



HOUSE NEWSLETTER

2016 Summer 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:

Well we have come to the end of yet another very successful year during which we celebrated 10 years of operation since opening in September 2006.

Again we are gratified by the constant flow of donations which only confirms to the Committee of Management that Gippsland Rotary Centenary House is very much appreciated by our Gippsland Community. We don't need expensive promotion and advertising campaigns, GRCH sells itself and we are always gratified by the interest shown to us when we make presentations to community groups throughout Gippsland.

We have managed to maintain our low tariffs without any adjustment for the 2016/17 year which ensures our service remains very affordable for all Gippslanders. **We are committed to ensure that the cost of accommodation does not prevent Gippsland patients and their families accessing the wonderful services at the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre or LRH.**

The feedback from our guests consistently confirms the "home away from home" atmosphere at the house and how it minimizes their stress in facing a very challenging period of their lives. This has always been a commitment of GRCH that we want to minimize all other stress and worry so our guests can focus on the most important thing to them; their health.

Our feed back also constantly confirms how highly regarded our staff and volunteers are thought of by our guests which is an enormous compliment to them and their professionalism. The Committee of Management is extremely grateful for their constant high standard of care and empathy towards our guests which helps make GRCH a very friendly place to stay. We firmly believe that staying at GRCH in the company of other people facing similar challenges provides additional support. It is comforting for our guests to be able to talk to other people who understand how they feel and understand what they are facing.

For those of you who have not visited GRCH, please take the time to see your wonderful community owned and operated asset. You will be very warmly welcomed. Inspect the house, have a cuppa and walk through our beautifully maintained gardens.

We hope in the New Year to welcome Michael back, at least on a part-time basis, after his very serious health issues. The COM recently enjoyed a wonderful night celebrating Christmas with Michael and the rest of our staff and we wish him well for a full recovery.

Finally on behalf of the Committee of Management and all our staff and volunteers we wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2017 and beyond.

Ken Peake
Chair, Committee of
Management

The Wisteria blooming on the arbour



This Newsletter can be viewed on our Web Site: www.centenaryhouse.org.au

10th Anniversary for Centenary House



Gippsland Rotary Centenary House celebrated the 10th anniversary of its opening this October.

The occasion was marked with an afternoon tea with tempting goodies supplied by Margot Wheelan, locally renowned for her excellent fare, much enjoyed by all. Prior to the tea speeches were given to by Gippsland Rotary Centenary House Committee of Management Secretary Mike Answerth and Chairman Ken Peake OAM, alongside the Operations Manager Carol Crewe, recapping the progress made since the opening of the house. This was added to by an impromptu submission from our local Federal Member, Darren Chester, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, who has given us much support over the years. The audience included past and present guests alongside Member for Morwell Russell Northe, Michael Rossiter, Mayor of Latrobe City and Kellie O'Callaghan, councillor and Chair of the board of LRH, local suppliers and supporters of the project and many volunteers, all filmed by local TV network Win. The architect Audun Pederson, who made the trip especially from Tasmania, commented that he was pleased to see how well the building had been looked after and how it had fared over the years.

Many are the positive comments we get from guests. Since its opening it has welcomed over 4000 guests, for various lengths of time - some returning several times. Our guest surveys indicate that our



Member for Morwell Russell Northe, Minister Darren Chester, House Operations Manager Carol Crewe, COM chairman Ken Peake OAM and COM Secretary Mike Answerth enjoy the sunshine

guests are very happy with the facilities and suggest that we have succeeded in providing a safe and pleasant environment to reduce stress, worry and travel during a difficult time.

We were blessed with good weather for the ceremonial planting of a Japanese Maple tree to commemorate the 10 years of service. Our gardens were all



Lorraine Peake cuts the cake

If ever there was an example of the saying "the whole is greater than the sum of it's parts" it must be Gippsland Rotary Centenary House. The contributions, small and large, of so many people have combined to be bigger than anyone could have imagined. What started out as an idea when the Presidents of the Latrobe Rotary Clubs came together developed into a way to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary in 2005. Along the way it brought on board community members and organisations, businesses and the government. Today the House continues to have ongoing support from across the region. It is an example of humanity at its best. Long may it continue to be so.

