



CARING FRIENDS

W I N T E R 2 0 2 4 N E W S L E T T E R

Ryder-Cheshire Victorian
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GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Time really does seem to fly, and now here we are in the middle of 2024 already! I hope that you all had a happy summer holiday season and Easter break and have also been enjoying some of the glorious autumn weather lately.

During this time, we have been really busy at the Homes with many nights being fully booked, and with cleaning, maintenance and other often unforeseen tasks keeping our whole team busy. In March we were delighted that two of our guests celebrated their wedding at the Homes. This was the first wedding at the Homes, and we wish Jessie and Scott every happiness in their life together. You can read more about their wedding in the article they have written for this issue of Caring Friends.

Also in March, it was a great pleasure to welcome back Tony Cole and his son Campbell. Tony was a member of the Committee of Management when the Homes were established over forty years ago and served in the role of treasurer for several years. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Tony and all the others who did so much to establish the Homes, and it was a pleasure to show Tony and Campbell around so that they could see how the Homes have continued to develop over the years.

The 100 Year Anniversary of the birth of Lady Sue Ryder of Warsaw.

This year we will commemorate the centenary of the birth of Lady Sue Ryder of Warsaw, who was born in North Yorkshire in England on the 3rd July 1924.

Lady Ryder and her husband Lord Leonard Cheshire of Woodall are the founders and inspiration for the many Ryder-Cheshire Homes around the world, including the Homes in Ivanhoe. Their lives, including their service in World War II and their subsequent humanitarian work, were truly inspirational. It is interesting to note that there has been some confusion about the exact year of her birth as, like so many others, Lady Ryder may have given an earlier date when she applied to join the war effort in Britain, while still under age.

Lady Ryder had a sprig of rosemary as her personal emblem and said this was to remember all those who died in the two world wars in the defence of human values, and all who continue to suffer as a result of persecution, hunger and disease. Here at the Homes, we are planting a special area of rosemary in the garden and planning to then have a small gathering to celebrate Lady Ryder's wonderful life.



▲ Rosemary sprig
◀ Lady Sue Ryder



◀ Anthea Swann

▼ Barrie and Val celebrating on another occasion



In more recent news we congratulate Barrie Williams Secretary of the Home's Committee of Management on receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday Honours List for service to the law and to the community. Further congratulations go to Anthea Swann member of the Ryder-Cheshire Victoria committee who also received an OAM for service to the community. Well-deserved Barrie and Anthea!!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Our Team

We are extremely fortunate to have an excellent team of people at the Homes led by our manager Sandra and deputy manager Leila and including our cleaning staff and volunteers. Sandra provides our team members with a thorough induction and training process as well as access to training given by external first aid, and fire and emergency evacuation providers.

Recently this training was put to the test when a serious medical event happened at the Homes and three of our post graduate student volunteers who were onsite that night responded very quickly and efficiently. The resident involved was safely conveyed to hospital by ambulance, and we are very proud of our team members involved in this incident.

It takes a really dedicated group of people to keep the Homes running 24 hours a day, every day of the year. I would like to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of them. Their work truly contributes toward the Ryder-Cheshire goal of the relief of suffering.

Donations

The rising cost of living is now making it hard for many people, so more than ever, we are really grateful for every donation given to support the Homes. Our primary

source of income at the Homes is accommodation revenue. As an independent, not-for-profit organization we do not receive financial assistance from either the State or Federal government, or from any hospitals. This means that donations and the work of volunteers are very important in helping us to continue to provide affordable, safe and comfortable accommodation for people from rural areas of Victoria and from interstate, who need to attend hospitals in Melbourne. Thank you to all our very thoughtful and generous individual donors and support groups.

Also, thanks to our Senior Vice-President Don who has spent considerable time and effort lately writing to relevant members of parliament and government departments, advocating for review of the rates of reimbursement available to country patients under the Victorian patient travel and accommodation scheme. We align our room rates at the Homes to the amount of reimbursement that patients can claim from the equivalent scheme in their home state. Our comparisons indicate that the rate for Victorians is now relatively low compared to other states and has not increased for several years. It is great that Don is pursuing this important issue.



▲ Our Team celebrating Hoa's graduation

In Conclusion

Our gardens have been looking quite lovely and full of autumn colour lately. The gardens suffered during the recent renovations, but they have really bounced back with some generous assistance from Friends of Eaglemont working bees along with cooler weather and some good rain. Many people comment on the gardens how they add a peaceful and happy atmosphere to the Homes, so we are including some photos in this edition for you all to enjoy.

As the colder weather sets in, please take care and stay warm! And again, many thanks to all of you for supporting the Homes in so many different ways.

With thanks and best wishes to you all,
Kathy Oswin.

WEDDING AT THE HOMES

On Tuesday 26th March 2024 we hosted an incredibly special event. Our wonderful residents, Jess and Scott got married! It was a beautiful day and what a privilege to be part of this joyous occasion and be able to celebrate with them.

JESS – OUR WEDDING DAY

When we discovered the Quiet Room at Ryder-Cheshire, we thought it was such a lovely, peaceful room. After several months of deteriorating health on my part, Scott and I decided to bring our marriage forward and make it a day just about us. I mentioned the Quiet Room would be a lovely place to

get married, an intimate and quiet space and that is exactly what we got. When we approached Sandra and asked her if it would be possible, her and the entire team at the Homes went above and beyond to make our day extra special. We were joined by a few close friends from Tasmania and locally and were treated again by the Homes to a delicious lunch and cake all beautifully decorated in the community room.



We are incredibly grateful to have been given this opportunity and for the kindness shown to us, not only on our special day, but throughout our entire stay. Thank you ever so much!

