

# OPEN HOUSE

christian  
involvement  
centres

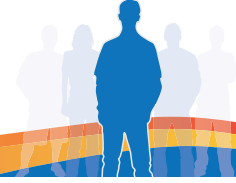
Behind each Participant  
and Program  
stands a  
community of support

Annual  
Report 2015



# OPEN HOUSE FAMILY TREE





# People Connecting Through Our Programs



# People Getting Support

## Youth Workshop Mentoring and Backyard Sports

### Real connections made:

#### Youth Workshop

(4 days a week)

- 125 Participants (guys & Girls)
- 60 Partners
- 40 Supporters

#### Backyard Sports

(1/2 day a week)

- 60-80 Participants

### Impacts made:

- ▶ *"Open House helps me not get distracted at school, now I get less detentions"*
- ▶ *"I want to stay at Open House forever, or at least until I finish school"*
- ▶ *"I come to Backyard Sports because I know I won't get bullied and they play a lot of footy"*
- ▶ *"The skills I have learnt have helped me see a future in the building industry".*
- ▶ *"Life skills learnt and how to make friends will help me as I move interstate".*



Medallions Presented for  
Good Attitudes

Workshop Skills



# Through our Programs

## Clubwork Painting and Art & Craft

### Real connections made:

- 60 Participants
- 15 Partners
- 70 supporters

### Impacts made:

*"I discovered Open House at a very low point in my life, coming to a new home land with only one family member. I thank and praise God daily for a place like Open House, sharing my beliefs with like minded people".*

*"People need people". I have now been a volunteer at Open House for 34 years. Originally coming to Open House to be helped myself after a marriage breakup. The Christian love, friendship and encouragement I received has been a blessing and made all the difference and has enabled me in turn to now get beside and assist the participants".*

Visiting people in their homes when ill or isolated has brought a new dimension to those who are lonely.



Art and Craft Program



Painting Group

# Children and Youth Wellbeing Program

## Wellbeing at Schools Work

### Real connections made:

- 200 students in “Cyber Safety” workshops.
- 50 students in lunch time “Hero” game activity.
- 40 girls in “Being a Friend” activities.
- 3 schools involved

### Impacts made:

- ▶ Primary school children aware of cyber bullying and understand how to be safe.
- ▶ Growing young student’s self-esteem and how to interact/socialise.
- ▶ Mentoring secondary school girls to help grade 6 primary school children with the transition to secondary school.
- ▶ *“I joined the “Being a Friend” program by first seeing an ad in the Ivanhoe Primary School newsletter. My mum thought it would be fun and a good way to meet people. I then got asked by Harmony if I would like to join Fun4Girls. I went there every Friday after school. Then Fun4Girls started at Macleod. As I got older Harmony asked if I would join the Fun4Teens program. I am now volunteering at the Welcome Café. Through this whole time Harmony has been like a sister and has helped me through everything I have gone through. Everyone at Fun4Teens is very supportive, welcoming and non-judgemental.”*

## Fun4Girls and Boys2Men

### Real connections made:

- 20 participants
- 10 helpers and trainees
- 4 schools and support agencies/partners

### Impacts made:

- ▶ Bringing structure and growing self-esteem into lives of everyday young boys and girls.
- ▶ Helping develop the character of the young participants in being thankful and respectful to others.
- ▶ Seeing the value of interacting with each other in a diversity of good clean fun activities.
- ▶ *“I have been volunteering for 3 years. The team has built really special relationships with the participants in the group.”*





## Fun4Teens

### Real connections made:

- 12 Participants
- 8 team and trainees

### Impacts made:

- ▶ Creation of a fun and safe place for young people to come and connect.
- ▶ Seeing the value of role models.
- ▶ Getting opportunities to give back through helping with fundraising activities for the snow camp.
- ▶ Organised a Disco.



## Adult Activities **Men's Group**

### Real connections made:

- 10 Participants
- 4 team

### Impacts made:

- ▶ The broad base of activities – meals, conversations, outings, games, visitation – have provided great fun and drawn people together.
- ▶ Tough year for so many of the men because of health issues.
- ▶ Real closeness has enabled great support to be given to each other and to help each other to face their battles in life.

## Community Meal

### Real connections made:

- 12 participants each week
- 500 meals shared over the year
- 20 home cooks

### Impacts made:

- ▮ *"It is a great joy to share like a family over the delicious home prepared meals".*
- ▮ The meal is an ice-breaker for discussing the personal issues on people's minds."
- ▮ *The team of Kathy, Ken and Ian create a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.*

## Bible Fellowship

### Real connections made:

- 10 participants
- 7 team

### Impacts made:

- ▮ Sense of belonging and acceptance.
- ▮ Enjoyment from singing and sharing together.
- ▮ Development of spiritual bonds of support between participants.
- ▮ An important part of the weekly life of people.





# Volunteers

**- a massive contribution to all areas**

- 8 Board members meeting monthly and doing numerous things e.g. fundraising, website development, committee work etc.
- 52 supporters and volunteers in Programs
- 2 volunteers in Administration

## HOT NEWS!

We believe volunteers are vital to the future of Open House, so much so that we have just employed a Volunteer Community Liaison Manager. Katie will be working four days a week and will be looking after and growing our volunteer team.

