



Open House Christian Involvement Centres
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THE STORY OF THE JIGSAW PUZZLE

— Rob Amos

The idea of doing a project that would develop connection and unity came about while we sought ways to cater for a holiday program in the Macleod workshop for kids involved within other programs at Open House. The collaboration between the staff at Ivanhoe and Macleod resulted in the 'jigsaw project' being incorporated into a Holiday Program. It was titled 'Coming together at Open House'. The children, volunteers and staff all embraced the project. We made two identical jigsaws so as everyone could keep a memento of the piece that they decorated as a key ring. The other jigsaw stays completed and is a reminder of the unity and connectedness that Open House aspires to.

Youth Workshop Mentoring Program



... I struggle at School.
I struggle at home.
I don't fit in.
But I want some type of future,
a positive future,
so I want to get an education
and develop myself, so
that I can get a job and
make my way in life ...

5 days a week
at Macleod
Workshop



Drop in Activity Centre

Tuesday,
Wednesday &
Thursday

... I have a dream that I will be accepted for
who I am and not be excluded or looked at in a
funny way...

Many opportunities are offered for people to enjoy conversation, food,
fun, outings and activities together at different times of each week.



CLUB

Wednesday & Friday

... I get lonely and need some friends.
I get a real lift from being with others.
I really enjoy making things, singing,
sharing lunch, singing, outings and
chatting to others, 'club' encourages me.



Welcome

As I was walking down the street the other day, I noticed a young lady tightly holding her mobile phone. Perhaps not an uncommon sight. People's communication systems are vital and tightly held. The 4G (fourth generation) mobile telecommunication technology enables people to instantly communicate with others wherever they might be - just staggering.

When reflecting about this I thought about the 4Gs of Open House. The 4Gs we hold tightly, the 4Gs we seek to embrace and communicate through the life of Open House – Grace, Growth, Good Connections and Good Stewardship.

GRACE - Everything hangs on Grace, but what is it?

It is hard to define – it seems only to be revealed when experienced.

It cannot be confined – it seems to break out at unexpected times and in unexpected ways

It is always available – but it can only be given away.

It costs nothing for the recipient – but is costly to the giver.

It comes with no strings – yet the recipient looks for a catch.

Grace is amazing. It renews, recreates, uplifts, enlivens – it gives life. As we experience grace we see our lives differently, we see others differently, and we become thankful people.

Who we are at Open House, and what we seek to do are dependent upon God's Grace. Our favourite song at Open House is 'Amazing Grace' because it powerfully tells us of the magnitude of God's grace for us all - 'Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost and now am found
was blind but now I see.'

GROWTH – All that Open House seeks and does is committed to building trusting relationships with those who come to us; children, young people, and adults.

This is the heart of Open House – seeing people grow in their lives - so that they

- overcome the negative and debilitating things in their lives
- find friendship and support
- know that they are OK
- know that they are valued and loved by God
- grow their lives in fullness and with hope

We share in the joy of seeing people taking steps of GROWTH in their lives.

GOOD CONNECTIONS – As an organisation grounded in the community, we enjoy and are enlivened by the relationships we share with so many others. When thinking about the connections we have I was surprised by the extent and depth of those bonds – there are over 70 :

Schools – Primary & Secondary Charities Community groups
Business houses Churches Government - State and Local Charitable Foundations Service clubs Government agencies Chaplains Police Employment agencies - & more

Good connections are so important to Open House and we take care to nurture them.

Engaging with others, sharing the joy of the mission of Open House creates good community and enables people in need to be positively supported and strengthened.

Thank you for your support for it has enabled people to experience Grace and Growth. Your good support is vital to Open House.

Ross Oldmeadow

Director

The fourth G you may be wondering – well our Chairman David Woods shares about this.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP – We have all been given 'resources' to use and to grow – time, money, talent, experiences etc. They are a gift of God's grace and they have been given to us to use wisely.

So what does it mean to be a good 'steward' of these resources? How we, individually and collectively, answer this question will be significantly influenced by how we answer another question, namely – 'With respect to the resources I have been entrusted with, am I an 'owner' with rights or a 'trustee' with responsibilities?

For over 40 years, Open House has been entrusted with gifts from individuals, churches, charitable trusts, businesses and government. We have endeavoured to act as wise trustees with responsibilities to, not only those who have given the gifts, but especially to those for whom the gifts have been given, those who come seeking help and support.

As you will read elsewhere in this report, the work of Open House has touched the lives of a lot of people, both young and old. For many, this has been a life changing experience. In order to support this work we have been blessed with gifts of money, time from staff and volunteers and the knowledge and experience of many.

