

recovery has resulted in tertiary AOD qualifications, to advocate and provide education in our integrated pathway of health service providers, including in schools, hospitals, and community health centres.

Many parishioners of both churches have also made personal donations.

Bairnsdale Seventh Day Adventist Church finalizes Lease

Board Member Tony Ward and the Seventh Day Adventist Church have finalised negotiation of the long term lease of the property on which our facility will be built at 455 Princes Highway, Lucknow, and a formal ceremony to mark the execution of the agreement will be held in the New Year.

ODYSSEY HOUSE LOWER PLENTY VISIT

East Gippsland Mayor Joins Group Visit

Peter Neal drove a bus load of co-Board Members, Panel Members and community representatives to visit the OHV residential rehabilitation facility at Lower Plenty in November and was greeted by Operations Manager Ian Lewis.

Prior to providing lunch for the visitors, Mr Lewis lead the party to a conference room, discussed the various aspects of the Odyssey multi-tiered program, answered questions and introduced three residents whose job it was to guide them through the main building, including the separated female and male rooms.

The visitors then split up and joined many other residents in the dining room for lunch and experiences before and since attending Odyssey House were freely discussed enlightening those who had not previously visited the facility.

After lunch, the visitors were shown through the crèche, chapel and various therapy and meetings rooms before moving to the family units and then the horticulture and livestock sections on the property.

An initially apprehensive Cr Rettino was most impressed with the facility in his first visit and appreciated his interaction with residents. He advised that he would be inviting his co-Councillors to visit Odyssey in the near future for them to gain a more in-depth knowledge of the Odyssey programs and experience that which will be occurring in the proposed Lucknow centre.



L-R: Aaron Foale, Rick Ross, Mel Rettino, Joe Rettino, Gaynor Rettino, Graham Bugbird (Education Panel), Ben Jacques, John Glynn (Board Member), Kat Foale (Education Panel), Richard Rijs (Patron & Board Member), Julie Glynn, Daniel Rijs, Henrie Ellis (Education Panel) (absent from photo still speaking with residents in the main building were Peter Neal (Board Member & Driver), Billy King and Arthur New)

INDEPENDENT ADVISORY PANELS

Professionals Join Forces

The Board has established two Panels, Health and Education, and both are steadily working to set their pathways for delivery of integrated services to support HRC and OHV. There will be more to report on their activities in the New Year as professionals integration develops.

WEBSITE

Full Version Published

You have no doubt visited our website by now. The addition of an integrated Donations Page will soon make contributions easier for both donors and HRC. Be an ambassador for our important project by circulating the address as widely as possible.

FACEBOOK

A Great Way to Communicate

Board member Julie Barling, in association with OHV, have taken charge of our Facebook Page to link common themes and messages with those of HRC as we build our partnership. Why not visit the Page and “like” it?

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION

Building Better Regions Fund

Darren Chester made us aware of potential additional Australian Government funding under this program and we lodged our application this month. The number of applications from Gippsland are expected to be high but we remain hopeful.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

East Gippsland Primary Care Partnership

A number of Forums were held by EGPCP in collaboration with the East Gippsland Council throughout the Shire during the year, with members of the Board attending at Bellevue Lakes Entrance in July, leading to the adoption in November of the “Partnering for Healthier and More Connected Communities in East Gippsland 2017-2021” Plan.

The Forums were funded by the Ice Task Force and education/awareness was identified across all sectors of attendees as the principal challenge facing many in Gippsland. This aligns with the objectives of the Education Professionals Advisory Panel.

A most successful culmination Forum was held on 5 December attended by 60 people including CEOs, community leaders, advisory partnership members, program staff, and advocacy groups covering family violence, reproductive health, alcohol and drug use, mental health, wellbeing, healthy eating and physical activity.

HRC was also represented at this Forum and we will report on the outcomes as they are published in the New Year.

PROJECT STATUS

Building Permit around the Corner

Much work has been put into the detailed construction and engineering plans at considerable cost to HRC and your efforts to assist in fundraising and those of our philanthropic phase have gained a high degree of importance.

Donations

Before the Donations Page on the website is up and going you or your friends and colleagues can make a much needed tax deductible donation at any branch of Bendigo Bank throughout Gippsland – BSB 633000 Account 157891169.

INTRODUCING ODYSSEY HOUSE VICTORIA

Replicating Lower Plenty - But Purpose Built

OHV traces its history to the first Odyssey House in New York in 1966. Its counterpart in Sydney, which started life as The James McGrath Foundation in 1977, is a stand-alone but allied organisation.

Its origins hark back to a cocktail party organized by Nigel Dick, Executive Chairman of the Victorian Broadcasting Network (later known as Southern Cross Broadcasting) with a who’s who guest list including golfer Peter Thompson, mining chief Sir Rod Carnegie, newspaper publisher Ranald Macdonald, hairdresser and socialite Lillian Frank, Supreme Court judge Justice Murray McInerney, several state politicians from both sides of parliament, union leader Ken Stone, and former Lord Mayor Ron Walker. Sydney Executive Officer, New Yorker Milton Luger also attended the function.

Five time winner of the British Open Peter Thompson was subsequently elected first chairman of a thirty six person committee, and in 1979 OHV operated temporarily from the former Salvation Army training college in East Melbourne.

The Lower Plenty property, a former Catholic seminary and was acquired in 1979 and opened its doors to residents in 1980.

OHV has worked conscientiously with HRC to arrive at a plan for the purpose built facility to provide similar services in Gippsland - an adult residential rehabilitation program like Lower Plenty with live-in treatment for individuals, couples and parents with their children (aged 0-12 years), to operate as a similar therapeutic community, with a values-based program to provide a structured environment where up to 112 residents and 30+ staff work will together to help people makes changes and choices on their pathway to recovery.

Other than making a donation, or pledging a donation, you can best help by writing your support to our local politicians Darren Chester and Tim Bull, both of whom are strong supporters of the Centre in deputations to their political and bureaucratic colleagues.