



# Friends of Fernlea

## March Edition 2011

### Welcome to 2011!

Whilst it has been a very positive start for Fernlea House for 2011, our thoughts are with those people who have suffered through the natural disasters that have occurred at the beginning of this year.

To the people of Queensland and Victoria who experienced the floods and those in New Zealand and Japan from the earthquakes. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

For Fernlea House, the New Year began on a very positive note.

At the beginning of February we received correspondence from the Department of Health & Ageing that our funding will be continued from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. So we are safe for another year!

The Fernlea House Strategic Plan 2010 – 2013, and the Operational Plan for 2011 have been completed.

### Our Key Goals are:

1. Be a highly visible, well respected organisation
2. Attract increasing numbers of volunteers
3. Seek higher levels of contributions to support operations and the building fund
4. Develop a network of services in Melbourne based on our therapeutic community model
5. Sustain services through guaranteed funding
6. Build quality systems across the organisation to strengthen and enhance good practice and service delivery
7. Contribute towards an increased community understanding of end of life experience
8. Endeavour to build an evidence base for its operation.

One of the key elements in this was to redevelop our web site and design a new logo. Whilst we

have retained the fern in the box the following is the new script for Fernlea House.

Fernlea  
House

The new website is live, please visit [www.fernlea.com.au](http://www.fernlea.com.au) your feedback will be most welcome.

### Welcome to our two new committee members

Last year I had the pleasure of hosting Jim Reiher on a visit to the house. Jim was standing as the Greens candidate in the state election. During his visit, we persuaded him to become a member (arm up the back!!! not really). In January of 2011 Jim was invited to join the Committee of Management which he gracefully accepted. Following is some information about Jim that he provided:



**Jim Reiher**, husband to Julie, father of four, and grandfather to 9 grandkids under 11. Since finishing high school in 1974, he has been an Ambulance Officer (4 years), a High School Teacher (8 years), and a Theology lecturer (13 years in total, the last 8 with Tabor Victoria). At the end of 2007, Jim and Julie joined Urban Neighbours of Hope (UNOH) based in Springvale, Noble Park and Dandenong.

Jim is working full time for UNOH overseeing the training programs. Jim loves to write. In Nov 2005, UNOH published his next book *The Eye of the Needle: Discipleship and Wealth*. In 2006, Acorn Press published his *Women, Leadership and the Church*. And in 2009 UNOH Publications put out Jim's social justice commentary on the epistle of James: *James: Peace Activist and Advocate for the Poor*.

Jim has a Bachelor of Arts, with a double major in History, a Diploma in Education, and a Masters in Theology with Honours. Jim helped establish a multi-faith network of members of different faith communities in the city of Casey during 2006. That group is now up and running and Jim served as the first President of the Casey Multi-faith Network during 2007. In his spare time, if he is not catching up with his family or writing, he is active politically. He has stood as a candidate in a number of elections, including standing for the seat of La Trobe in 2010. Jim also likes to go to the beach, go bush, get in a game of tenpin bowling, or watch a good movie.

In January 2011, a long standing volunteer of Fernlea House, Angela Dione, also became a Committee of Management member. Angela has been a volunteer at Fernlea House since 2005 and in that time has regularly showed up almost every Friday to support our guests. Angela is committed to the vision of Fernlea House and is passionate about valuing our guests. A recent comment: "*I find the best of human nature there inspirational.*"



We welcome Jim and Angela to the Committee and have no doubt that they will make significant contributions.

### More Good News!

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Fernlea House underwent its first Quality Review under the NRCP guidelines by

the Department of Health & Ageing. In this process we were required to submit a written self assessment based on the standards and guidelines of the Department. This was followed up by an onsite visit by three quality reviewers from the Department.

Overall, it was a successful visit, and they finished early because they were able to find everything easily. They do not have to come back for 3 years. They were impressed with:

- The organisation and presentation of evidence and documentation.
- The Client files, which they commented were extremely thorough.
- In particular, the Carer assessment, which they think we should promote to other agencies. (*Helens work*)
- The Carer care plans, which record exactly what they say they want to do.
- Our operational Plan, and the focus on carers mentioned (*They think this should go in our quality plan as a priority*) and to use that template for our quality plan.
- Our complaints register (that we actually have one, it has been used) and how complaints have been dealt with.
- The fact that we were doing integrated planning in such a small organisation.
- The feel of the place when they walked in and how it demonstrates the respect and dignity with which we treat our guests, and therefore our values in practice.

