



CARING FRIENDS

W I N T E R 2 0 2 2 N E W S L E T T E R

Ryder-Cheshire Victorian Homes Foundation Inc.
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GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The first half of 2022 has seen a safe return of our country residents who are enjoying the benefits of the building renovations. The updated en-suites, laundry, new kitchenettes and fit-out in Building 14 provides increased comfort and a more modern amenity. It is pleasing to report that we are three quarters of the way to completing the renovations of all three buildings with Building 12 anticipated to be open by August. Thank you to the many people, past residents and organisations who have donated and assisted to make all this possible.

Unfortunately, we have some sad news. We recently learned of the passing of Barbara Temby in May 2022. Barbara served on the Ivanhoe Homes Committee for some 30 years. Barbara throughout her life, was an active participant in the local community serving on the City of Heidelberg Council using her knowledge of local rules and bylaws to assist the Homes. Barbara held many other official positions but her central focus was on people, listening to their needs and assisting them wherever and whenever she could. Widely known in the local community, Barbara will be very much missed. We offer our condolences to Andrew, David and Helen and their families.

Christmas will never be the same! Leo Jones our regular Santa at the annual Christmas Lunch passed away unexpectedly on 31 March 2022. Leo with his wife Nola were amazing volunteer weekend Resident Carers over many years. Not only weekends, Leo and Nola would take on the role for periods of weeks allowing Jane to take some well-deserved leave. Leo was instantly recognisable as he was always accompanied by his other

long-term partners, Guide Dogs Mollie and more recently Wilby. Leo and Nola were forever grateful to Houseparent Sr Mary Myers, who in 1999, first accepted them with their dog Mollie to stay at the Homes.

Leo made a perfect Santa. Wearing his festive hat and having a red sack full of gifts, he was a great entertainer making everyone feel welcome while Nola prepared and organised the Christmas Lunch. Never short of anything to say, Leo showed empathy with other residents and their circumstances while he too managed his own disability being legally blind. Many a past resident and all at the Homes were very saddened to hear of his passing. We extend our sincere sympathy to Nola and thank them both for their wonderful contribution and dedication as a team to the Ivanhoe Homes over a great number of years.

Our Staff

Sandra our Manager and Committee Member joined us just over a year ago and is an invaluable member of both teams. Sandra, despite the challenges of renovations and Covid-19 lockdowns has kept the Homes running like clockwork while maintaining the safety of all at the Homes.

Leila, our Assistant Manager, has been a great back up and committed to assisting the residents in all their needs. Their work is much appreciated.



▲ Autumn garden



▲ Labyrinth after the 1st garden working bee

his administration skills assisting the reception staff. Iwan, a man of many talents during his working day, is also an able volunteer for the Homes after hours.

Volunteers

We have in the last six months seen an increase in volunteers. In particular, the gardens have been receiving attention from a diverse range of volunteers and looking all the better for it. New volunteers are most welcome to help with a range of activities, please contact Sandra on the office number to find out further details.

Maintenance

Our maintenance manager Don keeps his vigilant eye on the maintenance requirements of the Homes and any repair work in progress. Invariably there is always something in need of attention. To further improve safety, railings are soon to be installed at the rear of Building 14 similar to those at the front entrance.

Resident Carers

Occero and Talal are nearing the end of their studies. They continue to manage the reception desk at weekends and are on call overnight. Nick, whilst waiting for the right permanent position, is sharpening



▲ Nick, Occero and Talal
▲ Ann, Jane, Brenda and Barbara at our 30 years celebration



PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Donations

Our Caring Friends Newsletter continues to generate a number of donations from readers, past residents and supporters including Australian Philanthropic Services, Toorak Uniting Church Op Shop, Robinvale Community Aid Op Shop and Coomealla Sporting Club. We have also received some generous bequests which are very much appreciated. All donations and bequests are very welcome. A donation slip is on the back page of this newsletter.

In closing, many thanks to our staff, Resident Carers and volunteers for their continued contributions to the Homes. Thank you to the Committee and various sub-committee members for their hard work and support during the past 6 months. We are finally reaching our goal of providing a comfortable and improved resident experience in all buildings at the Homes, whilst importantly retaining the "Home Away From Home" atmosphere.