The Management thanks all those who have made the project possible and subsequently such a successful pleasant place to stay.



This commemorative tree was planted by

Ken Peake

Inaugural Chairman, GRCH Committee of Management
on Thursday 8th October 2018
to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening
of Centenary House.



Kellie O'Callaghan admiring the stained glass windows donated to us by the Cancer Tales Group of East Gippsland with Carol Crewe and Darren Chester (above)



COM Chairman Ken Peake (R) plants the commemorative tree which will bear the plaque shown (above) with COM member Dave Swainsbury (L) looking on



GRCH Committee of Management members Mike Answarth (L), Ken Peake (R) and Operations Manager Carol Crewe (C)

Volunteers Wanted - Join this mighty crew!

It could be gardening, cleaning, laundry and ironing, working bees, driving, or even assistance with this newsletter.
PLEASE CONTACT OUR MANAGER Carol Crewe on 5171 1600

DanceSport 2016

Following on from last years success, the second annual Latrobe City DanceSport Classic was held at Traralgon on Saturday, 18 June. More than 25 couples of Ballroom dancers sashayed their way to the Latrobe Valley from across Victoria to entertain crowds and compete in the state's invitational-only competition. Dance styles include Waltzes, Tango, Quickstep and Latin, Samba, Cha Cha, Rhumba, Pasodoble and Jive. Children as young as 11 years old performed in juvenile and junior categories alongside the senior adult categories.

Last year people commented on the "different feel" of the regional-focussed competition, with the audience dancing alongside the competitors in the aisles. "We had couples ask if they could come back before the invitations were sent out. They told us the crowd, the support and the atmosphere were just amazing" Anna Longmore from DanceSport Victoria said. The audience was also introduced to 'New Vogue', a form of social dancing involving patterns and sequences. This year also featured local talent including the Latrobe Valley Community Choir and the Latrobe Rockers.



Supported by Latrobe City Council, the fundraising event for Gippsland Rotary Centenary House hopes to highlight the dance style as an alternative to more traditional sporting endeavours in the region, such as football or netball. "Characteristics consist of physical strength, agility, coordination, stamina, high-level of fitness, discipline, teamwork, grace, style and musical interpretation," Ms Longmore said. Latrobe City mayor Michael Rossiter confirmed the Latrobe City DanceSport highlighted the diversity of events in the region. "I have no doubt that our community will appreciate not only the grace of the sport, but the competitive edge and the level of fitness the dancers display," Cr Rossiter said.

Centenary House were grateful recipients of \$2,115 , \$1700 of which were proceeds from their raffle.

Latin dancers Daniel Ryan and Sherone Armel preparing for the 2016 Latrobe City DanceSport Classic. photograph bryan petts-jones

Improvements to Comfort

Many thanks to Darren Chester, who facilitated a grant to support Gippsland Rotary Centenary House from the Federal Government.

The grant was used for new blinds in the Stage 1 rooms to replacing the curtains, and recliner chairs for the lounges which can be used by our less mobile guests, and those who cannot, or are struggling to sit comfortably in conventional



COMING EVENTS

- East Gippsland Breakfast 5 April 2017 7.00am Eastwood Retirement Village— Rhonda Wheeldon 0428 149 358
- Latrobe City DFP Community Fun Run and Walk 5 March 2017 Kay St Traralgon—Details TBA
- DanceSport Victoria Classic June 2017

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.

MOTORING AROUND GIPPSLAND

Centenary House has been the happy recipient of donations from the proceeds of an auction held at the 2016 Vintage Motorcycle Rally, organised by the Velocette Owners Club of Australia, supported by Shannons Insurance, this November. The rally was based at our neighbours, The Century Inn, from which the vintage bikes gathered from all parts of Australia would sortie out to places such as Walhalla, Cowarr, Yarragon, Tarra Bulga Park and other local attractions. One of the items auctioned, attracting much interest, was a quilt featuring a vintage bike. Centenary House were honoured to receive \$755 from this and other items from the auction. Many thanks to the Club, and we hope that everyone enjoyed what Gippsland has to offer.



