



A VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our 2020 Annual General Meeting was a little different to usual as with most things this year! It was lovely to be able to hold it but we are looking forward to hopefully having an in person meeting next year.

There have been some changes on our Board since the meeting. Brendan Hogan has stepped down as President after six years in this role. He will be missed but is ably replaced by Wayne Jenkin as President and Dr Claire Goodman as Vice-President. While Brendan has been President, the hours of service delivered to clients by Community Living & Respite Services (CLRS) has grown by 54%, staff numbers have grown by 26% and the revenue generated by the organisation has increased by 47%. For this to have occurred over a short four year period and the organisation to be continuing to grow, demonstrates the great leadership Brendan has provided.

We have also had Elaine Hamilton join the CLRS Board. More information about Elaine can be found later in the newsletter.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



It is hard to believe that I am writing the December newsletter. This year has been such an unusual year and as we come to the end of it and reflect on what has passed, I am grateful for the wonderful community of people CLRS supports, works with and meets every day!!

Sadly due to COVID-19 we are unable to hold our usual Christmas get together. This is a great disappointment to everyone but we need to make sure that we stay safe and continue to follow the restrictions that are in place.

Thankfully the restrictions have eased slightly for everyone, including our staff who no longer have to wear eye protection. Staff must continue to wear a mask when they are delivering supports and we expect that this will be in place until a vaccine is available.

In other news Brittany Somerfield has taken on the role of Senior Manager – Defined Programs. This role will support our Social Enterprises, Community Activities, Club Teen and Capacity Building programs. Brittany has worked with us since 2013, most recently as our Senior Support Coordinator, and is looking forward to supporting our programs to continue to thrive.

Sarah Hoff

CLETUS GILMOUR FUNDRAISING AWARD WINNER – KATHY KOSTOGLU



Kathy Kostoglou has been a member of the CLRS Fundraising Committee since 2009. She assisted to organise the fourth Annual Fundraising Dinner in 2010 and following this event wanted to further contribute and so went on to organise six Greek Luncheons!! The first of these events was held in Melbourne in 2010. These were vibrant events, with great food, Greek music,

lively entertainment and a competitive auction, which required a lot of effort to deliver. Overall, the events raised \$124,520 for CLRS housing projects. Kathy contributed an enormous amount of personal hours and energy to the Greek Luncheons.

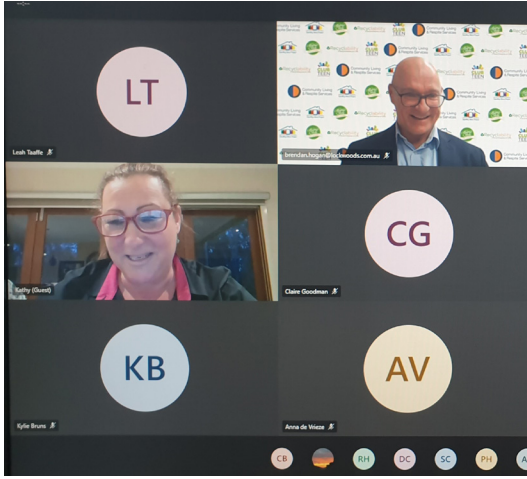
Kathy continues to be active on the Fundraising Committee and as an Opening Doors Ambassador and has been an incredible support in the delivery of our Annual Dinner each year. Kathy puts in a huge amount of her personal time in getting auction items donated and introducing new people to the supports that CLRS delivers. Kathy regularly assists with raffles and events including the annual Johnno's Run launch, Riverboats Music Festival and never misses an opportunity to discuss with a potential supporter how they could also get involved.

If there is anything needed, all you have to do is ask and Kathy will do her utmost to help out. She is an incredible bundle of energy and positivity. Her support as a fundraiser for CLRS has been invaluable but her support to our community is also immense, both through her businesses and through her personal effort.

Congratulations to Kathy on winning this award.

WELCOMING FEEDBACK - HAVE YOUR SAY

Your feedback is important to us and we invite you to complete the 'Have Your Say' form, email or speak to us to make suggestions, comments and complaints. Forms are available at 26A Percy Street, Echuca, CLRS sites and on our website www.clrs.org.au. Completed forms can be hand delivered to: 26A Percy St or posted to PO Box 424 Echuca, VIC 3564. Our Strategy & Practice Manager, Lauren Davy will respond to your written feedback, suggestion, complaint or comments.



The announcement of the Cletus Gilmour Fundraising Award at the virtual Annual General Meeting.



Good Ole Country Gifts generously donated a Christmas tree, lights and decorations for the residents at Maiden Street. Thank you Gayle and Kevin.



Thank you to the Rich River Quilters and Friends for another wonderful donation of quilts for some of our residents.



Kyle Moor doing some woodworking at Billabong Ranch.



Dennis Eastham Mollgaard helping to make fruit salad.



Echuca Social Group enjoying a game of mini golf at Rich River Golf Club. L-R: Sheree Arnold, Nicola Dawes, Tracey Abbey, Amelia Dean and Ryan Griffith.



Aaron Swarbrick enjoying a picnic by the Gunbower Creek where he found and buried some little treasures.



Mitchell Street residents visiting the Moooving Art cows in the park at Shepparton.



Peter Keath loves cooking and it certainly shows by this photo. Peter is being supported with menu planning and shopping lists each week.

PROFILE - ELAINE HAMILTON



Elaine feels like she has come full circle as she joins the dedicated Board of Community Living & Respite Services. Elaine commenced a career in the disability sector in 1990 after completing a Bachelor of Applied Science at the University of Guelph. She worked for four years as a Direct Support Professional at her hometown in Canada before immigrating to Australia in 1994. Her career saw her take on various roles in Echuca including Respite Coordinator for CLRS in the early days of the organisation. She was also a trainer and assessor with Kyabram Community & Learning Centre and trained many of the staff at CLRS. After 25 years in the sector, Elaine decided to try her hand at something completely different and commenced working with CFA in the Volunteer Sustainability department. Elaine applies a person-centred approach to all her work and believes in empowering people to live their lives to their greatest capacity. She is passionate about continuing to support the disability sector and is excited to be joining the CLRS team as a Board member.

PROFILE - KIM HALLINAN



Kim commenced as the Team Leader in supported accommodation at Woongarra in September 2020. She manages the day to day operations of the house and a team of five staff. Together they support clients to be actively engaged in their community, identify and achieve their goals and aspirations.

Kim relocated from Ballarat to Cohuna in July this year following a 30 year career in supported disability accommodation with the Department of Health and Human Services. During this time she worked across a variety of accommodation settings from group homes to institutions, permanent accommodation and respite locations. Kim started her career in direct care and then moved into supervisory and management roles. Kim's main passion is working with the people we support and watching them actively make choices and participate in a rewarding life.

PROFILE - COLLEEN MINERS



Colleen joined CLRS as a Team Leader in Residential Services. Colleen is supporting three clients who live individually in the community. Part of her role is making sure that the care being provided is safe and effective and above all to support the staff, who are important to clients having the best days they can possibly have.

Colleen comes with great experience having spent the last 12 years working for the Department of Health and Human Services and Shepparton community organisations. She worked in the homeless sector completing intakes and assessment, assisting with urgent short term accommodation, referrals and also long term accommodation/housing. Colleen also spent six years managing approximately 150 houses including independent living units for 20 Aboriginal Elders. Most recently she worked with a mental health organisation and the NDIS in arranging service agreements for clients.