We wish everyone well for the next financial year and stay safe.

Peter Overton

MANAGER'S REPORT

The Christmas spirit was alive and well, with Iwan and Joy ensuring the Homes looked festive and welcoming with our decorations. Whilst it was a quiet period with only minimal rooms occupied, we provided all our residents with a Christmas meal, dessert, and flowers (flowers were kindly donated to us by Nola, a local resident).

The start of 2022 was a bumpy ride with Covid-19 cases escalating in Victoria due to the Omicron variant, fortunately residents and staff managed to remain safe. Throughout 2022 we have maintained a COVIDsafe plan which includes all residents and staff being vaccinated, additional cleaning, and masks worn indoors. Thank you to everyone for their continued support and ensuring we remain a safe environment for all.

Building 12 renovations got into full swing and will be completed on schedule and ready for residents to move in by August. We are excited to see the transformation and look forward to having our rooms available, as occupancy has been increasing steadily during the year.

We continue to look at new initiatives to make our rooms more comfortable for our residents. A trial set up in a couple of rooms with doona and doona covers on the beds is underway. If deemed successful, then this initiative will be rolled out when we open Building 12. We look forward to receiving feedback from our residents and welcome any other ideas they may have to make their stay more restful.



On Friday 27 May 2022 we were fortunate to have a team from Bristol Myers Squibb come along and continue the gardening tasks – raking, weeding, pruning and ensuring the endless dropping leaves were off pathways. Melanie, Pam, Clare, Roberta, Steph, Liza and Jose filled the green bins and did a brilliant job.

We would also like to make mention of the following volunteers in 2022 – Emma who came and did a couple of hours gardening. Alexis and Cassandra, students from ACU who helped with laundry, cleaning, organising community room items and office duties. Jayden for assembling flat packs, blowing down paths and general maintenance. Terry and Anne who assist in the office and Sandra who is invaluable in her account's role.

Whilst they have not been able to meet on site our "Card ladies" Liz, Anne and Lois continue to make greetings cards which are so popular with the residents and staff alike.

Thank you to everyone who continues to assist and volunteer their time, without you we could not make Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Homes such a welcoming place for our residents.

While we have welcomed new volunteers over the last 6 months, we would like to recognise the hard work and commitment of staff, volunteers and contractors that have moved on to new endeavours. We thank and wish them all the best.

Liz who was part of our cleaning team left early December 2021 to return to a full-time catering role, we wish her all the best and hope she is enjoying her passion for cooking.

Michael who completed volunteer repair person duties for many years retired in March 2022, with his last project of painting the entrance stairs making a real difference to the appearance of the Homes.

Guy, our horticulturist for 16 years resigned in February 2022. We would like to thank Guy for his knowledge and dedication in making the gardens an enjoyable place for residents to sit and relax.

From our team here at Ryder-Cheshire, we hope you stay healthy and well over the winter months.

Ryder-Cheshire Management & Resident Carers – Sandra, Leila, Iwan, Nick, Talal and Occero.



On Wednesday 23 February 2022 we welcomed back for the first time in 2 years a group of volunteers for a garden working bee. Through the Friends of Eaglemont Village – John, Bev, Judith, Pippa, and Steve did a wonderful job of cleaning up the Labyrinth area of the garden for a couple of hours in the morning before it hit 32 degrees.

During the April school holidays, Carmen, Elyssa, Hannah, and Caitlin from Heathgrove Study Centre in Hawthorn came along to help prune, rake, and replant, making a stark difference to the front entrance garden beds.

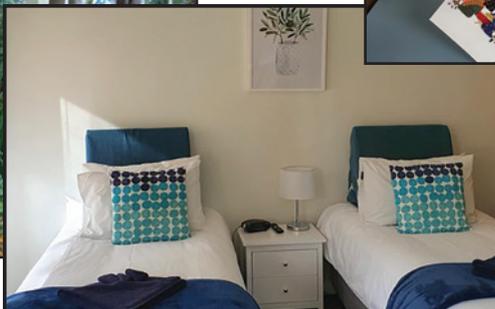


▲ Heathgrove Study Centre students
◀ Iwan with Joy, part of our cleaning team



▲ Mulch movers - Kath, Jen, Cindy and Hayden

Resident flowers
Christmas Day
Trial room -
doona & doona
covers.



