



Friends of Fernlea

April 2010 Edition

Meet our new Committee of Management



L-R: Jenni Williams, Rod Brown, Jenny Lyndon, Helen Pike, Bob Farrow, Jenny Jackson, Anne Carter, Joe Verrill

Here we all are – the first full Committee of Fernlea House INC. for many a year! This picture was taken at the Strategic Planning Day held by the Committee in January.

Since then Jenni Williams has had to leave us – she got a new job and had to devote all her attention to that. Jenni made an excellent contribution to the Committee for the short time she was a member and we thank her sincerely. Helen Pike has also left the Committee to take up the Interim Manager role, so we're back to six.

Rod Brown is President. He's known to all and he's also Fernlea's Grief and Bereavement

Counsellor. Rod has had decades of experience in running meetings and we've been the beneficiary of his skill. Rod creates a space where people can think together.

Joe Verrill is Treasurer – a role he's been working in for a couple of years now. He's the longest-serving Committee member and is ensuring our finances are in great shape. ...thanks Joe!

Bob Farrow attends Fernlea regularly as one of its complementary therapists, and has put his hand up to run the Fund-raising sub-Committee, which is much appreciated.

Anne Carter joined the Committee at the last AGM. She has a background in social work and is currently working on her Masters Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Anne has been particularly helpful with policy writing which is critical as Fernlea must work to be compliant with the National Respite for Carers Program which funds the House.

Jenny Jackson is our newest member. Her day job is running Women's Health East and you would think that would be enough for a career woman and mother of two! She volunteered to join the Fernlea Committee through the 'Our Community' website and we couldn't be more delighted to have her. Jen brings her current management expertise to her role at Fernlea and it is very helpful to have the experience of another health provider available to us.

I'm in the picture somewhere – former volunteer at Fernlea, sometime Interim Manager, and now Vice President and Acting Secretary. There's a couple of roles I haven't done at Fernlea yet – I was trained in Memoirs, but I've never had time to actually write one; and I've never helped in the garden!

If you would like to give us a hand on the Committee it would be much appreciated. Please call Jenny Lyndon 5968 6794.

Jenny Lyndon



Happenings at the House

Hello everyone,

Welcome to 2010 and I hope that it is a wonderful year for everyone.

What a lot has happened in the first three months of the year at the House. It was with great sadness that we farewelled Rhonda O'Neill, Manager and Jody Hauser, Leisure and Lifestyle Coordinator at the end of February. We thank them for the amazing amount of work that they did on behalf of our guests, carers and Fernlea House and wish them happiness and joy for the future.

As an interim measure, the Committee of Management were kind enough to offer me (Helen Pike) the opportunity to return as the Intentional Interim Manager – a role I commenced at the end of February. I have been given a number of set priorities to focus on and it is expected that I will be here for 3 months. I have spent the first month trying to catch up with all that has happened and continue the excellent work that Rhonda commenced on our compliance for DoHA.

There have been a number of updates to the house with the carpet being replaced, another office created where the bedroom was, IT upgrade and a new database.

The Committee of Management continues to provide excellent support to the staff and volunteers and we thank them for that. So the work continues.

Helen Pike

STOP PRESS

Fernlea House, in conjunction with the Selby Folk Club, will be presenting a fundraising folk music evening on SATURDAY JUNE 5TH at the Tecoma Uniting Church Hall, Main St Tecoma. See local newspapers closer to the event for details or contact Fernlea 5968 3895.

A Note from Annie Whitehead, Clinical Care Coordinator

As many of you are aware, our funding source is now the NRCP (National Respite Carers Program). Whilst our In-house work remains that of providing palliative care for our guests on a one-day-a-week basis, our focus now includes the carer, many of whom have a 24/7 commitment to caring for their loved ones. Our in-home F.E.R.N.S. program allows carers a 2-3 hour 'break' from the caring role for a trip to the shops or perhaps a coffee with friends. At the time of the initial contact visit with the Guest and Carer an 'Information for Carers' pack is left in the home informing of available services, financial entitlements, carer support groups, legal issues, health and wellbeing etc. A carer's relaxation C.D. from the Commonwealth Carer Resource Centre is also offered.