In 2012/13 our income increased by 11% and for this we are extremely thankful to God and those who have supported us. Nevertheless we did finish the year with a small deficit which we were able to fund from our reserves. Staff related costs account for about 85% of our expenditure so you can see that overwhelmingly the money given is directed to delivering support and friendship to those who come to Open House.

In addition to the money that is given, we are also greatly blessed by people volunteering their time and talents so that the support offered goes well beyond the wonderful effort of our staff.

Working together and wisely using the resources available, we can and do make a difference in the lives of many for whom life is a constant struggle. People do receive grace and grow.

Thank you to all who have shown good stewardship by giving from the resources they have so that others have the opportunity to make changes in their lives which will, in time, allow them to grow and be good stewards of the resources they have been given.

David Woods

Chairman

Leadership

Volunteers

- those entrusted with sharing in all aspects of the work.



Executive Council

- those entrusted with the oversight and governance.



Staff

- those entrusted with the daily running of the work.



Harmony receiving her certificate on completing with grace and distinction 'The Adele Traineeship'.

Community Meal

Tuesday Evening



... I don't have friends to share with over a meal and seek the experience of being like a family again.....



Boys2Men

Friday afternoon



... I want to know what it is like to be a real man.
I want to become a real man ...



WellBeing

Monday afternoon, Tuesday & Wednesday at Montmorency



... I feel I am different and find it hard to fit in. I want to be myself with others but I want to know how to make friends ...

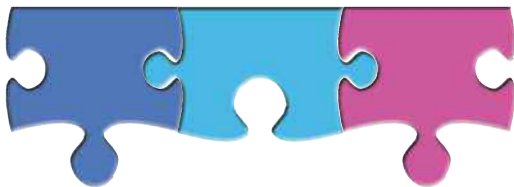


A grade 6 student – I want to go back to school but I need a friend to help?
A Veteran Case Worker – I found gold in Open House's Well Being programs. Eureka!



Creative Painting Art & Craft

Thursday afternoon



... I don't think I have much creativity but I really want to try and learn a new skill and develop the confidence to create something ...



Fun4Girls

Friday afternoon

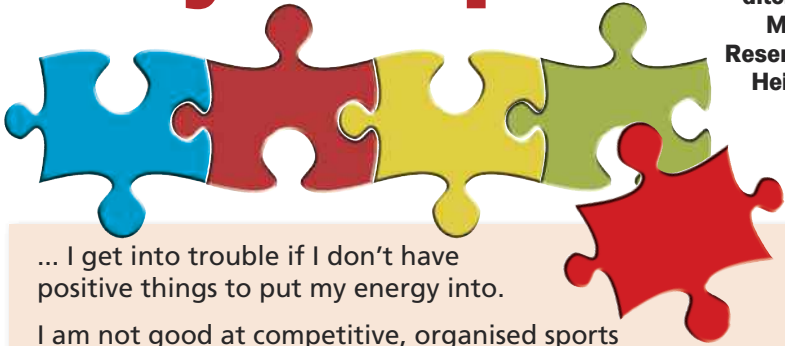


... I like the fun of being a girl. I don't want to have to grow up too quickly.
I love doing fun things together ...



Backyard Sports

Thursday afternoon at Malahang Reserve West Heidelberg.

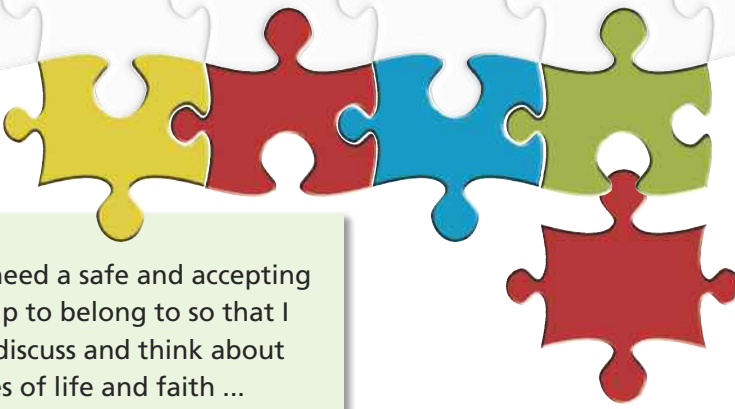


... I get into trouble if I don't have positive things to put my energy into.
I am not good at competitive, organised sports but I enjoy mucking around playing a few games with others ...



Bible Fellowship

Thursday evening



... I need a safe and accepting group to belong to so that I can discuss and think about issues of life and faith ...

