizing most of the event, was in the winning team with his twin brother Albert, Dale Bell and Peter Biggs.

## Centenary House Has Hope

A lovely daffodil themed mosaic artwork has been donated to inspire guests at Centenary House.

Made by Traralgon resident Paula Pezzutto the work features the word HOPE surrounded by the cheerful yellow flowers.

The mosaic has been hung on an external wall in an area used by guests and will hopefully brighten up their day.

The mosaic had previously been displayed at a local Cancer Council Daffodil Day event.



## Upcoming Events (save the date!)

- ◆ **Community Fun Run**—The Traralgon Harriers are hosting their annual fun run to support Centenary House on Sunday 4 March 2018. Refer Harriers website for more information.
- ◆ **Green Tie Music Trivia Night**—The Rotary Club of Traralgon is again hosting their trivia night at the Premier Function Centre on Saturday 17 March 2018. Cost will be \$75 per person and includes a drink / finger food on arrival, 2 course meal and entertainment. Come along to compete for the famous Trivia Cup!
- ◆ **Golf Day**—The Rotary Club of Moe will host the Gippsland Rotary Golf Classic at the Yallourn Golf Club on Monday 19 March 2018 with funds raised to support Gippsland Rotary Centenary House.
- ◆ **East Gippsland Big Breakfast**—The Eastwood Retirement Village will again host the annual breakfast on Wednesday 11 April 2018. Cost is \$15 per person for a cooked breakfast, with raffles, auctions and market stall.
- ◆ **Chat & Chew**—The GRCH Fundraising Sub-committee will hold their second Chat & Chew Lunch on Saturday 1 September 2018 at the Grand Junction, Traralgon.