Areas they suggested for improvement have to do to comply with regulations:

- Include the Governments official Client Charter document in Client information packs.
- Include a statement about fees in the next reprint of our client brochures.
- Sign & Date emergency management plans for guests on review.

Other suggestions for improvement included:

- Put together an annual training calendar for staff
- Include the focus on carers in our quality improvement plan

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all members of the team

who contributed to this success: guests, carers, volunteers, COM members and staff. Also to acknowledge the expertise of Sharyn Turney who with her knowledge and experience in Quality helped us to achieve such a wonderful result.



### Happenings at the House

Hi to everyone,  
Over the break, we had the inside of the house painted and new blinds put up in the lounge. You will have to come and have a look for yourself to agree with the consensus that it is a big improvement and makes the house feel really good to be in.

Hope you are all well and settling into the New Year.

We have had some interesting themes so far. We were involved with the Tennis [Australian Open], celebrated Australia Day, Rocked Around the Clock, enjoyed Valentine's day, travelled to Italy, and next week will create memories in scrapbooks.

In March we went on a picnic, ate pancakes on pancake Tuesday, made bear hug decorations for home, celebrated St. Patrick's Day, learnt about colours and what they mean, and travelled to Germany and Austria, amongst other things.



St Patricks Day

We have hung the art work done by the guests in the activity room over the freshly painted walls.



We had 2 special birthdays: an 80<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup>, which were be celebrated with great enthusiasm.

Ken was joined by his lovely wife at Fernlea for the day to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Beverley thoroughly enjoyed her day at Fernlea House and now knows why Ken wishes to attend each week.



We also celebrated Leni's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Her daughter also joined us for the day.



Thank you to the response in supporting our ideas, and supplying articles and decorations for the house. Especially for items for travelling to Italy. Our guests had to make their own lunch that day: PIZZAS!



We had a working bee on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January to tidy up the front garden and sincerely thank those members who were able to assist on a very warm day.



Members hard at work on the working bee!

**Warm regards,  
Marian**

## Donations

Donations were gratefully received from the following people during 2010.

Meyer Timber, Ritches Community Fund, P&P Hermansen, S. Thackray, Hills Film Group, Emerald Uniting Church, A. Tulloh, Tecoma Uniting Church, A. Glaister, Croydon Ranges Football Club, D. Wendt, Kambada Studios, Community of Kalorma Post Office, D., Jonker, P. Daly, J. Deith, B. Coupe, W. Finlay, H. Bell, M. Hall, F. Dean, E. Dix, G. Legge, J. Wolff, B&G Overton, L. Scott, A. Bolch, A. Anderson, S. Wills, H. Boreham, Monbulk Care Network, H. Peace, G. Francis, S. Thwaites, p. Dennis, B. Neale, D. Cordell, J. Verrill, R. Allan, L. Hamer, Menzies Creek Hall, T&H Teo, V. Chhorn, M. Jacobs, J. Webber, N. Hazelwood, C. Foster, M&W Mignerey, M. Sparkes, T&M Jackson, St George's Anglican Church.

**Thank you to each and every one of you for your ongoing support of the work of Fernlea House Inc.**

## Volunteer needed to assist with grants

Did you know that in 2010 the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation gave Fernlea House a large grant to establish a carer support group? We have also recently received a Victorian Volunteer Small Grant to assist with attracting and training volunteers. We really appreciate these organisations for supporting the Fernlea vision and work, and all our supporters.

Fernlea House has been fortunate to receive grants for a variety of programs and projects since its inception. Much of the equipment and furniture used at the house has been funded by charitable grants, in addition to renovations, the bus and car, house painting, and programs like Memoirs. The Commonwealth Government funds the day centre and FERNS in-home support but all other programs are funded via charitable trust and organisations.

To achieve such success a small group of volunteers regularly work on applications for funding. We have plenty of items and grants to apply for but not enough people to do all the work involved. Any help would be most appreciated.