MEMORIES OF LEO JONES

Angie a past Ivanhoe Homes manager reminisces: "My larrikin mate Leo."

My reflections of a larrikin bloke that had a huge personality and a lot of love to share.

Leo grew up in Port Melbourne with his two sisters, and even as a young bloke had a knack for trouble. He often regaled me with stories of his mate Apples and himself wagging school and getting up to no good. One such venture ended up with Leo losing a finger, I think in his mates Dad's workshop, and upon his Mum locating him in the local hospital he received a "clip over the ear" for his troubles. This story of course is what I gleaned to be true, however, as Leo had 101 differing stories on how he lost his finger I've never been entirely sure if this was in fact the real one! From losing his digit to a shark bite, crocodile battle, getting it stuck up his nose and several other grisly tales he had a tall tale for all leaning in for a Leo yarn.

My own life and Leo's intertwined in some weird ways. Leo and Nola managed and lived at Waranga Basin Boat club caravan park where as a kid my family camped and sailed for many, many years. My great aunt and uncle regularly camped in Southport Qld, at the same caravan park as Nola and Leo, and became mates. And then I applied for and got the job at Ryder-Cheshire Homes only to find Leo and Nola again. Leo and I also loved to reminisce about Port Melbourne where I'd been based in the Navy and Leo had grown up recalling hanging out at the same local haunts.

Several times a year and nearly all my Christmas times at Ryder I had the privilege of working beside Leo, Nola and firstly Mollie and then Wilby. I would watch and listen in awe how Leo would chat and quickly strike up a friendship with new residents, immediately making them feel at ease. The PTSD residents were often drawn to Leo and his guide dog, letting down their guards, lying on the floor with Mollie or Wilby and just enjoying hanging out with a totally non-judgemental, self-deprecating soul.

I was welcomed to their home in Shep' several times where they had moved to a unit within the grounds of the Blind Institute after Leo's sight had deteriorated to a point that he could no longer work at Waranga Basin. And enjoyed another visit at their camp setup in Bendigo one Easter, but wherever we met up, Leo was always the life of the party. Everybody knew him or at the very least knew of him. Leo

made his disability a superpower, charming all that stopped to pat his guide dog.

Whenever I needed help both professionally and personally, Leo and Nola would always be there, lending a hand, a hug, an ear and of course a yarn. My own family were always embraced into the Jones fold and each conversation ended with a "luv ya, mate" and "give my love to Chris and the girls."

It was my family's privilege in turn to lend Leo a hand when he needed it. My Dad put up his hand to drive Leo, Nola and Wilby down from Shep' for Leo's latest big op – both Leo and my Dad expressed their concerns as to my Dad's known quietness given such a long trip in a car but afterwards both regaled of the great time had as they had yacked away so much that they had arrived before they knew it.

On what was to be our final trip together from Port Melbourne to Warrigal Hospital Leo told me about he and his mates jumping the fence to watch 'the bloods' at south Melbourne footy ground and later getting into a fight which meant he got himself into a bit of a bother. We hugged at the hospital, setting plans for his post-op pick up and after a "luv ya mate", off he was wheeled, chatting with a nurse about comparing tats.

Leo lived a large life as a larrikin, he was devoted to Nola and his mates and would do anything for you. He was the epitome of love.

Angie



VALE BARBARA TEMBY

Committee Member 1983 – 2013

Sadly, Barbara passed away at Benetas Residential Aged Care Heidelberg in early May 2022. Barbara was an active member of the Ryder-Cheshire Homes Committee for 30 years.

A Heidelberg (now Banyule) Councillor from 1981 -1987 Barbara became a volunteer in many spheres. For over 40 years, Barbara sat on numerous boards, including the Austin Hospital and was involved with countless groups including her local church and Girl Guides. Also appointed to the position of volunteer Bail Justice, she was responsible for out of hours bail hearings, and was a Justice of the Peace. Barbara was deeply involved with the Spastic Society (Scope Victoria) and a sheltered workshop in Heidelberg. She also spent time visiting Mont Park psychiatric hospital to chat with patients, listening to their needs and concerns, many of whom had few contacts or supports.