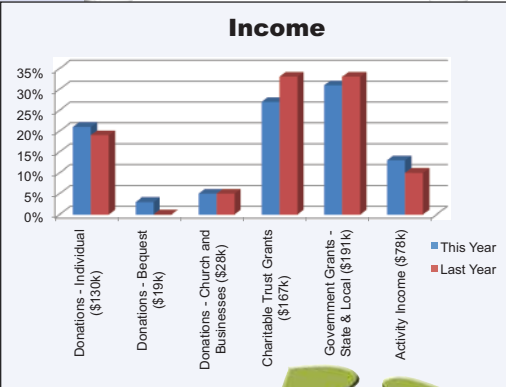
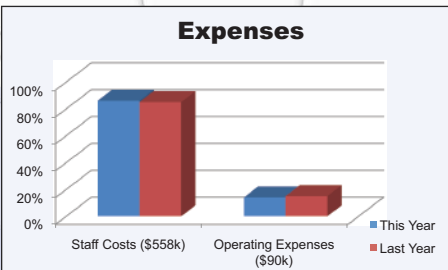


Services

The Administration Team serve the front line Team by ensuring they have the resources to run their programs

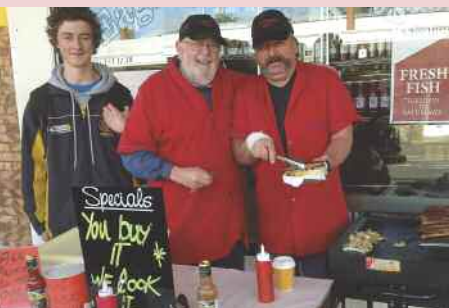
- Funding Applications
- Correspondence
- Finance
- Telephone
- Record Keeping
- Newsletters
- Compliance
- Web site
- Reporting

Administration Team



Events

- **Trivia & Talent Night**
- **Commissioning Service**
- **Christmas Carols**
- Seth & his sister Lilly (Vision impaired) shared about themselves & Christmas
- **Cream Pie Fight** with the Police
- building friendship with young people & police in a fun way
- **Sausage Sizzles** at Eaglemont
- Ian & Ron with Butcher Glenn (Eaglemont Meats) regularly have the Sizzles to support Open House



THANK YOU

We are extremely grateful for the many generous donations received over the last financial year. In expressing our thanks, we do not list individual personal donations for reasons of both space and anonymity.

Churches and Affiliated Groups

Fairfield Trust – The Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ
Gresswell UC – E & R Chalmers Bequest
Heidelcare
Ivanhoe Churches Together
Rosanna Christian Church

Anglican

St Barnabas Balwyn Ladies Guild
St James' Ivanhoe
St Johns' Diamond Creek
St Michaels Yarrambat
Anglican Men's Society - Bill Brady Organisation
Anglican Parish of Banyule

Baptist

Rosanna

Uniting

Diamond Valley
Gresswell

Bundoora/Kingsbury/Watsonia Heidelberg/East Ivanhoe – The Sycamore Tree Coffee Shop
Ivanhoe – Wesley Club
Rosanna – Arden Crescent
Rosanna – Arden Crescent Concert Committee
SHARE Community Appeal – Uniting Church

Presbyterian

Donvale

Philanthropic Organisations

Bird Family Bequest
E. O. Baker Charitable Fund
First Arthur and Laura Sandland Memorial Foundation
Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust
Gospel Resource
Iris & Ken Baldwin Foundation
Kenneth & Myrtle Topliss Charitable Foundation
Kerr Family Trust
Lynch Family Trust
Mona Georgina Harris Perpetual Charitable Trust
Raggatt Family Trust
Tobin Brothers Foundation
Tryst Trust
Westpac Foundation
William Angliss (Vic) Charitable Fund



Business Houses

Andrew Cunningham – Data Central - computer support
ARM – architectural services
Balloons Party Shop
Beaurepaires Rosanna
Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation
Bendigo Bank Heidelberg/East Ivanhoe Community Bank Branches
Danahers Mitre 10
Dr Marcus Ford - dentist
Eaglemont Meats
Ernst & Young
Gourmet Lovers Pty Ltd
L&R Print Services - printing
McCracken & McCracken – legal services
McDonalds Heidelberg and Kingsbury
Miles Real Estate
Monte Coffee
Rangeview Building Pty Ltd
Redlec Electrical Services
Saward Dawson – auditors
Tasman Chemicals
Thiess Pty Ltd

Service Clubs and Community Groups

Diamond Valley Singers
Ivanhoe Cricket Club
Ivanhoe Junior Football Club
Neami National
Order of St John of Jerusalem
Rotary Club of Heidelberg
Rotary Club of Ivanhoe
Royal Society of St George Women's Group
Soroptimist International of Deakin
The Melbourne Singers

Government

Banyule City Council
Department of Health
Department of Human Services
Greensborough Police
Magistrates Court Heidelberg

Bequests

Estate of Kelvin Carr
Estate of Violet Sanders
Estate of Ruth Berry
Estate of Myrtle Wain

