



JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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Executive:
Peter Down (Chair)
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Peter Neal
Tony Ward
Committee:
Julie Barling
David Pollard
Donna McDonald
Ricky Ross
Project Officer:
Margaret Down

2018 - The start of a **BIG** year



LAND SITE SECURED

Lease Agreement Exchanged

There has been a long and mutually beneficial liaison with land owner, Bairnsdale Seventh Day Adventist Church, for the use of a section of land on the Bairnsdale side of their property.

Final negotiation for lease of the land was short though, with the contract for a thirty five year lease with two options of ten years being signed in December 2017.

The contract has now been exchanged between representative solicitors.

GRANTS

Federal Government Commitment

You will already have read that local member and energetic supporter Darren Chester worked hard to secure a \$3m commitment from the Australian Government through the Community Development Grants Programme.

We are currently providing the Department of Infrastructure all the necessary information and documentation to allow release of these funds to enable commencement of the building phase.

Building Better Regions Fund

As previously reported Darren Chester made us aware of the Building Better Regions Fund and we are providing the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science with relevant information and documentation, and we are hopeful our application will soon be successful.

PROJECT STATUS

Building Permit

We are still finalising the detailed construction and engineering plans and expect our shovel ready project will quickly move to building commencement as soon as the major grant funds and philanthropic donations are made available.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

It is not just Social Media

Do visit us in our website and on Facebook. Maybe even "Like" us and share us with your friends and colleagues. Become an Ambassador for our project which will have an enormously beneficial social and economic impact within the region.

A big part of our new Pathway is awareness because this is how we intend working towards breaking down the stigma associated with alcohol and other drug rehabilitation.

Our Donations Page

This page on our website is operational and very easy. It accommodates all levels of donations, from small to big, from one off to regular. Why not give it a try?

www.hopecentre.asn.au/donate

If you prefer the manual version of donations you can make a much needed tax deductible donation at any branch of Bendigo Bank throughout Gippsland – BSB 633000 Account 157891169, with a suitable reference (perhaps your name) followed by notifying John Glynn of your details for the issue of a receipt.

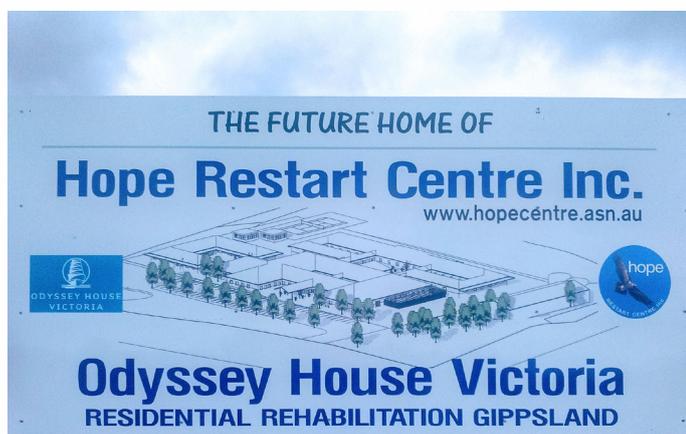
ODYSSEY HOUSE LOWER PLENTY - THE NEXT VISIT

Seeing is believing

The Board has undertaken a number of group visits by bus to Odyssey House Lower Plenty over the past seven months. Selected residents show visitors throughout the operation and openly answer all manner of questions about the multi-tiered program and even their own experiences.

Lunch is provided amongst all the residents before being 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.

Contact John Glynn if you are interested in joining the next visit in April 2018 to discuss your involvement.



THE SITE SIGN IS UP

Prominent Site Sign has been donated

As with many aspects of our project, local support has already been quite generous in monetary and in-kind donations.

The site sign to the right was prepared and donated by SWF Group Bairnsdale and quite a number of people have noticed it and commented favourably on its prominence. All we need to do now is start building.

GIPPSLAND LAUNCH OF PHILANTHROPIC PHASE

Upcoming Function

Plans are afoot and invitations are soon to go out for the formal fundraising launch of our Gippsland Philanthropic Phase with a function on Wednesday night 21 March 2018. The invitation only dinner at the Bairnsdale racing Club has a target of \$1.5m for Gippsland.

The Board has been working with Odyssey in identifying philanthropic entities supporting this space for a few months with quite some favourable interest from a number of generous potential donors.

Whilst the Board has received donations of more than \$180k to date much of these funds have been allocated or earmarked for necessary development expenses.

OUR OBJECTIVE

To advance mental and physical health, education, vocational opportunities, and social welfare for substance abuse clients, to reconnect with family, community and sports utilising qualified professionals and to educate community awareness, tolerance and compassion.

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.