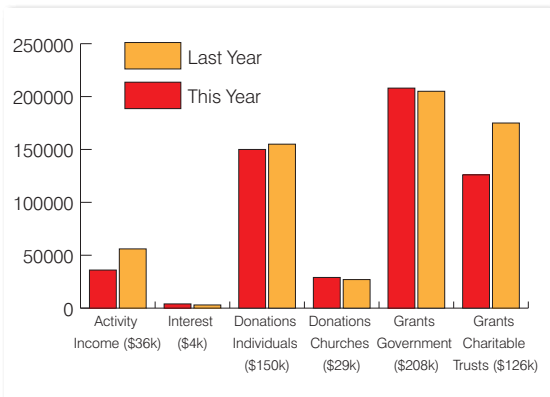
## Financial Supporters

Practical and enabling support to meet the necessary expenses of our work.

### Expenses



### Income



# Prayer Supporters

**- undergirding and firming**

**the foundations of our work.**

- 50 Prayer Supporters

# Community Events

## Car Boot Sale

- Conducted from our carpark area and attracted new people to our “home”.



## Christmas Carols

- Held in the open air at our “home” - with BBQ, candles, singing and great fun.



## Garden Boxes

- Placed on the property perimeter for the whole community participate and enjoy.
- Sponsored by local businesses and the Rosanna Rotary Club.







## Chairman's Message

Our 44th year of providing friendship and support to the community was one in which we witnessed God's continuing provision.

With the support of the staff and volunteers we assisted many, in meaningful ways, which enabled them to better live their lives. Our financial and prayer supporters were also faithful in upholding those working at the front line. To all these people we say thank you because without staff, volunteers and supporters this ministry could not show the love of God to the community. They all play a vital role in the connections into the community.

This year was also very special in a number of ways. We were successful in selling our Ivanhoe home of 43 years (thank you to Miles Real Estate who have helped us since the early 1970's) and thereby consolidating our work at Macleod.

It was also the time in which our long serving CEO, Ross Oldmeadow, advised the Board that he wanted to retire sometime in 2015. Ross came to Open House in the early days and served as a volunteer for 25 years before taking up the demanding role of CEO sixteen years ago when our founder George Farrington retired.

So what of the future? In June, 2015 we were pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Burgess as the new CEO. Paul started in July. Paul's background in the kind of services that Open House provides made him a very logical choice to 'carry the baton' into the third generation of leadership. The Board is very confident that, under Paul's leadership, the ministry of connecting with the disadvantaged in our community will be strengthened and further developed in the years ahead. Please pray for Paul and his family as he takes up this challenging role.

As the future unfolds we will continue to welcome and appreciate your support and interest as the demands of modern life continue to place strain on many in the community who have very little support and connections for friendship.

**David Woods OAM**  
*Chairman*



## Director's Message

*"Times are a changin'" –*

so sang Bob Dylan back in the 60's and yet it remains a real and true statement and very applicable to Open House. We have done much in recent times:

- ▶ Sold our Ivanhoe home of 43 years and moved to our new home at Macleod.
- ▶ Developed our Macleod facility with the creation of a new multi-use space, planned the development of the old manse and community garden.
- ▶ Passed the baton of leadership from me to Paul Burgess.
- ▶ Introduced new relevant people focussed programs with increasing visitation to participants in their own places and schools.
- ▶ Sustained and grown our existing programs of support and friendship.



- ▶ Made numerous community connections.

All this is good. Yet what I want to say is that Open House was built, sustained and grown by the Grace of God. This is the foundation on which all at Open House rests.

The challenge for us - the Open House community is to hold on to this Vision in these "changen times".

**Ross Oldmeadow**

## CEO's Message

### **A brief message from the new CEO**

I am really excited to have been appointed to lead the incredible work of Open House. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all our loyal supporters for the generous way you have supported Open House in the past and I hope that this will continue long into the future.

I also ask you at this time to review how you currently support us as we have entered a new climate in the NFP (Not for

Profit) sector. There are an increasing number of organisations that are trying to tap in to the ever decreasing pot of funds available from charitable grants. Last year our income from this avenue reduced by 20%. So please consider how you can support us!

Finally, if I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet I hope that it will not be too long until I do. Please feel free to pop by for a coffee and a chat.

**Paul Burgess**

# Financial and

## Thank You

We are extremely grateful for the many generous financial donations received in support of the work of Open House. 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  
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

### ***Presbyterian***

Donvale

### **Philanthropic Organisations**

First Arthur and Laura Sandland Memorial Foundation  
Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust  
Gospel Resource  
Iris & Ken Baldwin Foundation  
Kenneth & Myrtle Topliss Charitable Foundation  
Lynch Family Trust  
Mona Georgina Harris Perpetual Charitable Trust  
William Angliss (Vic) Charitable Fund



# In-Kind Supporters

## Thank You

### Business Houses

ARM – architectural services  
Balloons Party Shop Heidelberg  
Beaurepaires Rosanna  
Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation  
Bendigo Bank Heidelberg/East Ivanhoe Community Bank Branches  
Danahers Mitre 10  
Dr Marcus Ford - dentist  
Eaglemont Meats  
Food Works East Ivanhoe Grocers  
Printman Print Services - printing  
Macleod Village Traders (Little Free Libraries)  
McCracken & McCracken – legal services  
Miles Real Estate – Ivanhoe and Rosanna  
Morrison Kleeman Real Estate - Eltham  
Redlec Electrical Services  
Rock Self Storage  
Saward Dawson – auditors  
Tasman Chemicals

### Service Clubs and Community Groups

Diamond Valley Singers  
Order of St John of Jerusalem  
Rotary Club of Heidelberg  
Rotary Club of Ivanhoe  
Rotary Club of Rosanna  
Royal Society of St George Women's Group  
Sorooptimist International of Deakin  
The Melbourne Singers

### Government

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



**Oh**  
OPEN HOUSE  
**Thank You**

**FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**Your support  
has made a world  
of difference in  
the lives  
of so many.**

**Open House Christian Involvement Centres**

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