



Newsletter



Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Board

June 2021

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Board.

The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation is dedicated to the relief of suffering. In 2006 and again in 2018 the Ryder-Cheshire Mount Gambier Home Board built homes in Mount Gambier that provides accommodation for five physically and intellectually disabled people. This informally links with other homes in Australia, Raphael in India and Klibur Domin in Timor Leste.

Our Mission is to provide the best accommodation in a caring, respectful and compassionate environment for people living with a disability in our Community.

Our values emphasize respect, compassion, integrity and courage.

Our Lessee

Our two homes are leased to ParaQuadSA (PQSA). They are managed by their service arm HomeCare+.

The original home, now named Ryder, still has the same five women who became the first residents in 2006. The Board believes that this shows that we must be doing something right!

The second home, named Cheshire, was completed in late 2018 and is now occupied by five men.

Cheshire Home status

It is pleasing to be able to report that the unfortunate status reported in the last newsletter has been resolved and that there are now five happy residents in our lovely new home, Cheshire. Things are evolving but there would seem to be no major issues.

Finance

Financially we continue to be in a very sound position.

We continue to plan to build up our financial position so that hopefully in 2-4 years time we will be able to consider applying for grants to build a further home.

We believe that we have developed a very sound financial model that will continue to hold into the future.

Future possibilities

During the year our President approached the Mount Gambier City Council to see if they would be prepared to donate land for a third complex.

Negotiations are ongoing but we have time as we need to build up our financial position over the next 2-3 years.

Obviously this will take time but the Council would seem to be looking favourably on our request.

We know that the need for accommodation is there but we need to determine just what style of accommodation is most needed.

Home maintenance

The Board has contracted Mr Chris Pfeiffer to carry out routine maintenance of the two homes. This maintenance arrangement continues to work very satisfactorily.

During the year the Crab Apple trees were heavily pruned, the roses in the Ryder garden brought under control, and one garden bed by the bus station was completely remodelled.

The residents of Cheshire asked for more garden bed that they could use for fruit trees and this wish was easily accommodated. Some Spartan Junipers were relocated to Ryder.

The Board is looking to eventually remodel the kitchen in Ryder. This is desirable to meet residents emerging needs and also to adopt the improvements in design to meet Occupational Therapist suggestions and recommendations. It will take some time to get the various resident's Occupational Therapist's views about their clients needs, then get a new design drawn up, then re-seek the necessary NDIS approvals, before determining how the remodelling will be financed..

The other large pseudo-maintenance item is to possibly install solar panels and a battery at Ryder. A 10kW system and battery are installed at Cheshire and the current power bills for the two homes are like chalk and cheese, vastly different.

Current Board

During the year we welcomed Greg Clayfield to the Board as representative of the residents of Cheshire. We also welcomed Stuart Stansfield to the Board.

The Board has slightly restructured with most taking on the lead role for certain activities like the garden, maintenance, for each of the two homes plus Secretary and Treasurer.

The Board now is;
Matthew Dixon (President)
Greg Clayfield
Neville Gilbertson OAM
Jerry Leech
Sue Roberts
Peter Telford

Bernadette Douglas
Mary Heysen
Diane Little
Stuart Stansfield

Neville Gilbertson honoured

In the June 2021 Queens Birthday Honours list, our Past President and founding president Neville Gilbertson was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia.

This award was richly deserved.

Neville, ably assisted by wife Kay, has been involved with the homes since the very start. He was awarded his OAM for Service to Mount Gambier. This simply reflects his great service to the whole community, not just our home.

The Poplars Project

Students from Tenison Woods College offered to help with garden maintenance as part of their studies. Their objective is not only to learn but to give back to the community.

Andy and Zac have been busy assisting weekly with the gardening. They have hoed, weeded and planted. Zac decided last session that he would like to learn how to prune a rose bush, and did so and was proud of his first attempt. Andy is willing to try his hand at any task in the garden and both boys were engaged in digging deep holes and replanting the trees along the front of the property.

Below shows three transplanted Spartan Junipers.



<http://www.ryder-cheshire.org/>
http://www.ryder-cheshire.org/mt_gambier_home.html

If you are interested we now have brochures suggesting how you can include Ryder-Cheshire in your bequests.

Ryder-Cheshire Biennial Conference

The original plan was to hold the 2020 Biennial Ryder-Cheshire Australia conference in Mount Gambier in April 2020. Due to the effects of Covid this was delayed until April 2021.

One item on the conference agenda was a planned visit to the two homes. This was impossible.

Dr Elizabeth Cheshire, daughter of our founders, was virtually present at the Biennial which was fantastic. Travel from the United Kingdom was impossible at this Covid time. Travel restrictions also meant that interstate and New Zealand delegates were also challenged. However they could attend either at hubs in Melbourne, Ballarat and Mount Gambier, or on their own computers.

It would have been nice to have everyone in Mount Gambier but the unusual biennial was a great success.

Disability Royal Commission

The Board made a submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

The Royal Commission has heard many harrowing tales.

Our submission was largely based on the success of our homes, especially the financial model. It also noted what we perceived as the bureaucratic ineptitude by NDIA, the body that manages the NDIS. The Royal Commission is slowly working through submissions.