New Mobility For Guests

Centenary House is pleased to have received a donation from Members of the Easy Riders Motorcycle Club of a second mobility scooter to join the one previously given to Centenary House. Members from the club visited Centenary House on their bikes for the handover. The scooters are available for use by guests to go to and from the Latrobe Regional Hospital for their cancer treatment. The first scooter has been well used by patients and enables them to maintain their independence.



Many thanks for this most useful contribution



This Way To Centenary House

Thanks to Nak Signs and our volunteers we now have new signs pointing the way from Latrobe Regional Hospital to Centenary House. They will help our guests and visitors find the way to the House from the Hospital.

New Look Laundry

Once again we are grateful for all the support we receive from the Keith Chenhall Charitable Trust which allowed us to replace our much used and ageing washing machines and dryers in Stage 1. We were also able to treat our guests to enhanced viewing with the addition of large screen TV's in the rooms.

Keith Chenhall was born and bred in Traralgon. He has contributed much over the years to the community through Apex and as a parishioner and honorary lay canon at the Anglican Parish of St James. The Keith Chenhall Charitable Trust has donated in excess of \$220,000 to organisations in Traralgon since 2002. Mr Chenhall received an OAM "for service to the community of Traralgon" in 2014, before passing away aged 90. Trust advisory committee member Ian Keith said the trust was committed to ensuring Mr Chenhall's community spirit lived on. "All of the organisations we've given money to have been really worthy of the donation."

NEW LOOK COURTYARD FOR STAGE 1

We are grateful to the local Mormon churches for their contributions to the gardening at Centenary House this October. A Working Bee was organised to revitalise our courtyard gardens in Stage 1. A team of 36 people gathered to weed, mulch and prune, removing a lot of the straggly old growth which had accumulated, to leave an immaculate orderly and colourful



Courtyard garden before and after the Working Bee

area for all to enjoy.

GRCH committee of Management members were present to oversee the works and provide barbeque lunches for all the workers.



Timber and Forestry support Centenary House

A national Expo promoting Australia's Timber Industry was held in the Latrobe Valley for the first time in April. AUSTimber 2016 featured a schools program, a sustainability conference, public demonstrations of new methods and technologies, a wood chopping competition, and field trips.

One of the highlights of the event was the Welcome Dinner which was held at Kernot Hall. The night also featured a Charity Auction in aid of Gippsland Rotary Centenary House. Thanks to the hard work of the GRCH Fundraising Sub-committee, Karen Locandro (McNair Hurle Latrobe) & Austimber 2016 General Manager Laurie Martin there were some great items up for bidding & the night was a great success. Much appreciation & thanks must also go to the companies & individuals who so willingly donated the prizes.

MC David Foster (world champion axeman) & world leading auctioneer Adam Mountjoy encouraged the 450 guests to dig deep to support GRCH, and that is exactly what they did. The generosity of the people in the timber & forestry industry was exemplified when the total of \$26,750.00 was announced for the auction & a further \$ 2,039.00 was raised in a raffle on the night.

AFCA Chair Ian Reid said that GRCH were a "very worthwhile charity to support and what they are doing in supporting cancer patients and their families should be commended"

AUSTimber began in the 1970s with a focus on high tech equipment demonstrations in forest settings. With a new National Construction Code coming into play in May, Mr Martin said examples of potential advanced manufacturing ventures could lead the way for the future.

AUSTimber 2016 general manager Laurie Martin is predicting the Latrobe Valley could become a permanent home for the week-long



Past Fundraising Sub-committee secretary and treasurer Sue Elliot with World Champion axeman David Foster at the AUSTimber event

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House - DONATIONS

Title: _____ Full Name: _____
 Postal Address: _____ Post Code: _____
 e-mail address: _____
 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.

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\$ _____ VISA Mastercard

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

Paver Section Completed YES / NO

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 Gippslanders

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:** _____

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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:** _____

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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: _____

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

OFFER 4 Corporate Panel of Paver: A minimum corporate donation of \$2,500 may be acknowledged with a panel of 32 of pavers engraved with your company logo (approx. 900mm x 900 mm).
No. of panels requested: _____

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.

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: _____

Please complete and return this section to :

Gippsland Rotary Centenary House
39 Valley Drive
Traralgon VIC 3844