

LIONS HOUSE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 30, Ivanhoe, Victoria. 3079

Chairman's Update

September 2010

The new financial year has arrived and the Foundation is very grateful for the support of the many Lions and Lioness Clubs with their generosity and consideration in making donations through their end of year disbursements. With these and the contributions made during the year, the donations received totalled over \$50,000.

Thank you to all Clubs concerned

"Exciting News for Lions House"

As we mentioned in the May update, the Foundation had been given notice to vacate its original interim facilities due to the redevelopment work about to start where it was located.

After considerable effort a new facility has been located and secured and "Lions House" relocated there in early June. The change is that the new facility for us is one property with the ability to provide 7 rooms for accommodation. The new facility is a similar distance to the hospital but on the Eaglemont side of the complexes.

The move to the new site was a real effort. To ensure there was minimum disruption to the residents, the move took place over one Friday evening and Saturday morning. We were very grateful for the assistance provided by members from the Heidelberg-Warringal, Melton, Nunawading and South Vermont Lions Clubs who carried out the move without incident. It was a big task but very capably managed by PDG Arthur Uren. I think all those who assisted really needed a rest after the effort!!!!

The single facility will be easier to manage, although it has one less room than the original units, it does have a better atmosphere and facilities for the residents. Because it is a single accommodation facility, in a residential area, it provides much better family options for those with

younger children accompanying parents. There is a safe yard and playing equipment and a small local park just down the road.



Picture of the front of the new "Lions House" interim facility

In the summer months, it will give the residents more of an opportunity to be outside with a paved courtyard area to relax around. We propose to provide some outdoor furniture and a BBQ so that residents can make the most of this new facility.

The management of such a facility takes time and effort and the Foundation, together with the many families that stay at Lions House are very grateful to PDG Pauline Harris for her work. Pauline while looking after the accommodation aspects is also the Secretary of the Foundation and works tirelessly in managing sure that the facility functions properly and all the needs of the residents are met.

The liaison with all hospitals is a key factor in meeting the needs of both the Foundation and the residents. We need to continually review the operations and make the necessary changes to rules and regulations of tenancy to ensure the

facility operates effectively and meets everyone's needs.

Discussions continue with the Austin Hospital Management regarding location and building of the permanent facility. Last newsletter provided a draft plan that is now before the Board for review and agreement. Further meetings are scheduled with the Austin to discuss the longer term ownership and management operations of the proposed facility.

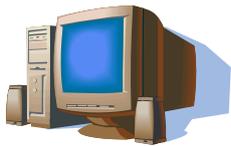
["Lions House Foundation Website"](#)

Just in case you didn't know the updated Lions House Website was officially re-launched at our Annual General Meeting in October 2009.

Please visit our site at www.lionshouse.com.au

We can be contacted by e-mail at:

contact@lionshouse.com.au



["Lions House" - Building Development](#)

With the first draft of plans being considered, the next very significant item is funding.

We have started to review options available to us to increase the funding support required to meet the financial need of building.

A formal proposal has been completed and is being submitted to the Victorian Government through the Minister for Health seeking their support towards the Lions House Foundation. The Foundation supports the Government's Rural and Regional Health care by providing this very needed facility and on that basis we are approaching them to discuss our needs and what they are prepared to do in support.

Once we are in a position to understand any commitments they are prepared to make to us, we will then be able to localise the fund raising strategy and commence the larger task of raising the residual funds required to build.

There are a number of options available to us with this new plan. It could be undertaken on a staged basis where the initial infrastructure and number of units could be built and then pending further financial support stage two could be completed.

The overall aim would be to build the total complex in one stage but reality must come into the process and us be able to operate the best way possible.

["Interim Lions House Facilities"](#)

Management of the Lions House facility is a busy role and we are always looking for assistance to build up a volunteer group than can help.

In the past 12 months, the Interim facilities have been home to over 107 individuals or families staying for periods of a few nights to over three months. During the past 4 years it has seen over 400 individuals or family members stay. This only supports and proves that this is a very needed facility in the area that supports our country families not just from Victoria but other interstate areas.

As we all know, a project like this with so many changing aspects takes time, but we are determined that with this accelerated planning and new options to work with we will see some positive results in the near future.

In the meantime, the most important thing for us is to support those families and individuals that need our assistance.... You too can help us if you can.....

If you have some spare time and would be interested to help with the administration, volunteer to welcome and greet guests, undertake some maintenance and gardening...we would welcome your enquiry. Please contact Secretary Pauline (0411 134 165) if you would like some more information.... We welcome any support you can give.

["Annual General Meeting"](#)

The AGM of the Lions House Foundation will be held on Monday evening 11th October 2010, commencing at 7.30pm

The meeting will be convened in the Acacia Room, Repatriation Hospital, Heidelberg. The Acacia Room, can be accessed through Gate 8, Waterdale Road, Heidelberg West. Parking is available throughout the complex.

If you would like to attend, please contact – Secretary Pauline Harris (0411 134 165) to confirm and assist with catering arrangements.

**Please send your donations to:
Lions House Foundation Inc.
P.O. Box 30, Ivanhoe Victoria 3079.**