There are many community services and programs available for carers to help 'shoulder the load' including interactive workshops and education programs from Carers Victoria and Villa Maria Carer Support to name just two. More information can be gained by accessing the following websites: Carers Victoria at www.carersvictoria.org.au

or Villa Maria at www.villamaria.com.au Fernlea House is in the privileged position of being able to offer a supportive and caring environment for our guests, in turn allowing our dedicated carers some well deserved 'time out'.

"I can feel the load lift off my shoulders, knowing he will be somewhere safe with people who care".....Carer



Grants

Fernlea House would like to thank the Bendigo District & Community Bank Group (R) for their ongoing support since Fernlea's inception. At the annual Open Day in May 2009 Chairman Peter Marke gave President Ann Davies a cheque for \$6,000 which completes the Bank's promise of \$40,000. The Bank donated a seeding grant before Fernlea had even incorporated a name. When Fernlea opened its doors in May 2005 Peter planted a rhododendron in Fernlea's garden and gave the first of annual cheques. This ongoing commitment has assisted Fernlea to complete house renovations, and provided equipment and supplies for the day hospice.

Fernlea also wishes to thank Perpetual Trustees, in particular the Morris and JW Fleming Trusts, for a total of \$23,132 for the Day Hospice project. These funds enabled Fernlea to keep its doors open for guests through a very difficult time. Our thanks to Jenny Lyndon who completed the successful funding application.

Thanks also go to the William Angliss Charitable Fund for another grant of \$1,000. This will be used to fund some much needed house renovations.

The Grants Sub-committee meets every second month, and would be glad of more members to assist in this work. If anyone is interested please contact Fernlea House.

Thanks to all the volunteers who work on grant submissions, it is often a thankless task with few successes, especially in today's economic climate.

**Jan Lancaster, Secretary,
Grants Sub-committee.**

The month of March has been amazing. We have had a theme of Healing and Harmony and colour theme of Purple and Green, with Green highlighted for St.Patrick's Day/Irish Laughter week.

One of our guests received the Fernlea House Academy award for the best actress, in her role as Goldilocks, in Goldilocks and the three bears, during our Fractured Fairytales week.

Photos and memories were discussed in the Armchair travel week, and great fun was had in planting a tree and painting the pot it will grow in.

Our Chinese group enjoyed planting herbs in the garden. This week we are making Easter baskets with eggs, and Easter cards. We have our ongoing activities of scrapbooking and our Mandala painting.

Jody and Eddie came for a visit back to Fernlea, which we all loved.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their input in planning, making decorations, and for their caring for our Guests. We have some new guests that have been welcomed into the house and are settling in well.

What a privilege it is to work at Fernlea.

Marion Robertson.



Next volunteer training in May!

Fernlea House volunteers say they receive much more than they give,

Would you like to offer?

- Client social support
- Memoir writing for our clients

Please contact Frances on 5968 3895
(Manager of Volunteers)

Thank you Fernlea volunteers!

Our magnificent volunteers have been extremely busy over the last few months. Some have extended themselves to offer support for our Monday opening; others have been very proactive with ideas and resources to offer activities for our guests.

We have reserved a stall at the PAVE community event in Emerald on 11th April when both staff and volunteers will take this opportunity to tell the community about our respite programs.

Our Chinese group enjoyed a picnic in the hills on Monday 22nd February. Guests, volunteers and staff enjoyed morning tea at Grants Picnic Ground, lunch at Sky-high then coffee (and chocolates) at the Chocolate Shop in Montrose on the way home. On Wednesday 24th Linda Tan from Migrant Information Centre and Dorothy from Box Hill Cancer Society gave an insightful briefing into Chinese culture. Both volunteers and staff learned much to enhance our support role with our Chinese group.

I am currently attending an OH&S course to inform my position as Fernlea House OH&S representative.

Frances Foletta