Currently our focus is on applying for assistance for the history/peopled book project, and for

Shire Community Grants for project workers for potential Fernlea satellites (one in Healesville and one in the Casey area). We also have an application pending for a portable office on site and we entered the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Aldi competition. We will also shortly be reviewing the grants policies and procedures to keep them up-to-date.

Anyone interested should contact Fernlea House. Work can include researching information or costs of items, writing submissions, or reading/editing. Training is freely available and the group supports each other with the work. We meet every second month in Emerald for an hour in the afternoon over good coffee and biscuits, we would love you to join us!

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

### **Sponsorship Campaign**

Here at Fernlea, we recently found a Faerie Ring at the bottom of the garden.



Faeries are those invisible spreaders of warmth, love, life & laughter who, through the generous support and donation of a little bit of Faerie dust, keep Fernlea shining and sparkling in all our lives.

*SPONSOR a Faerie or Gnome from the bottom of our garden and help sprinkle Faerie dust on Fernlea's Endeavours.*



**Rose Orchid**



**Quandong Joe**



**Viola Mary**

Fernlea Faeries are the new promotion and sponsorship campaign Fernlea will be undertaking. We see all our Volunteers as very special Faeries and Gnomes, and this promotion is for everyone else. We will be going out and about showing people what we have and can do. You can see the sample promotional pack at the House. Have a look and pass on any comments and other ideas you may have.

## Emerald Fun Fest

Fernlea House is having a stall at the Emerald Fun Fest on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Fernlea Faeries will be part of the promotions. We are still looking for volunteers to help on the day, to promote Fernlea, sell lavender bags and oversee the lucky dip, as well as showing off the Fernlea Faeries. Please contact Frances, Manager of Volunteers, on 5968 3895 or [f.foletta@fernlea.com.au](mailto:f.foletta@fernlea.com.au) if you can assist.



A lovely photo of the rear garden

## Phones for Fernlea

Our fundraising project **Phones for Fernlea**, which was highlighted in the last edition of Friends of Fernlea is continuing.

To date we have raised approx \$120.00.

If you have any old mobile phones, we are collecting them, having them recycled and Fernlea receives a small payment for each one. Drop them into the office or there are a few collection points around Emerald.

## Carers Get Together

As mentioned earlier we received a grant late 2010 for a Carers Support group from the Lord Mayors Charitable Trust. Our first step was developing and sending a survey to all of our carers to establish what THEY wanted from a Carers Support Group. From the replies received, we held our first "Carers Get Together" on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Monbulk Hub. Whilst there was only a small number of people who attended, those that did provided us with very positive feedback of the assistance that we were able to provide.

At the next "Carers Get Together" we are hosting a lunch for carers at Elevations in Emerald on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April and we look forward to as many of our carers attending as possible. Assistance will be available for those carers who do not want to leave their loved one home alone. Contact Helen on 5968 3895.

## Free to a good home

We have a tapestry covered electric reclining chair available. Contact Leonie on 59683895.

## Fundraising Event

At sometime in June we are hoping to hold a fundraising musical event or a trivia night. **What is desperately needed is members from our community who have contacts with local businesses who may be able to donate goods as prizes and for raffles. PLEASE IF YOU CAN ASSIST CONTACT HELEN AT FERNLEA.**



## Palliative Care Day Centres

There are 6 day centres (including Fernlea House) across Victoria that specifically cater for people with a palliative care diagnosis. Four of these are located in Melbourne: Caulfield, Sunshine, Kew and Fernlea. Anam Cara is in Geelong and Chum House in Bendigo.

Fernlea House recently hosted the Palliative Care Day Centre Coordinators meeting. This meeting provides the opportunity for the coordinators to exchange ideas, establish priorities, look at ways to exchange the media and in general promote the benefits of attending a day centre.



Fernlea House 2005

## Fernlea's 10th Anniversary

In mid 2001 five women sat around a kitchen table in Tecoma talking about their vision of a "Hospice in the Hills".

In the years since, Fernlea House has become an established community organisation running a number of programs including the day respite centre in Emerald.

To mark this achievement Fernlea is planning a tenth anniversary edition of the "Friends of Fernlea" newsletter.

