

A PLACE TO BELONG

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"
John 13:34-35 (NIV)

CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT GIVING. IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.

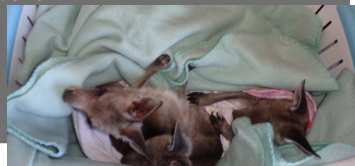
Often it is said that it is better to give than to receive. Christmas should be all about giving and looking out for those in need in our community. On the first Christmas God gave us the best present ever. **He sent his only Son down to earth as a gift to the world.**

GIVING BACK

Here at Open House we also encourage our participants to look beyond their own needs and struggles, which are many, and to think about others in the community. The girls from the Youth Workshop Mentoring Program just did this.

A few months ago the girls had the opportunity to apply for some community funding and help out on a community project. They decided they wanted to help a local group and one that worked with animals. Thus, they selected the Joey and Bat Sanctuary in Heidelberg West. A funding bid was duly prepared by the girls and they received \$1,000. With this money they were able to provide much needed resources for the Joey and Bat Sanctuary. In addition, in early November the youth team, together with the girls, spent half a day cleaning and tidying the Sanctuary. The owner, Julie, was most appreciative and said she could not believe how much work the team completed in just a few hours.

The team also removed a large trailer load of hard waste from the Sanctuary. They have been invited back again, this time to do a clear out of the garage.



CHRISTMAS - A TIME OF NEED IN THE COMMUNITY

For many people Christmas is a time of joy, when they celebrate the birth of Jesus, take annual holidays, exchange gifts and meet with family or friends, for others it is a time of great sadness, loneliness and depression. This is the time that the community most needs the friendship provided by Open House, through so many of its programs.

We would like to make a special appeal for donations at this time of the year to help us serve those in need in the community for the Christmas - New Year period. Our donation details are on the back page.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS @ OPEN HOUSE

From 6pm, on Friday, 23 December 2016, Open House will be offering Christmas Carols, a BBQ with refreshments, and fellowship from our premises in Macleod. Music will be provided by the Salvation Army Band along with some special guests.

Everyone is welcome, so get some friends together, bring something to sit on and join the community for a sing-a-long!

This is an alcohol free event.



BREAKFAST FOR LOCAL CHURCH PASTORS

In October we hosted a number of local church Pastors at a special breakfast to introduce our new Pastoral Care Support Worker, Ann-Marie Fife.

There was much friendly discussion about lots of topics, with the pastors requesting that the meeting be made a regular thing.

Our next Pastors' breakfast will be held in the Welcome Centre at Open House from 8am, on Thursday, 16 February 2017.

CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR OPEN HOURS

The Open House drop in centre in the Welcome Centre, and administration offices, will be open every day through Christmas – New Year, with the exception of the public holidays.

Feel free to drop in between **10:00am & 4pm**. There will always be a friend here to chat to.

BACKYARD SPORTS STILL POPULAR AFTER 10 YEARS

Our Backyard Sports offering for children and youth at the Malahang Reserve continues to grow in popularity.

This year, from 3.30pm, on 15 December 2016, we will celebrate our 10 year anniversary of this weekly event. "It is wonderful to see so many happy children, from so many different backgrounds, playing the games together," says Steve Marks who runs the program.



NEW VOLUNTEERS AND PLACEMENTS

Open House continues to be blessed with many new volunteers. We make particular mention this edition of local recruit Emma Peacock who has joined us in the Youth Team as she completes the practical requirements for her Diploma of Youth Work.

AUDITS, AUDITS, AUDITS



In November we completed our third audit in three months. Following the financial audit in September, QIP (Quality, Innovation, Performance) audit in October, there was the Aged Care Quality Agency in November.

Open House passed all audits with flying colours with all three sets of auditors impressed by the professional quality of governance and community accountability. This is a testament to the dedication and quality of the small Open House team.



HOLIDAY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Open House will be offering a holiday program with some external outings in January 2017. Outings may, depending upon the weather and numbers, include Laser Tag, sports in the park, bike hut workshop or bike around the bay, and BBQs.

To find out more, or to register children please contact Bec Cole on 9450 7600 or email bcole@openhousecic.org.au

NEW TRANSPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Courtesy of Miles Real Estate in Ivanhoe, we have also taken delivery of a brand new Mazda CX5, perfect for trips with three to five participants or team members. This will be a cost efficient and convenient alternative at times when our 12 seater bus is not required.



STAFF AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

In November, a keen group of Open House staff and volunteers undertook the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne "Course First Aid Management of Anaphylaxis" which was run at our Macleod premises and included training on how to administer the new look EpiPen®

Some staff also undertook certified first aid and lifesaving training (lifeguard) courses as part of Open House's on-going commitment to safety and accreditation programs.



WHITTLESEA SHOW

Every year many participants at Open House enter their arts and crafts in the Whittlesea Show. This year we had a fantastic variety of entries and many received prizes, including two firsts as shown below.



WELCOME CENTRE

We continue to improve our facilities to make them more accessible and usable by the community. In the last month we have widened the concrete path to the Welcome Centre and added outdoor play equipment and fencing for the Thursday play group.



DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

(AMOUNTS OF \$2 OR ABOVE ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

DIRECT MY DONATION	DONATION DETAILS
<input type="checkbox"/> for general purposes <input type="checkbox"/> towards the Youth Programs <input type="checkbox"/> towards the Programs for Adults <input type="checkbox"/> to this specific use: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> \$ <input type="checkbox"/> One off <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Annually
Donor Information First name: _____ Surname: _____ Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____ Address: _____	Method of Payment <input type="checkbox"/> Credit card: <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard: Card Number: Expiry Date: Cardholder Name: Signature: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque Payable to "Open House CIC" <input type="checkbox"/> Bank Transfer Account Name: Open House CIC BSB: 633000 Account Number: 155054588 <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Debit (please send me forms)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT DONATIONS
OR BEQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT OPEN HOUSE AS BELOW



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