Barbara was a leading light in the local community a well-known and respected identity. Her thoughts on care and the caring role are captured in the Seniors Online broadcast: Recognising Seniors Online 19: Barbara Temby. To listen to Barbara's broadcast, follow the hyperlink below.

<https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/Recognising-senior-Victorians/articles/Barbara-Temby>



▲ Nola, Leo & Mollie



▲ Mollie at Christmas Lunch



◀ Leo and Wilby
Leo - head of table at Christmas lunch



▲ Leo, Nola, Mollie with fellow Resident Carers



◀ Leo, Nola, Angie Annette & Bronwen Volunteer Lunch



FRIENDS OF EAGLEMONT VILLAGE - MONTHLY GARDEN WORKING BEES

Following an initial working bee in February, ongoing monthly garden bees developed. These have been an enormous success. The Friends of Eaglemont cohort including John, Steve, Judith, Pippa, Gill, and Mike have helped immensely with their gardening knowledge and experience. Thank you to Gill and Colin for organising and delivering free mulch. Another team of Garden Volunteers - Kath, Jen, Cindy, and Hayden assisted in moving the first batch of mulch onto the garden beds in no time at all, and what a difference it made! Friends of Eaglemont Village is a local community group who work towards developing a stronger community. Their objectives include but not limited to, creating a more environmentally responsive and aesthetically pleasing natural environment, protecting local heritage and building a more resilient community. Their President is John Walkley.

In support of this hard-working group, Anna from CWA has provided delicious home baked cakes for the Garden Working Bees and a slice of cake and tea is thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you, Anna.



AROUND & ABOUT TONGALA & DISTRICT

Continuing our regular series...Tongala is a dairy farming community in the Goulburn Valley Region of Victoria in the Shire of Campaspe, about 25km from Echuca. Like many country towns it has its own unique history and sense of community. Tongala has strong links to World War I and is listed on the Murray River War Trail. Along with displays of street art and being part of the Hale Bale Trail there is much of interest for the visitor.



▲ Welcome to Tongala



▲ Light Horseman returning from the last fated ride

After World War I rural blocks were available for sale under the 'soldier-settler' scheme. One soldier settler was John McEwan who later became Prime Minister of Australia. Purchasing land, he married a local, Anne McLeod in 1921

In 2003 a monument to the 24 Australian Light horse regiments and their horses was unveiled on the shire lawns by Maurice Watson. Maurice was the last Light Horseman to enlist from Tongala. In 2010 the Cavalry Wall Memorial (Vietnam) was built to honour the men of the Cavalry that served in Vietnam 1965 to 1972. A pathway showing footprints of a Light Horseman



links the two memorials, symbolising the journey over the years, from the former Light Horse, leaving the deserts of north Africa and the Middle East, to arriving at the modern-day era: mechanised Cavalry.

Unfortunately, in 2019 Nestle a large local employer announced the closure of its Tongala milk and food processing plant due to changes in consumer demand and increased competition from cheaper

imports. Despite the march of time and change the community spirit continues. The history of the dairy industry and Tongala can be seen on walls around the town in the 'Tongala Murals' painted by local artist Murray Ross and well worth a viewing.

Sources: online community group articles
Teresa Overton



Tongala's amazing rurals ▶



CARING FRIENDS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

Instead of receiving a hard copy, we can send it to you via email. Simply call our office and provide your email address, or go to www.rydercheshire.org.au and follow the links. Thank you.

REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS SUSPENDED

Get-togethers for a chat over morning or afternoon tea, monthly art and craft group and musical entertainment have been suspended. Please look out for notifications from our front office when these are expected to resume.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you have time a few hours a week to assist at the Homes or act as Resident Carer over a weekend we'd love to hear from you! No pre-requisite skills required. For all enquires please call (03) 9254 2400.

DONATION

Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Homes (ABN 94 074 894 677) receives no government funding and is financed entirely through its own efforts and the generous support of Caring Friends.

Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible

Visit www.rydercheshirehomes.org.au to donate via *PayPal*

If you would like to make a donation, please fill in the form and send it to the address below:

RCVHF Inc. 10-14 Donaldson Street
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