**It would be wonderful for this to include memories of anyone who has been involved over this decade, especially (but not only) members and supporters who were involved in those "early" days.**

**Please forward any contributions/pictures/suggestions to Jan at [murjan54@hotmail.com](mailto:murjan54@hotmail.com) or post to Jan Lancaster c/o Fernlea House.**

**Jan Lancaster**



The Original Fernlee House

## Message from Kathryn

Hello again and thank you for your support over the last few months. I hope you all survived without too much heart ache the terrible weather we have had this year. At Fernlea all was ok so we are all grateful for that.

The guests all seem to be really enjoying their time with us at Fernlea and now I am going to their homes to visit their carers I get firsthand how grateful the guests and carers are for all our work. Thank you for all your support and if I can be of any assistance to you please feel free to call me at Fernlea House.

## Faces of Fernlea Address Book

Fernlea House celebrates its first decade of living, laughing and loving in 2011. As a palliative care day centre, Fernlea House operates solely on funds raised through government grants, charitable contributions and the loving work of volunteers. As a fund raising venture and in an attempt to generate public awareness of the services of Fernlea House, Leonie Williams and Merran Berry along with Jan Lancaster and the Subcommittee (Sharyn Turney, Helen Pike and Joe Verrill) are publishing a book about Fernlea House. The book will be presented in the form of an address book and will attract a retail price of \$35.00 each.

"Fernlea House – Celebrating the first decade of living, laughing and loving" will contain Fernlea's history, inspirational quotes, poems, artwork and photography and will profile the guests, volunteers, staff and supporters. Supporters will have the opportunity to pre-purchase copies of

the book and/or contribute to the content. It is envisaged the book will be a celebration of life and a way of thanking people who give so much of themselves to make other people's lives better. For supporters to have their important contribution to Fernlea House acknowledged in a book will be a permanent and tangible way of thanking and remembering them.

For Fernlea House, creating this book will be an investment into the future. As well as raising much needed funds for the continuation of Fernlea's good work, the book will add morale and status and a degree of celebrity to the individuals involved, as well as publicising the services of Fernlea House to a wider audience. To achieve the goal of publishing the book in time for Christmas 2011, we want and need as many people involved as possible. Here are a few ways that YOU can be involved:

- Become a WHOLE PAGE sponsor and include your story about your personal involvement with Fernlea House, as a volunteer, staff member, guest or carer, and what Fernlea means to YOU and your loved ones
- Become an ALPHABET PAGE sponsor to include advertising for your business, or a short paragraph about your involvement with Fernlea House
- Pre-purchase copies of the book for \$25 each at significant savings off the RRP of \$35
- Send us any historical documents you have hidden away– photos, news clippings etc.
- Tell everyone you know that you are involved in the Fernlea House book, and encourage them to become involved too.
- Help find sponsors and advertisers and help take orders for pre-purchased books
- Offer your skills in photography, typing or interviewing supporters.

Each page type has an entry form with questions to answer, to help make each page as beautiful and as individual as the people or businesses featured on it. Leonie and Merran will design and arrange each page to the requirements of the page sponsor. Page sponsors will have the opportunity to see their page long before the book goes to press, in order to proof-read and order any changes that may be required. Any

questions or suggestions regarding page design are welcomed and will be dealt with in a timely and friendly fashion. It is our goal that every person involved is absolutely delighted with their page and the book as a whole, making it the perfect gift for family and friends.

### What do I do now?

- Go to the Website to view the different page types, or have a look at the display at Fernlea House.
- Decide which page type you would like to sponsor, and how many copies of the book you would like.
- Download an Entry Form from the Fernlea House website, or alternatively send Fernlea House a SASE to request an Entry Form to be mailed to you.
- Fill in the questions on the entry form and return it to Fernlea House with your photos, text and entry fee. Photos and text can be sent as a digital file or as a hard-copy (hard copies will be returned to you with your proof-page).
- A proof page will be sent to you once your information is compiled into a beautiful page.
- Relax! (if you have ordered enough books your Christmas shopping is complete!)
- Collect your books from Fernlea House during opening hours from November.



Thank you to our supporters:

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