**Mr and Mrs Scott and Jess
Wotherspoon-Huw**



▲ In the labyrinth
▲ Terry, Scott, Jess
and Sandra



▲ Rings and roses
▲ Cutting the
wedding cake

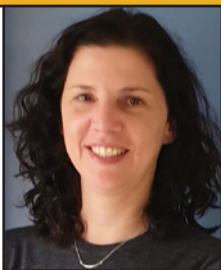


MANAGER'S REPORT

We have had an incredibly busy 2024, with bookings up on last year. We continue to have high occupancy and many of those who stay with us are here for a number of weeks. We appreciate the positive feedback on the rooms and facilities and are always looking to improve the experience for those staying with us.

Our volunteers are an integral part of the Homes and we have been pleased to welcome Tess, Mel, and Kaye in 2024, with their help we have updated the information folders in each room, completed room and storeroom inventories and equipment checks.

Friends of Eaglemont have continued their garden working bees, with morning tea generously provided by CWA. The Sunday afternoon teas hosted by Patricia and Christine are extremely popular and thoroughly enjoyed by those who attend. Terry and Ann are welcome additions to the office on a Thursday and Friday, respectively.



The Student Volunteers have been busy. Hoa had her parents visit from Vietnam, they had a wonderful week exploring Melbourne and regional Victoria, along with Hoa's graduation ceremony and birthday celebrations. Kingsley enjoyed his summer break and spent some time hiking at the Grampians, he has now commenced his third year of studies. Occero and Bahgeha are in their final year of studies and are about to commence their respective placements.



▲ Mel updating room folders

With the generous donations received we have completed the garden lighting upgrade and also new handrails have been installed on all the outside stairs. We are looking to upgrade the balcony chairs as we come into the warmer months.

Our cleaning team of Iwan, Joy, Pornchanok and Bahgeha continue to do an outstanding job ensuring the rooms and public areas are of the highest standards. The feedback from the guests is always so positive and complimentary.

All the best wishes for the remainder of 2024 from Sandra, Leila, Iwan, Occero, Hoa, Kingsley and Bahgeha.



▲ Friends of Eaglemont
▶ Working bee – planting of rosemary



I was fortunate to take annual leave in January and met up with my family from Scotland in Vietnam. We all had an amazing holiday and thoroughly enjoyed the culture, food, and beautiful weather. The Vietnamese people are so welcoming, and I look forward to returning in the future.

Leila and Iwan are looking forward to an extended break in August, where they will escape the Melbourne winter and return to Indonesia to catch up with friends and family.



▲ Leaping for joy
▶ Hoa with parents



SNIPPETS

We value your feedback and comments, here are some recent comments:

"Amazing to have such a wonderful place to stay. Ryder-Cheshire has aided my recovery an untold amount. Thank you."

"Staff are always welcoming and friendly even when calling to book. Would highly recommend to anyone who needs to travel for medical treatment."

"I must say again how much I appreciate the service you guys provide, it allowed us the ability to concentrate in what is important without the stress of organising nightly stays and relying on friends. The process was seamless and stress free."

... and Google reviews:

"The Ryder-Cheshire, what can I say, not only is it close to the hospital, it's nice, clean & quiet."

"A perfect set up for patients and their carer's."

"The reception staff are beautiful people, very welcoming."

"5★ from my mother and me ☺"

"If you find yourself in Victoria requiring Austin Hospital close accommodation, then look no further. The Ryder-Cheshire offers clean & super quiet home comfortable rooms with the most friendliest and helpful staff."

"Excellent service from staff on arrival and all the time whilst there."

HOA - MY GRADUATION

The journey was long, but the destination was worth every moment. I can't express enough gratitude for

my parents, who travelled over 8 hours to be with me on my special day. Mom was so beautiful in the Vietnamese traditional costume. Surrounded by the love of my wonderful family, the guidance of supportive teachers, and the companionship of amazing friends, my graduation day at Latrobe University was absolutely unforgettable.

AROUND & ABOUT CASTERTON

Our residents live all around Victoria and further afield. In this edition Casterton is the feature town.

Casterton is halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide on the Glenelg River and the Glenelg Highway. It is an historic rural centre servicing a large pastoral, mixed farming timber-producing district. Casterton's main Henty Street showcases a multitude of buildings, displaying the rich history of the town. The town most famously is the birthplace of the Kelpie, Australia's national working dog. Opened in 2018 the Australian Kelpie Centre provides

an interesting history of the foundation of the breed. The original pup known as 'Kelpie' was born in 1871, her parents were a pair of imported black and tan Collies from Scotland.

The Centre along with the Community Museum has many historical records and artefacts. A good way to see the town's heritage buildings, flora and fauna is to walk

the Kelpie Walking Trail. With three routes, one through the town, the other extended to include the River Red Gums and thirdly, the River Walking Trail on the Glenelg River.

The Australian Kelpie Muster held over the King's Birthday long weekend, draws hundreds of visitors to the town. Activities to be enjoyed, include working displays and auctions of some of the world's finest dogs of the breed. In 2021 kelpie Eulooka Hoover sold at a record price of \$35,200!

If you're a dog lover, or a bit of a history buff and enjoy walking, the picturesque town of Casterton has it all.



▲ Jack Gleeson
owner of
Kelpie

► Kelpie Centre



▲ Post Office 1910



▲ Old Courthouse
opened 1875

► Casterton Hotel
Henty Street



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

We are gradually resuming social events albeit slowly, with the health and safety of our residents uppermost in our planning. Please look contact our office staff for the latest information on any events.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you have a few spare hours a week to assist at the Homes we'd love to hear from you. Should you have skills in general maintenance, odd jobs etc these would also be more than welcome. For all enquiries 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
IVANHOE VIC 3079

Amount \$ _____

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