

Hospice House
PO Box 755
Warrnambool 3280

Mobile: 0488 271 224
Phone: 5563 3220
Facsimile: 5563 3226
Email: info@wdchospice.org.au

www.wdchospice.org.au
www.warrnamboolhospice.org.au

Committee

Brian Dillon, President
 Rhys Boyle, Vice President
 Leanne Dalton, Treasurer
 Teresa Treffry and Caroline Byrne,
 Joint Secretary
 Dr Eric Fairbank
 Deidre Bidmade
 Daelene Bourke
 Carole Macpherson
 Joanne McCormack
 Tracey Togni

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Christmas party December 5th for our Volunteers
 Information session in Camperdown to be held in early December tbc
 Volunteer training Corangamite February 2019
 Hosting the Victorian Compassionate Communities Network meeting
 Feb 9th 2019

Donations Update

Taits Legal and Phinc are regular contributors to the Workplace Giving Initiative scheme.
 Jellie McDonald solicitors
 Lutheran's Women's League
 Solomon's Flooring and Blinds kindly donated the curtains, blind and fabric for our Quiet room.
 CWA continues to support Hospice with bags and blankets which are much appreciated.

Manager Update

It's been a busy time since the last newsletter with the holding of the Dying to Know Day event on August 8th and the first of our Compassionate Communities meetings in October. Over the past year volunteers have provided over 2,200 hours of care.
 We are seeking a fundraising coordinator to focus on increasing funds so that when the one off grant from State Government finishes the service continues. This position will fundraise in Warrnambool, Moyne and Corangamite local government areas.

Volunteers Update

With over 60 active volunteers we are averaging using 28 different people per month. With the increasing number of people we are assisting the Angels on Legs are responding to the challenges brilliantly. We expect our next round of training for new volunteers in Corangamite will start in February 2019. The Corangamite Shire are excited at the prospect of the Hospice being established there and have agreed to assist wherever possible. Training for new volunteers in Warrnambool will commence in April 2019.

Donations

Donations are welcome and can be deposited to the following Bank Account:
 Bank: Bendigo Bank
 BSB: 633000
 Account: 144182748



The Warrnambool & District Community Hospice – Annual Report 2018

This year has seen significant progress in many aspects of Hospice development including the graduation of our sixth group of volunteers, the strategic plan, and the consolidation of our financial position. It has also been gratifying that our model of care is recognised outside Warrnambool as a worthy template for others to emulate.

The backbone of the Hospice in the Home program is our group of nearly 70 volunteers who are coordinated in a most efficient and caring manner by Lu Butler, hospice manager, and Fred Chatfield, assistant hospice manager. A debt of gratitude is owed to them all as they strive to meet the needs of the families in the community referred to Hospice for assistance.

The strategic plan, driven to a large extent by Rhys Boyle, Vice President, outlined the way Hospice plans to develop into the future. Expansion further in to the surrounding district is one of the key features, and to this end Camperdown has been identified as an area of need. A part time local coordinator will be appointed, and in early 2019 a training program for volunteers in that area will be offered as a step to forming a ‘satellite’ service of the Warrnambool & District Community Hospice.

The financial security of Hospice was also a feature of the strategic plan, and this has been secured in the short term in two ways. Firstly the philanthropic trusts that were essential to the initial launching of Hospice were approached successfully for further funding. Warrnambool is indeed fortunate to have funds made available for worthy causes in this way, and Hospice will always be grateful for their assistance.

Secondly, Hospice was chosen to be one of the recipients of a one-off State Government grant to organisations previously unfunded by government. This End of life Ancillary Grant was equivalent to a proposed budget over the next four years, and came to a total of \$687,000. It is now up to Hospice to take this opportunity to become sustainable into the long term.

To supplement spontaneous donations from individuals and organisations in our generous community, a workplace giving scheme is in the process of being set up. The idea is gradually coming to fruition, with thanks to Tracey Togni for her initial background input, and now with the appointment of Fred Chatfield in a temporary additional role to canvas local businesses to make regular small monthly donations to Hospice. The plan is for this scheme to provide Hospice with a regular income upon which it can rely.

To promote the awareness of Hospice, and to help with the workplace giving scheme, a video has been prepared by Liam Fitzgerald of Fitz media. The committee, staff, volunteers and some of the families assisted by Hospice, all contributed to its production. Very impressively, Mike Kennedy, the Palliative Care Victoria project officer, made a rapid return trip from Melbourne to be part of the action. The video has been launched on the Hospice facebook site, and has been well received.

The benefits of funding from whatever source always bring with it responsibilities of accountability and transparency. Caroline Byrne has offered to review our governance and risk management policies, and I thank her for contributing her expertise in these areas for the benefit of Hospice.

Attendance at a Justice Connect seminar early in the year highlighted the need for some rule changes that are the subject of special resolutions. It is pleasing to note however, that the need for such changes has been relatively minor.

Warrnambool's model of Hospice care has been recognised further afield. Earlier this year a researcher from the Nous group was asked by the Federal Government to write a report after visiting Warrnambool, and interviewing a cross section of those involved including committee members, management staff and volunteers. Hospice has also been promoted as a leader in this field by Palliative Care Victoria.

A new activity for Hospice this year has been its selection as one of eight sites in Australia, and the only one in Victoria, to take part in the National Compassionate Communities Forum. This is a research project conducted by the Groundswell Project and the University of Western Sydney into the makings of compassionate communities, and is recognition of what is already happening here. The project

will take place over the next 18 months and will encourage involvement with the rest of the community, from council, to work places, and to schools. Initial contact has been made with council with long term plans to be a part of Warrnambool 2040.

The Archie Graham Community Centre continues to support Hospice by providing a venue free of charge for monthly workshops, and other events such as Dying to Know (D2K) day. New Advance Care Planning legislation encouraged the rewriting and expansion of the workshop booklet into 'The Manual for Living and Dying in Style' that is now available on the PCV website, and to all Community Palliative Care patients, as well as workshop attendees and our own families.

The purchase of a Hospice car is a recent initiative that was included in the budget. This will be available to both staff and volunteers for use around the town, but will be of particular benefit as satellite sites are set up around the district.

Another initiative under way is the Quiet Space that will be set up in the second bedroom of Hospice House. A video incorporating scenes of nature, combined with appropriate music in relaxing decor will give staff, volunteers and families a place for reflection and relaxation away from the busyness of everyday responsibilities.

I believe that Hospice has now developed its own momentum just a little over three years since the Hospice in the Home program commenced. However the beginning goes back to 2010, and it is only fitting that our founder, Deidre Bidmade, was a recipient of the 2018 Premier's Volunteer Champions Award in the leadership category. Congratulations Deidre.

Thank you to all committee members for your contributions in time and effort to making sure that Hospice keeps ticking over. One sentence does not do you all justice, but it is underlined with sincerity, and with the acknowledgement a lot of 'second miles' have been travelled. Thank you our Hospice Manager Lu Butler, and Assistant Hospice Manager Fred Chatfield for setting the compassionate tone that permeates through the organisation. Thank you to all our volunteers in their

various roles including family care, administration, housekeeping and maintenance. You are a wonderful crew.

It has been a privilege to have been part of the Hospice team since the start, and President for the last 4 years. It is with confidence that I hand over the reins to the President Elect, Brian Dillon, who I am sure will enjoy the kind of dependable support that you have all given to me.

Thank you.

Eric Fairbank

President

