



## OPEN HOUSE – ON THE MOVE

Recently I was sitting in the Drop-in Activity Centre looking out the window. It was 8.30 in the morning and the street was busy - people were busy walking to work, kids hurrying off to school, cars flashing by - there was movement; people on the move.

I was recently given a beautiful wrist watch, it is automatic, it works on the movement of the wrist. Without movement it doesn't go.

**Movement.** Without movement there is little progress, without movement there is little development. I think it is because of movement, because of the risks it involves and the difficulties encountered, that there is growth. When you believe in or are convicted about something you move, you are compelled to move into action. You move to grow the opportunities for service to those in need of God's love and friendship.

Open House is **ON THE MOVE** in a number of ways. We are committed to moving forward - this Newsletter describes how we are **ON THE MOVE**.

### Open House "on the move" - with New Appointments

**New Board Member – Oscar Ruiz** was welcomed to his first Board meeting in September. He brings a heart for people, a long involvement in community activities and 25 years' experience in senior management. With Oscar's enthusiasm and passion for people he will help Open House move forward.

**New Staff Appointment – Steve Marks** to the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program. Steve is beginning two new roles - fatherhood, his first child, Sophie, was born only a few months ago and he commences with Open House in October working with Brett in the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program (YWMP).

Steve is a young man full of character and with a passion for working with young people. He has a background in sports.

Steve and Brett know each other through their church. It is very interesting to note that Steve with his wife, Zoe, met with us on a number of occasions to discuss in depth the role.

Steve also took time to be in the Program to see for himself first-hand the practicalities of the role. He comes well prepared and with great enthusiasm.



**Steve Marks in the YWMP**

### New Staff Appointment – Ingrid Marx

to the position of Planning Coordinator

We welcome Ingrid to work with Mark Ryder (Manager Administration & Finance) and a small team in Administration to help with our financial planning and resourcing.

This is a new role; it is vital for the future sustainability of our work. Ingrid has the skills, experience and passion to establish and develop the role.

Interestingly Ingrid came to us almost by "accident". She was walking past our Ivanhoe Centre, saw the yellow line which leads to the office, followed it and expressed an interest in volunteering. We had been seeking the right person for this new role and readily saw Ingrid's capacity and community spirit and so offered her employment of 2 days a week to create this new role.

Significantly this appointment has been made without any additional expense. This has been achieved because Mark absorbed the accounting

aspects of the previous bookkeeping position thereby allowing us to create this new position.

### **New Trainee Staff Appointment – Emily Petsinis**

Emily has been appointed to the Trainee position under our unique Adele Traineeship Project. Emily first came to Open House several years ago to do a placement to get the necessary experience for the youth work course she was doing. She enjoyed being here and continued on as a volunteer working with Harmony in the Fun4Girls Program.

## **Open House "on the move" – with Programs Going to Macleod**



**The YWMP guys doing building works in the new Welcome Centre**

As I have previously shared our **Vision** has always been for Open House to be on the same site at Macleod.

Well that dream is becoming **reality**; we are moving our programs over the September term break to Macleod.

To accommodate our people programs we have done some **significant building works**.



Some of the building works have been done by Brett, Ian, their team and with the guys in the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program. It has given the young guys the opportunity to gain experience in many aspects of building, to see first-hand the transformation of plans into a finished product and they know that they contributed. A couple of the guys came in over the school holidays to work with Brett on the project.

Other aspects of the building have been beautifully done by our Open House "tradie" friends:

John Lynch	- electrical
Rob Amos	- painting
Daniel and David Fitzgerald	- carpentry

You are invited to drop in to see the new works –

We have created a new multi-use space equipped with a new extraordinary kitchen:

- This space, the Welcome Centre, will be widely and extensively used for Clubwork adult programs, for drop-in activity programs, for the Community Meal, for the Men's Program, for the Bible Fellowship, for the painting group, for the art & craft activity, for the Fun4Teens, for the Boys2Men, the Fun4Girls etc.
- This space has been carved out of the Youth Cave and small part of the hall.
- The space adjoins the hall and so will provide capacity for two programs to operate at the same time and on other occasions enable ease for programs which require the hall and kitchen.
- It has been beautifully finished and will give everyone who comes in a feeling of "Welcome".
- We have created a new office space for Program staff by expanding our existing office area.

## More Things "on the Move"

We are moving forward with renovating and developing the old manse building into our Administration area. The renovations will be finished in a couple of months and will complete our move.

We are at the same time moving into developing the Garden Patch area. Again this will take some months of work and will involve participants from several Programs. I can see the garden being a wonderful source of joy and peacefulness to many as they potter, grow plants, meet around the shed, share stories and share themselves. It is just a wonderful facility to have.

## Open House "on the move" – with the Sale of our Ivanhoe Property

43 years at Ivanhoe – how wonderful has been our pilgrimage.

Yet now it is time to move on – with our move to Macleod our Ivanhoe property has done its job. Our Macleod property – "The George and Muriel Farrington Centre" – will provide new opportunities in ways "we cannot imagine" and we look forward to the next stage of our pilgrimage.

The property is land value as the buildings have long passed their use by date. We are grateful for the excellent work our honorary architects, Howard Raggatt and his colleague Natalie Lysenko, did in the preparation of the plans for a proposed use of the site, a residential development, to present a best use of the land to attract the best price.

Following the Board decision to sell the property Miles & Co, our real estate agents who have been significant long term supporters, have set the auction date for Friday 24th October. It is an emotional time as we move from our home, but it is with a great sense of thanksgiving and with a great sense of excitement as we continue the pilgrimage.

Some of the moneys we receive from the sale will be used to cover the expenses we have incurred in the developments of our Macleod property; secondly the interest derived from the sale proceeds will contribute to the costs of the new appointment to the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program and the remaining proceeds will be held for future development works and operational needs.

## Open House "on the move" – with New Initiatives

### Car Boot Sale

We have now recently run two Car Boot Sales in the car park area at Macleod. Harmony, our female youth worker, has taken the responsibility for the planning and running of these events.

So why do we want to run such events?

There are several good reasons:

- It tells the community that we are part of the community, that our work is for the betterment of the community.

- It provides an easy opportunity for people to come and see us and hear of who we are and what we do.
- It gives an opportunity to build relationships with local traders; interestingly there have been several offers of support.
- It enables our team to grow in new ways.
- It raises some funds – about \$1,500 from our two sales (for our youth centred programs).
- It is “extra mile” work and demonstrates the team’s commitment to do what they can to contribute to the needs of Open House.



**The Car Boot Sale held in September at Open House Macleod**

## **Garage Sale**

The Clubwork team decided to run a Garage Sale from the home of a team member. The team enjoyed meeting people and raised \$550 to help with the cost of the Clubwork Program.

Just two new initiatives to help Open House “move on”.

## **Finance Report**

With “moving on” comes expenses. We have financial needs. Thank you for sharing with us through your support – your prayer and practical support is gratefully needed and appreciated.